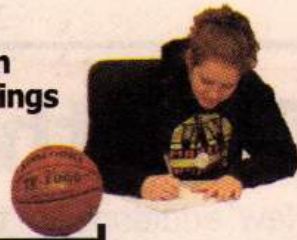




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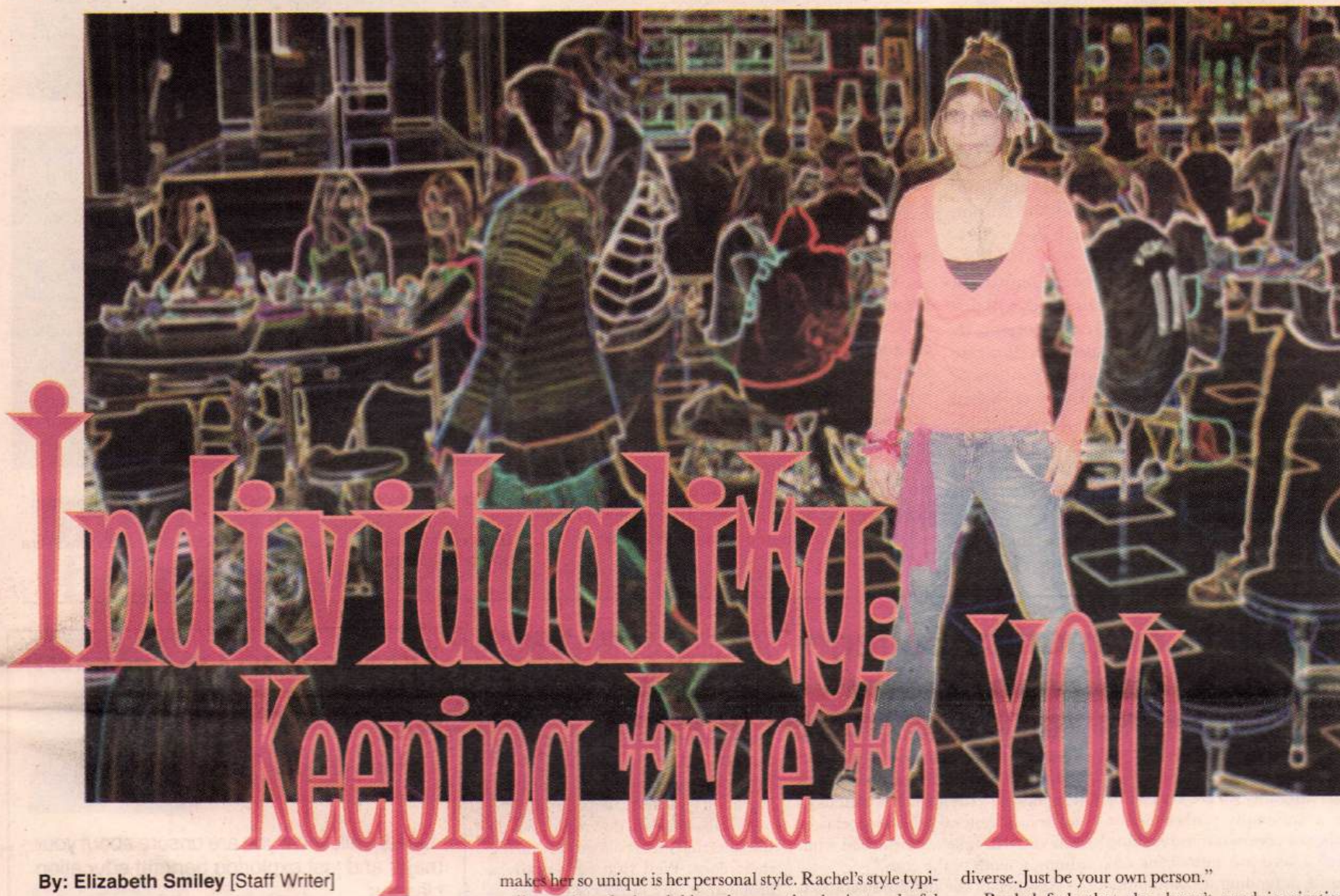


THE VOX

February 18, 2009
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The voice of the Marion Indians

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By: Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

Everyone is an individual. People are all unique in their own ways. Not one person is identical to another. Although people are all unique, not everyone expresses their individuality as much as others. One person that feels individuality is extremely important is Rachel Wiesenhofer, sophomore, "Individuality, to me, means being your own person and not worrying about what others think."

Rachel hasn't always attended Marion. Until her freshman year, she attended a school in her hometown in Missouri. Rachel currently isn't involved in any sports or school sponsored clubs, but she doesn't feel that's a personal interest of hers.

One thing that most people notice about Rachel that

makes her so unique is her personal style. Rachel's style typically consists of colored skinny jeans, animal prints, colorful things that catch her eye and her wacky, teased hairdos.

Although her parents are more or less used to her unique style, it was something they had to adjust to. It took her parents quite sometime to get used to her style, but they have come around. Rachel explained, "When most people see me and the way I'm dressed they are shocked. Some people think it's cool and some people just don't say anything. Shocked is my typical reaction." Rachel is one girl that is proud of whom she is and dares to be different.

According to Rachel, our school does lack individuality, for the most part she feels that everyone has a rather plain style and dresses with their "clique." She commented, "People should want to stand out and make our school more

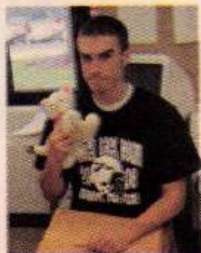
diverse. Just be your own person."

Rachel feels that she doesn't need inspiration to be unique, "That's just how I am, I don't want to dress like everyone else, or be who I'm not. I'm not going to pretend to be someone else, if I pretended to be someone else, I would come to hate who I try to be. This is just who I am and it doesn't matter what others think of me."

Rachel feels it is important to stay true to yourself and keep life interesting. According to her, one of the biggest things that causes everyone to dress so plain is the fact that people worry too much about what other people think. Rachel exclaimed, "Don't worry about what other people say or think of you. If you don't care what they think about you or what they say about you, life will be a lot more interesting, and interesting is always fun."

Creative titles are overrated, so this article doesn't have one

Well the holidays are over. College football long gone. Super Bowl wasn't overly super. And that stupid squirrel thingy Phil didn't see his shadow. What else is new. Bottom line is, all the good parts of winter are over (No I do NOT consider Valentine's Day to be a good part of winter). All that's left is cold that just makes you angry, snow that gets uglier each time it falls, and day-dreams of spring. Anyway that's enough negativity for awhile. I'll try now to focus on a few of the more positive aspects of life.



By: Matt Barnd
[Photo Editor]

The journalism class recently made a video and placed it on the World Wide Web. It's on YouTube and we have about 140 views (only 126 of which are ours). It's perhaps the worst six minutes of anything in the entire history of everything. But in case you are interested it's there for your viewing pleasure.

-Commentary-

Okay I've been thinking this for awhile and I'm just gonna go ahead and say it. The school should install a petting zoo. Just think about. Little rabbits, puppies, a goat or two, heck maybe we get our own Punksatonkamonkey Phil. It would drastically reduce stress in the building, raise the level of cute/cuddliness and even provide some opportunities for scholastic enrichment. Say if we need something to dissect in biology we have plenty of options just a few feet away. Joke. I apologize I had to say it.

The older you get, the wiser we as humans become. We learn certain things that truly can only be acquired through experience. I have come to the following profound realization: while eating, if two foods taste good to me by themselves, then they will taste good together. I know what you're thinking, "Oh okay, yeah, doubt that you moozle. How bout mayonnaise and chocolate cake?" Ya know what? It's not that bad. I am being perfectly honest when I tell you that I have never come across two

foods, condiments etc. that I like and not enjoyed them together. My challenge to you is to try this, keeping in mind that you MUST like both of the food components.

Hehehe I'm typing this on a regular keyboard and I just got out my phone which has a mini keyboard and typed on that and it was really funny cuz it's like a little mini keyboard hehehe. Umm (cough).

I'm sorry for the following paragraph. I have received numerous requests to mention people in this commentary (no, I'm not sure why anyone would want to be associated with this either.) In an attempt to quiet these individuals I offer this: Trashon Thompson, Austin Hanna, Ben Holub, Corey Kramer. Again, I am deeply sorry for that.

Well there's a bit of food for thought, though these particular thoughts contain the equivalent nutritional value of a mouse pad or a dirty old shoe, which probably would not taste good if you ate them together. I'm kinda interested in the mouse pad though. Excellent I have one right here! mmm...mouse paddy.....

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Two thumbs up for new changes to MHS

New additions to the school look to make positive changes to an already outstanding high school

Editorial

Improvements are being made all throughout Marion High School, as well as the district as a whole. With a new science wing on the way, as well as talks of a new middle school and wellness center, the facilities here are soon going to be positively top notch. Combining this with great people, success in the classroom, athletics, and the fine arts, Marion is rising to be one of the premiere high schools in the state.

Many times editorials negatively dwell on what is wrong. This issue, *The Vox* staff has instead decided to point out the great things about our school that all too often are taken for granted.

You may have noticed the signs beside the front drive outside of the high school that read 'the Marion Way' and posters, which can be found in every classroom explaining this slogan. You may also have noticed the four mysterious pillars being built right outside the front doors, which when finished, will display the four pillars of character. These motions, by both administration and student leadership, illustrate the intention to emphasize integrity in every situation, which is vitally important. It may be seen as clichéd and unnecessary on the surface, but it is a very tangible culmination of many equally noble ideas and intentions. Once it is completed, visitors to the school will see these character pillars before anything else. This is an outstanding message to convey.

The new science wing will be an incredible addition to our school. Classroom space is currently at a

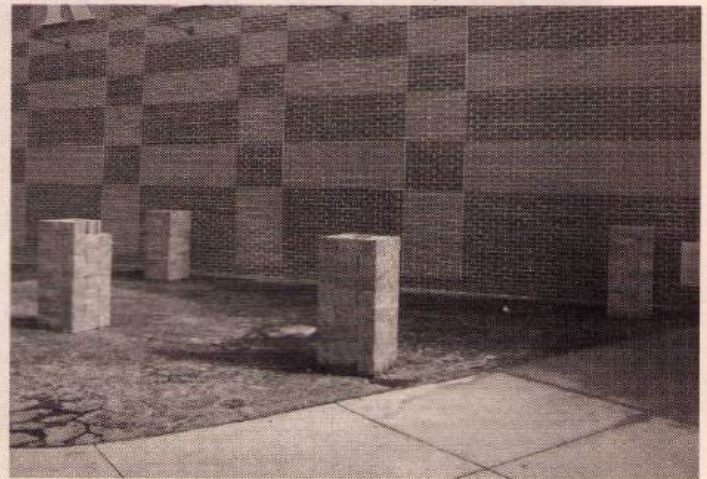
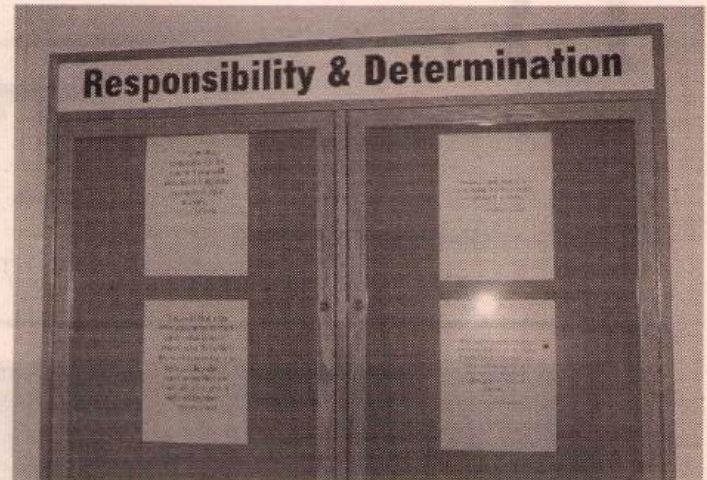
premium, with numerous instructors required to be nomadic, affectionately referred to as "cart teachers." It will also add convenience to the science curriculum, with improved lab settings, equipment, and storage.

The \$500,000 physical education grant will create countless new opportunities. With increased resources new equipment is able to be purchased and upgrades made to existing items. The prospect of a high school having a wellness center is unique and exciting.

Nice facilities are nothing without success, and this hasn't been an issue as of late. Almost every athletic program competes from conference championships and state appearances year in and year out. Not many other schools can boast this accomplishment. Our theatre productions continue to be first class, with a conference champion speech team. The music program as a whole is excellent. There is no need to go into much detail about all of these things. Marion simply has success.

Above all Marion has great people, who take great pride in their school. This can be found all throughout faculty and students, as well as community support. People who consistently do the right thing, coupled with friendly people who care combine for an outstanding high school atmosphere. This is a unique thing that is not commonly found.

Overall, in almost every aspect, Marion has established itself as one of the premiere high schools in the area. It's hard to find another high school that can match what we have here.



Above: The new display cases located in the hallways of the high school hold positive quotations to live by.
Below: The newly added pillars in the front of the school which are pillars of character.

Kirkwood Community College is the right choice for many

By: Samuel Kiburz
[Design Editor]

As a community we are very lucky to have a nationally ranked junior college in the communities reaching distance. There are numerous advantages to attending a community college before attending a major university or a small private college.

One of the many advantages to attending Kirkwood Community College is the cost. The average cost of the state universities, in Iowa, is \$15,000 a year. Most of the private schools range from \$20,000-\$40,000 per year. Kirkwood's tuition is just under \$4,000. Each credit hour cost's \$132.00 compared to a university which cost's \$500.00 a credit hour. The private colleges cost up to \$1,000 per credit hour. Kirkwood is the way a student can save up to \$30,000 in student loans.

Many of the students that graduate from high school that go to Kirkwood attend because they are unaware of their major. Why waste thousands of dollars on general education classes that you can take at Kirkwood from almost a tenth of the cost.

Another of the major reason that many graduating seniors attend Kirkwood community college is because of the location. Kirkwood's main campus is located near the Eastern Iowa Airport or over by Prairie High School. Many of the graduating seniors live in Marion and aren't ready to live on their own. It is available for the students that still want to continue loving at home and still feel as if they are still attending college. It is also very inexpensive to live at home with your parents through the two years at Kirkwood.

Along with the many reasons to attend Kirkwood there are also many

reason the to not attend Kirkwood. There are just as many students that know what they want to do with their life and what they want to major in as there are kids that have absolutely no idea about college and a potential career.

Kirkwood Community College has a very pleasant looking campus but it also has its downside. Many students that go to college don't bring their cars. Well that isn't really a problem at any other college but it is a problem at Kirkwood because of the location. Kirkwood's main campus is not within reach of any major shopping center or grocery store. So many students are in need of a car to get around to get the necessities to live their life normally.

There are many different opinions about attending Kirkwood some good and some bad. No matter what anyone elses opinion attend the college that fits you best. For some a community college and for some graduates belong at major university. When choosing a college do what's right for you.

Kirkwood Facts to Consider:

Pros:

- Located in Cedar Rapids and is close to home
- Cheap solution if you are unsure about your major and just exploring general education classes
- Very cheap at just under \$4,000 per year
- Attractive Campus

Cons:

- A vehicle is needed because of the location of the campus
- Campus isn't close to any major shopping centers or grocery stores

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The Vox is a student-run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934. It is published six times a year by Tri-Co Printing Company and is distributed during fourth block of the school day by the journalism staff.

The staff will report as accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities will be covered by the staff to the best of their abilities, without showing

favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, *The Vox* retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of 200 words per article, and all letters must be signed in order for them to be published. The decision to include them rests solely on the staff and advisor. Turn letters into room 22 or to any staff member.

New restaurant quickly becomes tilted topic

The Tilted Kilt's quality of food and service certainly isn't the reason behind the lure to this new restaurant.

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

With the opening of a new restaurant comes interest. Interest in what type of food is served and more importantly the quality of the establishment. This past December a new restaurant came to Cedar Rapids called Tilted Kilt. The restaurant is advertised to serve Scottish food, but upon arrival one will notice the only thing Scottish is the decorations. The restaurant simply uses the name to be able to have their female employees, which dominate the restaurant, wear skimpy skirts accompanied with low-cut shirts. Most of the items on the menu are traditional American dishes and certainly not the reason for the restaurants' popularity.

The items on the menu could best be described as a combination of Ruby Tuesday and Red Lobster. Though these traditional dishes are what many prefer to foreign and exotic tastes, it's disappointing that the restaurant is so domestically dominated.

The quality of the food is decent and I can say I enjoyed the deliciously seasoned French Fries. The Barbeque Bacon Burger, a commonly served meal at restaurants, was generous in proportion but lacked flavor. I

doused the patty in ketchup and was very disappointed. The second time I visited to the restaurant I went with the Barbeque Chicken pizza. Believe it or not this meal was the exact opposite of the Bacon Burger. I thought it was delicious but it did not curb my hunger. Those accompanying me on the trips seemed to enjoy their food but no one was blown away. So as far the food goes, it's not a wasted trip as long as you can stand the other huge aspect of the restaurant, the outfits.

As I mentioned earlier the female servers are forced into wearing skimpy outfits that are meant to lure in male customers. In my two trips I didn't see one male or decently dressed server. These outfits make it very uncomfortable for customers of both genders and allow the restaurant to maintain a healthy customers base while lacking in service, food quality, and originality. For myself, and many others I've talked to, the outfits are just not acceptable attire for a restaurant setting.

So if you're looking for some traditional, average tasting food while being surrounded by under dressed women look no further than Tilted Kilt. To some it's the perfect combination, but it's just not for me.



"Their outfits are a little too revealing,"
-Kaylee Fletcher, junior



"I don't think its appropriate because of how the waitresses have to dress. It's just not somewhere I would like to eat."
-Troy Wirtner, junior



"It's taking advantage of our women who are underage!"
-Emily Clayton, senior



"As long as the women working there are fine with it, I'm fine with it."
-David Ransford, senior

Self expression

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

Tattoos are a very popular fashion statement throughout American. Now take a look at your high school. They are also becoming quite a trend here. Clearly not everyone is the legal age of an adult. How do they have tattoos? Having a tattoo under the age of 18, without parents consent, is not wrong by any means, it is just not ethical, or really known to be, "normal."

Obviously, the law states you must be 18 to be an adult and do most things on your own, without your parents consent. Having a tattoo under that age though, should be completely restricted. The law does not require that sort of permission, does it? No. So, where do we as teens cross the line? If your parent is not there with you at the time you're getting ink on your skin (that will be with you for the rest of your life) you should have no right to that tattoo. You do if you're 18, because you're considered an adult. But are we allowed that sort of freedom if we are not 18? No, so why are minors allowed the right to a tattoo?

Another thing, some people may see tattoos as nasty, gross, obscene, or just plain disgusting. Others would say they are some sort of gang sign, a way to be racist, or being harmful to yourself and others. Maybe even some others would consider the tattoos cries for attention, or a distraction for those around. Other people also see tattoos as individual, or a brand of personality. All sorts of tattoos could mean different things. How would you know? Someone with their forearm covered in ink that's not considered "normal" could get many discrete reactions walking down the streets. But to the person themselves they have a life story behind that tattoo. Therefore tattoos for individuality is a very good thing, and should not be looked down upon no matter the shape, size, or color.

Tattoos of course, show much individuality in a person. They are a perfect way to express yourself. Also having a tattoo under legal age shows much bravery. Having a tattoo is actually not that bad at all. Looking at some can be very interesting, and make you wonder how someone could be so talented. Also when seeing cute crosses or hearts, all those little tattoos put you in the, "Oh that's cute, I want one" kind of mode. It's perfectly fine to have a tattoo, the only question is, should you?

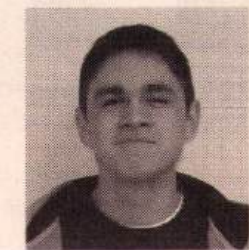
As much individuality a tattoo shows, it just doesn't give minors the right to get them. It is not ethical. Even if the minors feel they have the right, it's not a decision they should be able to make. It should be up to their parents or guardians. Also, as much as we try to put all of the blame on the minors, the professionals should consider that unacceptable. Professional tattoo or piercing places should not be giving tattoos to minors. Minors do not have the right to do what they want, legally, so why do tattoos get an exception with such a long lasting effect?



"I probably won't get one but I'm not offended by [tattoos]"
-Nathan Mulholland, freshman



"As long as they don't have that many tattoos, it's ok"
-Chelsea Wendling, freshman



"If you want one go ahead and get one, I don't care."
-Mitchell Osborn, junior



"It depends on what it is and what the size is."
-Kim DeLancey, junior

Tanning has many negative effects

By: Elizabeth Magorian [Staff Writer]

To a lot of people tanning is just a way to get a great tan but do these people think of all the other things that tanning can do. Yes, it might give you a good tan but there are also some down sides about tanning. I think that tanning is okay but if you over do it then it can have serious side effects

Tanning has several effects on your skin. According to the website www.skincancer.org, tanning is the skins reaction to U.V (Ultra Violet) Radiation. The color comes from when your skin is exposed to U.V. rays. There are cells called melanocytes which produce a brown pigment which darken the cells. Even though you may become tan it can also cause photo aging, wrinkles, sagging skin, spots, and of course skin cancer. Do you really want to get all of these damages to your skin just to get a tan?

A lot of people think that all the affects will show up right away but really they might not even show up for years. So those who are teens that tan don't think of the long-term damage it can cause. Teens have a greater risk of all the causes due to the

fact that they are still growing and that will increase the rate of skin cells. So they are more prone to the dangers of tanning.

Some tanning lotions that are used also increase the risk of skin damage. Lotions with accelerators make it worse. The accelerator is a way that you make your tan go quicker, by trying to speed up the process your making it a higher risk of skin damage. Protection for your eyes is also very important. Those who tan frequently are more exposed to the threat of cataracts and corneal burns from the exposures to U.V. Rays.

Although tanning has many bad effects, there is a positive side. Tanning is said to possibly be another cure of acne. Acne develops mainly when a person's face is too oily. The extra oil causes your pores to clog and thus blemishes develop. When you use

tanning beds the beds dry out your pores, and rid your face of extra oil. This can unclog your pores and possibly clear up your complexion.

There is also an alternative way that you can get a great tan but still be healthy and safe at the same time. The answer is getting a spray on tan. It's a lotion that you put on and can tan your skin. The skin is not exposed to U.V. rays that are a good way as well. It's a lotion that you put on and can tan you skin and therefore it's much safer.

So even though "fake baking" can improve your appearance and clear up acne, there are serious consequences to consider. There are a number of side effects that can develop both short term and long and for this reason it must be partaken in with great care.

Facts about fake-baking

Fact #1: Being exposed to UV rays on a consistent basis without sunscreen will dramatically increase your chance for wrinkles!

Fact #2: Teens exposed to large amounts of UV rays are more at-risk than adults because their bodies are still growing.

Fact #3: Accelerating tanning lotions actually increase the risk of cancer.

Fact #4: The risk of contracting cataracts and corneal burns is largely increased with direct UV exposure.

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Take Charge: what the group does for you

Junior Zulema Verduzco tells about her experience in Take Charge and how Take Chargers are able to help and inspire others.

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

Take Charge is yet another group here at MHS that involves students willing to take time out of their day to go talk to teens and children about the affects of drugs and alcohol. While there are dozens of students in the program, one member who truly puts her heart into the program is the captain of the group, junior Zulema Verduzco. Zulema has been in Take Charge since her freshman year, and has also participated in T.A.D.D.S in 8th grade.

This year the Take Charge team, is really "taking charge." They buckle down and set up groups and presentations to get their point across. One of the activities this year included their half time show on February 3rd. The group wore black T-shirts, to represent how many people died during the time of the first half. They also blocked off a whole section at the game, to again, try and get a point across. Zulema explained, "At half time, we went down and gave facts about tobacco."



Zulema Verduzco, junior

This year was not their first big event though. Last year the Take Charge team did a lot of restaurant sit-ins. "We all went in to Maid Rite, and took up the smoking section, so no one could really smoke." Zulema exclaimed, "It was just weird though, because to get to the non-smoking section, you had to go through the smoking section."

Someone who feels strongly about limiting smoking, Zulema is excited about the new bill Iowa has in tact for not smoking in a restaurant. "I think it's awesome now because we can walk in to a restaurant without having to smell smoke."

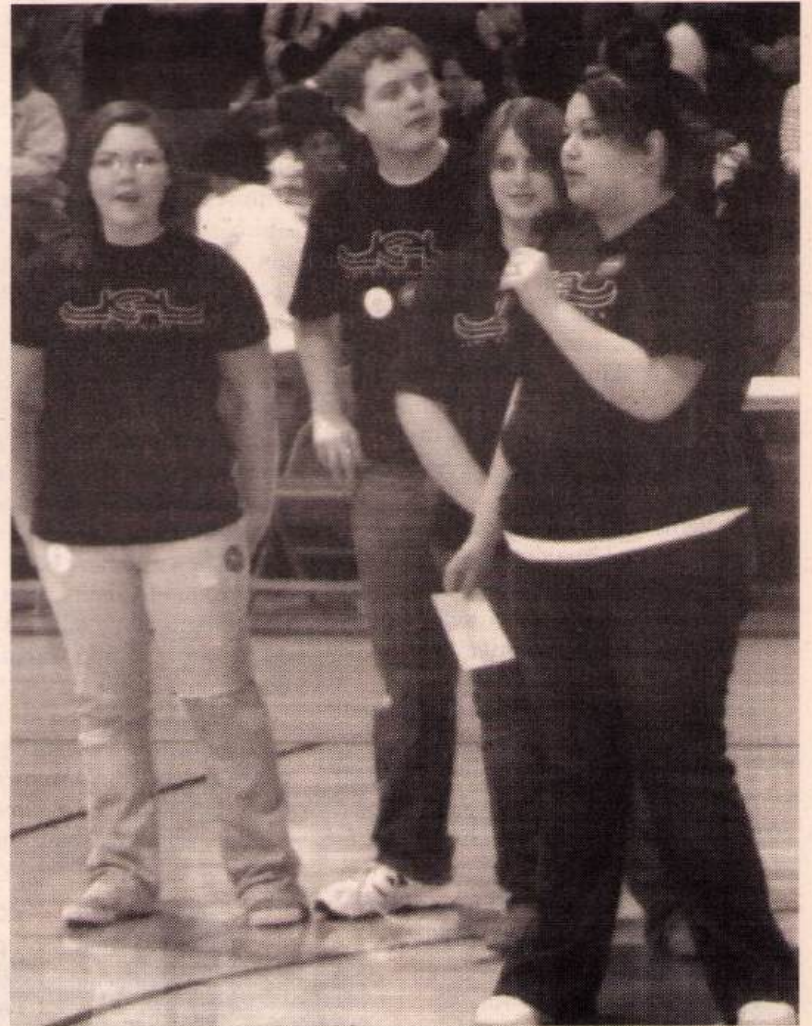
Not only does the Take Charge group do activities to make their "no more smoking" point across, they go to schools in our district and try to explain why it's best to say no to drugs and alcohol. "I love going to younger kids," Zulema added, "It's also kind of hard, because since they are a different grade, we have to make the information easier to understand." There is nothing more exciting than little kids reactions, especially when you could be changing their lives, forever. "It feels really good inspiring them, it's like we are helping them make decisions to be better people."

The group Take Charge also has a Great American Spit Out or G.A.S.O day. Zulema explains, "G.A.S.O is in April, and its when we spend a whole day trying to make people stop smoking, for just one day." Zulema also mentioned, "We also try to get people to stop chewing, like I said, just for one day." Take Charge also takes their group around Marion schools, such as Emerson, Starry, FMI, and Vernon to give facts about smoking and chewing. "Sometimes we go to schools to give facts, and other times we even have a track meet for them." Zulema explained. It is very important to her and the Take Charge team because, "We like to try and get people to stop."

Being in Take Charge isn't all fun and games. There is a lot of preparation, time, and thinking that goes into the activities and presentations. Zulema elaborated, "We have pizza meetings, and decide who is doing what presentation and when. It gets really hard too, when people miss the meetings, or just skip them all together." Zulema also explained to be in Take Charge you have to be very dedicated about putting your heart into it, and describes it as her, "habit."

Take Charge is a group that does many big things, for people big and small. It of-

fers students the chance to influence and as Zulema puts it, can give you, "a really good feeling." Being in Take Charge may also give opportunities to think twice before making wrong decisions. So if educating others about the dangers of drugs and alcohol is intriguing to you, while also keeping yourself educated, give the group Take Charge a shot.



Take Charge member Zulema Verduzco tells facts about tobacco at the half time boys' game vs Benton Community on February 3rd.

Preparation for the rest of your life

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

One of the most important things a class can do is prepare a student for their next step in life. Whether it is supplying them with the knowledge of a particular subject or improving life skills, teachers work hard to make their curriculum multi-dimensional. One class at Marion that strives to focus on students' lives after high school is the M.O.C. (Multi-Occupational Cooperative Education) class taught by Mr. Fruehling.



Mr. Fruehling
M.O.C teacher

This group, which meets every other day, is a class dedicated to helping students with their inevitable futures after high school, their career. Mr. Fruehling explains the basic goal of M.O.C, "The class teaches students job seeking, job retention, and career skills that may not get taught in other areas." Mr. Fruehling has taught the class for several years at Marion and elaborates, on its importance, "This class teaches those skills that everyone needs in looking for and keeping a job; it also offers opportunities for students to do a job shadow and do some extensive career exploration."

Though the class is similar to others at MHS with the hour and a half time slot and on campus classroom location, there are particulars to the class that make it unique. Besides spanning two semesters, there are a required number of hours on the job site. Students must clock in 12 hours

a week and receive two grades in the class, one from Mr. Fruehling and one from their employer. This incorporation of the classroom and job site is an aspect that Mr. Fruehling enjoys, "My favorite part about teaching the class is seeing the students at work interacting with the public. Every now and then you get a student who works at a job that has made it into a good career. That is rewarding."

Roughly twelve students participate in the class and deal with familiar classroom aspects like worksheets and homework. Besides on-paper knowledge, though, students experience and learn things that go beyond textbooks. "A couple of things will hopefully come from this class; one I hope that they find a job or career that they are truly interested in, perhaps they find out some things that make them decide that a job they thought they were interested in is not for them, but most of all I hope they can use the skills that are taught in the classroom at their job site and learn from those experiences to make them employable in the future."

Students participating in the class have held a variety of jobs including working at Hy-Vee, an

area banking institution, Menards, local nursing homes, and Papa Murphy's. Mr. Fruehling also recalled an incident where a student was placed in a banking position

and is now one of the executives of the same company.

So even though this year's class is already underway, there's always next year for the excellent opportunity of M.O.C. As Mr. Fruehling so well explains, "All students can benefit from learning [the skills taught in the class]."

"This class teaches those skills that everyone needs in looking for and keeping a job; it also offers opportunities for students to do a job shadow and do some extensive career exploration,"

-Mr. Fruehling, M.O.C. teacher

S.O.D.A keeps Shelbi making good decisions

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]

Being involved with multiple activities and not putting yourself out there is a way to stay away from the drugs, alcohol and other temptations that high schools have.

Shelbi Hudgens, senior, has been involved in SODA all four years of high school and likes to be involved. She tries to attend the activities, "as many as possible," she said.

There are some things that have to happen to plan for the activities that SODA members are able to go on. "We decide what things we do after post prom and how to fundraise for it," Shelbi commented.

If you are trying to get away from drugs or help yourself stay away from drugs and alcohol, SODA is something that could help you, but isn't guaranteed. "Soda does not help as much as having will against drugs and alcohol," she said with strong will.

There ways to keep yourself from doing illegal things. "I don't put myself in situations where I would be around it. And also being in a lot of activities," she expressed.

It takes nothing and it is really got involved from friends were in it ally fun," she said. You can get being involved get a great sense and it's just a lot to hang out with pronounced.

"I get a great sense of responsibility and it's just a lot of fun being able to hang out with my friends," -Shelbi Hudgens, senior

Whether you are thinking about being in SODA or want to but don't really want to go to a meeting, go. A reason is, "because it is fun and freakin' amazing," she said with laughter.

And even if you are considering being in SODA, join and see what it is like and you won't want to quit this fun and entertaining club that helps you stay away from illegal things.



Shelbi Hudgens, senior

Winter sports recap: preparing for State

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

Girls b'ball proud of Conference title; now aspire for State berth

The Marion girls' basketball team came into the season with high expectations and so far has certainly proved themselves.

With a record of (19-1) and a 16-0 record in the WaMaC West the girls' basketball team is working on another terrific season and is ranked 3rd in Class 3A. With a 43.7 field goal average as a team the Indians have outscored their opponents by an average of 20.9 points per game. The girls are currently on an eleven-game winning streak dating back to their lone loss against Dubuque Wahlert. As a team, Marion is

averaging 34.2% from behind the arc and 64.6% from the free-throw line. The team has a clinched an outright WaMaC West Championship.

Postseason for Marion goes as follows Districts on February 18th against Maquoketa, Regional Semifinal on February 21st against the winner of Center Point Urbana and Anamosa, and the Regional Final on February 24th. A win in all three stages would put the Indians into the State Tournament in Des Moines, which lasts from March 2nd to the 7th.

Leading Scorers (per game)

1. Morgan Paige (19.2)
2. Brittany Fish (10.8)
3. Sam Rinehart (10.4)

Leading Rebounders

1. Sam Rinehart (8.11)
2. Morgan Paige (6.95)
3. Alli O'Neill (4.82)

Leaders in Assists

1. Morgan Paige (4.53)
2. Brittany Fish (3.37)
3. Sam Rinehart (2.53)



Morgan Paige, junior, drives past a defender during an away game at Vinton Shellsburg.

Varsity Boys b'ball ready to prove a point in postseason

It's been another terrific season for the Marion boys basketball program. With a record of 15-4 the team is looking forward to postseason play. The team has only lost two games to 3A competitors and the other two are to 4A undefeated Cedar Rapids Kennedy and Cedar Rapids Jefferson.

The Indians have climbed up to as high as five in the state 3A rankings. Senior Amry Shelby leads the team in scoring with 21.8 points per game and is followed by Levi Lynott at 10.2 and Kasey Semler

at 9.6. The Indians as a team are averaging 62.6 points per game and have scored 1174 points total.

Postseason play starts on February 23rd with Districts against Washington Iowa. With a win against Washington the Indians will look to play the winner of the Williamsburg, Clear-Creek Amana match up. The next step would be to play the winners of the District 10 bracket and then finally the State Tournament which begins Class 3A play on March 10th.

Leading Scorers (per game)

1. Amry Shelby (21.8)
2. Kasey Semler (9.8)
3. Levi Lynott (9.7)

Leading Rebounders

1. Levi Lynott (5.22)
2. Matt Barnd (3.44)
3. Amry Shelby (3.29)

Leaders in Assists

1. Levi Lynott (2.63)
2. Amry Shelby (2.54)
3. Dalton Combs (2.13)



Corey Kramer, junior, soars to the hoop while attempting to avoid a Columbus defender.

Girls bowling rely on teamwork

One team flying under the radar this winter is the varsity girls bowling team. With an overall record of 8-1 their eyes are focusing on a probable state tournament appearance. The team has beaten their opponents by an average of 490 pins per game and boasts a team best overall score of 2499 pins. Senior Brooke Post, who carries a 175 average per game, leads the Indians. Brooke also has the season high game of 231 and the season high series with a 392. Coming in behind Brooke is Melissa Noe with an average of 163 and Alicia Hasbrouck with an average of 160.

The team will compete in the Regional Tournament on February 21st against teams including Camanche, North Scott, and West Delaware. Marion will be one the 28 class 1A school competing across the state. The competition is at May City Bowl in Cedar Rapids at one o'clock for interested spectators. With a victory at regionals the team will automatically advance to the state tournament in Des Moines on February 28th. The team can also qualify if they post one of the two highest pin totals of teams that didn't win their regional. Members of the team can also individually qualify for state competition by either winning a region or posting one of the next eight highest scores.



"Our goal as a team for the rest of the year is to go to state."
-Melissa Fager, junior



"The team has accomplished our goals so far but are next one is to win substate and then to maybe win state."
-Laura Jurgens, junior

Best Averages

1. Brooke Post- 175
2. Melissa Noe- 163
3. Alicia Hasbrouck- 160
4. Laura Jurgens- 154
5. Stephanie Loesel- 154

Highest Games

1. Brooke Post- 231
2. Melissa Noe- 201
3. Alicia Hasbrouck- 193
4. Melissa Fager- 192
5. Laura Jurgens- 191

Highest Series

1. Brooke Post- 392
2. Melissa Noe- 371
3. Melissa Fager- 360
4. Alicia Hasbrouck- 357
5. Rachel Reid- 338

Ups and downs for boys bowling

It's been an up and down season for the Varsity Boys Bowling team. Carrying a 4-5 record the Indians have experienced both the sweet taste of success and the bitter taste of losing. After starting out the year with a very respectable record of 4-2, the team has dropped their last three contests. The team has enjoyed victories though against teams including Waterloo Columbus (2739-1477), North Tama (2945-2532), Oelwein (2802-2652), and Tripoli (2809-2522). The Indians have beaten their opponents by an average of 528 pins and in their losses only lost by an average of 173 pins. The high game for the year goes to Jacob Scadden with a terrific game of 246, Greg Bys sits second with a 243, and Cameron Schlotfeldt third with a 236. Jacob Scadden also has the highest series on the year with a 484.

The team's postseason kicked off with Regionals on February 14th at Plamor Lanes in Muscatine. Marion competed against eight other teams at the regional competition and was one of the fifty-two class 1A schools looking for a state berth. After regionals the next step for the team would be the state tournament on March 7th at Plaza Lanes in Des Moines.



"The team's goals for the remainder of the year are to go to state and win, obviously."
-Kyle Barry, junior



"I want my team to be good sports and to keep going and get to state!"
-Jeff Stutterheim, senior

Best Averages

1. Jacob Scadden- 191
2. Zach Nielsen- 190
3. Alex Brice- 187
3. Mike Carter- 187
5. Greg Bys- 186

Highest Games

1. Jacob Scadden- 246
2. Greg Bys- 243
3. Cam Schlotfeldt- 236
4. Alex Brice- 233
5. Zach Nielsen- 223

Highest Series

1. Jacob Scadden- 484
2. Cam Schlotfeldt- 464
3. Greg Bys- 453
4. Zach Nielson- 435
5. Alex Brice- 424



Alex Conway, senior, fights to escape his Waterloo Columbus opponent. Conway ended up winning the match with a pin.

Wrestlers take it one pin at a time

Well it's been another successful season for Marion High School Wrestling. With an ninth place finish out of sixteen teams at the WaMaC Tournament the team is taking it one step at a time. The District meet was last Saturday at Cedar Rapids Washington and participants who finished in the top two are moving on to the state competition on February 18th-21st in Des Moines. On the year the team compiled a record of 10-7 including a big win over rival Benton. The

three Indians that are having the most successful seasons are WaMaC champion Alex Conway, WaMaC runner-up Austin Weisinger, and 3rd place finisher at WaMaC Curtis Ette. Conway holds a 34-1 record, Weisinger is enjoying a record of 32-4, and Ette has a record of 25-3. Conway also celebrated his 100th career pin this season. Following those three in winning percentage is junior Ryan McSweeney at 67.5% and sophomore Scout Morehouse at 64.9%.

WaMaC Results

- 1st Place: Alex Conway
- 2nd Place: Austin Weisinger
- 3rd Place: Curtis Ette
- 5th Place: Ryan McSweeney
- 7th Place: David Glover
- 8th Place: Garrett Fortner

Best Season Records

- Alex Conway: 34-1
Austin Weisinger: 32-4
Curtis Ette: 25-3
Ryan McSweeney: 27-13
Scout Morehouse: 24-13

Discovery Channel's progressing to the top

By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

How many television shows out there are educational and entertaining? Well when it comes down to it, there really isn't that many. Many would think there would be more but there aren't. Why is this? Its thought to be due to the take over of reality television including many dating shows. Many are sick of the same old shows playing over and over again with the same concept with just different people.

If you're out there surfing the stations looking for shows that are educational and fun/interesting to watch, then channel 29, or the Discovery Channel should be at the top of the list. Because not only is the Discovery channel full of shows for everyone to enjoy it also has shows where learning could potentially be taking place.

Some of the best shows that are currently on the channel include Man vs. Wild, Dirty Jobs, and How It's Made. The best show on the network is Man vs. Wild. Why is this the best show? Because of its vast content, one moment the host could be teaching on to how the get out of sticky situation and then the next moment he's teaching the viewer how the catch a snake. The host's name is, Bear Grylls. Bear is a highly trained survival expert. During any of his shows he could be trying to navigate through a labyrinth of a rain forest or be jumping off a cliff into a raging river. When this show is watched it's not for only the outdoors enthusiasts, it's also for those looking for a shows that teaches you as well as entertains you.

Man vs. Wild isn't the only that show that catches many viewers fancies. A little show called Dirty Jobs is equally entertaining or maybe even more. Mike

Rowe hosts the show, which is focused on Mike traveling around the country looking to do the dirtiest and toughest, jobs out there. Not only does he have to find these jobs and then tell all of America about them, he has to involve himself with the job, and become familiar with it. Some of the best jobs that he has done are, being a chimney sweeper, a shrimper, mosquito control officer or and animal rendering officer in the tar pits of L.A. The show main focus is letting America know that



The Discovery Channel has many shows played all hours of the day including Dirty Jobs featuring Mike Rowe and Man vs. Wild with Bear Grylls. These shows range greatly in variety, allowing for a lot of entertainment.

there are a lot of dirty jobs out there that someone has to do, and that someone might even be you. By far the dirtiest job that Mike has done is one of the fairly newer episodes of the current season running. That job is an animal rendering officer in the tar pits of Los Angeles. These tar pits have been in a park in L.A. forever. The point of this dirty job is that, someone actually has to go into the pits and excavate it out, and find all the

animals that have fallen into the animal pits. That's disgusting, and Mike does the manual labor job wholeheartedly. Recently they have found the fossil of extinct animals in these tar pits.

Another very interesting show is How It's Made. How It's Made is a show that is focused on showing the viewers how everyday products are made. It goes from the beginning of the manufacturing to the very end. There have been many different episodes that have aired, anything from how to make a computer chip how to make the perfect potato chips. Almost everything has been highlighted on this show and they are still going strong.

With the progression of the network, new shows are premiering almost every year. The newest show on Discovery's line up is, One Way Out. The shows main concept is for escapologist, Jonathan Goodwin to break out of bizarre contraptions and dangerous situations. One of the newest episodes airing now shows Jonathon withstanding the force of a spinning barber chair attached to a ATV. Once he gets off the chair he has to walk through a patch of broken glass. There is one small area in the broken glass that doesn't have glass. The point of this segment is to see if there is anyway that he can figure out a way to make his body not feel dizzy and be able to walk only on the part that has no glass. He tries many different ways, most of which put more cuts on his feet then less.

The Discovery Channel is not the most popular network on the airways but it's progressing to be a very important one. With its combination of entertaining shows and educational programs the network is becoming a fighting force. The Discovery Channel will sure to entertain the viewer in some way.

The Bachelor continues to entertain on ABC

By: Lauren Jilek [Feature Editor]

Flipping through channels, almost anyone can find the hit reality shows on any network. Whether it is a game-show feel, everyday life, or a dating show, it is definitely out there. Dating shows are extra popular these days and almost any way you can think of happens on these shows to find a potential partner, even if it means sending your mom on the date for you.

One of those popular shows, in its 13th season, is The Bachelor. On this show, twenty-five women from across the country are all brought to a house to compete for the man's love. The show follows the bachelor as he eliminates a few women every episode. The women go on group dates or one-on-one dates in order to get to know him and if he likes her, she will get a rose, securing her place in the house until the next Rose Ceremony. In the end, the goal is for the bachelor to find the woman of his dreams. In the end, one woman is left and the bachelor has the option of proposal or just a request for commitment after the show ends.

Although the show is intended to be beneficial for the bachelor and his new love interest, only one bachelor is still with the woman he chose. This man was from the sixth season and was recently married. This does not include the latest bachelor, Jason Mesnick, who is continuing his hunt now every Monday at 7pm on ABC.

Overall, the audience of The Bachelor has reached nearly ten million viewers and has stayed pretty solid throughout the seasons. This led to a spin-off, The Bachelorette which premiered in January 2003. The first season consisted of Trista Rehn and 25 other men.

She chose a man who she is still involved with and now has two children. They remain the most successful couple according to a dating show.

With a hope of luck and love, every bachelor and his 25 potential dates really pour out their hearts into every scenario, even from the first time they meet. This makes for a full of drama, emotional and hilarious take on dating in the 21st century.

The Bachelor

The Guy:
Jason Mesnick

Remaining Girls:
Molly
Melissa
Jillian

When: Monday's at 7pm

Where: ABC

Can't escape those tearful commercials

Since I've been doing this column I've talked about my love hate relationship with

The Hills and many other things but I still have yet to talk about the thing that I hold closest to my heart, the polar bears. I know that many of you reading this right now have no idea how polar bears have anything to do with a column about pop culture. But trust it will make sense. The correlation is that the polar bears have become the new Britney Spears. So now you may be asking yourselves how are polar bears the new Britney Spears, well just be patient. The polar bears



By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

have recently been all over the television, on commercials and on major talk shows in the morning. Okay so maybe they're not the new B Spears in the sense of media coverage but they're coming a close second or third. The increased attention to the polar bears; due to global warming and many other reasons that are causing the creatures to near a complete extinction. Still you might be wondering what this still has to do with my column. Has anyone seen the World Wild Life organization's commercial? Well if you haven't I'll explain it thoroughly.

The commercial starts out with a very somber tune, some sort of a piano verse or something like that. Then it goes to that actress from the Roseanne shows, you know that one that was Roseanne's sister/neighbor lady. She then goes into this detailed description of how the polar bears are being wiped off the face of the earth and what you can do to help the effort and to top it all off the closing scene shows a struggling mother and her baby cub jumping from an ice patch into the freezing water. If that right there doesn't make your heart go out to the polar bears, than

-Commentary-

surely you are a heartless person.

The WWF's commercial isn't the only one out there of its kinds. Everyone knows the ASPCA's commercial with Sarah McGlaughlin and her dog sitting on a chair in "her home." Well if you're not familiar with the commercial that you apparently don't watch television that much. The ASPCA is an organization that rescues animals from their homes. The animals are being neglected and mistreated and throughout the whole commercial her song, "In The Arms of An Angel" is playing. Whenever I here that song I cant help but think of the small dog with only one eye and the cat that is infested with fleas and ticks.

Sure the animals commercials are intensely saddening but nothing is worse than the Christian Children's Fund commercials. There is nothing worse than seeing little African babies in a distant third world country with large bloated tummies. This commercial always plays in rotation during the wee hours of the night and catch you off guard when your in the most vulnerable state of mind. The commercials go like this, it starts to tell the people watching about what these kids go through everyday and how hard their life is. I'm not going to lie I have never donated money to this cause but it is one that if I was going to donate I would donate to this cause.

Well there you go I poured my heart and soul again about the saddest commercials out there, talk to you next time.

Heartfelt Commercials:

1. WWF commercial.
2. ASPCA commercial.
3. Christians Childrens Fund Commericals.

ATTENTION CREATURES OF THE NIGHT!

CHECK OUT THIS DEAL!

Late Night Special
(after 10 p.m.)

Medium one topping pizza \$6.99!

Make it a large \$1 more

Fun travels and adventures

Spring Break provides relaxing time off for many

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]

Spring break is coming up quick and it seems to be everyone's favorite during the school year. There are so many different places students like to go. Whether it's on the coast, across seas, or just along the border, people like to travel and simply have fun.

For teenage students, "Spring Break" usually means 10 days of no school, but unfortunately not everyone is off at the same time. But, if you think about it, if you wanted to go to Disney World or someplace that is usually busy, it wouldn't be too fun to go during the summer, let alone during Spring break due to the crowds.

Although many people travel out of state, there are people that stay home, do some spring-cleaning, and hang out with friends who have also stayed home. There are also those people that travel to other towns or cities to visit their families and other friends/relatives.

A lot of places that are visited for Spring Break are Florida, California, New York, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and many other states. Other places that people have gone to are Paris, London, multiple countries in Europe, and some others.

There seems to be more activities for students when spring break arrives because that's when most students are off and have found something to do or are looking for something to do. Being stuck at home doesn't have to be ultra boring or lame.

You can still enjoy Spring break while in the comfort of your own home.

For the people that are planning on staying home and not going

anywhere, here are some ideas for you to do. You could plan a movie marathon with all of your friends eating nothing but junk food, have some friends come over for the night and play Monopoly or UNO, and if you are really desperate for something to do, you could work or even read.

On the other hand, if you weren't going to be stuck at home, you could possibly go to Orlando, FL., in which the Marion High School Choir is going to, Washington D.C., VA., Sea Island, GA., Hilton

Head Island, SC., Utah Ski Resorts: Salt Lake City, Legoland, CA., Hershey PA., and Cooperstown, NY.

So many places to choose from can be somewhat difficult for some to figure out where they want to go and what they want to do there. Cost can be a key factor in what someone decides on. Airfare isn't cheap and either are hotels. That's why it's nice to go somewhere you have been before or someone you know lives there. With their hospitality, it will help you out greatly.

From past years in other schools, some seniors try to get together and go somewhere special for their last Spring break in high school.

They usually go somewhere that will have an impact on them in the following years and that they will remember in the future.

For everyone looking for somewhere to go for their Spring break, you don't have to go out of state to have a good time. You can simply plan to do something with a couple friends every other day, and give time to yourself and not feel like you absolutely have to do something.

DID YOU KNOW???

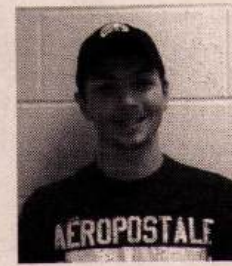
(Here's a statistic for you)

According to Hub Pages, the most popular vacation spot for Spring Breakers is Time Square, New York City, NY.

Do you have a special Spring Break vacation spot?



"Going to the beach."
-Mallorie Kaut, senior



"I don't have one actually."
-Cody Carothers, Senior



"My favorite vacation spot would have to be Denver, Colorado."
-Jessica Jakoubek, sophomore

Dream life through "reality" video games

By: Scout Morehouse
Activities Editor]

Have you ever wondered what it's like to live someone else's life? Maybe even live your dream life with a huge house and a dozen cars. Luckily technology has advanced to the point where we have video games that can help you live this dream life.

One of the many games out there is called Animal Crossing: City Folk. It's a sequel to one of Gamecube's bestselling games known as Animal Crossing. Animal Crossing: City Folk is only for the Wii and will not be released for any other game systems. The reason for this is because the makers of Animal Crossing wanted to make a game that's special for the Wii.

The game takes place in a small town full of humble little animals. Now the twist is that the animals have the features of a human. They can talk, stand on two feet, and even catch fish or bugs. These features can make it seem like a little kid game but once you start playing you'll notice they make the game fun for people of all ages. There are some things you should know about the game before you start playing and thinking you'll be the richest person in the game.

When you start the game you will be asked several questions that will help determine what you look like and your gender. As you arrive in the town you'll notice that you're a human. Now this is another interesting part of the game because you are the only human in the whole game and even though you'd like to be an animal you can't be one. This helps add another twist to the game because you're a human living with a society of talking animals.

At first the game starts out slow. You get to pick out the house that you and have to stick with it for the rest of the game (make sure to pick wisely). After picking your house you will be asked to do chores to help pay off the house. The chores get monotonous but help teach you the basic fundamentals of the game. After all the chores are

done you are set free from the burden of doing all the low paying jobs you accomplished. Now it's up to you to do whatever you feel like for the rest of the time. You can pay off the rest of the debt and get a bigger house, catch bugs and fish, dig up fossils and treasure from the ground and plant trees, or even become friends with the local animals in town. The possibilities are endless and you may even find yourself playing for hours on end.

Overall Animal Crossing: City Folk was a very fun game. Some of the down falls of the game is the fact that the game follows real life time. So whatever season it is in real life is what season it is in the game. This

According to GameRevolution.com, The Sims™ changed the face of gaming in the new millennium and quickly became the #1 PC game of all time

may seem cool but when you want to catch different fish or bugs then you'll have to wait a month or to. Also, store times close early making it hard to sell fish at night. Other than those minor problems the game was fantastic. It deserves an eight out of ten for the hours of endless play and for doing something different and living in a world full of talking animals.

That's not the only game out there that allows you to live your dream life. Another one of the more popular games is The Sims 2. This is also a sequel to a multi-million game known as The Sims. The Sims 2 is available on every game console but the best way to play the game is on the computer. One reason why it's best to play it on the computer is because of the multiple expansion packs.

The Sims 2 is the perfect game for those who just want to live in a fantasy world. In The Sims 2 you can create you. You get to make your person look like whatever you feel like and even create a whole family. A nice part of the game is that it allows people to make more than just one person or family. That means you're allowed

to make a whole city full of people that you made. Another big part of making a Sim is the personality of the Sim. The Sims 2 allows customization of the personality. So the Sim could be mean and sloppy or nice and neat. The choice is yours and it's up to you to decide how the Sim acts.

The next step to playing The Sims 2 is making a house. The game gives you 20,000 simoleans, which is The Sims currency for a dollar bill. Sims 2 has lots of furniture and allows the player to customize their house with whatever they want. The house could become a castle with a huge pool and several cars or it could be a shack with just one bed and fridge. Once again it's up to the person who's playing to pick how they want to live their life. Once the house is done it's time for the Sim to get a job. As the Sim searches

the Internet or newspaper for jobs it's up to the player to choose which one they want their Sim to have. The longer you're at the job the higher and better the pay gets. Some jobs, though, ask your Sim to learn or get better at certain skills which will take time and practice to get it where they want it to be.

The Sims 2 also has many expansion packs, which adds even more to the game. Some expansion packs include being able to go downtown, make clubs and restaurants, explore places and cast magic, or even make a dream resort. The Sims 2 deserves a ten out of ten. It has the perfect mix of different features to make the game just right and allow the player to live the life they always wanted to live.

Those two games are one of the many games out there that allows you to live a fantasy life. So whether your bored of your life and you just want to get away from reality for a little bit, or you just want to have fun playing a game that you won't get old for a long time, then these games are perfect for you.

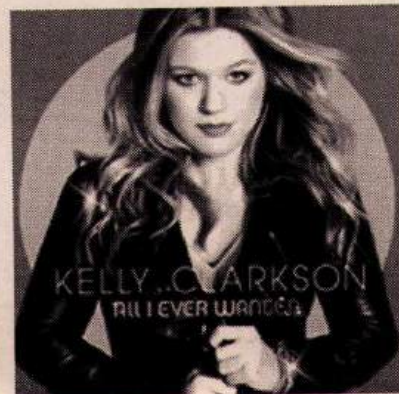
Clarkson works to break records

By: Kayla McGrew Staff Writer]

If you have been listening to the radios, you probably have heard what seemed to be a long lost familiar voice. 2002 American Idol, Kelly Clarkson has released a new single. The song "My Life Would Suck Without You," was sent to U.S. radio stations on January 13, 2009, and has been playing non stop on our radio stations ever since! This single made Billboard Hot 100 history for the largest leap to the top spot when it jumped from Number 97, which was its rank the first week it was played on radios, to Number 1, breaking the record just recently set by Britney Spears' "Womanizer". Clarkson has not had a Number 1 single since her first single ever, the ballad "A Moment Like This".

Her last album, My December, which was released in 2007, did not meet expectations. Her first single, "Never Again" off that CD was a hit! It peaked at #8 on the Billboard Hot 100, but no other song that was released off that CD made it. She dropped her original record company and hooked up with Narvel Blackstock, who is Reba McEntire's husband, at Starstruck Entertainment. Her nationwide tour was canceled due to underwhelming ticket sales. She still toured however, but to much, much smaller concert environments. She kept her head up and kept on looking to the future.

So a year later, Clarkson is back on top and is shutting down all the competition. Her fourth CD, which is called All I Ever Wanted, is due to release on March 17, 2009. She just finished up making the video for her new single which is getting great reviews. Her versatile voice has everyone wondering what type of songs she's going to have on this new CD. The song that she has released is definitely a song that girls, and even boys, across the country will be driving around in their cars screaming. It is very upbeat and catchy, which are always two good things to search for in a song. It is not released how many tracks there are going to be on the album, but its known that they will have a dash of the spunky Kelly that people love in each one of them.



Kelly Clarkson's new album, "All I Ever Wanted" will release March 17, 2009 and is expected to be a huge hit. Making it in the top 100 is helping her a lot for her career.

Individuality



Joe Davis, '10

ETTE

Curtis Ette, '09



Alyssa Biery, '10

They've officially taken her on

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

Individuality is really making its way around the halls here at MHS. Turning left and right we see people dressing in their own ways, doing their hair how they want, even putting make-up on different than everyone else. People do these things to express themselves. Junior Maddie Barnhart expresses her individuality in a whole different way. "I like to use my piercings as a way to express myself."

Maddie started thinking about things she could do differently when her parents told her to stop caring about what other people thought and to start doing things for herself. Maddie recalled, "My friend and I were driving around and we ended up at Purple Dynasty. I ended up at home with a tongue ring." Her parents were, like some parents, not too happy about what she had done. She did mention that after a while they got used to her having the piercing.

Less than a month after, Maddie decided that a tongue ring was just not enough. Maddie

said she got on the Internet and saw a picture of a surface ankle piercing, which is a flat piercing on the surface of a different place on your body. "I fell in love with it," said Maddie. It turns out she and her friend were once again back at Purple Dynasty. She said that once again she had no parental permission, that it was a just a spur of the moment instance. Maddie was still doing things other people didn't want her to. "This piercing was for myself. Not to get any kind of special attention or anything."

When asking her how this expresses individuality, she was very confident in her answer. "Not a lot of people do things differently because they are scared how people will react. I tried something different and people acted weird at first, but then realized it was still me." She elaborated, "I really liked people's expressions, they were hilarious!" Maddie did add, however, that she couldn't believe she ever got her piercings done because she is deathly afraid of needles! "I couldn't even get my ears pierced until I was fourteen."

Sometimes people can say this and piercings can become addictive. Maddie reacted differently. "I get an addiction when I got my piercings, but it's not an addiction," she said. "I can easily stop like the rush."

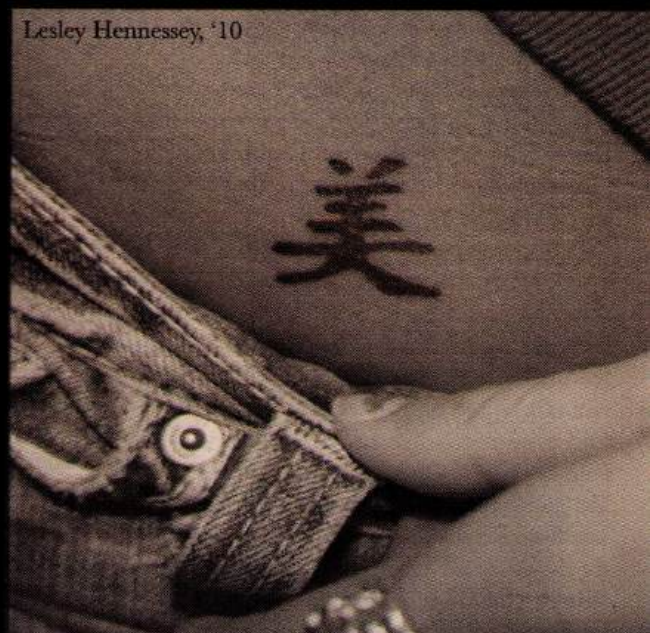
In the end, Maddie's parents got both of her piercings, but she does not have to do to keep them in. Like keeping them up, and continuing to do her chores around the house. Maddie does plan on getting other ankle pierced in the future, and more to come after that. But that's not great about individuality, Maddie doesn't care what people say or think about that. She did it for herself because that's something that makes her happy. Some people choose to be creative and some don't. Some choose to be different and some choose to play along with the "in" crowd. People have many ways to express their individuality and many ways to be wrong. Being you, whoever that may be, is the best thing.



Joeby Leonard, '09



Lesley Hennessey, '10



Lesley Hennessey, '10



Jenna D'Hooge, '09



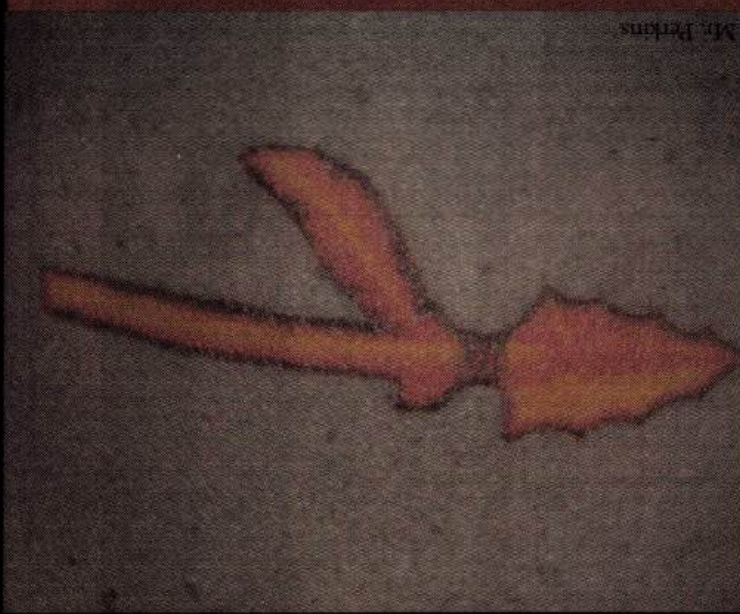
Mandy Jewell, '10



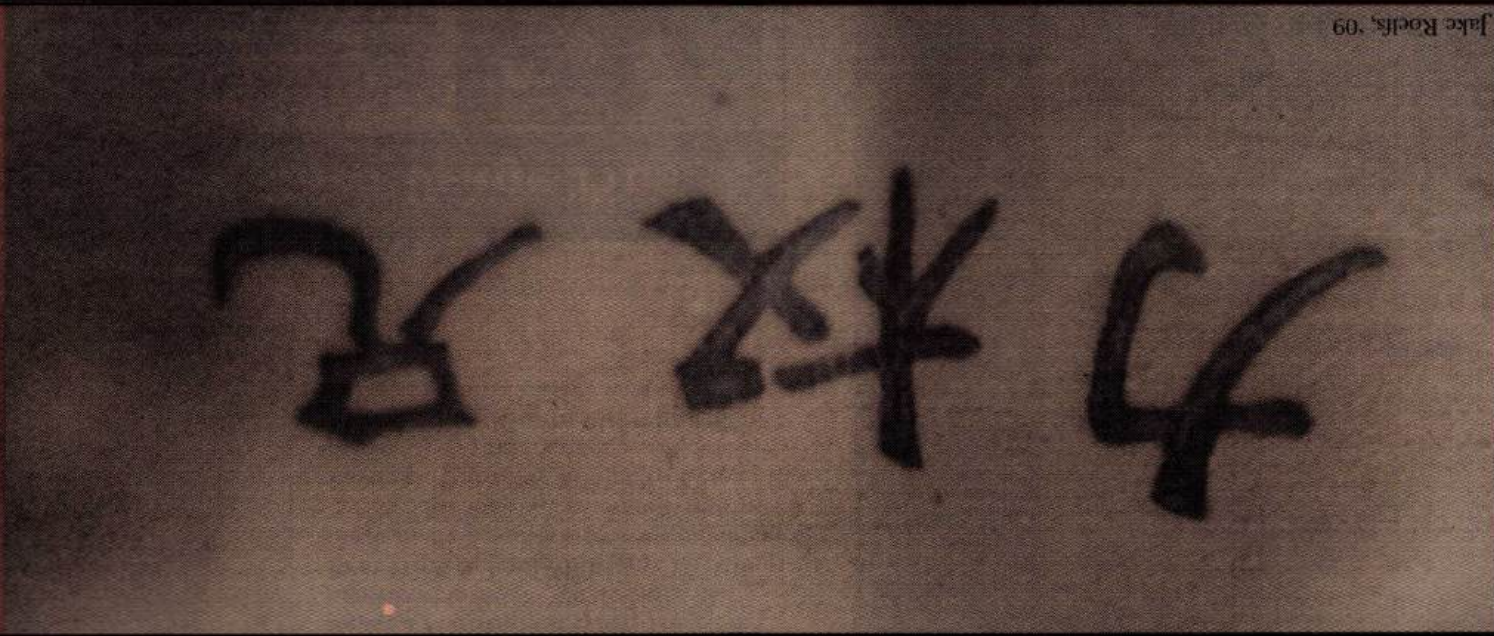
Cody Corothers, '09



Mr. Perkins



Laci Grapes, 10



Jake Roels, 09



Kacey Duncan, 10



Jenna D'Hooge, 09



Kristi Bell, 10

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Name: Sam Rinehart
Main Activity: Basketball
Other Activities: Volleyball, track, NHS, ATOMs, Volunteering
Season Highlights: When I dunked it.... Alli's practice countdown, going to Planet X and going on the spacebikes and screaming my head off the whole time. Petey and I talking before every game while singing "I creep, just creep yeah, just creepin on the downlow,".. stepping on Maggie's foot on accident and having her freak out. Fab 5. American Idol parties, sucking at laser tag, playing "what if" on bus rides with Shelby, quoting *Mean Girls* every chance I get, loving my team to

an extreme, the whole team skipping shoot-around and of course telling Heather she should be more like Jill everyday.

Best High School Memory: State Champs for volleyball after telling Leigha everyday that we would be, the whole state volleyball tournament, first state appearance for basketball, first conference basketball championship in 32 years, donkey basketball and falling off and getting a HUGE bruise, falling on my face in the cafeteria, getting second in the pie eating contest even though I should've won...passing calculus, knocking out my tooth in volleyball and everyone begging me to smile...not. Coach Fish getting pied junior year...Mr. Z. making fun of Kayla taking 87 spring breaks, running from Barnd, Jenna, Sam, Nicole, and Chelsey playing "Catch the Ginge" everyday before lunch, always singing with Jenna and having everyone really impressed :) always laughing and having the greatest friends in the world.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: With God, nothing should be impossible. Luke 1:37 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 Do what makes you happy, not what makes others happy because in the end, you're still living with your decisions; they don't necessarily have to.

Future Plans/Goal: Attend Lewis University to play basketball. Start a family and live a happy, successful life.



Name: Alex Stalkfleet
Main Activity: La Musica!
Other Activities: Choir, Musicals, NHS, FBLA, Speech
Season Highlights: State speech for improv
Best High School Memory: Random trips to Chicago with Jessica, Joe, and Claire. Getting arrested for a potato gun I didn't shoot. Running out of gas and meeting Madonna who filled our gas tank!!
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it."

Future Plans/Goal: Move to New York City or Phoenix and major in Secondary Education and Poli Sci and do a little acting on the side!



Name: Hannah Kaczinski
Main Activity: Wrestling Cheer
Other Activities: SODA, Take Charge, 4H
Season Highlights: When Tre fell in Shawna's lap at CPU! It was hilarious :)
Best High School Memory: Wrestling meets, hanging out with friends, random jokes between friends, dances. State Wrestling 2008.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Love me and the world is mine.
Future Plans/Goal: Attend Iowa State for Athletic training and physical training



Name: Chelsey Ollinger
Main Activity: Shopping :)
Other Activities: Hanging with the girls!
Best High School Memory: Dancing in the car with Leigha to the most random of songs! Spending all summer with Rian and going to the beaches like everyday. Hanging out with Julia and driving randomly to Center Point to get gas and meet up with people there. Listening to Shelby express her opinion about everything! LOVE IT! Going to California for vacation. Being connected at the hip with Leigha! We were never apart and had the most amazing times doing anything we could think of to do. Oh! Leigha! Don't forget our fourth

of July time! Remembering all the fun times I had with my friends who have passed away in the past two years. Sledding with Cori during winter, walking up the hill at Roosevelt complaining about how we like food too much and should work out so we are ready to sled next winter! Riding around with Julia this summer on crotchcrocks! Ooherly fun! So many memories, not even enough paper to write them all!

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Every Saint is a Sinner and every Sinner has a future.

Future Plans/Goal: I plan to move to California after graduation and attend the Los Angeles Art Institute for Graphic Design.



Name: Dorian Hoover
Other Activities: Figure Skating and dance
Season Highlights: My synchronized skating team came in 3rd place at one of our competitions.

Best High School Memory: There are so many to choose from like making funny home movies with my friends, going shopping, and reminiscing about all our silly little inside jokes.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "People will forget what you've said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you make them feel," -Maya Angelou

Future Plans/Goal: I know I'm going to Kirkwood for at least my first year of college, but I don't know where I'm going after that. I will probably stick close to home and hopefully coach dance classes or teach figure skating and maybe even design and sell my own line of skate dresses!

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- Keep receipts until you've recorded all transactions.
- Prevent embarrassment—know your account balance, but more importantly, know your daily spending limit (the maximum amount you can purchase with your card) and daily cash limit (the maximum amount of cash you can pull out using your card).
- Remember your PIN, but keep it private.
- Never loan your debit card to anyone... and we mean anyone!
- If your card is lost or stolen, call your card issuer immediately to prevent fraud.



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2009



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ArtShare Premier
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5:30 - 6:30 pm

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Name: Shelby Steffek
Main Activity: Just livin' the dream
Other Activities: Soccer, indoor soccer, volleyball, basketball, dance, cheerleading, ballet, piano lessons, singing lessons, canoeing, swimming, horseback riding, SODA, FCA one time, modeling
Best High School Memory: Quoting every line from every movie with Julia, going on road trips with Rian and just spending time with the old foursome-Wild Flower Gang, New Orleans with Rian! Future senior road trip to Cali -Life- going to the McCain Rally with Alex Stalkflect, getting my car, watching my brother succeed and kick butt in

the Marines, seeing Keith get more talented everyday in basketball.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: It's lonely at the top, don't change who you are just to have a few temporary friends because in end it won't matter how many friends you had only how you lived your life. Hold fast to your morals.

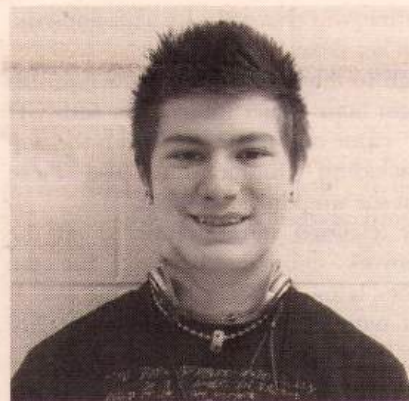
Future Plans/Goal: Go to Louislana tech or ISU to get my business/nutrition degree and go be the nutritionist at a hospital or executive chef somewhere-OH! and living in a gigantor house with Rian and our husbands in different wings- and going to Ireland to get those husbands!



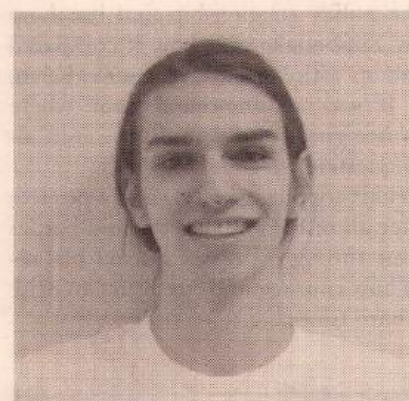
Name: Jordan Spear
Main Activity: Volunteering
Other Activities: Creative Ink
Season Highlights: Drawing comics for Brea, while volunteering for Madame.
Best High School Memory: All the inside jokes created over the years, chocolate cake fights, becoming best friends with my best friends, school plays, school musicals, sleepovers, making a movie of our version of Repunzel and all our other ridiculous videos, the basketball games that Brea dragged me to and which I ended up loving.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it's worth watching." "The optimist

proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true."

Future Plans/Goal: I plan to go to Cornell College for Environmental Studies or for the Culinary Arts. Maybe I'll open my own bakery and help contribute to America's rising obesity rate.



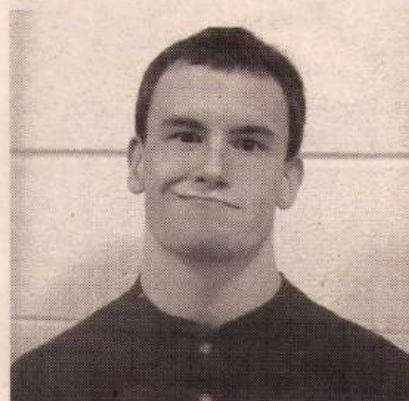
Name: Derek Miller
Main Activity: Spring Play
Other Activities: Musical, Speech, Art Club, Creative Ink
Season Highlights: Going to All-State for Speech!!!
Best High School Memory: Senior year Follies for sure...the theme was great and wanting to eat your brains made it all better :)
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "To have knowledge is intellectual, but to create is divine."
Future Plans/Goal: Go to UNI to major in Art Studio then going to Iowa to get my masters in Graphic Design.



Name: Maxwell R. Lafontant
Main Activity: Band
Other Activities: Jazz Band, Show Choir, Group, Speech, Individual Speech, Vocal Varieties, Spring Play, Fall Musical, Thespians, Stage Crew, Marching Band, Pep Band.
Season Highlights: Giving Emily and Derek frostbite on the speech bus.
Best High School Memory: Realizing in Music Theory that this is what I want to do the rest of my life.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Don't live each day as if it were the last day of your life. You'll never get any laundry

done."

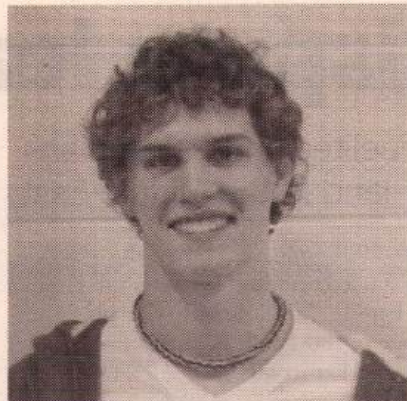
Future Plans/Goal: Go to Luther for Music Composition and Theory, get my Masters and PhD, be a professor of Music Theory and Composition.



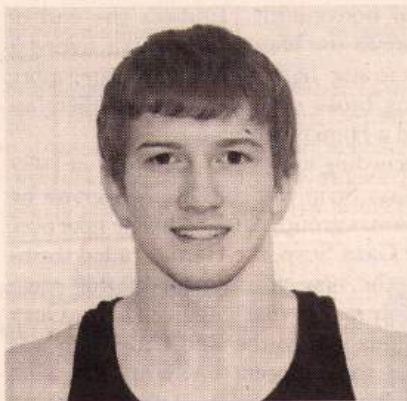
Name: Cael Clendenen
Main Activity: Wrestling
Other Activities: Turning left, tying my shoes, being very good looking, liking the color blue, lamp, going to the bathroom by myself, football, cross country, track, baseball.
Season Highlights: Dodgeball in the wrestling room, stealing Coach Weis's whistle, cranking up the music on the bus rides, senior night winning a match felt pretty good.
Best High School Memories: Me and Buh on the bus wearing costumes at the football games, Michael flipping over his bike handles down suicide hill.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Leaders

are made, they are not born, they are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worth while."

Future Plans/Goal: I plan to go to Kirkwood for two years then I would like to go to the University of Iowa.



Name: Nick Tuetken
Main Activity: Football
Other Activities: Wrestling, Track, Musical, Choir
Season Highlights: The entire season with the guys, both football and wrestling. I wouldn't trade anything, the wins or the losses. Sure, W. Delaware sucked, but they're my boys and they always will be.
Best High School Memory: Performing at Follies with our band.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "He gets made fun of so much, he's gonna develop a twitch." "Huh?! I'm on the wrong bus!!!" AC
Future Plans/Goal: Play football somewhere, Make it BIG with the band.



Name: Curtis Ette
Main Activity: Wrestling
Other Activities: Working on cars
Season Highlights: Going to state Junior year. Being ranked 8th in the state.
Best High School Memory: When I made it to state. The way I was treated by coaches, classmates, friends and family.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Once you have wrestled everything else in life is easy." -Dan Gable
Future Plans/Goal: Go to a four year college and wrestle. Then go to a law school, and become a lawyer.



Name: Jamie Thomas
Main Activity: Spring Play
Other Activities: Senior editor for the Creative Ink book. Art Club. Learning to speak louder for the spring play so Mr. McMahon won't come after me with a stick.
Season Highlights: I'm not much for sports, but I heard volleyball did well this year.
Best High School Memory: All the ridiculous things my friends and I have gotten away with on a daily basis.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Don't waste all your money on bottled water. Trust me, it's a lot worse for you than tap.
Future Plans/Goal: This August, I'm moving up to moving up to Cedar Falls to go to UNI. Eventually, after 8,000 years of med

school, I want to be a pathologist. :)



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Gaza Strip dispute leads to harsh violence

Thousands have been killed as Israelites and Palestinians battle over the much sought after land in the Middle East

By: Scout Morehouse
[Feature Editor]

As tensions rise in the Middle East, so do the amount of problems occurring there. In the streets of Gaza the problems have now gone from bad to the point of nobody being able to live there.

There has always been tension and fighting over the famous Gaza Strip. Home to one and a half million people, Gaza Strip is the largest city in Israel. It was a commercial enterprise for the Israel country, but recent disputes over the strip have left some to wonder if Israel actually controls the Gaza Strip. According to the CIA Factbook, the Palestinians controlled the Gaza Strip from 1994 to 2007. Israel was forced to withdraw all of their soldiers from the Gaza Strip after the Palestinians demanded complete control. Even though Israel said the Palestinians controlled the Gaza Strip, Israel still was in charge of taxes, airspace, and imports and exports. This caused problems to start occurring more often.

In 2006, during the elections, the Hamas group won the plurality vote giving them complete control over the Gaza Strip. Several nations including the United States responded by cutting off direct aid to the new government. Political disorder and economic problems caused many Palestinians the emigrate from the Gaza Strip.

On 2007, one year after the election, fights started erupting between the Hamas and Fatah. Muhammed Gharib, commander of the Fatah Security Force, died when a rocket struck his house. The rocket was fired from a Hamas gunmen and it also ended up killing his two daughters and several bodyguards. Towards the end of the month the Hamas and Fatah signed a treaty to stop fighting. Few days later more fighting broke out after Fatah soldiers attacked a Hamas university.

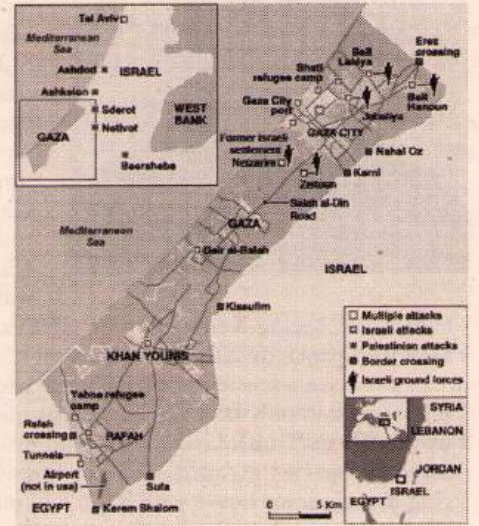
According to Fox News, in June of 2007 the Gaza Strip was completely overrun by the Hamas group. After complete take over of the Gaza Strip, the Hamas called themselves the new government of this area. The only money that was given to the Gaza Strip area was to the Red Cross who was helping the innocent civilians who were getting hurt or injured from the fights going on between the two groups.

Then on March 1, 2008, BBC News announced that over 100 Palestinians had been killed. The death toll included two Israeli soldiers and 45 civilians, 13 of which were minors. Israel retaliated by invading the southern part of Gaza near the Rafah refugee camp. The attack was said to have destroyed tunnels that helped import weapons into Gaza to the Hamas.

On December 27, 2008, Israeli F-16 strike fighter launched air strikes on the

Gaza Strip. According to the Los Angeles Times the airstrike ended up killing eight Palestinians. The Hamas retaliated by extending rocket range deeper into the Jewish state killing three civilians and one soldier. According to the Los Angeles Times, after this attack there has been more than 420 Palestinians killed, including more than 60 civilians, and there has been about 2,000 injured. Some of those who were killed included two innocent children. Mohammed and Abed Astal were said to have been chewing on sugar cane when the missiles struck in front of them killing both. Their uncle Mohammed Astal told the Los Angeles Times how he felt and said, "Why they were targeted? There were neither armed Hamas positions nor governmental compounds."

After the air strike both sides got international calls telling them to end the violence once and for all. President Bush told the news that the Hamas attacks on Israel are unacceptable and the United States is leading diplomatic efforts for a meaningful cease-fire. The Israeli Defense Minister said he would consider agreeing to international monitors to ensure that both sides will talk about a cease-fire. The Hamas would have to halt missile and mortar fire and stop shipment of weapons to the Gaza Strip. The Hamas group refused to stop fighting if the Israeli forces didn't leave the strip. Israel insisted on keeping their soldier in there but the Hamas still told them that they must fully retreat out of the Gaza



This map shows where Gaza has been attacked, and also shows where they have ground forces protecting the area.

Strip.

As the weeks go by the Gaza Strip keeps getting worse in fighting. If something doesn't happen right now or within the next month, Gaza Strip may become the most important war zone in the whole world. Speculations about what will happen if a cease-fire or peace treaty doesn't happen are very bad. There is no need to worry right now but it is very important that we should all stay informed about what is happening over in the Gaza Strip. Who knows, maybe you could be the one that will help stop all the fighting overseas.

Mother births octuplets

By: Matt Barnd [Photo Editor]

Nadia Suleman, a Los Angeles woman, recently gave birth to octuplets, matching a Texas woman who also gave birth to eight children in 1998. However, Suleman's situation has several circumstances that added a large amount of controversy, and questionable decision making by more than one individual.

Suleman, who is single, lives with her parents in Suburban Los Angeles in a modest home. She has six other children, ranging in age from age two to seven. All eight of the children she gave birth to several weeks ago are doing well, and were kept in the hospital from some time after the birth to be closely monitored.

According to the Times Online, the 33 year old unemployed woman had six embryos implanted in her by a doctor. This is three times the established legal limit for a woman in her age group. A sperm donor, said to be Suleman's friend, fertilized all six embryo's, which produced eight children when, in a rare occurrence, two of the embryos divided. It was later uncovered that the six previous children were conceived in a similar manner.

It is unclear at this point whether all 14 kids will be able to be supported financially by the family, who recently filed bankruptcy. Reporters recently learned that between 2002 and 2008 Suleman received about \$165,000 in disability payments. Suleman, in a recent interview on NBC's "Today," portrays confidence in her ability to pay for the infants,

saying that she would not accept government welfare. "I know I'll be able to afford them when I finish my schooling," Suleman explained.

In the same recent interview, Suleman revealed that she has had several previous miscarriages which have lead to her depression. It's not completely clear how much her shaky mental state contributed to her decision

"I'm loving them unconditionally. I'll stop my life for them and be present for them,"
-Nadia Suleman, mother of octuplets from an NBC interview

to attempt to have multiple more children. Suleman, however, is convinced as to her maternal ability. "I'm loving them unconditionally. I'll stop my life for them and be present for them." She went on to generally criticize other

parents. "and how many parents do that? I'm sure there are many that do, but many don't, and that is unfortunate, and that is selfish."

These comments have only added fuel to the fire, as there has been a significant outrage from the public regarding this situation, citing the perplexing decisions of the mother. Most recently, the doctor who allegedly implanted all of the embryos, from both pregnancies, has faced intense scrutiny. His seemingly irresponsible and morally questionable actions, have raised eyebrows of people throughout the world, both outside and inside the medical community.

Only time will reveal the fate of the 14 children, as well as history's perception of Nadia Suleman.

Spears makes surprising comeback

By: Lauren Jilek [Feature Editor]

She is back, and it seems as though she is stronger than ever. All eyes are on her too, just like the words to her hit song "Circus". "She" is Britney Spears and whether you love her or hate her, anyone is bound to hear her, hear about her, or see her for a lot of time to come.

From the youngest age, Britney Spears' dream was to perform and that dream followed her from the Mickey Mouse Club to the top of the charts with her sixth album entitled "Circus".

It hasn't all been easy and with the unlucky help from paparazzi and the tabloids. Since 2004, Britney Spears has been married twice with the first one lasting only 55 hours. This led to her second marriage to Kevin Federline, which happened three months after they met. With Federline, Spears had two children followed up by a divorce nearly two years later. During this time, Spears was definitely on a career break and it began to get worse and worse.

All throughout 2007, Britney attacked a paparazzi vehicle with an umbrella, stayed in a drug rehabilitation facility, fought over custody

with Federline, was charged with a hit-and-run, and shaved her head.

Although so many downfalls occurred, this only brought hope to her future. Her fifth CD "Blackout" came out in late 2007 with the biggest hits including "Gimme More" and "Piece of Me", but she wouldn't stop there.

After a televised show premiered on the MTV network entitled "Britney: For the Record", her latest CD "Circus" came out. It debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 selling 505,000 copies in the first week. When the show debuted on November 30th, Britney set the record straight on controversy brought up throughout her whole entire life. This started with the public relationship and break-up with Justin Timberlake and how it compared to the break-up with her most recent ex, Kevin Federline. It was an emotional hour where Britney let her guard down and answered almost every question.

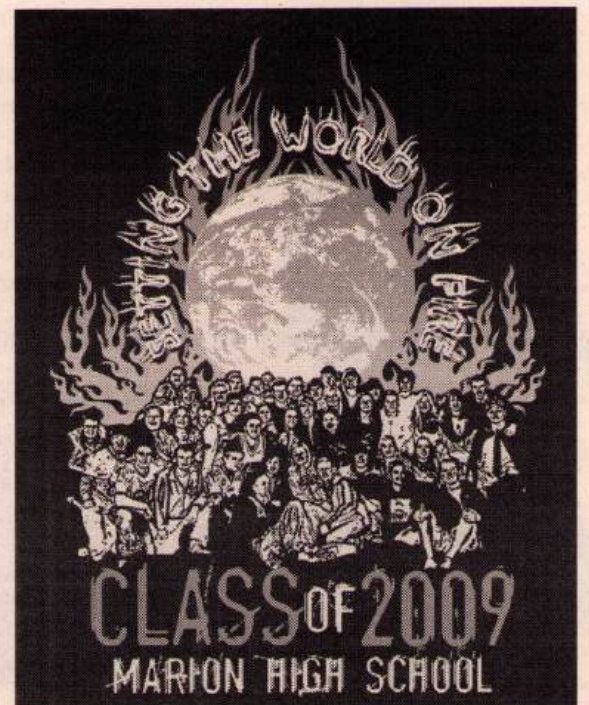
With a chart-topping new CD and a positive outlook after all of the controversy and battles she has gone through, Britney Spears has really shown how courage and strength can arise from such hard times.

Seniors!!!

Order your senior T-Shirt on February 23rd, during all lunch cycles.

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A lifelong dream has come true for two

Senior basketball players sign their letters of intent to play in college next year

By: Kayla McGrew [Staff Writer]

Many athletes in high school don't usually get the chance to live out their dreams of playing a certain sport in college, but for two of our very own basketball players here at Marion, that dream has definitely come true. For both these seniors, Sam Rinehart and Amry Shelby, the decision to play basketball for a college was an easy one. "I thought if I worked hard enough on my high school team I would be able to play in college somewhere," Amry said. Sam explained that, "I love the game of basketball and I always thought it would be really cool [to play basketball in college], but now that I am actually getting that chance it's just like 'Wow!'"

Sam will be attending and playing basketball at Lewis University in Chicago. Her practices start as early as September. "We start doing work outs right when we get to school, but real practice will start in October, then games begin in November." Sam could barely describe how she felt when she was asked to explain why she chose Lewis over her other choices such as Upper Iowa, Winona State and Southwest Minnesota State. "As soon as I stepped on campus it felt like home. I could tell that I would love the girls and coaches, but I would also get a excellent education. It was the first college I visited and so I had standards for the other colleges, and none of them matched up to Lewis." Sam has said that Mr. Wikert diminished any

dreams of her wanting to go pro once he told her the salary, because it really isn't all that much, so education is very important to her to fulfill her dreams of being successful. Sam said that since she has made her decision of signing with Lewis University she can finally relax. "I'm not as stressed and when people ask me where I'm going to college there isn't that awkwardness of not knowing." Sam is very excited to attend Lewis University in the fall and live out her dreams of playing basketball in college.

Senior Amry Shelby will also be fulfilling his dreams. He signed with Wayne State University, which is located in northern Nebraska. "It's pretty far from home, I'm feeling a little distraught about leaving my friends and family, but I already know some of the people there, and my roommate is Sam Elgin from CPU and he's like my best friend." When asked about why he chose Wayne State instead of the other D2 colleges that wanted him, such as Augustana and Briar Cliff in Sioux City, he elaborated, "There was a great atmosphere there, and I could possibly be a starter my freshman year, and, they offered me a full ride, so that was a plus." Amry said he feels more relaxed now on the basketball court and doesn't have to worry about recruiters watching him anymore. He would also like to give a shout out to his boy Obama.

Seeing these two extraordinary basketball players play during the home games here at Marion, everyone can see the love for basketball in their intensity on the floor. So, they make it known that dreams really do come true.



Above: Sam Rinehart, senior, signs her letter of intent to play basketball at Lewis University in Chicago
Below: Amry Shelby, senior, who has committed to Wayne State University, drives to the basket.



Sam Rinehart, senior



Amry Shelby, senior

Artistic hands draw future career

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]

There are so many things that you can do to express your emotions, whether it is by your actions, or using the form of art. Taylor Buckley, junior, loves to draw, and has done it for a long time. Taylor commented, "Ever since I was little, I always loved to draw. It's something I do naturally." Taylor also commented, "I like computer graphics and pencil drawings."

When Taylor wanted to really getting to doing art, she didn't have to go far to get what she needed. "My uncle works at Hallmark and he's an artist, so he got me the right materials," she explained. Once she got all of her materials, she was ready to begin work. She has been doing it ever since. Different things inspire different people, but for Taylor, "Things that I find that are beautiful, I want to imitate. I especially get inspired by other art I see"

Taylor expressed, "It makes me feel good. It's something that I enjoy. It's really easy to get lost and lose a couple of hours."

Taylor has not lost the support of her family through all of this. "My uncle is in art and he has always supported me. And my mom likes to look at what I have done," added Taylor.

At this time, Taylor is working extremely hard on a piece of art. "Right now, I am working on a mural of Andy Warhol's tomato soup can," Taylor happily said with style.

Taylor has a lot to think about with just a little over a year before college. "I am going to double major in graphic art and creative writing. I am going to minor in Art History. Ideally, I would like to write and illustrate adult novels," she said. With all that she wants to do, Taylor is planning on attending Iowa State once she graduates in 2010.

One thing that Taylor has been doing is displaying her artwork at different show, one is which is the Veridian Art Show, and she plans on putting them in many more.



Taylor Buckley, junior



These two pieces of art were created by junior, Taylor Buckley. Taylor enjoys taking art classes at Marion and creating art in her free time. Taylor plans on attending Iowa State University and double majoring in graphic art and creative writing.

Soldner moves up with future goals

By: Lauren Jilek [Feature Editor]

Going off to college may seem frightening for some and exciting for others. Many people come out of high-school with no idea what they are going to be interested in doing for the rest of their life and others are sure to have it all figured out. One person who already has those goals for their future is James Soldner.

After graduation, James' plan includes moving to North Dakota to attend the University of North Dakota, in the eastern side of the state in Grand Forks. Not only will he be attending classes, he has also received an Army ROTC scholarship. After being accepted and signing over Christmas break, James has been entitled to full tuition, books and fees being paid for. These are excellent benefits, especially with his future goals in mind. "After graduation, I have to serve six years with the army. I will automatically be Second Lieutenant so I will have a company I will be in charge of. After my six years, I'll probably get a job as a civil engineer," James commented.

Although the distance will certainly be traveled away from home, James will have a lot of comfort in Grand Forks. "I have my grandparents and aunts and uncles with my cousins that live there. I also visit the campus and I really liked it," James said.

The discussion with his family about going to college was a very successful one. "My parents told me they would support me with whatever decision I made. We sat down and thought about all the options and just made a very informed decision," Jimmy stated.

Another detail that had to be taken into consideration was how relationships he has now could change or be affected. "I do think it will change (my relationships) but with Facebook and texting and technology nowadays, it won't be terribly bad.

With graduation in only a few months, James has a lot to be excited for as he continues his education through college. "(I'm most looking forward to) meeting a whole bunch of new people and seeing my relatives a lot more!" With a lot to look forward to and a great outlook for the future, there is certainly no looking back now. "I think it will be a good opportunity that I've been given."



James Soldner, senior

His lifelong challenge

Junior Zach Davis battles each day with rare disease Spina Bifida

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

Since kindergarten, people have always told us to treat others the way we want to be treated. It's just the right thing to do, the moral of the story. One lesson that fits perfectly with that is, don't judge a book by its cover. As great as it would be to say our society abides by these morals, we can't. It's a well-known fact; we live in a society where people are constantly judging others and being judged. One student that feels he is always being judged is Zach Davis.



Zach Davis, junior

Zach is seventeen years old and a junior at Marion High School. Before attending Marion he attended Benton Community until halfway through third grade, where he switched to Marion, and at the beginning of fourth grade he started back at Benton Community. He then went to Benton until eighth grade, and then started at Marion the following year, the fall of his freshman year. Zach is a student that may come to mind when discussing the topic of judgment. What makes Zach so unique is his story. Zach

was born with a disease called Spina Bifida.

Spina Bifida, meaning cleft spine, is a disease that you are born with. According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Spina Bifida is the incomplete development of the spine, brain, or meninges. It affects roughly 1,500 to 2,000 infants of more than the four million babies born each year. There are four types of Spina Bifida, those being occulta, closed neural tube defects, meningocele, and myelomeningocele. Occulta is the mildest form and myelomeningocele is the worst case.

Spina Bifida can have effects ranging from minor physical problems to severe physical and mental disabilities. Although it may cause severe mental disabilities, it's important to know that most people with Spina Bifida are of normal intelligence. Unfortunately, no cure has been found for Spina Bifida, but there are surgeries that may be performed to help. The surgeries are supposed to help strengthen the legs and to help straighten the legs. Zach has had many surgeries for this purpose. He started having surgeries as a baby and has had other multiple surgeries since then. Unfortunately for Zach, the surgeries have yet to work.

Because of Zach's disease he is unable to participate in sports and many other things he would like to be involved in. Zach explained, "It's not so much that I think I'd be good at basketball, football, or wrestling. I would just like to have the chance to try it or be able to know if I wanted to do it, I could." Some things are taken for granted and being able to walk perfectly fine and participate in sports would be in that category. People shouldn't take things like that for granted, because you never what you have until it's gone.

Zach feels like he is treated very different from other people. Sometimes he feels he is treated like he can't do anything. Other times people ignore the fact that he is in a wheelchair which, depending on the reaction, may be good or bad. The reactions and the way he is treated honestly depends on the person. Zach said "I think if I didn't have Spina Bifida, I would be in better moods more often. I think I am in bad moods sometimes because of my disease and that's hard for some to understand." Zach feels for the most part he is pretty independent, but it really depends on his mood. According to Zach, the moral of the story is, "Don't judge a book by its cover, don't be superficial, and try to see people for what's on the inside," Zach elaborated, "I want people to see me, not my wheelchair."



Zach Davis, junior, sits at a lunch table with his wheelchair visible in the background. Zach has suffered from Spina Bifida all his life and has had several surgeries because of the affliction.

Some are tall others are small

By: Kayla McGrew [Staff Writer]

There are many ups and downs when you're vertically challenged like our own 5-foot-tall sophomore Nikki Kline. Nikki does not have any clue why she is so short, because her whole family is averaged sized, and her brother is even 6'8". "It sucks when I can't even reach my own cereal box on top of the refrigerator in the mornings!" Besides that, there are more times when Nikki wishes she was taller. She explains, "I can barely reach the pedals when I'm driving even if my seat is pulled forward all the way," she said.

Many sports in high school require some height, and Nikki soon realized this during volleyball when she wasn't even tall enough to jump up and touch the top of the net. "If I could be taller for one day, I would dominate in basketball and volleyball!" But being small does have its upsides. "In gym class, I was the only one small enough to fit under the bleachers to get the birdies when we were playing badminton. And in cheerleading I'm nice and small so I'm easy to lift." Nikki doesn't feel out of place walking through the halls of the high school, but she does say her neck get kind of sore having to look up to talk to people all the time.

Now, on the complete opposite side of the spectrum, there are some people who just can't stop growing! Senior Sam Kiburz, who stands 6 foot 8.5 inches from the ground, is definitely someone in this category. Sam explains, "I grew 5 inches the

summer between 7th and 8th grade." Unlike Nikki, he knows why he's so tall. "On my dad's side of the family all of my male relatives are 6'3" or taller and all the girls are 5'11" and taller. I am not the tallest in my family though, I have a cousin who is 6'11" and still growing."

How does Sam feel about being tall? "Sometimes at dances it's awkward because I'm always more than a head taller than my dates so pictures look weird. And when I'm out and about people always stare. And it's really hard to find shirts and jeans that fit me the way I like." Sam said, though, he is finally comfortable. "When I was younger in middle school, I always felt awkward because I was so tall, but now that I'm older I've grown into my body more and feel comfortable."

Being tall for Sam is very convenient in his lifestyle. "In my job, I don't have to grab the hook or use a ladder to get clothes off the top shelf." But just like there are times he's happy he's tall there are times when he wishes he was just a tad shorter. "When I was in Chicago, I had to duck down the whole 45 minute ride on the subway and I thought I broke my neck." Sam said if he could spend one day shorter he would go by a medium shirt to wear all day rather than an extra large he is forced to wear because they fit him much better.

Many average people can blend in, but these two students stand out and have absolutely no problem with it.



Sam Kiburz, senior, and Nikki Kline, sophomore, stand together to show the dramatic height difference between them. Sam is one foot and eight inches taller than Nikki.

Grapes dares to be different

By: Elizabeth Magorian [Staff Writer]

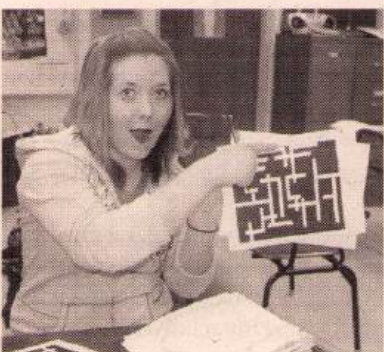
Looking around people try to be all the same. It's ok to be different, to be who you really are. One person that isn't afraid to be different is Laci Grapes, a junior here at Marion High School.

Laci Grapes has been a vegetarian since she was eight years old. Laci explains, "My reason for not eating meat is because I don't like it and it grosses me out that someone would eat an animal." Laci isn't the only person in her family that shares the same feelings. Laci's cousin is also a vegetarian. Laci has

to prepare her own meals due to the fact that her family members aren't all vegetarians. Laci never craves meat. She plans on always being a vegetarian, but if she has children in the future she doesn't plan on making them be vegetarians. "It's their choice what they want to do, I won't make them do anything," stated Laci.

When Laci's friends and family eat meat, she feels its gross, but doesn't say anything because it's not her place to say if they eat meat or not. Laci's family thinks she's a little crazy for being a vegetarian. Laci said, "I don't get make fun of but sometimes I get criticized for being a vegetarian, strictly because people think it's weird not to eat meat."

Laci worked at McDonalds for a period of time, but it wasn't hard for her, it made her hate meat even more. Laci's favorite vegetarian meal is a baked potato and the worst is a veggie burger. Laci comments, "I feel that restaurants and schools should prepare more varieties of food for those people that are vegetarians so it's not as hard to find something to eat." So follow Laci's example and don't be afraid to be different, be yourself.



Junior Laci Grapes isn't afraid to be different, whether it's in class, with her friends, or what she eats.

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Bosu becomes big hit at the high school

As getting in shape and staying fit becomes more popular at MHS, Bosu finds its way into the workout plan of students striving to get "fit"

By: Scout Morehouse [Activities Editor]

Athletes are always trying to get fit and better at sports to improve their stats or be able to beat own personal goals. There are certain ways to do this but a group of students got together and found the perfect way to better themselves.



Heather Schellhorn, trainer

Heather Schellhorn is the trainer at the Marion High School and is also the leader of Bosu. She attended Upper Iowa University for four years and also the University of Texas for about two and a half years. She has been the MHS trainer for about two years now and is known among the athletes and people who talk to her as a very nice person who care about their health and well-being. Even though Heather has only been here for two years, she has been a certified and licensed trainer for three years and also works for Mercy Sports Care. She works with people to help prevent, evaluate, and rehab athletic injuries.

Heather first started having Bosu after school right before Thanksgiving. It has consistently lasted for about

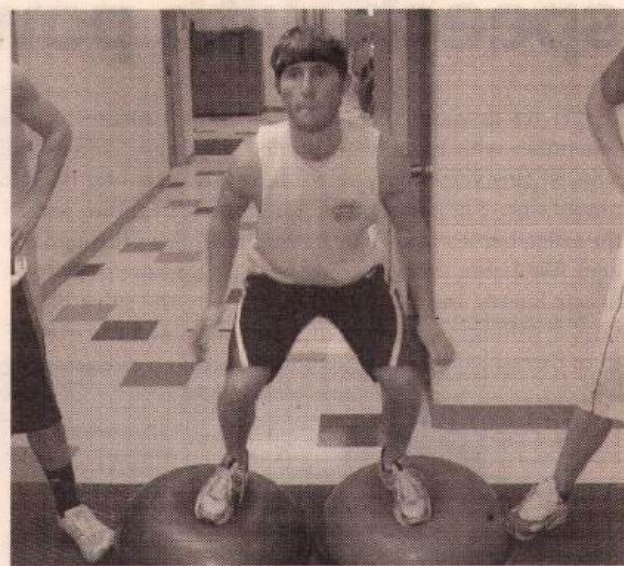
three months and it happens three times a week. It takes place in the schools gym, hallways, or where ever space allows. On average six to twelve people, both boys and girls, attend the Bosu workout with Heather.

Bosu is a workout that consists of a Bosu ball and the will to get better. A Bosu ball is almost like a yoga ball cut in half. Bosu has been around since 2000. But where did Heather hear about Bosu? "I learned about them from other colleagues and previous internships," Heather said. "The Booster Club was generous to supply the athletes with four Bosu balls."

Now if your wondering what Bosu does, then Heather has the answer for you. "(Bosu) improves physical balance through movement challenges." These aren't just any normal workouts though. The workouts consist of cardio and weightlifting activities. Some of the types workouts include jumping on the Bosu balls, running on them, balancing on the balls, sit-ups- push-ups, and other functional activities that can be done on the Bosu balls.

Bosu isn't just for athletes. "(Bosu) is for anyone who wants to improve their balance and agility," elaborates Heather. So even though you may not be active in any sport, you can still participate in Bosu. A lot of people may actually encourage you to go and try Bosu. Bosu helps you get in shape and when you're done with the workouts you'll feel much better then you did before. The workouts are never monotonous either which helps make them fun and different from your usual workout. Heather explains, "Each workout can be different to keep from getting boring. Some days we concentrate on cardio, and the next day balance, so different muscles and nerves are being engaged."

You always need dedication to work hard and get better



Dalton Schindler, senior, performs one of the many different exercises during a Bosu class after school.

at something that you love to do. That's exactly what the athletes who participate in Bosu do. They dedicate themselves to this workout and the results are tremendous. A lot of them haven't only gotten stronger but feel a lot better and perform better in their activities. This is exactly what a lot of them wanted to happen and thanks to Heather they were able to get better at what they love. It just goes to show that if you want to get better at what you love to do, you have to work hard and not give up.

Students weigh in on their hopes for Imagine8



"More teen hangouts."
-Tiffany Zika, sophomore



"If I could change one thing I would put a Wendys on 7th Ave."
-Nick Rael, sophomore



"Get more places to hang out."
-Hannah Kaczinski, senior



"I would build a huge waterpark in the middle of town."
-Jessica VanNote, junior



"I would make it more diverse."
-Tori Pratt, sophomore



"I would add a big skatepark."
-Jordan Heiar, junior



"I would build a bigger, better mall with more stores, and a lot bigger stores."
-Kelsey Martens, freshman



"I would have people build more teen hangouts."
-Kaly Collins, sophomore



"I would add a giant skatepark."
-Colton Storla, freshman



"I would find ways to keep our city cleaner."
-Kayla Kesl, sophomore

Marion graduate back to teach art at the high school

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

Day to day students go to class in the role they are accustomed to as the educated but what would it feel like to flip sides and become the educator? One MHS teacher is currently partaking in this flip after graduating from Marion High School in 1999 and now teaching art at MHS. Her name is Ms. Martin and she is enjoying the experience so far, "It was really exciting to be able to teach because the art department is a wonderful place to be and I didn't take a lot of art in high school, so it's still kind of a new experience."

Ms. Martin went to MHS when it was still an 8th-12th institution and went on to the University of Iowa. At Iowa, Ms. Martin got a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics. After attending Iowa, Ms. Martin made stops in a kindergarten through six grade school in Alburnet, student taught at Mount Vernon, and taught one quarter at Central City. Before settling on teaching, Ms. Martin worked at Farmers State Bank as a teller and a personal banker.

Ms. Martin is filling in for Mrs. Thilges who is taking a leave of absence this year and is on a one year contract with the school. As a student at Marion, Ms. Martin was involved with activities including band, Atoms, NHS, and tried softball and volleyball for a couple years. Even though she hasn't been gone long, Ms. Martin admits there have been changes to the school, "[Marion] is different because I was here as an eighth grader and there's been some very large additions. When I was here the band and choir hallway didn't exist and we had classes in the administration wing."

Now employed at the school, Ms. Martin teaches classes including Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Computer Graphics, and Mixed Media and elaborated, "I don't have a favorite, I like part of all the classes." However, Ms. Martin does have an overall favorite aspect of teaching, "My favorite part of teaching is working with the students and seeing their art."

The reasoning behind Ms. Martin becoming a teacher runs along the same lines, "I became a teacher because I enjoy art and I enjoy working with people." When she's not teaching Ms. Martin's hobbies hover around the same creative and resourceful activities of the school day, "When I'm not teaching I like to knit, do ceramics, and paint."

Ms. Martin is clearly a teacher who not only has a passion for what she teaches but understands the subject, which is exemplified in her teaching philosophy, "My goal is to provide a supportive and enriching environment for all students to create their art in. To have a room that lets people share their ideas. A room that will help students create art. A strong art program also incorporates a room focused on a variety of art media and provides a way to talk about art criticism, art history, and aesthetics so they can see themselves as an artist and can express themselves visually."



Ms. Martin, Art teacher

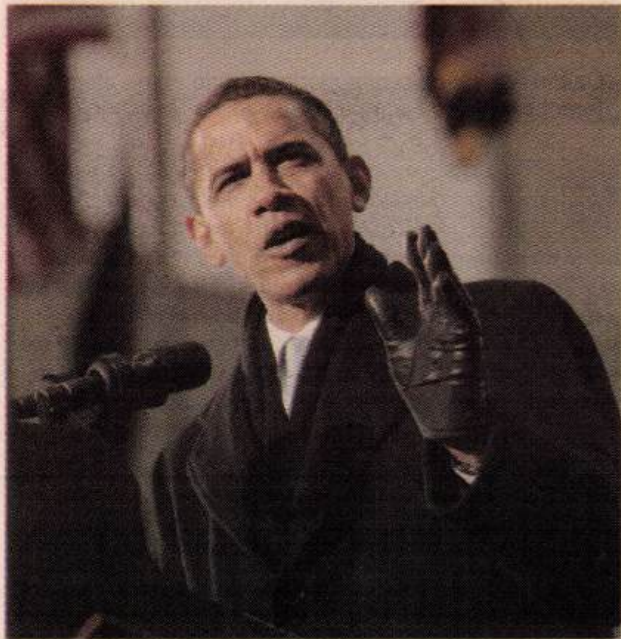
President Obama ends inaugural speech with powerful message

"As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains. They have something to tell us today, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages. We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. And yet, at this moment - a moment that will define a generation - it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all. For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the

kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the fire-fighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate. Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends - hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism - these things are old.

These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship. This is the source of our confidence - the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny. This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed - why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.

So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are and how far we have travelled. In the year of America's birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river. The capital was abandoned. The enemy was advancing. The snow was stained with blood. At a moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words be read to the people: "Let it be told to the future world...that in the depth of



President Barack Obama delivers his inaugural speech on January 20th in front of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

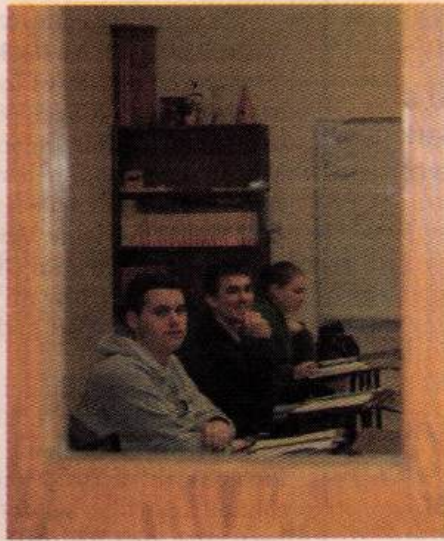
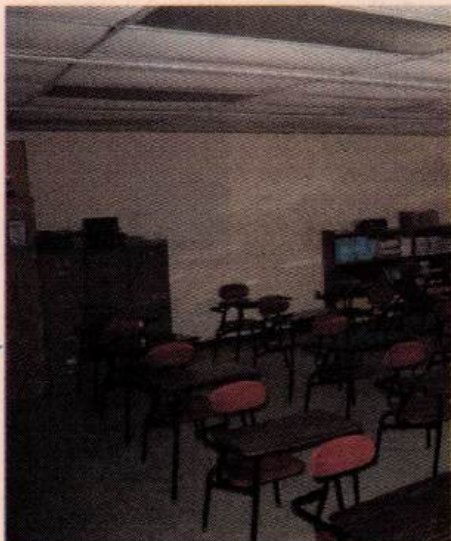
Some key people and facts of Black History Month:

- Started in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson and known as "Negro History Week"
- Started in remembrance of important people in black history and events of the history of Black diaspora
- Second week of February chose because of birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass
- The week long observation became official in 1976
- While Canada also celebrates the month in February, in the United Kingdom Black History Month occurs in October

winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive... that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it]." America.

In the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations." (Obama)

Can you tell where these rooms are located in MHS?



Clues:

Top Left: This room has a lot of history

Top Right: Watch out, this teacher will put you in debt

Bottom Left: This is an easy one, it's just basic algebra

Bottom Right: Usually it's bad news if you find yourself in here

Answers:

Top Left: Mr. Immertall, Top Right: Mr. Wikert, Bottom Left: Mr. Martin, Bottom Right: Dr. Thomas's office

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