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competition p.13



# THE VOX

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*The voice of the Marion Indians*

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## Fourth time's the charm for Muriel and prom



By: Chelsey Banes [Staff Writer]

With prom just around the corner senior, Muriel Oltmann is very excited, "Prom is so much more fun than all the other dances combined, and I'm very excited to go," she stated with a big smile. Over half the people that attend prom are first-timers, and although it's Muriel's fourth year going, she shows just as much excitement as she did when she was asked to go by her boyfriend freshmen year.

Though prom is a night that girls and guys both get to lay back and have a ton of fun being beautiful, prom isn't all smiles. Behind the scene of prom there can be a lot of stress and possibly even a few tears that go into making the night perfect. By the time prom night arrives every detail has been gone over at least five times and for failure has a Being Muriel's all the little details together perfectly effort given. From the after-plans, only has it figured down to perfect-dress this year is my favorite, I just love it!" added Muriel.

Next for Muriel comes the fun part for girls, getting her nails done and picking out shoes! Though Muriel has all of her must-haves taken care of, the last thing to do is to get together a good group. "I'm stressed about having a good group, there is always a Karen in the group," joked Muriel. With prom getting closer everyday Muriel is taking care of every little detail.

Though Muriel has already gone to four proms, she wouldn't necessarily object to going one more time, "I would possibly go again, but the person would have to mean a lot to me. I wouldn't want to be a super senior," she said with a laugh.

Even though it would take a lot to get Muriel to go to her fifth prom she didn't ever have a second thought about going every year of high school. "I feel that if you are dating or very close, that is the person you should go with," commented Muriel.

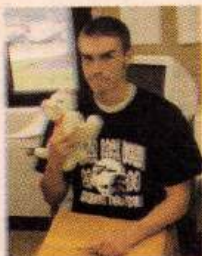
Why would a girl turn down a chance to go to prom then? Most of the time it isn't the girl that doesn't want to go, it's the parents that object. "My mom isn't that into it," Muriel explained, "but she loves getting tons of pictures."

Lastly Muriel adds some advice for new and future prom goers, "Go overboard because it is prom after all, but stay realistic. If you don't have the money, don't worry about it. Eat dinner at home and borrow a dress." Hopefully this year's prom goes as well for everyone as Muriel's experiences have been.

## Prom punctuates widespread sufferings from senioritis

Seniors, we have now officially reached the proverbial home stretch of our high school existences. The only vaccination for the epidemic outbreaks of senioritis is nearly here. Hang in there ladies and gentlemen. The end is near.

Well, prom is now upon us. The hype surrounding this apparently epic event is unparalleled. People begin looking forward to it months in advance, each having their individual favorite part. Perhaps it's going out to dinner beforehand, the limo ride, or getting their respective grooves on in the gold gym. These are all well and good, don't get me wrong, but my personal favorite is getting



By: Matt Barnd  
[Photo Editor]

-Commentary-

to pretend to be James Bond for five hours. This is by far the best part. When else does a guy get to wear a tuxedo? Umm never (except maybe a wedding but they're dumb). My goal to drive up in an Aston Martin with rockets behind the headlights and the ability to fly, however, was perhaps a bit lofty. Nonetheless once the tux is on, the name is Bond, James Bond.

P.S., I would like to apologize for this piece before I forget. You've seen it on the bottom of the front page in every Vox for the last two years, and I would like to say sorry for anyone expecting an article containing actual journalistic work. This does not : / ...Sorry.

Anyway, whew, glad to have that off my chest.

Did anyone notice the floors in the caf-

eteria after being freshly waxed following spring break? Woocce! You could eat off them! Or use them as a mirror, ice rink etc. On top of that, shiny floors are pretty much like bling for a building. Sweet.

On a more scary note, many of you are probably familiar with the senior most/best voting, in which members of the senior class vote for classmates in various categories such as 'most involved,' 'best smile,' etc. Well as members of the Journalism class were counting each ballot, one particular category stood out: Worst Driver. This group had largest amount of individuals who received votes, over 50 in all. I found this rather frightening in a quirky, humorous sort of way.

Seniors are now 95.56 percent done with their high school careers, and yes I did the math. Hopefully the next 4.44 percent will be just as excellent. Good Day.

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# Simple elimination while driving could save lives

With the enormous amount of deaths occurring in the United States in traffic accidents, why not make the roads safer by eliminating cell phone usage?

Editorial

Thirty-nine-thousand-eight-hundred people were killed in traffic-related accidents in 2008 in the United States. This breaks down to more than 100 deaths per day throughout the entire year. The risks associated with driving have always been high, but the advent of the cell phone era has added one more potentially fatal distraction to drivers, most notably the young demographic. All types of cell phone use while driving should be prohibited by Federal mandate.

According to ScienceDaily.com, a recent study conducted by Rutgers University found the use of cell phones to increase the rate of traffic deaths to both drivers and pedestrians. Prior to 2002, the study found that cell phone use actually decreased the number of traffic deaths, as cell phone owners would be able to call for help, but once the number of users surpassed the "critical mass" of 100 million this benefit was negated. "Cell phone use has a significant adverse effect

on pedestrian safety," said Peter Loeb, Rutgers University Professor. "Cell phones and their usage above a critical threshold adds to motor vehicle fatalities." The specific correlations found in the studies about cell phones and motor vehicle fatalities are yet to be released.

Driving on a busy interstate, looking at passing cars reveals a sickening number of individuals on their cell phones, either talking or text-messaging. This is especially true for high school and college aged people, who have an apparent need to be in constant communication. Many of these individuals are ignorant to the potential ramifications that their actions may bring to themselves or another driver they come into contact with. This is caused, in large part by a false sense of invincibility, the "it could never happen to me" mindset. The sad truth is that it can.

It is adamantly recommended that drivers maintain two hands on the steering wheel so as to have

optimal control of their vehicle. This is impossible for someone texting, who must sacrifice one hand or possibly even both, the infamous "knee driver." Even hands free devices for talking on cell phones do not eliminate the problem, as the simple act of carrying on a conversation has been found to decrease reaction time. This response time is critical. Tenths of seconds can literally make the difference between life and death.

Several states have already taken matters into their own hands. Five states have restrictions on hand held cell phone use, and eight have banned text messaging while driving. Others have similar restrictions relating specifically to teen drivers. Legislators in the state of Iowa have pushed for such bans, but they have not passed at this time.

The use of cell phones is an unnecessary and dangerous risk for drivers of any age to take. To outlaw their usage would be to eliminate a perilous distraction and would save lives. In the meantime, let's all put our cell phones aside until everyone reaches their destination safely.



Dalton Schindler, senior, demonstrates a common misuse of a cell phone while driving. Recent studies have shown the use of cell phones while driving drastically increases the chance of an accident.

## Cell phone use statistics

-The number one source of driver inattention is a wireless device

-Drivers using cellphones are four times as likely to get into a crash of serious harm

-In 25% of police reported crashes cellphone use is reported as a factor

-Cellphone usage reduces the amount of brain activity designated to driving by 37%

-10% of drivers age 16-24 are on the cell phone at any one time

## Conferences; Crucial loss of class time or beneficial day?

By: Lauren Jilek [Feature Editor]

They come around once every term and it seems the only reason we are aware of them is because we get the benefit of having an early out. While we leave school for this early out, teachers work hard to complete grades in order to prepare for conferences that evening that any student's parent or guardian can attend. While considering how helpful and informative conferences can be, they can also be looked at in a different light. With technology turning another corner and having nearly everything online, are these conferences really needed? For students, it is nice to have the early out, but just think of how much time is wasted for that early out when viewing a student's grades is just a click away on Power School.

If you haven't ever attended conferences, they are run a little like this. Individual tables are set around the Marion gym for each teacher and their

classes. When parents show up, they receive a class list including the names of all the teachers. They may go around to these teachers, view progress reports and discuss with the teacher any issues that have come up from the term so far. This communication aspect of conferences seems to be the most beneficial. While you may view grades online on Power School to see how a student is doing, one thing Power School does not tell parents is the attitude or work ethic of their child. To some, this may be the most important part of a child's education and this can be thoroughly explained by attending conferences and talking with the teachers. Parents can also discuss any frustrations or troubles they have with their children at home when it comes to school or homework.

On the other hand, when parents are busy and cannot attend conferences, why not send out a quick email to the teacher? Most teachers here at Marion are very good about returning emails and certainly discussing a student's education can be a good conversation to have. Sometimes, this email can be almost as beneficial as attending these conferences and the same information can be received by doing such.

## Conference points to consider:

### Pros:

Students get an early out

Teachers and parents can thoroughly discuss student's progress

Convenient way for parents to talk about problems with the teacher

### Cons:

A day of school is missed even though the grades are viewable online

A lot of work for teachers gathering all the materials

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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

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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.



# Txting cud bcome a prblm n' stdnts futr

Texting has taken over America's grammar. Talking & typing in the "real world" has begun to revolve around this texting language.

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

He/she hears "Buzz, Buzz" as their cell phone goes off on the computer table, followed by the latest TI song, rapping and singing until it gets picked up. After hitting the "Read Message" button discovering see it's from your best friend. "Were u @? im not sure when ill be der." The texter texts back with one hand,



Bad grammar has gone from texting friends to using it at school on homework assignments. More and more students are using this style and are therefore receiving worse grades because of the trend.

"Im just chillin. i got u, holla bck l8r," then slam the phone down on the table. Opening Facebook, an IM pops open with a "Hey wat we do n class 2day? And respond "n2m." Does this sound familiar? It should, especially now in the year 2009. More teens and young adults are putting down reading books, staying indoors, and avoiding face to face conversation. Instead, they're texting on their iPhones, BlackBerry Storms, or GIs. They pay 30 dollars more per month to their phone bill, just to have unlimited internet and email on their phone, so they can

check their Facebook and stalk up on other peoples status' on facebook. Sure, it's the new age and technology is booming, but isn't this hurting American teenagers' grammar?

The answer of course is yes. Ask any English teacher, the first mistake teenagers are rapidly making is the fact that we are using words as slang. The way we talk about practically anything anymore is becoming extremely ridiculous! This is becoming an epidemic all around the nation. Teens are turning the English language into their own language. President Obama has recently addressed the issue of Education in American, stating that it is followed behind those of other countries, due to shortcuts and laziness. This laziness seems to tie directly into teenagers rapidly desinagrating language. Is it really that hard to type an extra letter or two or to put on a period or question mark? The way the receiver does not have to sit there and study the message for 20 minutes, trying to figure out what you mean?

Though texting or instant messaging a quick "BRB" instead of the actual "be right back" could be easier, does it make sense too? Later on, what if it happens to be that it's time to fill out an application and it asks what your greatest quality is? "Making people laugh...lol" True story. If an employer read that, its pretty likely that application is going to be tossed. It was. How we're typing, blogging, texting, etc. is already affecting our future and it could potentially keep getting worse.

This texting language has even invaded our oral speech. How many times have you heard someone say "JK," "LOL," or any other text talk in every day conversations? It's ridiculous. Americans are supposed to be the super power of the world; however, we still look for shortcuts and easy outs. And why? To save the two seconds to type out a word or because we're driving and we can't keep looking at our phones? For the few percentages of those who still type with periods, contractions, commas, and full words keep it up! For those who would rather type "n" instead of "and" and "da" or "dat" instead of "the" and "that", those abbreviation addicts might as well go ahead and turn your resume in at McDonalds and practice texting, "Do you wnt fries w/dat?"

## Facebook's app. additions

By: Nicole Pratt [Ads Editor]

Facebook certainly isn't the same as when it started in February 2004. Today, Facebook is hands down the most popular networking website on the World Wide Web today. The website currently has more than 175 million active users worldwide. Facebook is the most popular social network, followed by leading competitors MySpace and Twitter.

Facebook has seemed to cause a lot of controversy in recent times as well, and has even been blocked in some countries. In 2006, Facebook was opened up to anyone over the age of 13 with a valid email. Facebook has come a long way since its start in 2006, the features and "applications" on Facebook in the past year, have become slightly ridiculous and overwhelming to some.

Although, a good source to network and communicate with family, friends, and co-workers, facebook has also caused much controversy, especially in high school. There is a serious privacy issue with facebook. Everyone knows who has dumped who, who is doing what, and who doesn't like something anymore just by looking at our "mini-feed", a feature of Facebook that was introduced in fall 2006. The "news feed" posts the most recent actions of a user on display in their profile, so everyone knows what that person has been up to including, wall posts, status updates, uploading photos, being tagged in a picture, relationship status updates, etc. The news feed allows ultimate stockage, which some people may not exactly find a good thing. Not only is facebook a privacy issue, but also many people don't realize how many people really look at your Facebook. Anything you put on the Internet is public and people are now also able to search for listings for Facebook from the welcome page without first signing up as a member. Facebook can do as much

harm as getting someone in trouble for the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco from school or police officials from posting photos to even getting adults and students fired from their jobs from information entered on their profiles.

Slideshows, top friends, bumper stickers, graffiti, profile tracking, and other ridiculous and unnecessary applications are making Facebook look totally different. In the past, Facebook gave users the ability to poke someone, but now users can bite, hug, sucker punch or tickle someone. This year alone facebook has added over 200 new applications. Although Facebook did not develop all 219 applications, they have allowed corporations such as Forbes, iLike and Ford Models to launch applications through the facebook site.

Recently, Facebook users have been upgraded to a new layout for the always growing social network center. Once again, Facebook has come up with another new layout design for the website, which has also caused much controversy. There are already countless protest groups, angry status messages and even a protest day planned. The last time Facebook went through a redesign thousands of people took an instant dislike to it as well. Many users do not want to learn a new system every few months. Also there is no option to resist from all these changes and keep your current layout. The new applications and layouts have stirred up a large amount of users who disagree with the relevance of many new functions and feel a violation of privacy with others.

Whether it's your aunt in Los Angeles or your grandma in Chicago, it seems like everyone today has a facebook and can see everything you're doing. Facebook is always changing and growing and will continue on this path.

## Animal Print: Hot trend tracks across the nation

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

As time moves on, many things change. These changes include technology, our economy, and definitely fashion. Fashion is always changing. What's hot and what's not, what's in and what's out. It's a fact things will always be going in and out of style and that's one thing that will probably never change. Recently, one new trend that caught my eye has been the constant sightings of animal print.

Animal print seems to be spreading throughout the school, and not only the school, but the city and the nation. It's everywhere! It's displayed through clothes, accessories, bedspreads, furniture, and the runway. They have made animal print scarves, purses, shoes, prom dresses, and just clothing in general. It's making quite a fashion statement. Animal print is funky and very eye catching. There are many different types of animal print.

The two I would say are most popular would have to be zebra print and cheetah print.

While many people are in favor of the tasteful, new trend, others feel animal print is overwhelming. Some people feel that animal print has gone out of control. It seems they feel it's more of an obsession and people are hooked on the new style. Although it may seem that animal print has become an addiction, it's just a new, hot trend.

Other people feel that animal print is very offensive. To some, it seems animal print resembles that those who wear animal print and display it are in favor of the killing and skinning of animals for their fur. It may not be the intentions of the people displaying the animal print, but they should be aware of how it may come across to others.

Whether you are in favor of the new trend or not, it doesn't seem like it's going to go out of style anytime soon.

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# MHS track has got some big spikes to fill

Sadie Magnifico, a junior, is ready to run this track season for the Marion varsity girls' team

By: Kayla McGrew [Staff Writer]



Sadie Magnifico, junior

Many girls decided to take a different route and not go out for track this year. But then there are the girls who decide to stick it out. Sadie Magnifico, a junior here at Marion, has been out for track every year. But this year is especially different for her and the whole girls track team. There are only twenty girls that are going to be in track this season. Sadie explains, "Since there are not many girls, each of us are going to have to do the max number of events in each meet." Sadie also explained, "About three fourths of the team are returning runners and that will be a positive for the team, so that makes it great because many of the girls know what's going on and what needs to be done in practice." Practices are going well for the team and Sadie describes a typical day at practice. "We still are basically inside because of the weather. But having a small team is nice because we have a lot of team unity because we are all working so close

together so we have a lot of fun."

Sadie, who last year competed in the 4x800, open 800, and open 1500, will have a handful this year also. She is probably going to be in another race or event in addition to what she already did last year. Being small in numbers doesn't faze Sadie and her team though, "We all still have high expectations for the year, and many of us want to make it back to state." Sadie also thinks that small numbers will serve as a boost for the less experienced, "[The small numbers] are going to give an opportunity to many of the girls to get confidence and step up because that is what we need to be successful." Sadie says a big goal for her and her team she wants to see accomplished is for everyone to improve their times and for everyone to be a contender.

During the winter, Sadie was up before the sun three times a week and was at the school working hard for track. Being involved in Speed and Agility was a great way for Sadie to work on her technique. "It was very beneficial to me because Mr. Z really focused on technique, and not so much about shape. He helped me a great deal with my starts."

When asked about why there weren't many girls this year, Sadie replied, "We lost a lot of them to



Kim DeLancey, junior, approaches the home stretch at a track meet in Cascade. With a thin roster this year the team will look to receive help from those with little varsity experience.

other sports, but with not having so many girls the coaches give you a lot more individual attention which is very good." Sadie knows that last years team accomplished a lot and she says her and the team are willing to put the work in they can do the same. Sadie, being her cunning self, stated, "But we do have big spikes to fill." Hopefully, to hard work of Sadie and her teammates pays off and all works out for the best.

## Girls' golf team looks to make the most out of offseason purchase

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in Chief]

With the beginning of spring, a whole new wave of school sports are launched. With this beginning comes the practice and preparation needed for a successful season. One spring sport that is taking these steps to improvement is the girls' golf team. With the help of a grant the girls' team, along with the guys' team, acquired a training device called the Explanar. The Explanar is a device that improves the athletes' swing through muscle memory and can be used indoors. Though both teams will be able to use the device, one athlete in particular is looking forward to benefiting with the device and hopefully enjoying a successful season. The athlete is senior Kayla McGrew.



Kayla McGrew, senior

After earning Honorable Mention All Conference last year, as a junior, Kayla is excited about the potential the machine brings, "The new machine definitely will help the

new girls who have never played to learn the plane they need to play, but for the more experienced players, it will help them with muscle memory which will benefit anyone." Kayla sees the purchase as a way to get a lead over the competition even before the meets start, "I feel the new machine will hopefully give our team an advantage over opponents. You know that's the point, but everyone is going to need to spend a lot of time on it."

Kayla herself is eager to experience the possibilities the new season brings, "My goals this year are to shoot low 40's by the end of the season and maybe place at districts." Kayla has always had an interest in golf and elaborates on how her curiosity was sparked, "I always wanted to play when I was younger because my dad played all the time and so finally he took me out on a course and I learned to love it." Kayla furthers on why it's something she continues to participate in, "I love the game and everything about it. It's fun even when you're not winning or the best. Practices are so fun because all the girls just have a good time and Mr. Martin is goofy."

Kayla admits, though, that golf can be a difficult and frustrating game, "The most challenging part is definitely trying to not think about what you just did on the last hole but think about what's right in front of you. It's hard to keep your head in the game sometimes."

With a successful season, the next step for Kayla would be the Mount Mercy golf team. Last season Kayla averaged a score of around 55 per nine holes and with an average under 50 she will participate on the Mount Mercy Womens' Golf team. "I'm choosing to play in college because it's fun and you get to travel," explains Kayla.

Besides the work to be done with the Explanar, Kayla took golf lessons last summer through the Meadowridge Golf Course and looks to lead the team in the number one varsity spot. Hopefully all works out for Kayla and the girls golf team as they look to make the most out of their season and the beneficial off-season purchase of the Explanar.

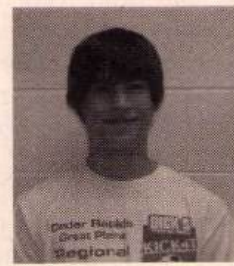


Kayla McGrew, senior, practices her golf swing on the newly purchased Explanar. The machine is meant to improve a player's swing through muscle memory and was purchased through a grant.

## Good season for the boys' indoor soccer team

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

As a new season approaches, many sports and activities are beginning, while many others are coming to an end. However, though the regular spring sports are just starting, the off-season has been going on for months. One such athlete is Nick Rael, a returning soccer player for the Marion Boys soccer team.



Nick Rael, sophomore

Nick is a sophomore at Marion High School and played on the boy's varsity team last year as a freshman. Last year wasn't his first time stepping out on the field. Nick has been playing soccer since he was roughly four years old. He has played for the Marion Soccer Club and for the AYSO (American Youth Soccer Association).

With soccer being Nick's favorite sport, he was excited to find that the school had created a boys indoor soccer team for the winter season this year. "There was a lot of talk last year about starting an indoor soccer league, but no one ever followed through or did anything," Nick explained. This is the first year the school has had an indoor soccer league.

The indoor soccer season began just before winter break and the team had their last game Saturday March 14th. When asked about the practices, Nick replied, "We always work really hard, but we have fun at the same time."

Although the indoor soccer team includes many of the people on the spring soccer team, the seasons are very different. Nick elaborated, "Outdoor and indoor soccer are very different. For example, there is no out of bounds, there are walls, it's a lot harder for ball control, and the indoor field is a lot shorter." Also, there are no positions on an indoor soccer team. In spring soccer, Nick plays mid-fielder.

Although some people feel soccer may be less physical or that it may be less of a sport to some, Nick feels very differently. Nick explained, "Compared to other sports, to me at least, it seems soccer is a lot more physically demanding. You are always constantly running, other than time-outs... there are no breaks." The indoor soccer team ended their season on a great note. Nick is looking forward to the spring soccer season and has high hopes for the team. He hopes to continue soccer in the future and is excited for the spring season.



# Student Senate juniors shake up Shanghai Prom

Maggie Murphy and the other juniors involved in Student Senate have the overwhelming responsibility of finalizing the details of prom

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

Many can agree one of the most important and defining moments of the school year for upper classmen is prom. From Grand March to the dance, it's one of the most anticipated and hyped up days of the year. Taking this into account, one can understand the enormous efforts that go into planning this day and the pressure that exists with this task. One student who understands how this overwhelming responsibility feels is junior, Maggie Murphy. "[Prom] is very stressful because it takes a lot more time and effort than you would think. If it's not a success, people are going to be upset."



Maggie Murphy, junior

Maggie holds the position of At Large Representative in Student Senate, the key school group behind the prom planning process. Within Student Senate the junior officers, including Maggie, are in charge of the planning. The junior officers are responsible for a number of tasks including recruiting people to help, making final decisions on other's ideas, planning the set-up, booking a DJ, organizing the pictures, and gathering the money needed through a number of fund raisers. "Prom is something worth putting time and effort into because a lot of people see it as the highlight of the year and look forward to

it. It's important to make the seniors happy," explains Maggie. With a successful prom, Maggie feels like her efforts will be vindicated, "If prom is a success I will feel very excited and happy. I will feel like our efforts paid off and our hard work didn't go to waste." This is definitely the preferred outcome compared to the other possibility, "If prom is a disappointment I will feel like it's all my fault and I will feel awful."

Though Maggie is obligated to take part in the planning because of her role in Student Senate she feels like she would do it even without the involvement in the group, "Even if I wasn't in Student Senate I would still help out. I feel it's very important to help others out and especially for Prom since so many people look forward to it."

Of course the junior officers receive assistance in their efforts. Mrs. Quinn, who teaches Family and Consumer Science, plays a large part in the planning. Mrs. Quinn is the main person in charge of decorations and helping the juniors decide the specifics of prom. "I help facilitate everything that needs to be done so that prom is successful," explains Mrs. Quinn.

As far as Student Senate, besides planning prom the group does a number of undertakings for the school. Some tasks include the sophomores planning homecoming, Teacher Appreciation Week, and most recently the pillars outside the school. Chemistry/ Physics teacher Mr. Zrudsky is in charge of Student Senate, "The students es-



Lauren Jilek and Morgan Paige, only two of the juniors in charge of planning prom, take a look at their to do list for this year's prom. The juniors in Student Senate are in charge of putting prom together.

entially just try to express the voice of the student body," comments Mr. Zrudsky. Maggie adds, "The most important things the members of Student Senate do for the school includes displaying good character throughout the hallways and the planning processes we do for a number of things for the school, prom in particular."

Hopefully with the combined efforts of a hard-working group of juniors and dedicated adults, prom will turn out to be another great event for the school. There is a lot of hard work that goes on behind the scenes and Maggie Murphy, along with the other junior members of Student Senate, definitely understand this fact.

## Art Club brings creative collection of kids

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

As the years have passed our school has developed many new activities, clubs, and more extra curricular activities for our student body to take part in. One semi-new club would be the Art Club. The Art Club was started at Marion High School back in 2006. There are about twenty people in Art Club. One of these people includes the artsy Justina Spear.



Justina Spear, senior

Justina is a senior at Marion High School. She is seventeen years old and has attended Marion her entire life. Justina has been in art club since her sophomore year, which was when it first began. The first year there were roughly twenty-five to thirty students in Art Club. Justina is a very active, drawn in senior at Marion High School. She is not only involved in Art Club, but she also participates in fall and winter dance, band and choir, and National Honor Society (NHS). Justina explained, "It [Art Club] isn't really hard to manage with the other activities I take part in and everything else because for the most part they try to work around everyone's schedules as much as possible."

Art Club starts at the beginning of the year, in the fall, and continues all throughout the year. Art Club mainly sets up more ways to bring art to our school, other schools, and our community. The members in Art Club try to get other schools involved by sending letters to them throughout the year. Justina commented,

"For Art Club the biggest event I'd have to say would be what we call empty bowls. It's hard to explain exactly what it is, but we sell them at things like the Swamp Fox Parade. We end up raising quite a bit of money actually." There are many other projects that the Art Club takes on. Although the Art Club tries to follow through with all of the projects that they plan, not every project is approved or able to be done. For example, last year the Art Club was talking about creating a big mural here at the high school, but unfortunately there was no luck with that.

One big plus Art Club has for Justina is that because of her role as the secretary of Art Club she was an easier selection to get into National Honor Society. Justina loves the Art Club and is happy to be involved. Justina explained, "I think the main goal of those in art club is having fun with everyone and working with art." When asked if she planned on continuing working with art in her future, she replied with a definite yes.



The members in Art Club gather in Mrs. Shultz room after school to discuss the future projects they plan on pursuing this year.

## Taking it to the road

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]

Many band and choir members look forward to the trip that they take every couple of years. This year, the students traveled to Orlando, Florida. One person that went, was sophomore, Amber Anderson.

She liked it very much and she learned a lot. Amber also enjoyed the competitions, but the bus ride wasn't so fun. "No, I had to sit behind the band director," she said.

Once they got to Florida, there was always something for them to do. "We went to Epcot, and the next day we went to



Amber Anderson, sophomore

Hollywood Studios, The Kennedy Space Center, and The Blue Man Group. We went to Animal Kingdom and Magic Kingdom. The day after Hollywood Studios was The Kennedy Space Center and The Blue Man Group. On the last day was Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom," she explained. They got to do a lot more, but this is just a small list of what all went on in Florida. They also went to the beach and to Disney World.

One thing that the choir was able to do was put together a little music video from "The Lion King." The majority of the voices in the video were the choir members, but some were of other people playing different parts.

Out of everything that Amber and the students did, Amber most enjoyed two things. "I think the Kennedy Space Center and The Blue Man Group were the best," Amber pronounced. When Amber went to see The Blue Man Group, she loved it. "That was amazing. It was really funny. Probably the best show that I've been to," she said with excitement.

On the day of the competitions, help was greatly appreciated. "Our competitions were quite interesting and our judges helped us in understanding our music better," Amber commented. They were also taught different things. "We were taught new things in band to improve our sound and quality," she expressed.

Everything that the students got to do was a lot of fun and everyone had a blast. They learned a lot and are taking it all in so they can better themselves, and help better the choir and/or the band. So if a student enjoys singing or playing an instrument, they should highly consider joining band or choir and have the opportunity to go on one of these fun and exciting trips.



## Best teen hangouts in area

With a large selection of entertainment establishments, there is no excuse to be bored in Marion on the weekends.

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

Everyone knows the feeling, boredom. It's an inevitable outcome of too much free time. Luckily though, the Marion and Cedar Rapids area offers a multitude of interesting destinations to make the most out of one's weekend.

One of the more popular teenage destinations is the Wehrenberg Galaxy Theatre. With a wide selection of the most current and hottest movies,

everyone is sure to be entertained. The spot also features a second story full of fun arcade games to pass the time. The theatre also includes a terrific selection of snacks and beverages to enjoy while the movie is playing.

Another great spot to spend free time on the weekend are the various restaurants around Marion and Cedar Rapids. Whether it's a cheap fast-

food establishment or a more expensive sit-down restaurant, hours can be spent enjoying the meal and a little bit of loitering. Top fast food stops include Taco Bell and Burger King and popular sit-down places include Perkins, Carlos O'Kellys, and Fiesta Del Sol.

A location that is always busy with teens on the weekend is the Lindale Mall. With more than a hundred shops, department stores, and eateries the mall is a great place to blow some time. Even if you don't intend to buy some-

thing, Lindale is a great place for friends just looking to get out of the house.

How about a spot for those teens that enjoy an activity that's a little more engaging? The answer of course is bowling. With a local bowling alley in Marion, Castle Lanes, and two locations in Cedar Rapids, CRBC and Westdale, there's a convenient location for almost everyone. Even the worst athletes can enjoy a night of bowling and it is relatively cheap for hours of fun.



The new Catch 419 club is shown in downtown Marion. The location offers live music, games, areas to sit, and cheap food.

A new hangout to Marion that is relatively unknown is the Catch 419. Located in downtown Marion, Catch 419 is a Christian based youth club geared towards teens looking to stay out of trouble. The club offers live music, games like pool, areas to sit and chat with friends,

and cheap food. Catch 419 is mainly for students in high school, but college students are also welcome.

With such a large selection of interesting destinations there's always something to do in the free time. Whether it's enjoying a free afternoon or making the most out of the weekend, our area offers a number of great teen hangouts.

## F & F offers old parts, new model

By: Kayla McGrew [Staff Writer]

When I first saw the preview for this movie during the Super Bowl, I could not wait. I was so excited, but now that I have seen it, I am left with nothing but disappointment. Except for the intensely insane high-speed chases, everything else in this movie, from the acting to the non-existent plot, is terrible. Many people either love the fast and the furious movies or they hate them. Personally I have always loved them, but this one was just so disappointing. The absolute best part of this movie was having the entire original cast back, because we all know that Tokyo Drift was just not up to par. Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster put on a nice show, but not as good as expected.

Well let's start from the beginning. The general idea is that it takes the audience back to where it all began, the streets. Ex-con Dom Toretto is faced against his once friend but now enemy Brian O'Connor racing exotic ten-second muscle cars. This movie gets credit where credit is earned, and that is the action. This film, compared to the ones before it, has some amazing action sequences that make you feel as you are in the car with them.

These films tend to focus more on the crazy car races than the actual plot, so of course this movie was very hard to follow because the plot was hard to identify at times. In one incredible racing scene they are going across the desert at night, and even though its very intense and suspenseful, it's not even clear what the purpose of doing it is. And as for the acting, Vin Diesel is nothing special. Its his normal deep, rough voice that at sometimes is very hard to understand and he just has no emotion in this movie. There is an unexpected twist at the beginning and Diesel shows no signs of passion. It is just ridiculous to watch actors make millions of dollars with absolutely no skill.

So, the Fast and Furious is a poor film in almost every single way expect for the heart pounding action. My rating for this movie would have to be 2 on a 5 point scale because it just doesn't give any qualities of a good movie, but it does have a good soundtrack. I would recommend saving yourself the \$9.00 to go see this movie because it is definitely not worth it.

## Interesting infomercials make an impact

-Commentary-

First off it took me two weeks of racking my brain to come up with a topic to converse about. The Sunday night before spring break was over I was up really late thinking about how much I didn't want to go back, at all! I started watching TV at around 10:30 pm and by this time there are still good shows on that are entertaining to watch.



By: Samuel Kiburz  
[Design Editor]

Planet Earth was on the Discovery Channel and I watched seven hours straight, during the commercial breaks I decided to get on Facebook instead of watching the terrible infomercials. Nothing is worse than getting interrupted by infomercials during the most amazing television series of all time. Every time this happens I have a mini freak out in my mind.

There are many different types of infomercials, like those with the overly obnoxious host that acts like they are hooked on crack and need a fix. Their bugged eyes are terrifying and the products that are being sold are completely pointless and cheap. Some of the worst infomercials are played after hours, meaning in the middle of the night. The prime time for infomercials is around two in the morning.

There are many things that bother me about the stupid commercials. First off one thing that really annoys me is that the hosts are ridiculous. They are overly obnoxious, and their big aneurisms and the redundant descriptions of the product truly

drive me up the wall. I don't think I can watch more than a couple minutes of the programming without going absolutely crazy. When I think of that kind of commercial I cant help but think of Billy Mays (the Oxy Clean guy). I can't stand his Brooklyn-like accent and how much he talks about the product. Luckily the infomercials, for this product, usually only run during commercials breaks during regular television.

Another thing that is really annoying about this infomercial is the demonstrations that he does to sell Oxy Clean. First off no matter how good a bleaching product is, it will never get out a stain the way he shows it will. There is no way that immediately after dunking a t-shirt with a red wine stain on it in the solution that the stain would come out so well. My mom bought Oxy Clean and it really doesn't work as well as they claim it to be. Another thing that really upsets me about this commercial is when they state that, "If you call within the next 30 seconds we'll cut the price in half." That discounted price is still too much for the product.

There are many different infomercials out there. One of the worst's is the Oxy Clean commercial. Some other horrible commercials out there are the Bender Ball, Sham Wow, and the storage air bags. A close second to my least favorite infomercial is Smooth Away.

Infomercials are meant to be advertising for products that aren't available in stores, or at least that's what they claim. But I know for a fact that these products are sold in the stores. I have seen all of these products in the aisles of Wal-Mart.

I don't see anything good that is coming out

### Most annoying infomercials

**-Oxy clean:** The host Billy Mays is over the top crazy and the product demonstration are too good to be true, even for an infomercial

**-Bender Ball:** From the beginning with the line, "I love my belly, yes, I love my abdominals!" you know this commercial is going to torque you off.

**-Sham Wow:** It's not the fact that it appears to be filmed in the host's basement but the magical removal of soda from carpet that makes this one literally unbelievable.

**-Space Saving Vacuum Bags:** Who wants their house to feel like a space station with every item you own sealed up and compressed?

**-Smooth Away:** Maybe it's the arm pit shaving or the women's removal of her mustache but this commercial can be summed up in one word; eww!

of these commercials. They are just annoying, cheap, and redundant. Every time that I'm flipping through channels and I come across an infomercial I change it right away and I would advise you to do the same.



# Pointless but entertaining

The worst dating shows are aired on the VH1 network

By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

While flipping through the channels what is relatively seen most is reality television. Some reality television is for the better; the shows might teach the viewer something new or give a positive message. But the majority of the reality television shows are, dating shows. All of them are corny, redundant and scripted.

Some of the worst dating shows come out of VH1. The executives at VH1 in the last couple of years have seemed to completely lost their mind. What makes them think that watching young men and women running around intoxicated and drunk is entertaining? Some of the dating shows that are on VH1 are: *Rock of Love with Bret Michaels*, *I Love New York*, *Flavor of Love*, and *The Love for Ray J*.

All of those shows have the same premise. They all start with 40 people and by the end of the first night the host cuts the number in half. First off how can they decide who they want to spend time with in two hours? If the network really wants to portray

a show of real love they would cast a smaller number of contestants and get more into the personal connection of the two people. Instead the network is showing the drama, the usual sabotaging of the other contestant's, and the on cue make out sessions.

The things that the shows make the daters do are barely above complete and utter embarrassment. On all the dating shows there are challenges. Whoever wins the challenge gets a one on one personal date with the dater.

Some of these challenges are the stupidest things that could ever be thought of. On one episode of *I Love New York*, there was a challenge where the guys had to buy a present for New York and in order to get the present to her the contestants had to swim across the lake with out getting the present wet. What does this have anything to do with love? Having to show swimming skills should not be reflected on love. If one of the contestants isn't a very good swimmer, naturally, then he wouldn't be able to have the date. Who says that

the person that gets there faster or with the driest present has the most love, that can't be said.

There are many things that need to be done to make these shows classier, more appropriate and more enjoyable. First of all; the network needs to find more reputable hosts of the show, Bret Michaels, not the classiest musician ever. VH1 could have found a better person to host the show. There are numerous things that can be don't to make the shows less cheesy, one thing is for them to get better hosts. These hosts that they have are very cheesy and not funny at all. They usually just choose an unknown, sometime this a good thing but other times these hosts are d-list celebrities.

VH1 does do one thing right with there dating/relationship shows. With all the negative comments that could be said about what they air on their network, one fact that is undeniable is the viewer is bound to have a lol (laugh out loud) moment. So while the network is failing in producing true love, at least it is making the train wreck enjoyable to watch.



"I think the dating shows are hilarious!"  
-Shayla O'Brien, freshman



"I don't like them. I think they are all the same boring show."  
-Erin Peiffer, senior



"I think they're kind of exciting because you never know what might happen next."  
-Kaleb Tuetken, sophomore



"Those shows are set up to attract viewers and they're completely fake."  
-London Morehouse, junior

## New versions of old favorites now available on Wii and Xbox360

By: Scout Morehouse [Activities Editor]

There are a lot of great games out there but sometimes people just want to go back to the past and play all the classics. Luckily this is possible thanks to all the new adjustments made to the recent video game consoles like the Wii and Xbox360. So, now it's time to go back to the past and look at some of the old games that have become popular once again.

When the Wii was created, the makers wanted the system to have as many features as possible to allow the gamer to spend time with friends and family, and still have loads of fun. They seemed to have perfected this because sales went through the roof.

One of the most popular features on the Wii is the ability to purchase and download old Nintendo games directly to your Wii. By doing this to the Wii, it gives the console a little bit of a retro aspect and allows teenagers who haven't played any of the old games to give them a try. The games come from a wide variety of old game consoles varying from the NES, Super Nintendo, and all the other old Nintendo consoles.

There are some things you need to know before you start going crazy and downloading as many games as the Wii can store. It cost twenty dollars for 2,000 Wii points. The games start at 500 points and they never exceed the cost of 1000 points. This is a pretty fair price for games that you can't buy in stores like Wal-Mart and Target.

Another important thing to know before you start purchasing the games is that some of them require you to have a special remote to play the game. The remote costs anywhere from twelve to twenty dollars. It's a decent price but it could be cheaper because the remote isn't very complex and its design is based off a Gamecube controller.

Once you have everything ready and your are prepared to spend your money it's time for you to learn about some of the best games out there waiting to be downloaded. One of the most popular games that you can down-

load is the ever so classic Mario Bros. This is the most widely known game in the world and has stayed very popular since its release date in 1986. In this game you're a little red man known as Mario who is on a quest to stop Bowser and rescue Princess Peach. The game takes place in a make believe 2-D world. You have to make your way through several different worlds each containing their own creatures special to that world.

Another twist to the game is that you don't start off with any weapons. To defeat your enemies you have to jump on them and watch those little things fall off the edge of the screen. Another way is to pick up turtle shells and throw them at your enemies and watch the turtle shell bounce back and forth continuously hitting all your enemies. This game has got to be one of the all time greatest games created, and thanks to the Wii you can enjoy playing it once again. Mario Bros. is well worth 500 points and gets a 9.5/10.

Another great game that is able to be download onto the Wii for only 500 points is *Zelda II: The Adventures of Link*. In this game you are the young and brave adventurer known as Link who is on a quest to awaken Zelda from an endless sleep.

As the game progresses you learn magic spells, visit different towns and get to know people, and collect items that increase your wealth and strength. It's just like Mario Bros. in the fact that it's a 2-D side-scroller. *Zelda II* is an excellent game if you're looking for a classic RPG style game. *Zelda II* deserves an 8/10 because of its exciting features allowing you to play for hours without getting bored. The only problem with the game is the monotonous techno music in the background.

So if you can't seem to find any good games in the stores maybe next time just check you consoles online marketplace. The marketplace contains a wide variety of games for all different types of gamers. So whoever said that old is the new young was right when it comes to the classic video games that seem to never fade.

## Horror flick has ups & downs

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]

To some, horror movies are the best, but for others, they are the scariest things on earth. Personally, they are crazy awesome as long as the effects look completely real and don't look fake like the ones way back when. When effects are good enough to make it look as if it really happened or could happen, than that's a movie worth seeing.

The *Haunting in Connecticut* first premiered on March 27 and it was a hit. Almost all of the showings at The Galaxy were sold out that entire day.

This movie, based on a true story, is about a family who is forced to relocate to a nearby hospital where their teenage son is being treated for cancer. The family begins to experience violent and supernatural events that the parents blame on stress from his illness. Later though, they found out that their new home was once a mortuary with an extremely dark past.

The entire movie was suspenseful, and there were parts where someone would be like, "Oh, this is going to happen!" Overall, there was nonstop craziness and things that were pretty much unexpected.

This movie had its ups and downs, but as the movie went on, it got a lot better. It starts out really slow as most movies do, but as time passed, it got more suspenseful and creepy things started occurring.

At the end, it got quite intense and there was no way anyone could look at his or her phone or away from the screen. The movie ended very abruptly and the ending came unexpectedly.

So if you like scary movies and things that creep out other people, then you got to see this movie, it truly is a great scare movie.

### Movie Info: *Haunting in Connecticut*

**Starring:** Virginia Madsen, Kyle Gallner, Martin Donovan, Amanda Crew, Elias Koteas

**Vox Rating:** 7.5

**Rotten Tomatoes Rating:** 19%- Rotten

**Release Date:** March 27th

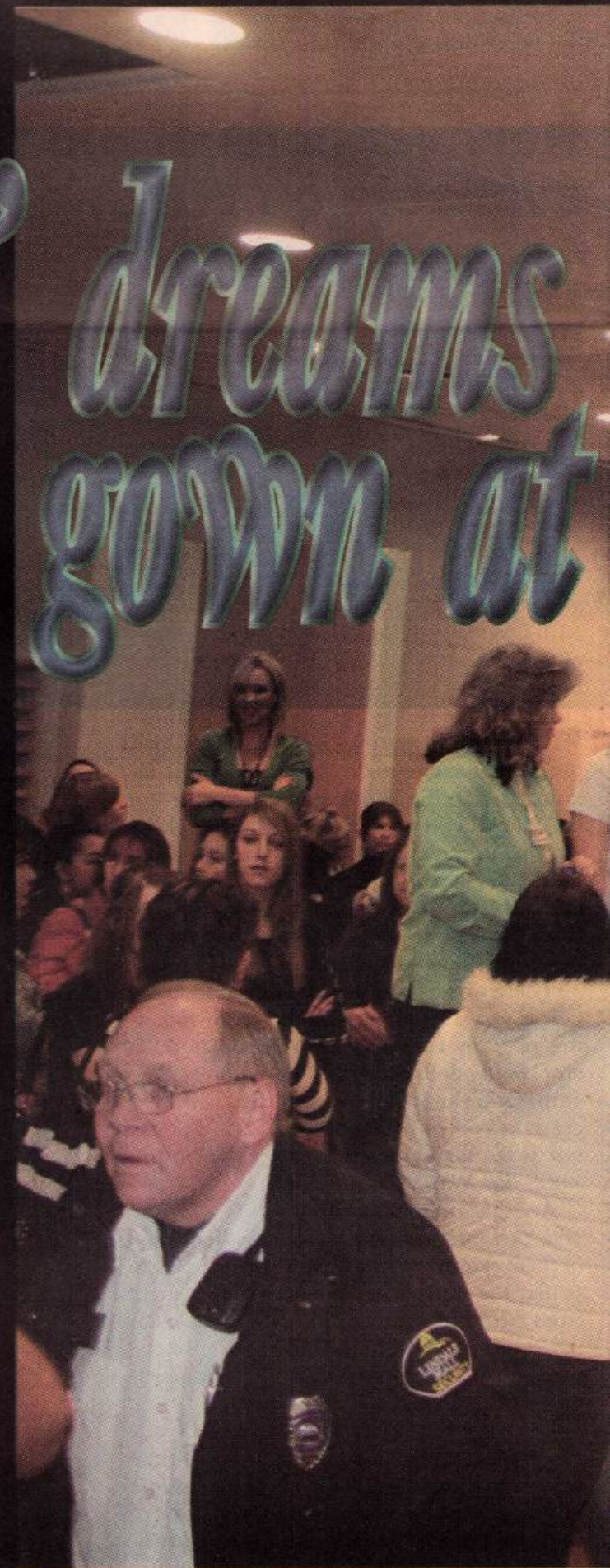
**Run time:** 1 hr 32 min

**Rating:** PG-13 for intense sequences of terror and disturbing images

**Category:** Horror/ Suspense/ Thriller

**Opening Weekend:** \$23,004,765





# Making girls' dreams come true, one gown at

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

Lining up at just 6:30 A.M. on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, girls from all over attended Z102.9's Schulte & Swann's amazing event they call Gown Town. "Gown Town is important because for a high school student, Prom is important," Scott Schulte says, "We know there are a lot of students who do not have the extra money for a dress. Being able to provide a dress for a girl so she can feel like a million bucks on Prom night is very gratifying."

Gown Town has been going on for about four years now. The first year there were about 300 dresses. This year there were almost 1,300. Girls donate their dresses from previous proms, homecomings, etc. Not only though do the girls donate, ULTA (a makeup company located in Cedar Rapids) donated many supplies along with Victoria Secret. They had close to 400 girls show up for this amazing event! "It was a pretty good turn-out," Schulte explained.

Dresses obviously play the biggest role in Gown Town. "The best part of Gown Town is seeing a girl get a dress she loves," Schulte expresses. "I love the smiles, I love hearing a mother or father tell us what it means to them to see their daughter get a dress." Another great part of Gown Town is when a girl found the perfect dress and went up to Scott and asked what to do with it. He just responded, "Get it wrapped up...and take it...it's yours." It was amazing to see the girls' reactions. Scott's favorite reaction was a little different though, "A very

quiet young lady came up to me to say thank you," Schulte recalls, "As soon as she began to speak she started to cry. Then her mother started crying. It was a reminder why we do it."

Scott mentioned they got this wonderful idea from another radio station. But the experience at Lindale with everyone smiling, crying (tears of joy, of course) and just all around happiness, no one could really beat it. "It's, without question, my favorite thing we do all year at the radio station," Schulte says. "It's such a great example of being able to use the power of the radio station to benefit the community." And with the turn out they had, it's exactly what that radio station did.

There are always a few sad moments though. "I don't like girls who don't find a dress they don't like... and I don't like clean up," he added with a laugh. They did have hundreds of dresses left over too. "We kept a few hundred of the great ones for next year...the remainder went to Goodwill."

Making dreams come true, putting smiles on peoples' faces, and making a girl "feel like a million bucks," is exactly what Gown Town does. I would have to say for personally seeing some of the girls reactions, Z102.9 did an OUTSTANDING job doing just those things. Just remember girls: Gown Town WILL be happening again next year; so if you're in need of an amazing dress and want one for free plus going through an amazing experience of meeting wonderful people like Scott Schulte, Gown Town is the place for you.









**Name:** Leigha Steger  
**Main Activity:** Soccer  
**Other Activities:** Volleyball  
**Season Highlights:** Being proven wrong and winning State.  
**Best High School Memory:** Sam being right about State! Having the excuse, "I'm a State Champ," for a solid month after winning State for everything. Being best friends with some girls all through high school. Making fun of Margretz everyday with Jenna at practice soph. yr. Switching goodies with Jenna in the middle of a play after she gave up four goals. The summer of 2006, spending every day with Rian in the summer. Watching Muff and everyone play Guitar Hero for 12 hours straight. Studying Spanish freshman year with Jules. Meeting Joey Brewer and become such close friends before he went to Iraq. Becoming pirate Ninja's with Julia and never

telling anyone what it means. Spending the night at Brett's house everyday with Rian in the summer. Freshman New Year's with Julia. Jamming out to Paula with Kels. Rian's birthday at Olive Garden. Getting Zookies with Kelsey everyday! Driving down the Ave. with Ericka eating suckers. Living with Chelsey and stealing her clothes :) Kelsey being obsessed with with baby Kitty. Barking at cars on the Ave. Hanging out with Chaz 24/7 with Julia during two-a-days. Ripping out Julia's belly button ring. Math class with Joe junior year. Going to Palo with Troy and getting lost. Watching Nate Hummel get killed by Jake in basketball at eleven o'clock at night outside in the middle of winter. Freaking out on the lame painting teacher. Having Brady's cell phone on antenna go through my cheek and gluing it shut. Having all the sophomore girls hate me for nothing :) Haters. Except for Taylor Derby because she loves me and it's a mutual feeling. Having Tyler Fisher as an amazing friend. Scoring my first goal and running and tackling Julia. Meeting Nate and falling in love with him. The past year with Nathan an every moment with him is unexplainable I'm so grateful to have a best friend like him. The entire senior season of volleyball. Shelby and my sweet handshake. Having Jake to talk to about absolutely anything. Jake breaking an egg on my car window and it fly back and hit Addison in the face. Getting flat tires with Dickie. Being blessed to have Rian, Julia, Nate, Ericka, Jake, and Brett as my best friends. :)

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** You can't always please everyone and you shouldn't have to. All the matters is your happiness. Never just follow the crowd.

**Future Plans/Goal:** Major in Psychology/Criminal Justice and become a juvenile probation officer.



**Name:** Claire Ehlinger  
**Main Activity:** Cross Country and Soccer  
**Other Activities:** Indoor soccer, 4-H  
**Season Highlights:** Riding up with my Cross girls to state this year, then getting my lowest time ever.  
**Best High School Memory:** Football games and cross country. Weekend Laser Tag and almost running out of gas in Anamosa with my best friends.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** You cannot have what you do not want.  
**Future Plans/Goal:** I'm going to Iowa State, and am hoping to make it into their design program. My goal in life is to be happy.



**Name:** Ben Gustas  
**Other Activities:** Working out, working  
**Season Highlights:** Señor Blue!  
**Best High School Memory:** AP Studio with Thorton, Money Math with Jesse, Dalton, and Josh, football, chillin with Larry in woods, "Object Spore," AP Art History, Jammin' with Señor Blue and Deaner.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Every man dies. Not every man really lives."  
**Future Plans/Goal:** Attend UNI for four years.



**Name:** Matt Doubet  
**Main Activity:** Soccer  
**Other Activities:** Cars, paintballing, building cars, auto crossing, Xbox 360.  
**Season Highlights:** Beating Independence last year during sub-state, winning all thanks to two free kicks.  
**Best High School Memory:** Friday Night Football games.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Find out who your real friends are.  
**Future Plans/Goal:** Go to Iowa State University and become a police officer.

## Paying Taxes... What to Expect



When your paycheck arrives, it can be shocking how much money you've paid to Uncle Sam. Add up income taxes and the 7%+ you pay into Medicare and Social Security, and your check may be a good 15% less than you expected.

This is important to keep in mind when trying to decide whether or not you can afford to make monthly payments on a new car, computer or entertainment system. If you simply multiply your hourly wage by the number of hours worked, you're going to come up short.

The beauty is that any money you may have over-paid to the government will be returned to you after you file taxes. Although it's better to earn interest on your money throughout the year, it's still nice when Uncle Sam sends you a little gift.

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**Name:** Kayla McGrew

**Main Activity:** Golf

**Other Activities:** Gettin' Mine, NHS, FBLA, SODA, ATOMS, NCYL, volunteering

**Season Highlights:** Working my way up to the top baby! And also getting to spend everyday with Martin the Martian. Shooting a 50 at Gardner during practice and my goal was to get 49 and I missed my last put by 4 inches.

**Best High School Memory:** Freshman year basketball with Kels and the hiked leg, Megan's hiked leg..., Chilling in the Kmart parking lot eating frosties with Sam, Dalton,

Jim and Meg, California with Nicole and Kels, Probably getting motion sickness on every trip/bus I've ever been on, Any/all science trips with Mr. Clark, Sam Rinehart calling it when I puked at McDonalds, Any class with Mr. Z, Science trip Fresh year when me, Amry, and Austin stalked a thirteen year old girl forever, Drive by shootings, Freshman year homecoming when my slip was up and the photographer made it really awkward, Freaking up Austin's car till 2am with Nicole, Meeting Megan Teahen at drivers ed with J-Clay and becoming lifelong friends, Me and Sam being best friends since first grade, The good times on the trampoline, Danielle's drunk mom talking about Kix cereal, Freshman year when I didn't know you had to pay for the salad bar..., Working at the pool with Dalton, Sam and Meg, The LIST, The time we walked to Drew's and the scary neighbor yelled at us, Hanging out in Austin's backyard, Bonfires, Trying to move the 200lb snowball till one in the morning, Driving with the free sign out the window in the station wagon, Driving around aimlessly for hours, Becoming an aunt to the most precious child in the world, Getting lost on the way to Vinton this year with a GPS, Makin cracks and bdbubbin on the bench with Kels soph year...and it's still funny two years later, Being leading scorer for a basketball game when I played for 5 mins, Family dinners at Taco Bell, Making Sam a blue cake for his birthday, The good times with big blue Bartholomew, Banging on Megan's windows in the middle of the night with shoes and her calling the police, Laying upside down on the couches for hours, Summer nights sitting on driveways, Getting dominated in the float every year for some reason, Domming the banner with Harry Potter and his freaky wrist and it still didn't win but winning this year, Cruising the Ave. with Meg and Chelsey, Austin's driveway in the rain, Witnessing the first rap video being made, Drew stealing my Frisbee golf discs, Never being able to enter Von Maur for the rest of my life..., Camping out in my backyard fresh year, Swimming in the correy and seeing people and having to run and jump a fence, Making the whole class say "Bubo" instead of "Here", Mr. Bates' class when the corner was originated, Paddle boating in the infested water, Going to Chicago with my besties, Officer TN pretending to taze us and screaming and Sam army crawled to the bathroom and I peed a little, First day of soph year when Sam got in trouble for driving with me to school, Chem class when Sammy girl and Drewbie would sing ya trick ya, Getting made fun of for going on Spring Break, Getting yelled at everyday with Kelsey Erin and Nick in Mrs. Johnson's class, "Wakey wakey I'm still nakey", Pat making me believe he had a real glass eye, Rockin the front row in all student sections, "My skins gonna fall off", Doing all our WWW projects in one night, Watching the best of Will Ferrell obsessively, Nights at Starbucks, Driving to all football games, BOOTING THE JUN, Driving home from the US Cell Center one time and almost getting killed, The fourth of July 2008, USATITS, Danielle quoting movies like it's her job, Coe class with Amry and almost hitting a guy on the bike and him swearing at me and getting McDonalds breakfast every morning, Driving range with scary animals, Florida with Megs and Brody, Matzells Bridge, T-Ping Drew's house during a football game and having to lay in the grass while his neighbors were outside for 20 mins, Trips to Coralville, Road trip to Waterloo with Amry and Austin and getting Taco Bell thrown at us and Amry making a rap, Freezing cold Christmas parade, Austin's porch in the middle of winter, Saying the goods when it can mean anything, Texting in class like it's my job, Walking to Austin's house in the dead of night, Road trip to Waterloo with Chelsey, Austin, Pat, and Sam and screaming our lungs out to Backstreet Boys (am I sexual? YEEEEAH) and going to the World's Largest Frying Pan and terrorizing the town, Megan being the best Super Sen ever, JUST The Odor Underneath the Charlie Horse - In Tennessee... figure it out, Having the most awkward conversations with Matt at lunch, Anything that happens during lunch, Austin hating me every other day, Being peer pressured to snort bread crumbs freshman year, Amry scratching my hand and leaving a scar, Mr. Z catching me (and not Drew) eating chocolate in his class, Me and Danielle dominating the projectile motion lab in Physics and screaming and me lifting her, doing the Rube Goldberg project in Physics and it actually working and Drew and I tweaked out, Shorty runs during school..., Getting 20 piece nuggets with Danielle and eating them in 4 minutes, Sam and I quoting the Great Gatsby movie for two years, Quoting Mulan every day, Making journo rap videos and putting them on YouTube, Calling Jen an aische every day, Buying Dalton underwear from Wal-Mart, WEWEASE WOBBIES UNDIES!!!!, Being 18 and voting in the election, Hating the MAC, Red Bull and Pixie Sticks, Having a beach party and Jimmy bringing his umbrella and driving around with it sticking out of both windows, Calc classes with Martin Man, Laughing hysterically with Chels at Follies when it wasn't supposed to be funny, My sister's wedding and dancing the night away with my best friends, Megan thinking that Taylor Swift's song said "he nailed to the ground and pulled out a Frankenstein", Making journo dance vids and putting them on youtube and Eicher walking in and asking if we got anything done and Sam lying and told her he opened a Word document and that was it, "Tell me I'm the new Tabitha!!", Making fun of Haley (Bailey) everyday and her secretly enjoying it, owning Drew on April Fools, Prama (Prom Drama) and having the best time in journo, everyone finding out about the hook :(, being best friends with Ms. Sarah Schulz...I KNOW RIGHT?! and being basically best friends and making fun of her to her face once because she said basically over and over, Eicher telling me to take out stuff because it was "obscene", me and Chelsey scrapbooking for hours and hours and being really cool.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Advice: Don't steal from Von Maur. You will be really sad when you want to buy a prom dress and have to go to Coralville. Quote: "Be the change you want see in the world." -Gandhi "Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." - William Shakespeare

**Future Plans/Goal:** Attend Mt. Mercy College to major in Secondary Education for grapic art design and then come back and teach the little high school babies all about it for years to come. dryer. And my goals are to be successful and marry someone that I love and have a happy life with lots of precious children.



**Name:** Derek Kruger

**Main Activity:** Soccer

**Other Activities:** Football, Doin Work with LP

**Season Highlights:** Going to running practice for the first three weeks of the soccer season.

**Best High School Memory:** Premiering the second season of Bromance with Logan and having Blake win. Pickering Catering. Bringing back the high five.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Just be evil!" "Kapeew" "Good One"

**Future Plans/Goal:** To attend Kirkwood and get my gen. eds then go to UNI to major

in accounting or Graphic Design.



**Name:** Jessica Wignall

**Main Activity:** Being with friends/ boyfriend

**Other Activities:** Coloring! Painting. Taking Pictures. Drawing. Messin with Photoshop

**Best High School Memory:** Going to Chicago with Claire, Alex, Joc, and Kristil! Best 24 hours of my life. Or the time me Claire, Alex, Sam, and Cori ran out of gas in the middle of no where and coasted to a gas station that was closed until Maddona reopened it to save us.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Everything happens for a reason

**Future Plans/Goal:** Go to the Art Institute International Minnesota for four years.



**Name:** Joeby Leonard

**Main Activity:** Baseball

**Other Activities:** SODA

**Season Highlights:** Making the double plays at Cascade and Washington

**Best High School Memory:** The Oelwein football game where it was so intense right down until the end.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Get all of your hard classes our of the way so the remaining years will be easier.

**Future Plans/Goal:** Go to Kirkwood for two years then go to the Art institute in Minneapolis.

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# New players cited in MLB steroid scandal

Alex Rodriguez, Roger Clemens the latest big names to be associated with steroid use in pro baseball.

By: Matt Barnd  
[Photography Editor]

The steroid scandals have been slowly eroding the integrity of Major League Baseball for the past decade or more. Dozens of players have had their reputations and career accomplishments nullified due to their association with performance enhancing drugs. Most recently Alex Rodriguez, regarded by many to eventually go down as the greatest hitter of all time, tested positive and subsequently admitted to doping. Fan outrage is at an all time high.

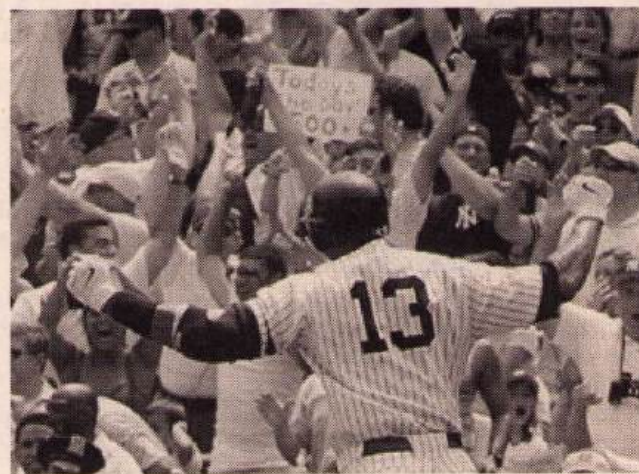
The "steroid era" began in the 1990's, and there is evidence to support players began taking steroids long before that. It first came into the public eye earlier this decade, and exploded following the publication of Jose Canseco's *Juiced*, and the congressional investigation that ensued. Some of baseball's biggest name came out at this time, headlining this group were beloved sluggers from the late 1990's Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

Barry Bonds attained arguably the most hallowed record in all of sports two seasons ago, becoming

baseball's all time home run leader by passing Hank Aaron. In the midst of this, his reputation became tainted and bogged down in rumors of steroid use. His legacy will remain this way forever, and it's unclear how history will uphold the legitimacy of his record. In any case, this was a major blow to Major League Baseball.

Within the past several months, Alex Rodriguez went from being considered the best player in all of baseball to one of the most questioned. His name was released as part of the Mitchell Report, and later admitted to steroid use. Much controversy surrounded his explanation. Rodriguez stated in a press conference that his cousin had injected him with a substance that he did that he was not completely sure of its contents and affects. He went on to say that at the time he was young and stupid, among other things. Fans and players alike doubted this alibi, and many felt it was an inappropriate way to show his remorse.

History will reveal how the players and statistics from the steroid era will be viewed. Perhaps in several decades baseball fans will tag Alex Rodriguez, Barry Bonds, and Mark McGwire as some of the best sluggers of all time. Or maybe these players will become afterthoughts, forgotten in their destruction of baseball's integrity.



Alex Rodriguez celebrates with fans after hitting his five hundredth career home run. Rodriguez admitted to previously using steroids after his name was released in the "Mitchell Report."

Time will tell the true impact of Major League Baseball's steroid era. It appears as if the league is moving in the right direction. A new generation of steroid-free players will undoubtedly be the best remedy for the current standing of the sport in the eyes of fans, and the enduring legacy of history.

## Lasting effects from the genocide in Cambodia

By: Scout Morehouse [Activities Editor]

A tragedy may have happened more than twenty or more years ago, but the effect of it will last more than a lifetime. Cambodia is still feeling the effect of the mass genocide that took place there that threw this nation into dismay.

Cambodia is a small country that is located in southeast Asia right next to Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. It has a 275 mile coastline that borders the Gulf of Thailand. It is currently home to about fourteen million people and the government is a Constitutional monarchy. The country is still trying to rebuild itself after a large genocide happened there more than thirty years ago.

In 1975 the Communist party known as the Khmer Rouge came to power as part of the vast upheaval that was caused largely because of the Vietnam War. Pol Pot was the leader of this group and convinced a lot of people their homes were fine even though they were ruined by the war's destruction. They started supporting the Khmer Rouge when a group of guerrillas overthrew an American military government. In the four years that the Khmer Rouge were in power they attempted to make Cambodia into a new country that would strive and succeed. They forced people to move from the cities to the countryside to work and make money for them. They also murdered the educated and skilled. By doing this it caused more than one million people to die because of starvation or the innocent murders of the citizens.

Pol Pot rarely appeared in front of his people but still called the shots and ordered the killing of the innocent. From the years 1975 to 1979, an estimated 1.7 million people were killed which was approximately 21% of the population. This killing was known as one of the worst genocides in the past century. The deaths of all

these people was caused by U.S. bombs that were sent over and dropped, prisons run by Pol Pot's regime, and secret killings sent out by Pol Pot himself.

After awhile Pol Pot was overthrown by a Vietnamese invasion in 1979. The Communist party fled to the west around the Thailand border. Pol Pot went into hiding but still controlled the country and continued the killings of Cambodia's citizens.

After awhile the Vietnamese faction took control of Cambodia. The leader Hun Sen, was a former Khmer Rouge and said he would not follow in his footsteps and saw the errors in the way Pol Pot ruled.

Throughout the 1980's Hun Sen continued to fight the Khmer Rouge who kept trying to take Cambodia back. Khmer Rouge formed an alliance with forces who were loyal to Cambodia's long-time ruler, Prince Sihanouk. Then in 1991, all the Cambodian factions agreed to meet with each other and work out ways for peace-keeping and elections. A treaty was made and peace was started to occur all over Cambodia.

After all this had happened the U.N. announced that there was over 350,000 refugees because of the fighting and the genocide. The U.N. spent more than three billion dollars in an attempt to put Cambodia back together.

Ever since the large genocide and fighting Cambodia hasn't returned to the nation it once was. There is still small fights that occur there because of people who refuse to follow the peace treaty. Refugees are still abundant in Cambodia and are still in search of some place to stay. The genocide known as the Cambodian Genocide has transformed a country completely. This is a good example that proves that fighting is not the only solution to problems that we face in life and that we should think of different ways to solve problems.

## Surprising U.S. news stories

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

While the most relevant news usually makes the front page of the newspaper, it's odd stories like these that truly show what America is all about. Though these may not be those most important news stories, they are all unique.

In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania an officer was robbed by what he says might be the dumbest criminal in Pennsylvania. According to CNN.com, the perpetrator approached the retired officer outside of a restroom stall and pointed a gun in his face. The criminal wasn't aware that he was smack dab in the middle of a police officers' convention and was surrounded by over 300 narcotics officers.

In Clallam Bay, Washington, an inmate's failed attempt to heat up a sausage in his stainless steel toilet caused the evacuation of 130 inmates. According to CNN.com the inmates were evacuated to the dining hall after smoke was spotted coming from a sewer vent pipe and was eventually traced back to the unidentified inmate.

In Lakeland, Florida, an eighth-grade student received a three-day suspension from riding the school bus for a rather embarrassing reason. According to CNN.com the student received the suspension due to flatulence problems and caused a stench so bad it was difficult to breathe. The bus driver wrote on a misbehavior form that the student's actions were causing a disturbance on the bus and were making the other kids laugh.

According the Associated Press, a New York City funeral di-

rector is offering a deal worth dying for. The director, Peter Dohanich, recently put an ad on craigslist stating that for the service of adding a room on his ground floor apartment, the contractor will receive a full funeral, including cremation or burial, embalming, a coffin, viewing, church service, and even a hearse or limo. Dohanich sees the deal as savvy not spooky and understands many might see it as bizarre.

A bobcat walks into a bar and attacks three people. While this may seem like a terribly violent joke it was the scene in Cottonwood, Arizona on March 26<sup>th</sup>. According to MSNBC.com the animal wandered into the bar where it bit two of the

three victims. Officers eventually arrived and cornered the animal in the parking lot where it was shot and killed.

In Spokane, Washington a couple got more than they bargained for. According to MSNBC.com after purchasing a couch for \$27 the couple began to hear a mysterious mewing sound. After days of searching, a hungry calico cat was found inside the newly purchased couch. Eventually the owner of the cat was contacted by a friend who saw a story of the cat on TV and the cat was returned home.

While these are not the most influential and significant events of the century, they are all intriguing in their own way. From a toilet sausage to a couch cat, there are always going to be stories that catch your attention in an unusual way. From the quirky to the downright bizarre, these types of stories are sure to entertain.

**In Clallam Bay, Washington, an inmate's failed attempt to heat up a sausage in his stainless steel toilet caused the evacuation of 130 inmates.**



# Battle; Seniors vs. Freshmen

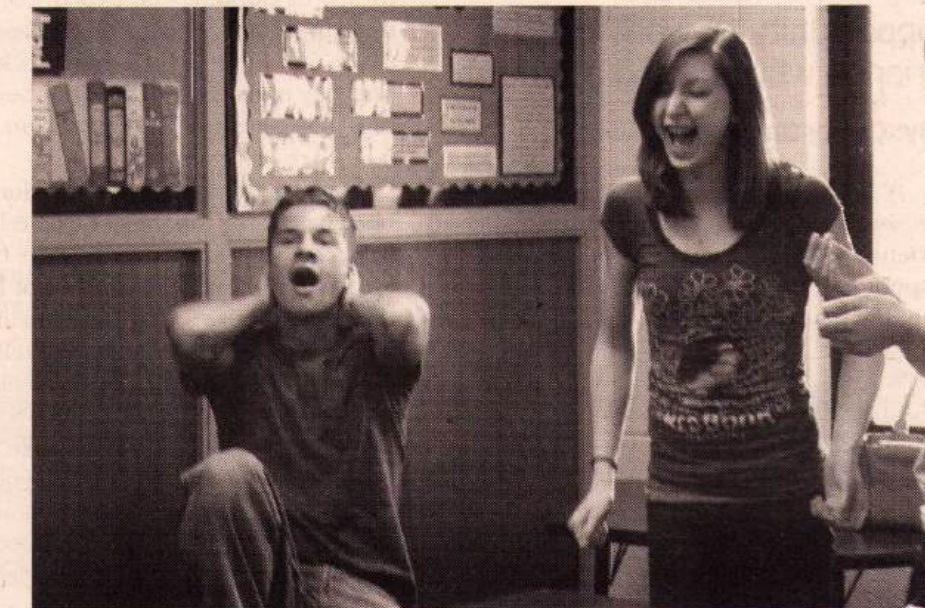
The competition of all competitions: Class of '09 vs. Class of '11

By: Jenna Koppedryer  
[Staff Writer]

The differences between freshmen and seniors are vast and unmistakable, from physical aspects such as height and build to more intellectual evidence like the general maturity level to the ability to solve ridiculous math problems. However, the fine line between freshmen and seniors may be more blurred than once thought. On March 23, 2009 the journalism class held the first annual Senior vs. Freshmen competition. The contest consisted of five elements: Fact Quiz, Music Quiz, Bop-it Challenge, Pictionary, and a Relay Race.

In the first event, each team was given a set of questions and had just five minutes to complete all ten of the "general knowledge" questions. Although these questions may be considered "general knowledge" many of the questions were what I call outrageously obscene and difficult questions, such as "In what year did Iowa become a state?" and "How many people are on the Supreme Court?" But the senior representatives including, Claire Ehlinger, Alex Stalkfleet, Brittney Thomas, Amry Shelby, Josh Hogue and Ben Gustas seemed to figure out eight out of ten of these questions, beating the freshmen representatives Hunter Banes, Sarah Ernst, Melissa Gustas, Hannah Shaffer, and Alex Rinehart with seven in a close call.

Seniors were in the lead one to zero when the next event, the music quiz started. Prior to competition, a CD with a wide range of songs was made. The CD included recent songs such as "Love Story" by Taylor Swift and "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga but oldies as well like Backstreet Boys' "Everybody"



Alex Stalkfleet, senior, stresses out while Claire Ehlinger, senior, screams the answer during the Pictionary Challenge.

and "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns n Roses. Whichever team was the first to yell the name of the song, won the point. But the seniors were packed with a secret weapon, Alex Stalkfleet. Alex not only dominated the freshmen in this event but also schooled many of his own teammates to the point at which Claire decided to scream at the top of her lungs in excitement. To say the least, Alex led the senior team to another victory, making the score two to zero.

But the freshmen weren't giving up yet. Three challenges were left and the Bop-it challenge was up next. If you are not familiar with the game, it is a handheld game in which you must bop, twist, pull, flick, or spin it in order to build up your points. But if you don't do what the game tells you quick enough you lose. The seniors were first up in the challenge but went on to prove that their Bop-it skills weren't quite up to par as the freshmen. The freshmen won this event with a score of 13 to 12.

With two more events to go the score

was in favor of the seniors two to one. Next up was pictionary. Each team was given the same picture to draw on the white board and whoever got the image right won the point. The seniors pulled a quick lead winning the first three pictures, however the freshmen's Alex Rinehart brought his team back but not without some foul play. Since each team was given the same image to draw, it is suspected that the freshmen were looking over at the senior's drawings. The freshmen ended up winning this event.

Going into the last event it was tied two to two. Last up was the relay race in which each team had to carry a juggling ball on a spoon down to the finish line and back without touching it. But the seniors fell behind quickly when their lead leg, Amry Shelby, got caught cheating and had to go twice, making it impossible to catch up.

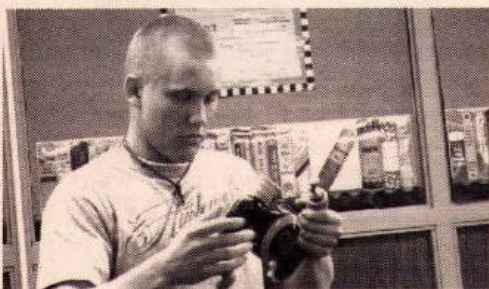
But even though the seniors may have lost in the Seniors vs. Freshmen competition, they still celebrated with some losing victoriously cupcakes.



The senior team, consisting of Claire Ehlinger, Alex Stalkfleet, Brittney Thomas, Amry Shelby, Josh Hogue and Ben Gustas pose after they lost.



Both freshmen and senior teams prepare for the Spoon Relay.



Senior Ben Gustas concentrates hard while competing in the Bop It Challenge.



The freshmen team consisted of Adam Jones, Hunter Banes, Sarah Ernst, Melissa Gustas, Hannah Shaffer, and Alex Rinehart.

## A hairy extension of personality

By: Kayla McGrew [Staff Writer]

One may have heard this rumor: Max Lafontant was dared to never cut his hair during his years in high school. One may have believed this rumor, considering the length of his locks, but we all stand corrected. Max explains, "People wouldn't believe there wasn't a reason [I wasn't cutting my hair], so I made up that I had a \$50 bet with my mother. Sometimes I lie."

But there was a truth to the rumor. Max really has not cut his hair since the summer before freshman year! "It's about two feet long, give or take a few inches," says Max. Never once in four long years has he cut it. "It was hard sometimes, but when I make a promise, I keep it. At least about my hair."

So, what's his secret for keeping his hair in such pristine condition, because most people know that boys tend to not worry about their hygiene. "I shampoo AND condition daily and I have to keep it brushed. Sometimes when it's really gnarly my mom will help me."

If you've seen Max then you know about his luxurious locks. He has many different styles with it, sometimes leaving it down or throwing it in a ponytail. Now not many males can say they can wear their hair in a pony tail but Max is all about being unique. "I don't think it adds to my personality as much as it's an extension of my personality. It's unique, but

not so crazy that I ostracize myself."

Max plans to make a big scene of cutting his hair for the first time, "[I plan to cut it] after the graduation ceremony or possibly even at my open house." He definitely has his plans set for what he's going to do with the hair that he cuts off. "I'm going to donate my hair when I cut it because I'm not going to use it. Who am I to deprive those in need?" That is a very smart move for him because when

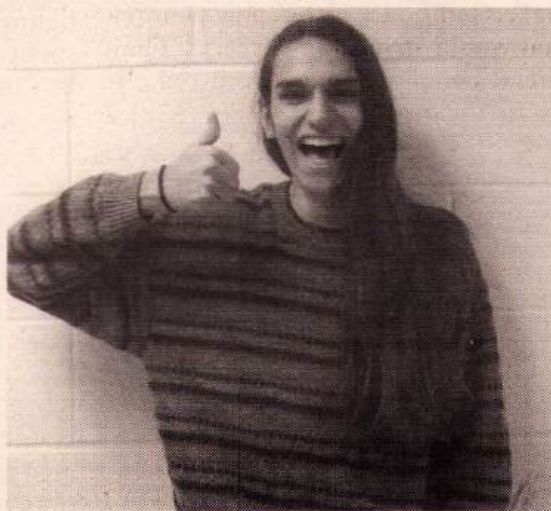
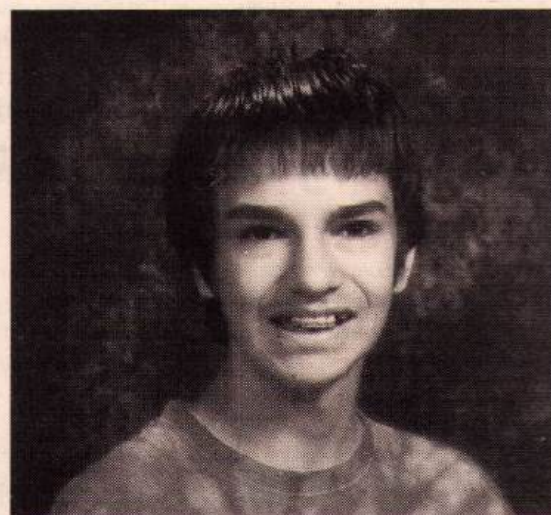
a person donates his/her hair they are really contributing to a good cause and can help many people because there are a lot of people that could really use the hair.

People have many different views on Max's choice of never cutting his hair. He explains,

"Some people (Megan Scheer and Cam Scholtfeld) tell me to cut it almost daily."

But most girls just tell me all the things they want to do with it; braid it, curl it, whatever. My family doesn't care as long as I keep my grades up." Having such a unique feature about himself tends to make people judge. "I just think if they have nothing better to do than to judge me, I'm glad I offer them something to do."

Max isn't worried about what others may think because he's going to do what makes him happy, regardless. When asked if he would ever grow his hair that long again, Max replied, "Not intentionally, but I may end up being too lazy to get regular haircuts."



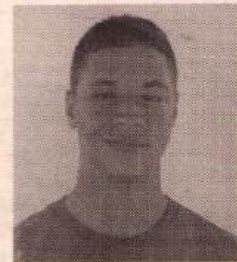
Max's freshman year school picture shows how short his hair was, while the picture below shows how much it has grown since then.



## Hot spot for employees

Tre Kinney gets the opportunity to work with his friends while having a fun job

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]



Tre Kinney, sophomore

A lot of people work at the same place as someone they know or are pretty good friends with. Tre Kinney, sophomore, works at The Playstation and loves it. "It's great," he said. It's also a place where the Marion gang works and that's what Tre likes. "Yeah, it's nice to know the people you work with," he commented. "It's kind of like school. You get to hang out but you still have to get your work done, except it's a lot better than school," he continued.

When working at The Playstation, you're bound to do more than you expect. "I do everything... Clean, fix machines, work front desk and redemption, and cook," he proclaimed. Because Tre doesn't just do one thing, he doesn't really have a job title. "I don't really have one. It changes every time you work," he explained.

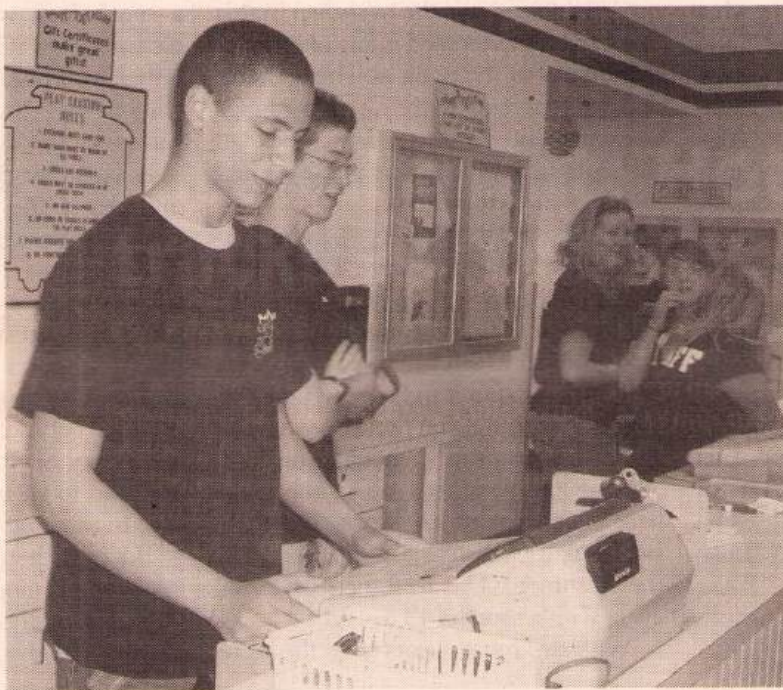
Being in sports doesn't necessarily change or affect work. It's easy to ask for time off at The Playstation. "They are really flexible," Tre said. Tre doesn't work a whole lot, but it's enough to keep him busy. "About 13 hours a week. Mostly Friday, Sat-

urday, or Sunday," he explained. Because many people from Marion work at the same place, it can be a little hard to keep focus and stay on track to what you should be doing. "Sometimes. It depends on how busy it is," Tre commented.

Getting the job wasn't easy for Tre, and once he got the job, he got excited. "Well, I applied three times over a years time span, but I wasn't [excited] until I got hired," he declared. Friends can have an impact on where a person works and that's why Tre applied. "My friend Tyler worked there, and still does," he said.

When working at a place like Tre does, someone's bound to have some good stories. "Yeah, you definitely have some interesting stories," he said full of happiness. And on top of all of the interesting stories, the kids are usually better and easier to work with. That's what Tre learned most. "How to deal with kids," he expressed.

With all that Tre does and has to deal with, it's not a surprise that he has to stay focused and make sure he is doing his job. It can be stressful, but he has dealt with it and has had fun along the way.



Sophomore Tre Kinney poses for a picture while working the cash register at his job at the Playstation.

## Being unique to so many

By: Scout Morehouse [Staff Writer]

Marion High School is full of many different personalities and individuals. Our high school is like a melting pot of students who aren't afraid to be different. There is one individual at this high school, though, that comes from a very unique background.

Garland Swiftbird is a freshman who is a pretty busy student. He's involved in a wide variety of activities. He plays football and baseball for Marion and has a job at McDonalds by Thomas Park. But all this work doesn't stop him from having fun. "I enjoy playing video games and hanging with my friends a lot," commented Garland.



Garland Swiftbird, freshman

When asked about his favorite class here at the high school he replied, "P.E. because I like sports a lot even outside of school sports." Another one of his favorite things about MHS is one of the lunches that they make here. "I enjoy those crispitos because they're awesome and delicious," Garland said with a hungry look in his eyes.

But what makes Garland very unique is his cultural heritage. Garland is a Native American and he's proud of it. He isn't afraid of people who are negative towards his cultural background. He enjoys going to special events every summer. Garland explained, "Every summer I go to Pow Wows with my brothers."

A lot of people don't know what Pow Wows are or what goes on at these traditional Native American events. Garland was more than happy to explain, "Every summer it's when Native Americans get together and make drums out of different animal hides. We then take the drums we made and play them in a certain rhythm. Then we have dancers who do different dances like sun or rain dances that go with the drumbeats. Garland attended three different Pow Wows this past summer and even wishes he had gone to more.

From playing sports, working at McDonalds, to going to Pow Wows, Garland is kept very busy. This doesn't stop him though from doing whatever he can to get the job he wants. "I want to become a lawyer or business owner because of the income and I'm pretty good with math," he explained.

When asked what he would do with a million dollars, Garland came up with a very unique response, "I would buy a really big house so I can fill it with pudding," he explained laughing with his friend Brandon Ette who talked him into adding the pudding part so he could eat it.

Garland is a very unique student who has a plan to succeed in life and have fun with his friends. It just goes to show that being yourself is the only way you can truly enjoy life the way it's suppose to be.

## Adjusting to surroundings becoming easier on Al-Yassiri

By: Lauren Jilek [Staff Writer]

Adjusting to new surroundings with new people and classes can be very difficult, but freshman Haki Al-Yassiri has done it nearly all his life and takes it well every time. The first time he moved was a little different, though, because it was overseas. "I moved from Iraq because of my dad was in the war going on in Iraq." Haki moved to the United States when he was only one year and three months old. Although he nearly can't remember anything, he knows it has made a difference. "It has made my family's life much better since we came." Haki's life is still affected by the move from Iraq at a young age. "My



Haki Al-Yassiri, freshman

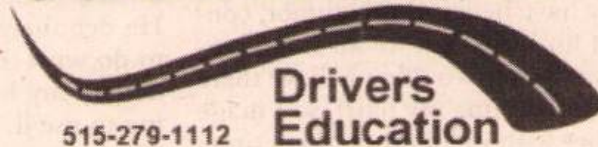
dad still tells stories about our life when we were in Iraq." Haki also has four sisters, two being older than him. "Although I don't remember my older sisters may remember life there as they were a little older," Haki added.

As a family, they have had to make many adjustments. "We moved many times and my parents got divorced," Haki commented. Haki also attended Franklin Middle School until he switched to Marion in seventh grade. "I have had many people make friends with me and (compared to my other school) there are many better behaved kids."

Haki is now involved in soccer that just kicked off over spring break. He is able to reflect on his past in a positive way as he continues his life at Marion. "It has been difficult at some times but (I have learned) about the difficulties in life and everything adults have to deal with." He also does still keep in touch with friends from Franklin. "I think people can take the past of how and what my dad did and learn from it," he commented.

Although a lot of different situations have been thrown at Haki and his family, he has a lot to remember and grow from. It really proves no matter where someone may start, anyone can remain positive and get through with the support of friends and family.

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IND-24	6/9-6/25	Mon-Thurs	11:30-2:30 PM
IND-25	7/6-7/21	Mon-Thurs	8:00-11:00 AM
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# ACL injuries aren't a first for the Perkins'

Senior Shelby Perkins battles an ACL injury before state basketball this season.

By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

The Marion girl's basketball team throughout the majority of the season was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>. Their record this year was 22-2. The only two losses coming from Dubuque Wahlert. The girls had an awesome season with two major setbacks. Those setbacks were senior Shelby Perkins and sophomore, Leah Smith. They both tore their ACL's within five days of each other. Perkins was a starter and



Shelby Perkins, senior

Smith the sixth player off the bench. Shelby Perkins is very involved in sports and many other organizations. "Sports define who I am, everything about them," Perkins stated with passion. It is very clear that Shelby loves sports; she plays varsity volleyball, basketball, track and softball. In addition to being a four-year-four sport athlete, Shelby has been playing basketball since she was in third grade.

"[When I had realized] I tore my ACL I thought I would lose my athletic ability," Perkins stated nervously. The game that Shelby tore her ACL was senior night. "Tearing my ACL during the senior game really makes me believe that everything happens for a reason," Perkins stated.

On that night, Shelby had an awesome game. Shelby's main role on the team was to be a defender and use her quick feet to intimidate the other team. Her quick feet worked against her in that final game against Clear Creek Amana. "I went up for a steal, the other girl grabbed the ball over my shoulder and came down too fast, I didn't step right and the bottom half of my leg went one way and

the top half of my leg with the other way," Perkins said with austerity.

Shelby's family isn't foreign to ACL injuries. Shelby's older sister, Whitney Perkins, an 2005 MHS graduate. "Since Whitney tore her ACL too, she was there for me when it first happened," Perkins commented. "Whitney really helped me the most and my Dad was there for me a lot as well," Perkins said with compassion.

Not only was this year Shelby's senior year, this was the year that the girls were good enough to take it all the way in the state basketball tournament. The girl's basketball team made it through the first two games without Shelby Perkins and Leah Smith. Smith also went down during the end of the season with a torn ACL. They defeated Anamosa and Maquoketa. After beating both of those teams the girls had to play Dubuque Wahlert. Wahlert was the only team that the girls had lost to, with Shelby playing. This time they would have to play them on a small court and without Shelby's defense. "It was really hard watching. I just wanted to help the team win. The coaches said they wanted Leah and I in the game and it was hard not just putting on a jersey and going in," Shelby commented.

Shelby was also a captain of the team, and a returning varsity member, so everyone knew how much she wanted the girls to win that last game. The game might have had a different outcome if those circumstances wouldn't have happened. "That last game against Wahlert probably would have been more of a fast pace with Leah and I," Shelby stated. "I was really proud of my team on working through adversity, I was really proud to be a leader on the team even though I wasn't playing, they really stepped it up," Shelby stated proudly.

Shelby is also a very important teammate for the track team, and will not be able to run. Her surgery is April 23, at 8:30 in the morning. "I'm nervous about the pain,

I'm a very independent person and I know that I'm going to have to rely on others a lot," Shelby stated nervously.

Luckily Shelby's family has experience when it comes to ACL injuries. Because the rehab process takes anywhere from four to six months, and the surgery can take as long as an hour and a half.



Best friends Shelby Perkins, senior, and Leah Smith, sophomore, pose for a picture while wearing their knee braces.

## Betsy's rooting for graduation

By: Lauren Jilek [Feature Editor]

Graduating from high school can leave many different feelings for many different people. After spending four years in the same school with almost the same people, it may feel bittersweet, exciting, or in way, very



Betsy Ryan, senior

sad. A common way people feel is ready: ready for bigger things and independence. Senior, Betsy Ryan definitely knows that feeling all too well.

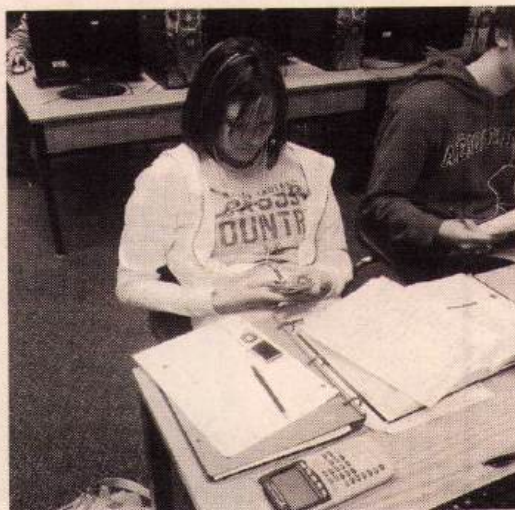
The feeling of wanting to be done with high school is often called "senioritis". It can happen to anyone and according to Betsy, it can happen to everyone. "I have had it since school got out last year," Betsy remembered. "Last year, most of my friends were seniors so it started rubbing off on me then."

For Betsy, senioritis includes many unsettling "symptoms". "(Some symptoms are) the lack of motivation to do school work, having general laziness and putting less effort into one's appearance." There are many different reasons why these symptoms can come up. "I have friends who are older and it's also knowing in a few months, I will be away at college," Betsy commented. Having those older friends can be a huge factor. "I had to help all my friends go shopping for college stuff last year and now I hear about all the fun they are having," Betsy said.

Considering all these things,

how can it be controlled? With still a decent month and a half left of school for the seniors, they certainly can't let up now. Betsy explained how: "I have really easy classes, but I also just focus on senior prom and all the exciting spring activities."

Betsy certainly has exciting goals for her future including going to Simpson College for pre-law, so she has made it a goal to not fall behind. "(It helps because) I have a really hard class at Mount Mercy this semester so I have to stay focused in order to do well," Betsy says. Although it may be challenging for some, Betsy handles it very well and offers advice to others who will eventually go through the same experience. "Enjoy senior year as much as you can. I know I will miss it as soon as it is over. But don't be afraid to challenge yourself!" Betsy added. That is something to remember whether suffering from senioritis or not because a little can definitely go a long way.



Like many seniors this year, Betsy Ryan is just one of them who is struggles with senioritis. Betsy is sitting in Mr. Messerlis accounting class.

## A little anti-prom

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

One of the most anticipated events in high school world has got to be prom. People get very excited, talk about it all the time, and get prepared for prom pretty early. For junior Amanda Peterson though, she sees things a little differently this year. "I'm just saving up all my money to have a really good senior prom."

Now most people would probably be like Amanda. And these days it's easy to see why, dresses can be outrageously expensive! This year they are ranging anywhere from 100 dollars to 800 dollars! "I just don't have a lot of money for that now," Amanda stated. She also explained that she just wants to make her senior prom most important, and comments "So right now I'm just helping some friends look at dresses, and saving up for next year."



Amanda Peterson, junior

Not only though can the dress be expensive, even though there can be some moderately priced ones, there are a lot of other costs that go into prom. "There is the price of going to dinner, buying the boutonniere and corsage, sometimes if you don't find someone to do your hair you have to pay someone to do it, and then the tickets," Amanda continued, "Plus all the stuff the guys have to get."

Another reason Amanda isn't into prom very much this year is because she isn't the biggest fan of dancing. "I just don't like it, I would say I'm probably not the best dancer," Amanda laughs. Not a lot of us can say we are though. On the good side of dancing, Amanda did say she had a blast at homecoming this year, "That just wasn't as expensive, and I like that about homecoming."

Amanda sees sharp contrasts between the two main dances of the year, "Prom is really elegant at first, and the dresses are a lot more fairytale-like," Amanda continues, "And prom also has a theme so the gym gets decorated pretty cool. Then you go to Grand March, and then the dancing comes." Homecoming is a little different, and in her words, "It's just a really fun dance to wear not so dressy dresses, but fun ones to have a good time in. And homecoming is only in the cafeteria."

Even though Amanda is not attending the prom itself, she already has many plans for that night. "I'm going to Grand March to see all my friends and take pictures. Then I'm going to hang out with some other people that aren't planning on going," Amanda said she knows she is going to have a really good time even though she isn't going. "I'll make it up senior year. It's going to be amazing."



# Sudoku

To solve the puzzle, a single number (1-9) must be entered in each blank box so that each number is used only once in each smaller square and only once in each row and column in the larger square. The solved puzzle can be found below.

			9		4			3
7					1	8		
9		5	8			4		
	5	7					2	9
				3				
8	6					5	7	
		9			5	2		6
		8	3					4
6			4		2			

## Name the differences



Picture Differences

Milk jug flipped, Special  
K box moved down,  
purple lid adjusted,  
ITED Data sign added,  
green water bottle  
removed, paper towel  
on microwave removed,  
pink purse added

Sudoku Solution

2	8	6	9	7	4	1	5	3
7	3	4	6	5	1	8	9	2
9	1	5	8	2	3	4	6	7
4	5	7	1	6	8	3	2	9
1	9	2	5	3	7	6	4	8
8	6	3	2	4	9	5	7	1
3	4	9	7	1	5	2	8	6
5	2	8	3	9	6	7	1	4
6	7	1	4	8	2	9	3	5

## Unscramble the teachers' names to solve the puzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the other cells with the same number. All the clue words are teachers at MHS.

RIMLAEFML

10									

NAMTUP

12					

KERSINP

4						

WINGIREES

7									

REFOLW

--	--	--	--	--	--

ANRUB

8				

MHNULLIGCAG

2											

MWKEENAPN

11										

DONMYAR

1							9

SIFH

13			

HACMNMO

6							

VBENROEH

3								

SUNGERFO

5							

1	2	3	4	5	6

7	8	9	10	11	12	13					

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