

Weird month of Feb-you-ary

-Commentary-



By: Kaitlyn Nathem
[Yearbook Editor]

Well, well, well, it's now February. I don't like February. It has started off on a bad note because of how cold it is, how much snow is still on the ground, and because I just don't like the name February.

I really don't understand the extra "R" in the month. It's pointless, nobody says it, and who has ever heard of a silent "R"? I mean there's always been a silent "J" or some other letter, but normally that doesn't happen in the English world. People don't know how to spell the month because of the ridiculous letter. People don't know how to say the month's name, either. You don't just pronounce it "Feb-are-ary" mainly because that sounds unintelligent.

The dumb "R" is just one reason I don't like February. Another reason is because of the weird days. Some years there's twenty-eight days, then all of a sudden it feels like having thirty days. It's a weird month already because of its name, but it just moves lower and lower on the favorite month scale. It's annoying that it can just choose how many days it has.

February is the worst month out of all twelve. I think that we should petition and get the dang "R" out of there. Maybe February will get warmer and I'll start to like it a little better but I doubt it. I have very low expectations for this high maintenance month.

Austin Brown: Broke on Valentine's Day

Austin tells how his low budget is going to affect Valentine's Day for him and his girlfriend.

By: Taylor Millis [Feature Editor]



Austin Brown, sophomore

The flowers, the chocolates, the date, the romance, the expenses! Valentine's Day seems to get more and more expensive as the years

pass. What does that mean for those with little or no income or cash who need to make Valentine's Day special for that special someone?

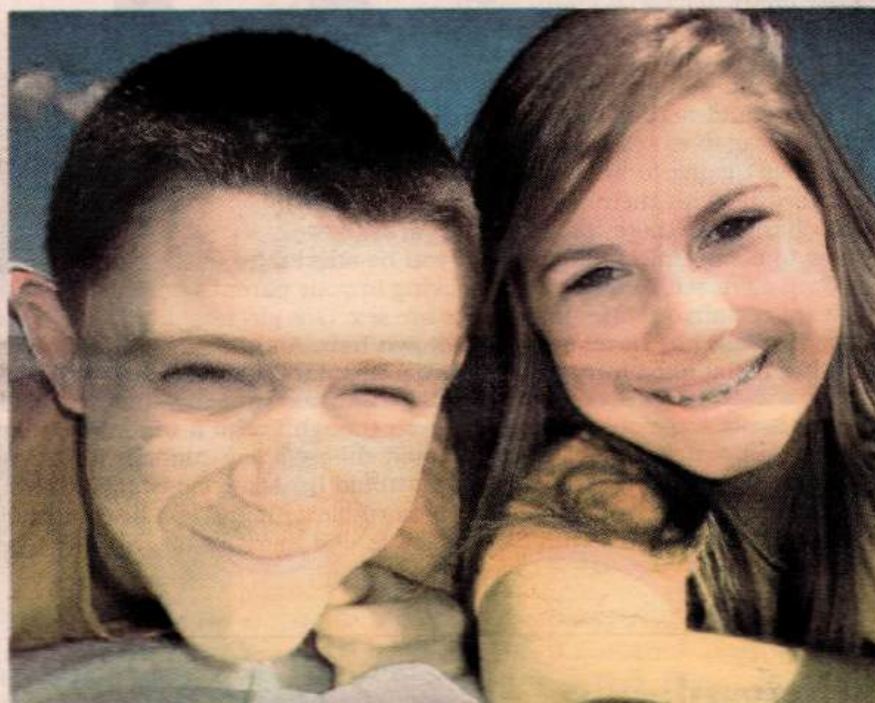
Austin Brown, sophomore, is jobless this Valentine's Day, "No, I should [have a job], but I don't," Austin said with a sigh. How does this affect his Valentine's Day? Well he can't spend as much on his girlfriend, Emily Meeks, also a sophomore. He may not be able to spend much money on his favorite part of Valentine's Day. "Definitely those little heart shaped gummy candies that Hy-Vee only sells around Valentine's Day." He has decided to not let money define the outcome of his Valentine's Day. His plans for V-Day this year are simple, "I'll probably just hang out with Emily. Maybe go to a movie or something." Sometimes simple is usually better.

Austin says he thinks that the average amount people will spend on Valentine's Day is \$25-\$30, a reasonable amount for a

small holiday, or so one would think. According to usatoday.com, the average amount a person celebrating Valentine's Day spent was \$126.03 in 2012. So why do people spend so much on Valentine's Day? "The reason people probably spend so much on Valentine's Day is probably because they want to impress a girl," Austin says. For those who are on a budget, like Austin, they can spend little and dream big. Austin has a big plan for when he has more money to spend, "I would buy a couple more Channing Tatum posters and chocolates for Emily and if I had a lot of money I would definitely get

her jewelry." This year Austin must forget his big money plans and stick to his, "No more than \$50," budget.

So is money a lover's best friend, or does it not mean anything more than just more gifts? Austin says, "[If someone gets upset over the amount of gifts] they don't know the true meaning of Valentine's Day." Money isn't what V-Day is all about. "Yeah [money] helps a little bit, but just spending time with a boyfriend or girlfriend is more special than spending money." A very favorable outlook on the meaning of Valentine's Day.



Austin Brown and his girlfriend Emily Meeks, both sophomores, hang out.



Marissa Whitney and Breanna Mundorf, both sophomores, check their news feed in the hallway outside their classes.

Social media crazes most teenagers

By: Kylie McAllister [Ads Editor]

People are constantly checking social media sites during school on their phones. They get on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, and Path. Everyone can post pictures and change their statuses in seconds. Some can get addicted to these sites. They think that they need to check their news feeds constantly.

Marissa Whitney, sophomore, is addicted to Instagram. Instagram is an app where users can post pictures and follow others. "I check Instagram at least ten times a day," said Marissa. She joined Instagram in August 2012 and has loved it ever since. All of her friends post pictures and she "likes" a lot of them. "I just like photos," stated Marissa. She finds it more interesting to look at pictures than read status updates.

Even though she constantly checks her Instagram she thinks that she could go a

day without it. "It would be difficult but I could probably do it," said Marissa.

A recent study has shown that people get anxious when they are away from social media sites. Some think that people go overboard with checking it.

Breanna Mundorf, sophomore, is addicted to Twitter. She started tweeting all the time her freshman year. "I tweet all the time, literally all the time. I tweeted five minutes ago," said Breanna. She tweets about every five minutes. The only time she doesn't tweet is when she is sleeping.

She doesn't know what she would do without Twitter. "It is how I vent about my life and my problems," stated Breanna. Breanna is also constantly checking her news feed to see what everyone else is up to.

So whether it's Instagram, Twitter, or some other form of social media, the results are conclusive that most teens are addicted.

The truth: relationships according to Claire & Jordan

Seniors Claire Nash and Jordan Hansen weigh in on what they think about the opposite sex and the qualities they look for.

By Claire Nash [Photo Editor]

To me, a relationship is when you're comfortable with someone. You don't judge each other. You can laugh about the most random and stupid stuff. Every time you see them your eyes light up and you get this strange feeling in your stomach. Everything feels right. But in reality, people look for this and not everyone can find it, or at least not yet. Or maybe they are just scared to go for it. People have different definitions of relationships, love, and some sad little souls don't even believe in it.

Some of us girls are just as scared as you boys of the "C" word. I'm talking about commitment. It is a relationship where you remain faithful. Being committed to someone is being their personal shoulder to cry on. You put up with their issues no matter how stupid or hard they might be to deal with. Some of us are scared of this because we have been played and have had our hearts broken. This is why we tend to live the single life.

Trust is a quality that is hard to find in many people. A person must gain the trust of a person before they tell them every little detail. I always have a guard up when I first meet someone. Then it takes time for me to get to know that person and let my guard down, but as soon as I do that I'm usually stabbed right in the back with a painful knife. I have learned that the best way to deal with trust is to tell the new person in your life that you have these issues and that they are going to have to be patient to earn your trust before the relationship gets taken to the next level. There are various reasons that people have issues with trust so just be patient and wait until they are ready to let that guard down.

Communication is one of the keys to any successful relationship. Texting isn't enough. You could say 'okay' in a text without a smiley face and could actually be sitting there smiling from ear to ear, but the person you are texting isn't going to know that. This is why you need to be with them to make it work. Ask yourself this; are there sparks or no sparks? Learn how to communicate, it will help you be successful in life & maybe you won't end up alone with seventy cats or living in your parent's basement.

Girls want certain qualities in the opposite sex. One girl might only like a guy that plays football, has hazel eyes, and brown hair. Another girl might only go for guys that listen to country music, have a nice tan, and muscles. Well reality check, it's about a one in million chance to find someone like that. No one is perfect. Life is not some cute chick flick, even though I wish it were. My dream guy is Jesse from Pitch Perfect. But if I could choose a few qualities for a typical guy in my life then these are what they would be: someone who is faithful, can make me laugh, someone who I am comfortable with and can be completely weird around, surprises me with Starbucks, and is there for me. So there you have it boys.

By: Jordan Hansen [Activities Editor]

The movies we watch and the things we see on television often influence our thinking when it comes to relationships. They show all sorts, but what we focus on the most are those that develop into a romantic type. These on-screen relationships often change how we act in our own personal relationships, because we want to duplicate it. We want our relationships to work out as well as they do in the movies. Simply put, it's impossible. Not to say that a good or cute relationship can't happen, but it's rare that something in high school is for an extended period of time.

One of the major issues that doom most relationships in high school is fairly simple. Who really wants to commit? It's rare to find someone in this stage of life that wants to make it a long-term thing. I honestly believe that the majority of people in high school aren't ready for a real, committed, relationship. This, coupled with the fact that people believe they are ready, cause a lot of unnecessary drama and emotional pain to an already difficult high school experience.

Along with commitment, the lack of trust can also be something that can cause lots of problems. It's fairly difficult to trust everything that is heard about a certain person, and with the way rumors spread through the halls here, it seems to me that not being able to trust someone is fairly common. With everything that goes on in high school, it takes a seriously mature person completely trust another person in that same environment. People do all sorts of things that could definitely cause other people to not trust them, and that trust is hard to get back. In addition, I am of the opinion that trust is earned, not given. That's not something that is always shown in the movies.

In this day and age, it's hard to imagine that communication between people could hardly be an issue. I mean just look at Twitter. You can literally find out what people are thinking by seeing what their tweets are- and I absolutely hate it. With a passion. I mean of course, call me a hypocrite, because I tweet more than I probably should but it's where society has led us. Now is it true that everyone expresses what they're thinking over Twitter or other social networks?

No, but it's common-place. Gone are the days where the most common way to connect with someone was by face-to-face communication. Now it's texting and non-personal communication. Which honestly kills relationships in the long run, because people will say all sorts of things behind a screen that they would never say face-to-face.

The most important thing that I think lacks in many high school relationships is the simple lack of maturity. Most people aren't ready for a serious relationship, and dating someone who isn't ready for a something serious won't suddenly make them mature. It's a cold fact of life and even though the person they might look to perfect in every way, the fact that they aren't ready for something long-term will kill the relationship. However, as rare as it might be, I still believe in "high-school sweethearts." It may be old-fashion of me, but I think that if the right person comes along, I will know.

Trading places

By: Becca Hall [Staff Writer]

Who pays for a date? This is a controversial question that many think they know the answer to. Tradition says the boy should be the one to initiate relationships, take the chances, and, of course, pay. The fact is that it's not always that simple.

Often times boys find it intriguing and refreshing for a girl to pay or ask a guy out. It shows genuine interest while also proving independence. The willingness of a girl to invest in her possible or current boyfriend shows that the girl isn't just mooching and that she thinks the relationship has potential. A lot of guys find that romantic.

WPA, or Women Pay All, recently took















place. This is a dance centered around the theme of trading places. Instead of guys thinking of a romantic way to ask the girl to be his date for the dance, the girl asks the guy. Frequently, the girl also pays for dinner and tickets for the dance. Many people enjoy this change of pace. However, one doesn't need a dance to be the reason to trade places. Being spontaneous by switching it up may bring out the smiles in both partners.

Some people

are perfectly fine with the way it is now, and see no need for this new "trading places" thing. Another set back is some guys like to pay; that is what the have been taught a gentleman should do and they find it awkward any other way, but this is the twenty first century! Everyone needs to keep in mind that the old norms of dating aren't always true anymore.

The dating world is changing, and sometimes, the outcome may be surprising, hopefully in a good way!

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2012-2013 Editorial Policy

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

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

showing favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, The Vox retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of two hundred 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.

Saying I love you a little too soon

Are people saying I love you too soon and for all of the wrong reasons?

By: Haley Shaffer [Social Media Editor]

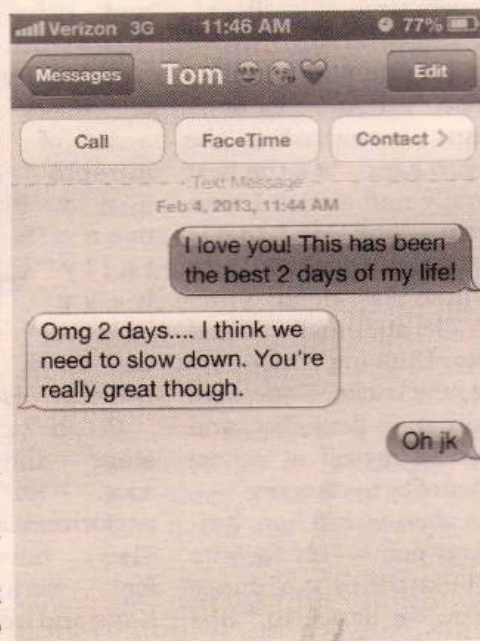
The list of things that people use the word love for is endless. People say they love their pizza, their car, and some people are too in love with their phone. The word love has been overused to a point where its meaning has been diluted. One of the biggest problems with this word is that in relationships, it can sometimes be said just a bit too soon. It's one thing for someone to have strong feelings for Twitter to the point where they "love" Twitter, but when it comes to people it should be taken more seriously. The problem is, that unlike someone's phone or someone's favorite song, when people say I love you to another person, the person can actually have feelings about it. When people tell their iPod they love it, it's no big deal. No one can break their iPod's heart, and their iPod surely can't say I love you back. But when someone is telling a person they love them, the word takes on a whole new meaning. It suddenly becomes more serious and heartfelt. At least it should.

Most everyone had that middle school relationship when they "dated" someone for a whole two days and the next day they're dropping the L word on Facebook like it's nothing. But when it comes to high school, people mature, hopefully, and the word isn't said for a few months. However, in some relationships, people are stuck in middle school, or confusing their boyfriend/girlfriend with their burrito from Pancheros. If two high schoolers are in a relationship for a week and saying, "I love you," chances are, they're not. Even though no one can really tell someone else that they're not in love, usually it's pretty obvious by the maturity level of the two people. If two people haven't been in too many relationships before each other, then

they've probably just never felt this strongly about someone else before, so they believe they're in love, even though they've been dating for two weeks. The problem is, there isn't a word between like and love. It's kind of like the word hate. If someone strongly dislikes something, they tend to not say, "I strongly dislike this." Most of the time they let the word hate slip out. People either like someone or they love them. There's no word to describe the feeling of really, really liking someone, but not to the love stage yet, so people jump straight to love.

Sometimes people only say I love you in relationships because the other person said it, so they feel obligated. If someone says, "I love you," the other person usually won't just walk away or say, "cool". When a person tells their boyfriend/girlfriend that they love them, the other person is obviously going to say it back. But here is where the real issue is. Should people be saying I love you just because someone else said it? Isn't love supposed to be the ultimate feeling for someone else? Love is supposed to be the word that describes the climax of someone's feelings. If people continue to throw it out there like it's nothing, then pretty soon that's what it will be. Stop saying I love you for every little thing in the world. Love is a deep word and needs to be taken seriously.

Saying I love you to someone should be special and come from the heart. People shouldn't just say it just because. And people should definitely not be saying it if they've known the person for only three weeks. People should just remember that your boyfriend/girlfriend isn't just some video game or a pair of UGGs, they're a person. They should be sure that if they're saying it, they mean it.



Geeky Pet Peeves

-Commentary-



By: Alex Estes [Yearbook Editor]

Whether you're a geeky girl or a girl-gamer, we've all got the same pet peeve. The most annoying thing in the world is when someone who knows nothing about videos games exclaims, "Oh my gosh, I'm such a gamer!" The ones who normally say that annoying phrase are the ones who cake their faces in makeup and turn around to say their looks are entirely natural. Those kinds

of people really peeve me off.

Some may be confused on what makes a girl a gamer, geek, or nerd. To know what one is, you must first understand what one isn't. Playing Call of Duty on easy mode on your brother's Xbox does not make you a gamer, and just because you've seen all the Harry Potter movies does not mean you are a huge nerd. Being obsessed with Pikachu or Princess Peach doesn't make a girl a geek.

A girl who is a nerd will have been to the midnight release of every Harry Potter book. Yes the books. A real girl gamer will stay up late into the night playing The Legend of Zelda, Pokemon, or Skyrim. Not Call of Duty. When I say nerdy girl, I mean the girls who make their own costumes for anime conventions. The ones who don't take college classes in high school just because "it looks good for college." The ones who actually read books that aren't "chick books." These are the types of girls that are nerds; they know it, and embrace it, they boast about it, and not to get boys, but because they truly love their interests.

These types of girls get really annoyed when people who know virtually nothing of nerdy and geeky topics call themselves "massive nerds," or, "gigantic geeks," and for a good reason, too. It's really hard to see someone who is uneducated about your favorite topics say that they are a massive Harry Potter nerd, or a total gamer girl because they played the entire campaign in Call of Duty: Black Ops in one sitting. The campaign isn't even long!

The moral of the story is, don't say you're something you aren't, because it only makes people mad.

The perks of being a homosexual

By: Uriah Lekin [Staff Writer]

Being who you are is hard in this world, and the people in this world don't make it any easier. The jokes, the critics, the hypocrites, and especially the haters all have their opinions and seem to not understand how to say it without hate in the forefront.

Homosexuality has become a two-sided street in America today. One side is, "It's good to be you" and the other is, "Being gay is wrong". Some would say people choose to be gay, but really, is there a choice? When did heterosexual's choose to be straight? It's not a choice. Some would call it a curse and others would say you're born this way, but really, other than that, nothing anybody says convinces people to believe something they don't want to hear.

Some gays hide this pain, hurt, and resentment, and others wish they could hide when they have to face those same emotions. Many gays think, "I wish being gay was a choice." Some still call homosexuals fag, homo, or gay. Why? Why are gays purged to be the pinnacle symbol of impurity and disgrace? No one may ever know, that being gay does hurt, it might get some shunned

by their parents or family members, they might lose friends, or even be struck out at by others like Matthew Shepard. This gay man walked into a lounge one night to have a drink and was drawn by two heterosexual men who pretended to be gay. They all left together, but the thing was, Matthew didn't come back.

He was beaten with a pistol, punched, tortured, and then after was tied to a barbed wire fence and left for dead. Matthew was found hours later in a coma by a cyclist who thought he was a scarecrow. Matthew died days later in the hospital from serious head injuries.

Out of all this hurt, pain, hate crimes, and hate groups, many homosexuals are proud to be gay and are proud to stand tall for what they are and believe in. Being gay isn't a curse, a sickness, or even a disgrace. It's a virtue and a challenge some are given to be themselves in a world full of hate, misery, and envy. So really, the common wish, "I wish being gay was a choice," has changed to, "I'm proud of who I am." Having the freedom to be who you are and having the courage to stand up to a world full of anger and hatred truly is a dream come true.

First love & first heartbreak

By: Taylor Lamm [Opinion Editor]

As most teenagers know, high school is all about making memories. Around this time of year people are with that special someone that is in their life. Some teens have the fantasy that this person will be theirs forever and they will have an amazing future with them. Isn't this being taken just a little too far for only being in high school?

Almost everyone finds that person to call their "first love." For some it can be that person that they will always remember and still care for, for others it could be the first person that broke their heart. If the relationship doesn't last that doesn't mean someone has to hate the other person. Yes, it may be upsetting at the beginning, but like everyone says "it is only high school."

Usually the "first love" of someone's life is that person's first long lasting relationship. This doesn't mean the little relationships here and there that only last for a few weeks, these are the relationships where the couple knows everything about the other person. Some even

call the other person their best friend, not just their boyfriend or girlfriend. In the end, if this relationship doesn't last as long as they were hoping for it can leave either one or even both people heartbroken, maybe even for the first time.

The first heartbreak can be one of the hardest parts about first love. It's a feeling that is indescribable. Some might ask the common question, "what's wrong with me?" constantly blaming themselves for the ending of the relationship. This heartbreak can sometimes take awhile to get through. With the help of friends and family, it can be made less upsetting.

The thing to always remember about first love is that it isn't the last that they will experience. It may take awhile to find, but sooner or later "the one" will show up when it's least expected. Everyone is strong enough to make it through heartbreak. It doesn't matter how long it takes, as long as in the end there is the understanding that this is just one stepping stone in the path of life and love.

The tale of two skaters

What Christian and Tony have to say about skating

Breiana Brown [Executive Editor]

Christian Ebsen

What does skating mean to you?

"Skateboarding isn't just a hobby, it's a way of life. You don't have to be good to like skateboarding. Everyone sucks in the beginning, but when you work your hardest you will achieve a lot. Skateboarding isn't like every other sport, like football all you do is run and throw a ball. But in skateboarding you have your own style and don't listen to anyone. It's about having fun, nothing serious. When you just step on a skateboard, it can change your whole world. If you feel down, just get on your board and shred."

How many boards have you broken?

"Probably ten to fifteen boards."

Why do you skate?

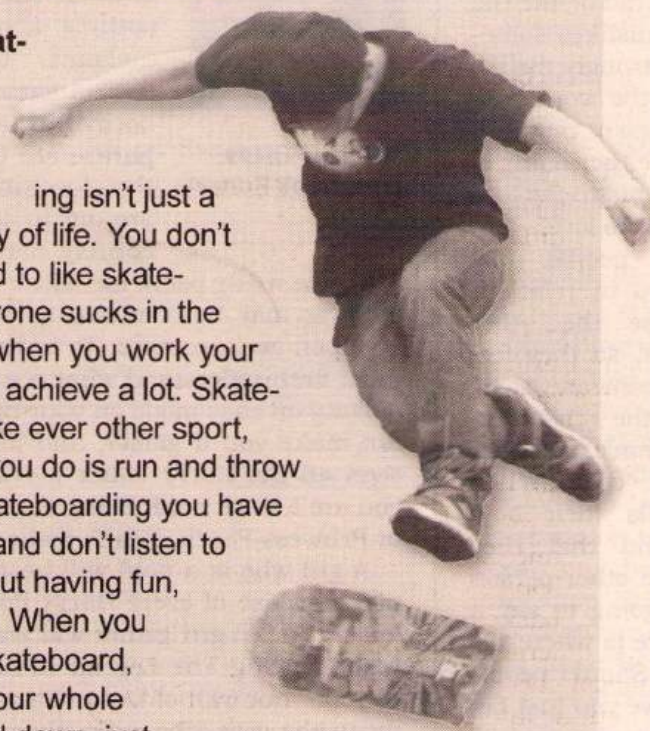
"It's an activity for the summer and I'm good at it."

When did you start skating?

"About six or seven years ago, since 5th or 6th grade."

Who's your favorite skater?

"Rodney Mullen, he created some crazy tricks."



Tony Trimble

What are your favorite skating brands?

"Supra, Deathwish, Mobgrip, Independent, and Spitfire."

Did you teach yourself to skate?

"Well, I skated with my older brother's friend when I was little, then they quit so I had to teach myself."

What's your favorite thing about skating?

"When you land a trick and your friends are there to get hyped with you."

What's your least favorite thing?

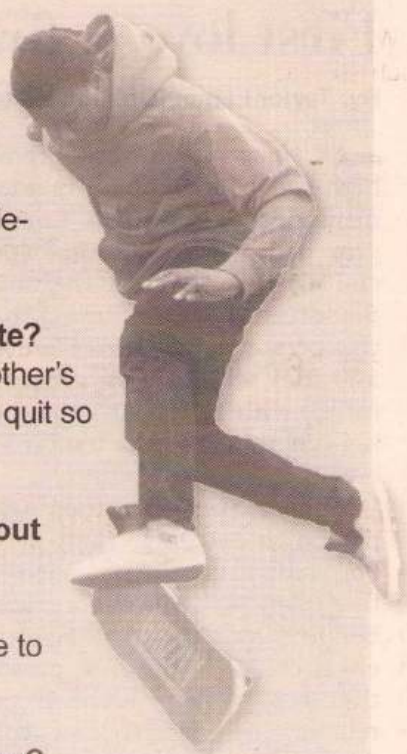
"Cops are steady hatin'."

What trick have you spent the longest on?

"A hardflip, I was freaking out when I landed it."

When did you start skating?

"[I started skating] when I was about seven years old."



Serbousek spins into practice

By: Taylor Millis [Feature Editor]

5, 6, 7, 8! The first four numbers in the language of a dancer. A language that consists of eight numbers, few words but plenty of motions and emotions.

Katie Serbousek, freshman, is a dancer who has learned this language. She has danced since she was eight and dances year round at her studio, The Dance Company. Katie tells why she started dance, "It looked like a fun thing to try and I fell in love with it from the start!" Infact she loves it so much she never gets tired of it. "It's always fun for me."

Loving a sport this much and being good takes practice, "It takes a lot of effort and time. But, it's worth it in the end," this dance pro says. "It's the best feeling when I finally nail a trick I have been working on for a long time." that is what makes dancing so worthwhile for Katie. The more time she spends practicing, the more tricks she can learn and the better she gets. Dancing is not only good for learning new tricks, Katie says that, "Good coordination flexibility, and so I don't embarrass myself at school dances," are all benefits to dancing.

Katie takes five classes, hip hop, lyrical, ballet, jazz and poms. "My favorite is poms because I like the type of dance and the fast music we dance to." She practicing to perfect her favorite tricks, "My favorite tricks are disques and turns in second." She has a lot of memories from her years of dancing.

Katie Serbousek, freshman, does a leg extension at dance practice.

Her favorite memories are, "making all my friends and dance recitals." The excitement and adrenaline from going on stage with her friends and showing off her dancing skills is something Katie will never get tired of.

Katie has so much love for her sport, she gets upset when people look down upon it. "I don't like [when people isn't a sport] be- at it as a sport."

strength, motivation, endurance and determination.

"Physically it takes a lot of muscle and mentally have in your can do it," Dancing is

She stage and spot. Kaperformance They have for weeks Katie and her

you to believe self that you Katie explains. no easy task. walks out on gets in her first tie knows this will be amazing. been practicing and this is what friends have been working hard for. The music begins, Katie counts... 5, 6, 7, 8.



Kinney: more than just in shape

By: Jordan Hansen [Activities Editor]

There are a lot of people who like to think they're fitness experts. They feel that by doing P90x or something they bought online or from a TV ad will give them a chiseled Herculean body in no time flat. Many will quit after it becomes too difficult to continue, and they rest well on the idea that they tried it and it didn't work for them. However, not everyone is like that. Some have a strong mental attitude and push past everything holding them back from what they want to achieve and have a strong desire to make themselves better.

Brian Kinney, senior, loves working out and improving his body to the point where he does it six days a week.

"I work out two to three hours on the days I workout," he began. "But

people get so Brian Kinney, senior, takes his workouts and caught up in responsibilities seriously how long you're in the gym- I believe that when you're done, you'll know."

Kinney has been interested in fitness and being in shape since he was much younger. "When I was 11, I attended a basketball camp, and they mentioned Velocity Sports Performance. I realized that I loved sports but I was undersized, and I needed to start doing things to compensate for things such as height."

With this foundation beginning to be built, he has been able to do his

own workouts since the beginning of his freshman year. "It's a long process to develop an understanding, and I've been picking up things here and there for a long time. Certain things such as MetCon's (Metabolic conditioning) I take from CrossFit or things like that, but I arrange them myself."

Brian has never had any trouble finding motivation to go out almost everyday and push his body to new and painful levels. "There's really no substitute for hard work, and my goal is to outwork everyone else."

Not every- thing that he does is for him- self however.

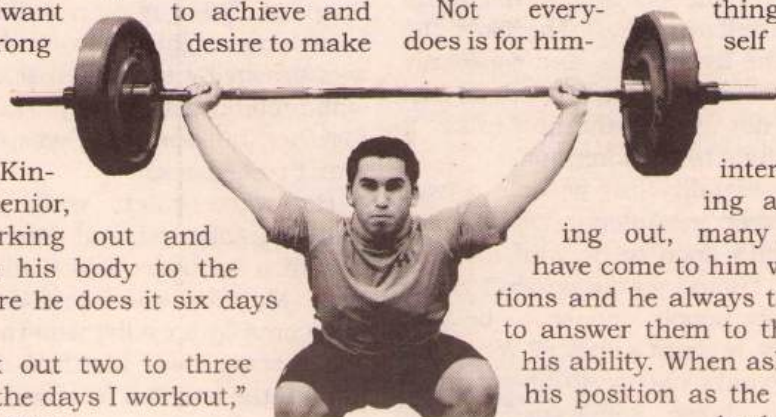
With a recent boost of

interest in lifting and working out, many students have come to him with questions and he always takes time to answer them to the best of his ability. When asked about his position as the unofficial

leader of the weight room, he humbly said, "It's really cool,

I'm very proud to be looked at in this way... but at the same time it's kind of strange- when I was younger you saw all the football players in here lifting, and now you're in their position."

For Brian, being in and around the weightroom is more than just improving himself, but for improving others as well. When he graduates along with the rest of the seniors in a few short months, there will be some very big shoes to fill in the weight room.



Engle's exciting basketball experience

Craig Engle, sophomore, gives insight on playing up for the varsity boys basketball team.

By: Gage Miskimen [Staff Writer]

Basketball is a huge part of player's lives. Some play for multiple teams and travel to a variety of places to play the sport they have worked at their whole lives. A few even play with other kids who are older and are on a higher level of experience because they have the talent to do so.

Craig Engle, sophomore, plays for the varsity basketball team and to him, the season is going OK, "It's going alright. We are a good team, but we need to get a lot better."

Being on the varsity team as a sophomore can be difficult, but his teammates are there to help him out when he needs it and to joke around with him too. "Our first practice, we had water bottles that needed to be taken to the training room, so they made me take them all. But usually they just joke around," Craig said with a smile. Craig is glad the upperclassmen accept him and treat him equally. "The guys make it seem like I'm not a sophomore, but it's weird seeing my classmates go to practice at a different time than me."

Craig has been playing basketball since he was about four years old. He started the sport the same reason other kids may join sports. "My dad was in love with sports and so is my brother, so I started loving sports too," Craig said. The reason that he likes basketball is pretty straightforward, "I guess I'm good at it, but I want to get better everyday."

Student-athletes sometimes have professional athletes that they idolize. "My idol in basketball is Michael Jordan. I watch videos of him and try to copy stuff he does," Craig said. Craig's life is engulfed in the sport of basketball. Craig enjoys playing it and working hard and he's only halfway through his high school career.

All high school athletics have their ups and downs, but sports teach valuable life lessons and this can be especially true if a player is playing up a level. An example being Craig. There are added difficulties with playing on a higher level. But there are also benefits. Playing up is a privilege and something that players of any sport dream of and are excited to enjoy when and if that time comes. Athletes work their hearts out to get any advantage that they can have. With hard work and a positive attitude, they can strive to reach their goals.

Competitive cheer for Iowa Elite

By: Storm Bogs [Web Editor]

As she finishes packing for America, she can only hope that she will be able to cheer there. She can't wait to experience it first hand and see if it is any different from cheering in her home country.

Rebecca Busch, senior, has been cheering for two and a half years. "I saw it in movies and I liked it," Rebecca said about why she started cheering in the first place.

Tamara Mull, also a senior, joined the Iowa Elite cheer squad for a very different reason. "I wanted to better prepare myself for college cheerleading," she said.

The only difference between cheering here and in Germany is that in Germany there is only competition cheer. It's very common to walk into a sporting event at a high school and hear the cheerleaders chanting for the athletes, but not in Germany. In Germany the cheerleaders just perform routines without words, similar to our dance team here at MHS. Here at Marion though, there is a cheer team for football, basketball, and wrestling. There is a huge difference between Iowa Elite and high school cheer. "It's a lot faster paced, both the routine and practice," Tamara said. "[The] tumbling and stunting level is a lot different too." Iowa Elite is a step

up from regular high school cheer, and the Elite team is a lot bigger. "We're not as close [on Iowa Elite] as I am with the girls here at Marion," Tamara said.

Since Iowa Elite is more difficult and more competitive than high school cheer or competition, the practices are a lot harder. "[My least favorite part of practice is] all the conditioning we do, like full run throughs and conditioning."

Rebecca now cheers for basketball and Iowa Elite. "I told my host family about competition cheer [in Germany] and they got in touch with Iowa Elite," she said. Iowa Elite is similar to the competition cheering she does in Germany, but she prefers the competition to Iowa Elite. So, even though she enjoys cheering here, Rebecca can't wait to get back home and cheer.



Rebecca Busch, senior



Tamara Mull, senior

Wrestling wrap-up

During the course of this year the wrestling team has had its up and downs. Coach Jason Haag said, "Pretty good; we've improved through the year." He added, "Our best meet was against DeWitt, even though we lost we still put up a fight." This is the last season for four seniors, Grandon, Lochner, Peterson, and Ross. "I wish I had them for one or two more years, they've improved a lot," Haag said.

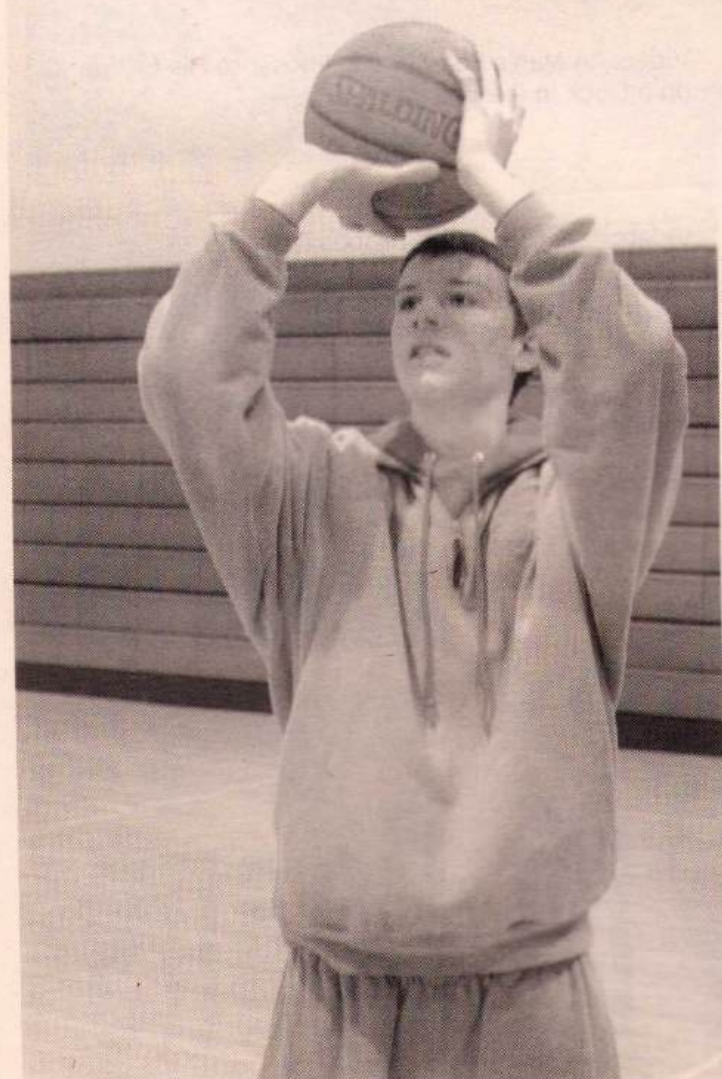
Girl's b'ball gains

The girls started the season on a new note with Coach Corby Laube. He stated, "This season has gone really well. It has been a fun and successful season." He added, "Our best games were against CPU and on Senior Night against Williamsburg." The team has three seniors, Combs, Knapp, and Perkins; this will be their last time playing high school ball. "It's hard to see the seniors go; they worked hard and I'm proud," said Laube.

Boy's b'ball improvement

This year the boy's basketball team has had ups and downs, but mostly ups according to Coach Mike Manderscheid. "[The season] went pretty well...we work hard in practice." He added, "Our best game was against Jefferson; first time we beat a 4A team." This will be the last season for seniors Buckley, Connolly, Davis, Frazier, Gunder-son, Landuyt, Phillips, Wheeler. "It's hard to see them go; all we can do is prepare them for their life," Manderscheid stated.

By: Uriah Lekin [Staff Writer]



Craig Engle, sophomore, shoots hoops in the gym to practice his basketball skills in his free time.

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IND-82	4/16-5/16	T & Th	6:00-9:00P
IND-83	6/3 - 6/18	M - Th	8:00-11:00A
IND-84	6/3 - 6/18	M - Th	11:30-2:30P
IND-85	6/3 - 6/18	M - Th	6:00-9:00P
IND-86	7/1 - 7/17	M - Th	8:00-11:00A
IND-87	7/1 - 7/17	M - Th	11:30-2:30P
IND-88	7/29 - 8/13	M - Th	8:00-11:00A
IND-89	7/29 - 8/13	M - Th	11:30-2:30P

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Clingy people in relationships may lead to a break-up

By: Haley Shaffer [Social Media Editor]

Most people these days get to know others by social media or texting. It's become pretty normal to start a relationship off by simply shooting texts to each other all day. But what happens when the person someone is texting or even dating becomes somewhat possessive? What happens when people can't wait five minutes for a text back. That's when a person is dealing with a clinger. A clinger, for those who don't know, is someone who clings to someone else or for example becomes obsessive. They are the type of people who worry about why someone isn't texting them back, when in reality, they're just in the shower. Clingers want to know what the person they like is doing, when they're doing it, and most importantly, who they're doing it with.

Clingers aren't just for people who are in relationships. In fact, it's more common to come across a clinger when people just have "things". They occur when people are at the stage of really liking someone but not yet dating. It's the time when someone can't get mad over their crush talking to someone because they're not dating, but they also feel a sense of ownership. This is when some relationships tend to fail because most people want their freedom. For instance, if a girl has guy friends before she meets a boy, she wants to be able to keep her guy friends.



If she has to worry about her boyfriend or texting buddy getting mad or jealous over that, chances are, she's not going to stick around. There's a certain amount of jealousy every relationship should maintain, but when it comes to the point where people can't hang out with their friends without a fight breaking out, is when the jealousy breaks its limit. A word of advice to those who are starting relationships: They should make sure to let the person they're interested in maintain their freedom. If there's too much jealousy and if someone is too clingy, the relationship is possibly set up for failure.

When dealing with a clinger, it's important to be sensitive with people's feelings if someone is planning on rejecting them. Clingers have feelings too. Sometimes people are clingers because they are afraid of getting hurt and don't want to be lied to. Sometimes, they are clingers because they have been in past relationships and don't want to be hurt again. However, in most relationships when a person becomes too clingy, the other

person feels suffocated. People should be sure that when entering a relationship, the other person still has freedom. They still have the right to hang out with their friends whether they be of opposite or same sex. Relationships are not about changing the other person or overly protecting the other person. They're about trusting and caring for the other person. Without a certain amount of trust, the relationship may not last.

Catching a catfish on the 'net'

By: Taylor Millis [Feature Editor]

Dating is tricky. Finding that someone you want to share your deepest secrets with isn't easy. One solution people have come up with is online dating, which is natural, considering how much time is spent on the internet and cell phones. But, online dating, while convenient, can be deceiving as well. It's easy to hide behind a screen and pretend to be someone else. Tricking someone into falling in love with who they think are talking to. It's called catching a catfish.

Catfish are people who create online accounts on social networking sites and dating sites. They use fake pictures stolen from other peoples profiles and use them as their own. Catfish draw in their prey and pretend they are someone else. They make people fall in love with them but when asked to meet, there is always an elaborate excuse not to. This love affair is strictly online only.

Some may ask if these catfish are even a big issue to others. Some may think they are easy to spot. But the truth is catfish are good at what they do. They might really be nice people hiding behind a fake photo to go along with fake truths because of self image or emotional issues. However, messing with someone's emotions is never okay, online or not. Love is a strong emotion, but so is heartbreak. Being tricked and lied to by the person who you fell in love with is heartbreaking and could cause someone to begin to have emotional issues of their own. They may start to blame themselves for being tricked and could lead to self-image issues and self harm. So, yes, this online dating scam may seem harmless at first, but in actuality it is very serious.

So how can someone tell if a catfish has been caught by some unknowing person? What are the warning signs and how can it be prevented? It may seem hard, but actually it is quite simple. For starters, make all online profile settings private. This way not everyone's mother, brother and dog can see your photos and information and your photos have a lesser chance of being stolen from your profile. When dating online, one must be on high alert at all times, be skeptical of all situations. If something seems off or weird it probably is. If the person you are talking to will never meet up, that is a big red flag that screams catfish. Catfish are known for not meeting who they are talking with because they aren't really who they say they are. So they have to make up elaborate excuses so questions aren't asked. The more elaborate the excuse the less questions that are asked, catfish 101. The next great way to make sure they are who they say they are is to ask for them to send you a picture of themselves with a specific object in the photo as well. Something with the days date is simple and easy. If there are excuses and no photo is ever sent, red flag! Lastly, do your homework and ask questions. Google search their name and photos. If another person pops up chances are they are stolen names and photos.

The bottom line is that although online dating may seem more convenient and in ways safer, it can be very dangerous. Always keep your guard up until there are no doubts that they are who they say they are. Do your research and remember if they truly are who they say they are and really care about you, no question should be too personal to answer.

Loving proposals on YouTube

By: Taylor Lamm [Opinion Editor]

For most girls there will always be those times where boredom pushes them to Youtube. Youtube has become the home for many videos showing cute proposals that always keep you wanting to watch more. For others, it can be like watching what they want their proposal to be like. Or maybe for some it's just the sappy heart-warming feeling they get from watching the videos hoping that one day they can be just as excited as the couple on the screen. Below are some memorable videos of proposals that can be found on Youtube.



1

Video: "Best Proposal Ever: A 6 Year Plan!!"



2

Video: "A Man's Romantic Proposal to His Girlfriend on a Dock in Oregon"



3

Video: "Best marriage proposal ever!"

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Mr. Beans

Break ups and make ups in Hollywood

Celeb break ups and how Hollywood has become the main place for the super star break ups

By: Uriah Lakin [Staff Writer]

Marriages lasting 76 days due to being incompatible, or just a couple days are common in Hollywood. Like Kim Kardashians marriage to Kris Humphrey's or Brittany Spears with that anonymous guy she met in Vegas on a drunken escapade. These two marriages that fell apart are two of the couple dozen famous ones that you would find in the down goes the marriage expo.

Marriages or even simple break ups have caught the eye of many American's in the check out line aisles. "Oh my God look what Kristen did!" That's one that was recent. Kristen Stewart the actress that played famed character Bella Swan in the Twilight

Saga was caught cheating on Robert Pattinson with the married director of Snow White and Huntsman Rupert Sanders. This caused crazy reactions from Twihards because of the ending of the saga only months away and this throwing dirt on the movie already.

The break up between Taylor Swift and Conor Kennedy caused a little more disruption due to her rebound to One Direction star Harry Styles. Break ups are a mess in the Hollywood world, but its safe to say they won't be coming to an end anytime soon.

Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore have caught the eye of many due to this being her third failed marriage, or Brittany Spears and Kevin Fedderline's failed mariage and the chaos that came after, and or even Katy Perry and Russell Brand's failed marriage it struck people across the nation but she used it to become the pop break up queen with her famous song "Part of me".

Marriages and relationships have taken the back lash of being in Hollywood but over all not every single re-

lationship has failed like Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, or Jada Pinkett and Will Smith. Out of those two relationships that haven't maybe Hollywood has some hope for a place where celeb relationships could be successful. But break ups won't go out of style for a while.

List of famous failed relationships:

- Brittany Spears and Kevin Fedderline
- Katy Perry and Russell Brand
- Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez
- Taylor Lautner and Taylor Swift
- Taylor Swift and Conor Kennedy
- Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony
- Ann Lopez and George Lopez
- Rihanna and Chris Brown (the first time)
- Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphreys
- Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes
- Christina Milian and The Dream
- Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren
- Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillippe
- Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee
- Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson

Top 10 V-Day movies of all time

By: Kayla Comried [Staff Writer]

Valentine's Day is the perfect holiday to watch that romance-movie you have just been waiting to see. For girls it is the perfect time to force their boyfriend into watching their favorite "chick-flick," and for guys it is that one day out of the year that they can actually watch those movies they may secretly love without being judged. So this Valentine's Day, make sure you watch your favorite Valentine movie along with one of the following top 10 movies of all time to watch on Valentine's Day:

- 1- "Casablanca"
- 2- "Titanic"
- 3- "An Officer and a Gentlemen"
- 4- "When Harry met Sally"
- 5- "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"
- 6- "Ghost"
- 7- "Sleepless in Seattle"
- 8- "West Side Story"
- 9- "Jerry Maguire"
- 10- "Lady and the tramp"

According to thenewsherald.com

WAMAC Leadership Award: Morgan Kolarik

Gage Miskimen [Staff Writer]



Morgan Kolarik senior

Leadership is a quality that only a few people ever achieve. True leaders go that extra mile. They lead others and do the right thing, even when nobody is looking.

Morgan Kolarik, Senior, was awarded the WaMaC Leadership award for her involvement and commitment to student senate. "I was really happy and honored to receive it, because not many

people got it." Not many receive the award, about one student from every school in the conference.

Morgan was pretty surprised when she was awarded the honor. "I didn't even know it was an award. I guess I received it based off of what I was

doing and I was pleased to receive it." For Morgan, it was just about doing good for the school and doing her job as a member of student senate. "I really enjoy being involved in student senate and try to go to everything I can and stay involved."

When it comes to advice for students just starting high school, Morgan said, "Do the best you can at everything. It's about the experience and you meet a lot of people so it's fun." When it comes to the high school experience, for Morgan, it's just about being involved and staying involved. "Being involved is really helpful. It teaches you a lot and it's fun."

Staying involved is a very important part of high school and being a leader is a great quality for anybody to have. Leadership is a trait that can get an individual far in life. Leaders are needed in this society today and whoever wants to be a leader can go out and get involved and become successful.

The history of Feb. 13th

By: Kiersten Kiene [Design Editor]

1861

Abraham Lincoln declared president

1866

Jesse James holds up his first bank in Liberty, Missouri

1905

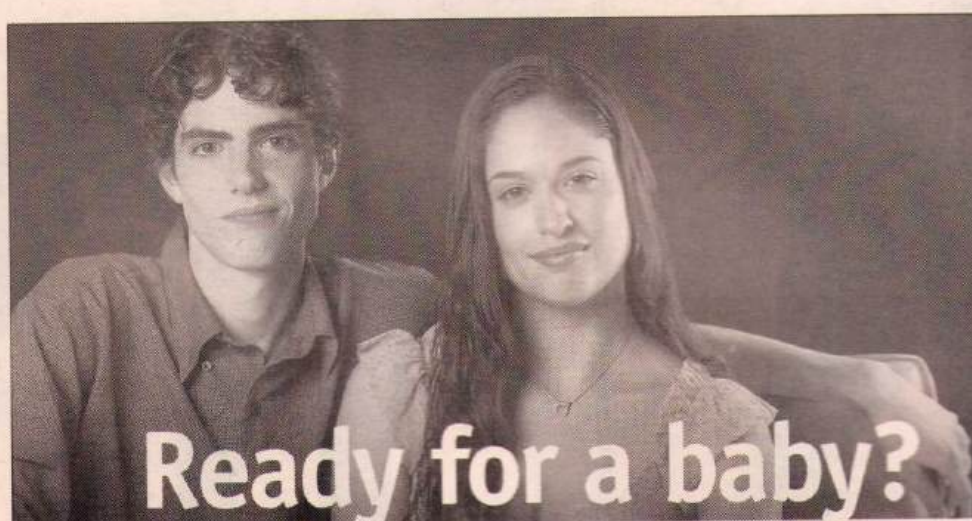
Record low of -40 degrees F. in Lebanon, Kansas

1959

First time the Barbie Doll goes on sale

1972

"Grease" opens up on Broadway



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M H S L O V

BRANDON & SIDNEY



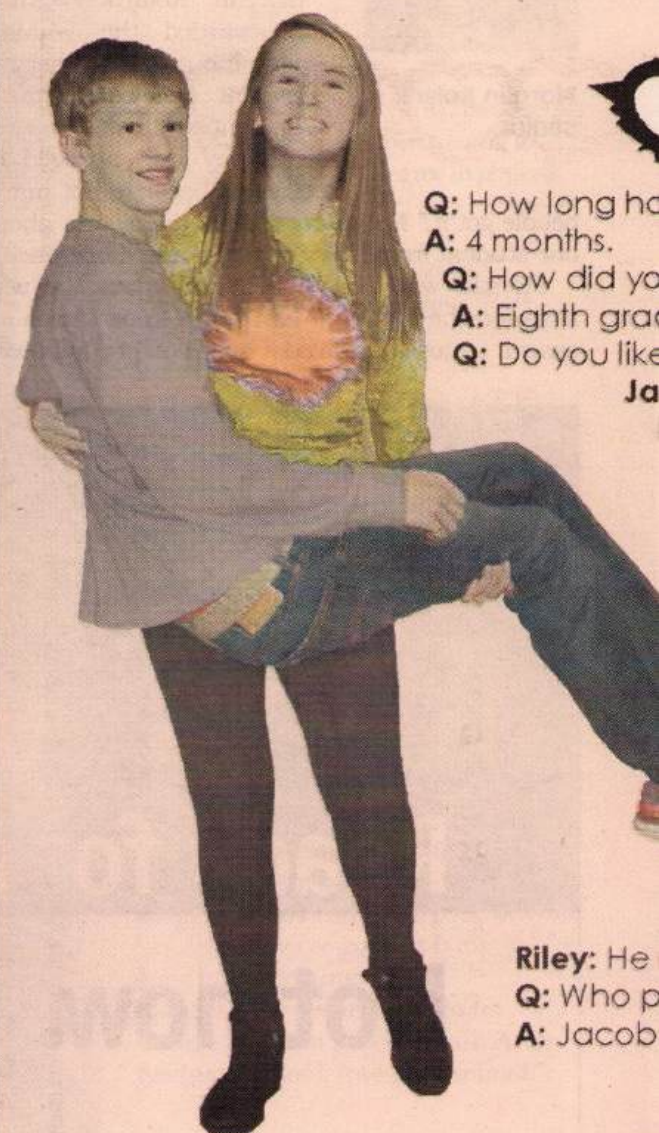
- Q:** How long have you been together?
A: 1 year and almost 2 months.
Q: Do you like Valentine's Day?
Brandon: Yes, it's an excuse to hang out with Sidney.
Sidney: I love Valentine's Day! Everything about it is adorable.
Q: Do you have any plans for Valentine's day?
Brandon: I do, but it's a surprise.
Sidney: Not quite sure yet.
Q: Do you have any common interest?
A: Tennis, food, favorite color, which is blue.
Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?
Brandon: Her personality.
Sidney: His smile and personality.
Q: What are you going to do when you/they leave for college?
Brandon: Maybe get a Skype and visit each other.
Sidney: Drive the two hours to see him as much as I can.

ANDREW & ARIEL

- Q:** How long have you been together?
A: 6 months.
Q: Do you like Valentine's Day?
Andrew: Yes, because of the chocolate.
Ariel: Yes, because my boyfriend buys presents.
Q: How did you meet?
A: Through friends.
Q: Do you have any common interest?
A: Zombies and Call of Duty.
Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?
Andrew: Her good heart.
Ariel: He treats me good. :)
Q: How often do you spend time together?
A: Everyday!
Q: Who pays when you go out together?
A: Both of us.
Q: Do you have any special plans for Valentine's Day?
Andrew: Yes.
Ariel: Andrew is taking me out to dinner.

SYDNEY & DALTON

- Q:** How long have you been together?
A: 6 months.
Q: How did you meet?
A: At a football game.
Q: Do you like Valentine's Day?
Dalton: Sure.
Sydney: Yes.
Q: Do you have any common interests?
Dalton: We are both in sports, like the same movies, and we are both artistic.
Sydney: The movie Titanic.
Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?
Dalton: She is very beautiful and she always makes me smile because of her personality and everything else about her.
Sydney: He is always there for me and is my best friend.
Q: What do you do when you hang out together?
A: Eat, play Call of Duty, and watch Big Bang.



- Q:** How long have you been together?
A: 4 months.
Q: How did you meet?
A: Eighth grade.
Q: Do you like Valentine's Day?
Riley: Yes.
Jacob: Yes.

- Riley:** He is my best friend.
Q: Who is your favorite person?
A: Jacob.

E B I R D S



RILEY & JACOB

Q: How long have you been together?

A: 2 years.

Q: Do you like Valentine's Day?

A: Yes, I really don't mind it.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?

A: She's nice to everyone and is very smart and funny.

Q: How often do you spend time together?

A: Couple times a week.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?

A: He's nice to everyone and is very smart and funny.

Q: How often do you spend time together?

A: Almost every day.



PRESTON & BONNIE

Q: How long have you been together?

A: 15 months.

Q: How did you meet?

A: Mutual friends.

Q: Do you like Valentine's Day?

A: Not especially. I just prefer other holidays.

Q: What are you going to do when you/they leave for college?

A: Call her a lot.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?

A: He's as stubborn as I am so it doesn't get boring.

Q: Do you have any common interests?

A: Archery

NYSSA & RYDER

Q: How long have you been together?

A: 2 years.

Q: Do you like Valentine's Day?

A: A little, I don't like how people take it so seriously.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?

A: Her sweet smile every time she sees me, it makes me feel so loved.

Q: How often do you spend time together?

A: Almost every day.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your significant other?

A: His sense of humor.

Q: Do you get along with their families?

A: Yes, very well.

Q: Do you have any plans for Valentine's Day yet?

A: Yes, but we aren't sure on exactly what we'll do.



10 SENIOR INTERVIEWS

Many seniors have very different plans and goals for their futures. Read below and on page 11 to learn more about these interesting people.



Name: McKenna Bloomquist
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Soccer, Mrs. Herman, Mr. Trilk and nothing else."
Quote or piece of advice: "Let life happen."
Plans for the future: "Attend Kirkwood to be a teacher."



Name: Sarah Mork
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Cross country, Mrs. Logan, Ferg, and 800 repeats."
Quote or piece of advice: "Everybody is a genius, but if you judge a fish by it's ability to climb a tree, it will live it's whole life believing that it is stupid" -Albert Einstein
Plans for the future: "Drake or Simpson or University of Chicago to study in a pre-med track and double major in English."



Name: Morgan Kolarik
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My friends, teachers and the atmosphere."
Quote or piece of advice: "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams."
Plans for the future: "Attend Iowa State University major in Dietetics and minor in exercise science."



Name: Laurynn Mossman
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Rainmaker, freshman basketball with Naomi, Aubrey and Leah Pedersen."
Quote or piece of advice: "Why wait for the storm to pass when you can dance in the rain?"
Plans for the future: "Attend Iowa for Pediatric Nursing/Pharmacy."



Name: Mariah McSweeney
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "The JV All-Stars with Big Bertha (Morgan Kolarik) and Slim Shady (Mitchell Matias.) Oh and Whitney LaKose... I guess"
Quote or piece of advice: "If you ain't first, you're last." -John Viner
Plans for the future: "Go to Kirkwood for two years, then attend Palmer College of Chiropractic."



Name: Tamara Mull
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Friday night football games. All the cool teachers and my friends."
Quote or piece of advice: "Do things early so you're not stressing the night before. All-nighters are not fun."
Plans for the future: "Attend Kirkwood for two years then transfer to ISU to major in Civil Systems Engineering and minor in business. Cheer the entire time."



Name: Mitchell Matias
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My friends, teachers, and fun classes. Also, the JV All-Stars with Big Bertha and Big Booty Judy, and Cross Country."
Quote or piece of advice: "Hide your kids, hide your wife, hide your husband."
Plans for the future: "To attend the University of Iowa to study medicine."



Name: Claire Nash
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Dostal, Jackie, Miss Bremer, Eicher and the rest of my journo babes especially Hales and the Taylors and last but not least my friends."
Quote or piece of advice: "The best nights are usually unplanned, random and spontaneous."
Plans for the future: "Go to Hawkeye Community for 2 years then transfer to UNI to get a Bachelor's degree in phys.ed."



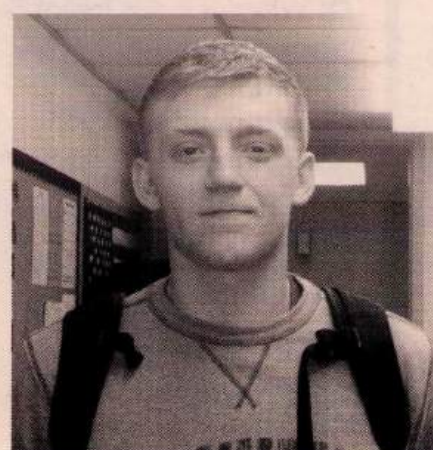
Name: Peyton Meier
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Seeing my friends everyday."
Quote or piece of advice: "Don't worry about what people think of you, it's not like you're going to be around them forever."
Plans for the future: "Go to school at Iowa State for biology then move to California or Florida."



Name: Karen Nguyen
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My main kitties Courtney Zeets, Sam Williams, and Carlee Tope. My main cats Ms. Ramaekers and Mr. Immerfall".
Quote or piece of advice: "Can I get a meow?"
Plans for the future: "Be a cat."



Name: Ashtyn Miller
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My friends, cheering and the football games."
Quote or piece of advice: "No regrets, enjoy it while you can."
Plans for the future: "Go to Kirkwood to be a vet tech."



Name: Dalton Ott
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Nothing, I miss Linn Mar) and Triston and Brandon"
Quote or piece of advice: "If you can be good at one thing, be good at lying because if you're good at lying, you're good at everything."
Plans for the future: "To go to college and also play football. After graduating, look into grad school."

Many seniors have very different plans and goals for their futures. Read below and on page 10 to learn more about these interesting people.

SENIOR INTERVIEWS 11



Name: Christian Palmer
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My beloved fiancée Kim Spurlin."
Quote or piece of advice: "Don't be afraid to ride the lightning."
Plans for the future: "Kirkwood then Iowa State for Zoology."



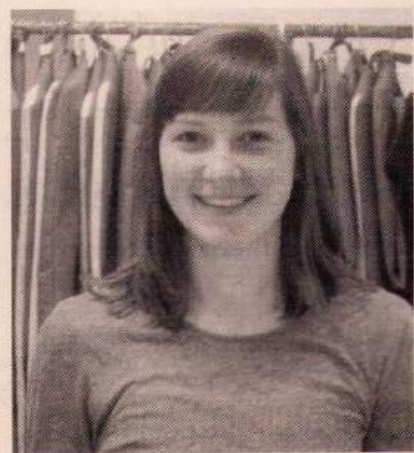
Name: Paige Perkins
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "All the teachers who believed in me and helped me through."
Quote or piece of advice: "Fall down seven times, stand up eight."
Plans for the future: "Play basketball and softball at Loras and major in premed."



Name: Rachel Pearson
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Seeing my friends everyday."
Quote or piece of advice: "Girls, dressing immodestly is like rolling around in manure. Yes, you'll get attention, but mostly from pigs."
Plans for the future: "Go to Kirkwood to be an ultrasound tech and eventually marry my farmer friend."



Name: Dakota Peterson
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Jack Serbousek, Nick Kramer, and Deanna Lala"
Quote or piece of advice: "Not. My. Problem." -Jason Haag
Plans for the future: "Go to the University of Iowa and get my degree."



Name: Amy Pedersen
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My friends in band and choir who are like family to me."
Quote or piece of advice: "No matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."
Plans for the future: "I'm going to attend the University of Iowa and major in English."

Seniors: If you are given a senior interview form, please fill it out and turn it in to the journalism room in the senior interview box. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to fill out and turn them in. It is greatly appreciated. :)



Name: Aubrey Pedersen
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Rainmaker and Laurynn Mossman."
Quote or piece of advice: "Have fun in high school because next thing you know, it'll be over."
Plans for the future: "Attend Luther college and major in Nursing."



Name: Leah Pedersen
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Rainmaker, Fowler, track meets and Laurynn Mossman."
Quote or piece of advice: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." -Albert Einstein
Plans for the future: "Go to Iowa State for criminal justices, become and FBI agent and join the National Guard."



Name: Mickala Pelley
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Coming to school and seeing everyone I grew up with. All my friends basically."
Quote or piece of advice: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13
Plans for the future: "Get my Business Associates at DMACG then attend La James to become a licensed cosmetologist."

GPM Life

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Last minute places to get that perfect Valentine's Day gift

Find great deals and places for Valentine's Day lovers, and hear what some MHS students think of amazing Valentine's Day deals.

By: Kayla Comried [Staff Writer]

Did Valentine's Day come too fast leaving people without a gift for that special someone? Well lucky for them their are still many places with deals.

The first thing to get is some flowers. It just so happens that Valentines day is the most popular holiday to buy not only roses but any flower. At frugal flowers located in Marion rainbow tulips can be delivered to the loved one for only 29.99 or roses can get delivered for only 39.99, but make sure to call soon unless paying for same day delivery isn't a problem. Another place to get great deals on flowers is flower delivery express. Here they deliver an assorted daisy vase for only 25.99 they also deliver roses for 49.99. These places are just two of the many places that deliver on valentines day so be sure to call now and get those flowers.

February 14th, 2013
Is the last day.



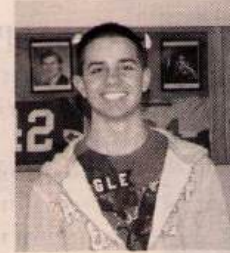
Cupcakes are another thing that can be purchased on valentines day. A great place to get these is Take the Cake Gourmet Cupcakery. They have lots of valentines day cupcakes. So make sure you go there today to get some before they run out.

Lastly, jewelry is a great thing to purchase on Valentine's day. If the cheap route is chosen, Walmart is a great place to get. They have great jewelry for super cheap prices, and this jewelry could easily spark a new relationship. If the relationship is a little bit more advanced then places like Kay Jewelers, Ginsberg Jewelers, or Zales. So go to these places and get that special person some pearls.

So with that love filled day quickly creeping up get out there and get that gift!



"I look for good deals on chocolate because what's nicer than getting a big box of chocolate on Valentine's Day?"
-Riley Peters, '15



"I look for deals on flowers because everybody likes flowers."
-Jacob Davila, '14



"Shoutout to Bobby: I want chocolates and flowers!"
-Tessa Jordan, '16

Slushy sliding sledding places

By: Claire Nash [Photo Editor]

Bowman Woods

It is very easy to find. This hill is just the right size not too big or too small. This is a very bumpy place to sled at. It does have a few trees though that a person could potentially run into so be careful.

Thomas Park

This hill is located over by the trail and football field in Marion. It is the best place to go for beginners. The walk up the hill isn't horrible at all. It is a very smooth ride down.

Squaw Creek

This is a very treacherous and bumpy hill. It's steep and very tiring to walk up, but the ride down is so worth it.

Buying flowers in Cedar Rapids

By: Storm Bogs [Web Editor]

There are many traditions related to Valentines Day. One of the most popular traditions is giving and receiving flowers to loved ones. Buying flowers can be a very easy task, but should be arranged well before the holiday. If someone waits until the last minute to buy flowers, the process can be very stressful and sometimes it might not even be possible to buy flowers after a certain date.

There are a lot of different places to buy flowers in town. Flowers could be bought in a pre-made bouquet at Walmart, or they can be hand picked to create a unique bouquet at places like Flowerama. It all depends on how much time someone has and how creative they want to be with the bouquet. Some other places to buy flowers in Cedar Rapids or Marion include HyVee and All Seasons Weeds Florist. Flowers can even be delivered to a place of work or a home, if an appointment is made in time. Surprising a boyfriend or girlfriend at work with a beautiful bouquet of flowers is a great Valentine's Day present.

Flowers can be very expensive, and not a lot of people can afford them. Especially around Valentines Day, prices of flowers can increase a

lot. Some great, cheap alternatives to buying flowers are candy, making DIY flowers, or going out on a cheap date. Candy is pretty cheap, especially if its bought in bulk. DIY flowers are the cheapest option. A quick Internet search or looking around on Pinterest are great ways to learn how to make DIY flowers. They can easily be personalized to accommodate the likes of each person. While a cheap date on Valentines Day isn't ideal, it is cost effective and may be the only option.

Buying flowers can be quick and easy or stressful depending on when it's done. If it's not done in time, then it might not be possible at all! There are plenty of places around town to buy them too!

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Clayton's Valentines Day blues

Valentine's Day is an upsetting holiday for some students

By: Taylor Lamm [Opinion Editor]



Russell Clayton, senior

Around this time of year most people are making plans for that special day of being in love, but him. To him, this day is just another day to remind him that he is single. Just the thought makes the day a lot less enjoyable.

Russell Clayton, senior, really despises Valentine's Day. Russell has gotten to the point where he has given up trying to do anything special for the day. "I don't like how people seem to get too worked up and too sensual and they don't even know if they will be with each other from now on," Russell stated. He has always wanted to make sure he would spend his Valentine's Day with someone special, even if he has to wait.

This Valentine's Day Russell will have special plans for the day but not like everyone else. "This

year I will be at regionals for bowling, best Valentine's Day of my life... as long as I do well," Russell said. He's very glad he will be able to spend the day with people he enjoys being around, and people who he knows will make the day go by faster.

There is one thing that has caused Russell to become so hateful towards the holiday. "Being best friend zoned, when in a relationship I look for best friend first, lover second," he said. This is a feeling that can always end up upsetting a person. It can be very frustrating to some when it is constantly happening to them.

No matter how much Russell hates Valentine's Day, he's pretty confident that he would like it better if he had someone to spend it with. "If I was in a serious relationship I'm sure I would enjoy Valentine's Day, if I was in a relationship just seeing if it will work between someone and myself I wouldn't like it as much," Russell stated, "but I do like seeing how happy the couples are, and I hope they will stay that happy." This gives him confidence that one day he will come to like the day of love, Valentine's Day.

Teachers: When I was seventeen

Kylie McAllister [Ads Editor]



Chris Martin

Mr. Martin

What did you want to be when you grew up?

"An engineer."

Where did you work?

"I worked in the cemetery, on the grounds."

What is your best memory?

"Game winning shot in basketball."

What did you do for fun? "I played sports and I grew up in a small town so there wasn't much to do."

What kind of car did you have?

"1978 Toyota Corolla, four door and gray."



Mary Weber

Mrs. Weber

What did you want to be when you grew up?

"A teacher."

Where did you work? "I worked for my dad. We had a potato farm so I helped with sorting and shipping."

What is your best memory?

"Going skiing with a bunch of friends."

What did you do for fun?

"I played volleyball and ran track and field."

What kind of car did you have? "An old Ford that my father let me drive on rare occasions."



Pete Messerli

Mr. Messerli

What did you want to be when you grew up?

"A professional golfer."

What is your best memory? "When my basketball team coached by Coach Laube got the school's first winning record in over ten seasons. We were 17-7 and got to the substate finals."

What did you do for fun? "I played sports, went to sporting events, and hung out with friends and my brothers."

Cooties, Crushes, and Candies: Corny Questions and Answers

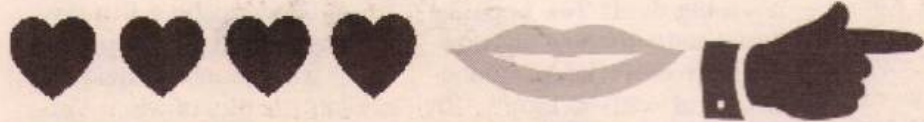
By Claire Nash [Photo Editor]

Isiah Michaca, Sophomore



What he said.

Q: Do you miss getting Valentines like we did back in elementary school?
A: "Yes! Because you got candy from all of your classmates."
Q: Are you a romantic?
A: "I guess you could say I'm romantic."
Q: Who is your celeb crush and why?
A: "Well my celeb crush is Ariana Grande because she's gorgeous and can sing."



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Emilie Reider, Sophomore



What she said.

Q: Do you miss getting Valentines like we did back in elementary school?
A: "Yes, it made me feel loved but now I don't get any."
Q: Are you a romantic?
A: "No, not really."
Q: Who is your celeb crush and why?
A: "My celebrity crush is probably Zack Effron. He is extremely hot and is amazing at everything he does!"

Jacob Kriegel, Freshman



What he said.

Q: Do you miss getting Valentines like we did back in elementary school?
A: "Wait are you implying that I'm the only one that still gets them? kidding* Sure I miss it."
Q: Are you a Romantic?
A: "Am I romantic... Absolutely!"
Q: Describe your dream girl or tell me who your celeb crush is?
A: "My dream girl would have to be my bestfriend, someone I can tell anything to and just have fun with. I'm interested in girls with amazing personalities."



Relationships: going the distance

A freshman couple doesn't let long distance get in the way for them.

Becca Hall [Staff Writer]

Lying on her bed, Katelynn Chalstrom picks up the phone and dials his number. She knows that the guy she is calling isn't from the cedar rapids/Marion area. She smiles as he answers the phone and says, "Hi, Julian!" and the conversation begins.



Katelynn Chalstrom, freshman

Katelynn, man, is dating Julian Wilson, who lives in Amana. Amana is about forty-five minutes away. This is an extra complication in their relationship. Many high schoolers complain about how little time they have to hang out with friends and go on dates with their girlfriends or boyfriends, but Katelynn and Julian have to subtract driving time from the amount of time they can hang out.

Being in a relationship can be hard, but even more challenges arise when you don't even live in the same town. Today's technology is making it easier and easier to meet people and maintain relationships from all over. When Katelynn Chalstrom met her current boyfriend, Julian Wilson, at a wedding, they didn't know they would end up having something special. They realized that they were family friends and they formerly knew each other as little tikes. Katelynn's parents are very supportive of her and Julian's relationship. It has been six months since

they first started dating, and they are still going strong. Some advice Katelynn would give to anyone looking to get in, or anyone currently in, a long distance relationship would be, "Make sure it's where you want to be and don't let the distance get in the way."

When Katelynn and Julian get time to be together, they usually watch movies and cuddle. "We don't see each other often so we have to get out cuddling in," She laughed. Katelynn loves to go bowling with Julian when they get a chance to go on dates. They have a lot of fun together. "He is the kind of person that is fun to be in a relationship with. He does anything to help you out," Katelynn blushed.

Julian and Katelynn's relationship gives hope and inspiration to other couples, both long distance and short distance. Being able to work around complications and "bumps in the road" is a good asset to have in a relationship. This is what keeps the two together.

Surprisingly, Katelynn actually prefers a long distance relationship. The only thing she doesn't like is they don't get to see each other as often. According to Katelynn, long distance relationships have many unknown upsides, "I think you connect on a more emotional front-line than a physical one." Says Katelynn. She also believes that, "if you don't see them as often your relationship will last longer." Though some may see long distance as a disadvantage, Katelynn and Julian like it just fine. The obviously know how to make it work well, too.

"...don't let the distance get in the way."
-Katelynn Chalstrom, '16

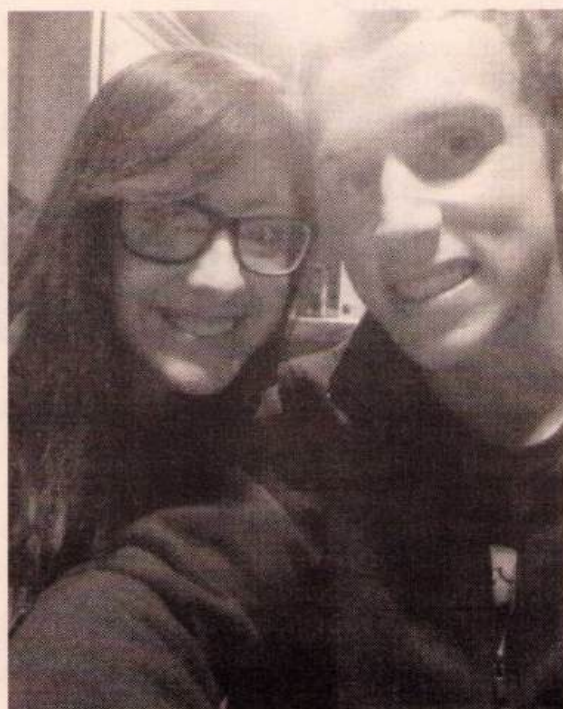
Jordan and Kaela's fun Valentine's Day

By: Haley Shaffer [Social Media Editor]

As Valentine's Day approaches, happy couples make plans for the special day. Even though Valentine's Day is supposed to be a day for showing how much you love someone, most people don't take it as serious as someone's birthday for instance. For most couples, Valentine's Day is simply a day to remind each other how much they care about one another.

Jordan Comried, junior, has been dating Kaela Halverson, freshman, for a little over five months now. "I like her because of her personality, face, eyes, and she is caring," Jordan said.

Jordan said that typically their dates are pretty laid back. "Usually we play zombies or eat ice cream," he commented. For Valentine's Day however, Jordan plans on stepping up a little bit. "We're going to go to a movie and to dinner." Even though that type of date seems cliché, it's actually a pretty expensive date considering for two people to even get into

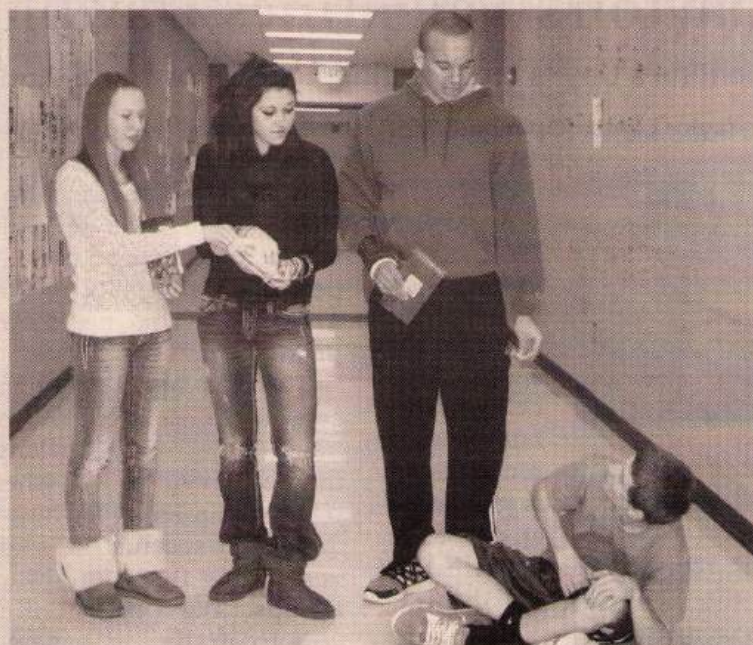


Jordan Comried, '14, and his girlfriend Kaela Halverson, '16 spend time together and take pictures at Jordan's house.

a movie it's about \$20. And then add dinner and a gift, (if they choose to buy one.) "I think that \$50 the limit to spend on Valentine's Day," Jordan said. More money is usually spent for Christmas presents or on birthdays because they are seen as a bigger deal. Valentine's Day is simply a day to for Jordan to show Kaela how much he loves her and for Kaela to do the same for Jordan.

Jordan is excited for Valentine's Day because he knows he will be able to spend valuable time with his girlfriend. Whatever Jordan and Kaela end up doing on Valentine's Day, Jordan knows that they will have a blast because they will be together, and that's better than any movie or gift.

Remember that Valentine's Day isn't about how much money someone spends, it's about being with the person that makes everything better. It's about showing someone else how much you love them and how much they mean to you.



Pros and cons of Valentine's

By Gage Miskimen [Staff Writer]

Valentine's Day is a holiday with mixed-emotions. Some people really enjoy it while others don't care for it at all. But there is good and bad is for everything and Valentine's Day is no exception.

There are some things to really look forward to during the holiday. "I love the candy!" Exclaims DeLaney Fisher, freshman. Candy is a big part of Valentine's Day and Eli Frazier, sophomore agrees. "I like all the chocolate, and seeing the matches on the matchmaker things."

Not everybody looks at Valentine's Day positively. Bobby Vanderlind, freshman, knows his least favorite part of V-Day. "Having to buy stuff for people." Bobby informed. Samantha Livingston, sophomore, had a caring outlook on the day. "The worst part is probably the lonely people that don't have anybody to celebrate the day with."

Valentine's Day can be a big deal to people, or for some, it doesn't matter at all. DeLaney doesn't think it's a big deal. "No, because you waste money on flowers you can't keep." DeLaney said with a laugh. Eli also thinks along the same lines. "I don't think it's a huge deal. Maybe it is for

some people." Samantha has her own opinion. "I would say it's a big deal because recognizing love and relationships is a huge part of everyone's life's." Relationships have an impact on people's lives. People have relationships with everyone they meet, whether it's "love" or just a friend or even someone they met for five seconds, those people have the possibility to effect the individual's lives.

When people think of Valentine's Day, the first thing that usually comes to people's minds are couples and relationships and stuff, but can single people enjoy Valentine's Day too? Bobby doesn't think so. "No, because Valentine's Day is just 'another day' for single people." Eli disagrees, "Yeah, single people can still have fun and hang with friends."

Whether you like it or not, Valentine's Day is a holiday that is noticed and celebrated every year. Everyone has their own pros and cons that go along with it and reasons that they like or dislike the day. Valentine's Day can be a fun day for anybody. It just depends on what each individual person thinks of when Valentine's Day comes around every year. It depends on the person's attitude and



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What does Valentine's Day mean to your fellow classmates

Marion students answer the question "What does Valentine's Day mean to you?" Find out what classmates had to say.

Breiana Brown [Executive Editor]



"Ain't nobody got time for that."
-Karen Nguyen, '13



"It's really stupid beause it makes single people feel left out."
-Abe Flecksing, '13



"Valentine's day is about giving and recieving chocolate and seeing who your secret admirer is."

-Mickenzie Kack, '14



"Valentines day is a cheerful day to celebrate with the ones you love."
-Jacob Klostermann, '14



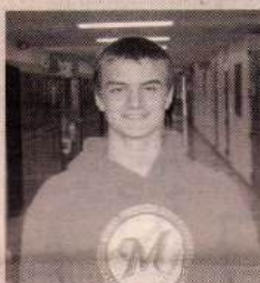
"It means love and happiness and it brings people together."
-Kylie Cooper, '15



"To show somebody how much you love them."
-Devin Quinn, '15



"Spending time with family, friends, and the ones you love."
-Bayley Fuller, '16



"Time to show your love for the people you care about."
-Caleb Stekl, '16

Terrible tragedy tearing teens apart on Valentine's Day

By: Kayla Comried [Staff Writer]

She walks down the hall knowing this Valentine's Day, along with many before, she will be alone. She has a frown on her face but she holds her head high. She knows that although this heart filled day will have to be made special by herself, she can do it. She walks down the hall as an independent women, knowing being alone on Valentine's Day may be a disaster, but it is one that can become better in the future with time.

Peyton Bourgeois is a single sophomore here at MHS. She describes Valentine's Day as a disaster because along with many other people Peyton doesn't have a special someone to spend the love filled day with. "I just don't have a date on Valentines Day just like everyone else," said Peyton with a sad look on her face. One may think not having a date



could change someone's opinion of Valentine's Day, but not Peyton's.

"[It didn't change my opinion] because it is a holiday set up to sell more cards and flowers." With this negative outlook on the holiday Peyton still manages to make it special for herself.

She surely doesn't enjoy Valentine's Day, but she still does the things she would expect a boyfriend to treat her to on Valentine's Day, she just does them alone. "[On Valentine's Day I am] buying myself flowers and taking myself out to dinner." Peyton views not having a date on Valentine's Day as a disaster, but she does not let that stop her from doing the

things she would do with a boy on Valentine's Day.

Even without a boy or date she still has her favorite traditions on Valentine's Day. She enjoys carrying out the special deals on things like pizza. "[My favorite thing to do on Valentine's Day is] eat heart shaped pizzas from Papa

Murphy's." This just proves that even if someone is single for Valentine's Day they can still have a fun day with friends and family.

"It is a holiday set up to sell more cards and flowers."

-Peyton Bourgeois, '15

She continues holding her head high because this Valentine's Day, whether she has a date or goes solo she is going to make it memorable.



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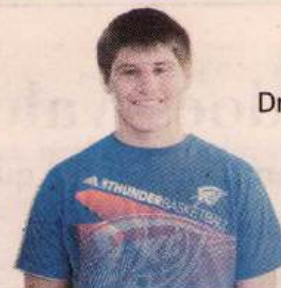
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Where's the Student?

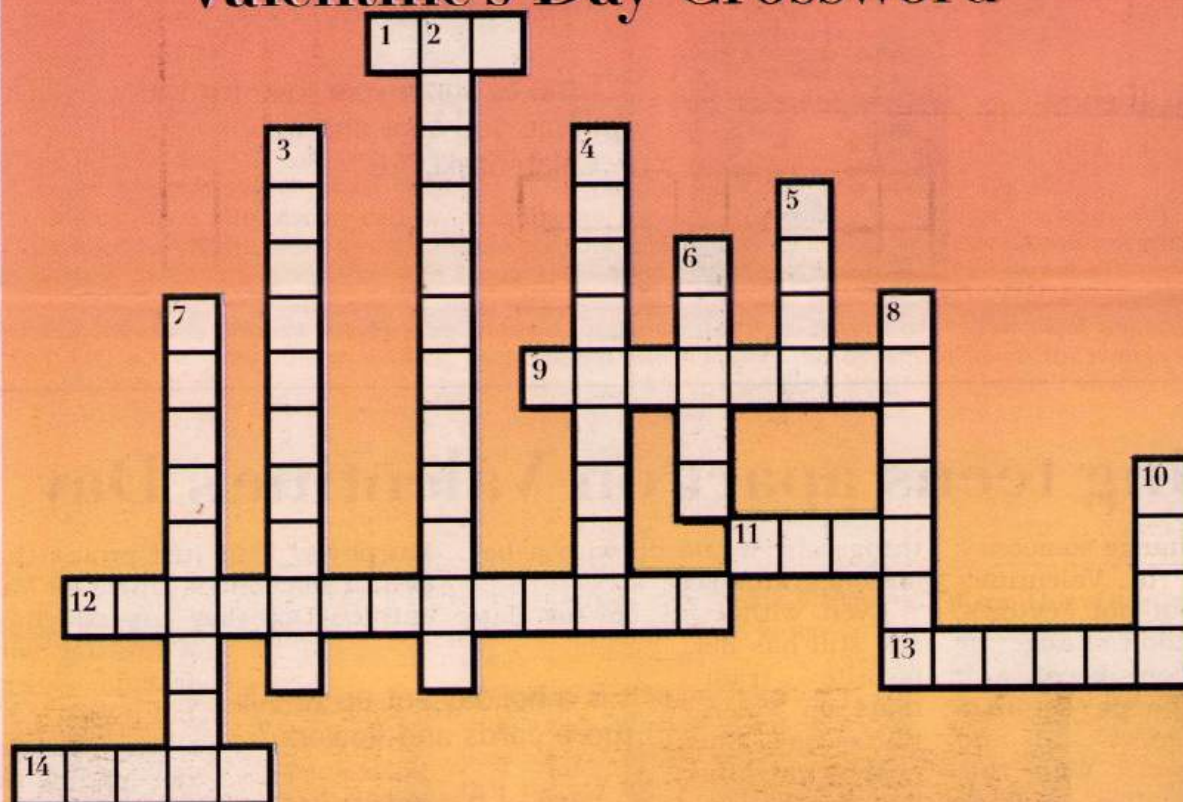
In the, "Where's the Student?" game, the objective is to search for a fellow Marion student in the crowd picture to the left. See if you can find the student before your friends can!



Drew Proska, '14



Valentine's Day Crossword



Across

1. What lonely people do on Valentine's Day
9. What you say "I do" to
11. Represented with a heart
12. February 14th
13. Without a significant other
14. What is spent on Valentine's Day

Down

2. You make these to ensure you have a place to eat
3. Female companion
4. Male companion
5. Chocolate candy/ act of affection
6. Baby with arrows
7. Candy of Valentine's
8. Have petals
10. Number on a calendar

Word Bank

RESERVATIONS
CRY
KISS
SINGLE
GIRLFRIEND
LOVE
PROPOSAL
BOYFRIEND
VALENTINE'S DAY
MONEY
DATE
CUPID
CHOCOLATE
FLOWERS

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