

Ignorance in the Shadows

The thirst for attention brings darkness to the halls of MHS

“Fear is what drives their motivation. Fear consumes their soul. They want others to fear. Their methods are weak, pointless, and damaging; and yet, fear sparks their efforts. They hope to conceal their methods, to hide their motives, and spread fear across the...”

Attention - the driving force of all high school students. Any way they can get it, whether it's positive or negative, they'll dig and find ways to get their name out there.

Certain anonymous pages have plagued Monticello High School. First, there was an Instagram page that was quickly noticed by students and instantaneously taken down by faculty. This sparked a new movement - confessions on every platform. A Snapchat confessions page then added several individuals from Monticello, Blanding, Moab, and even Orem and Logan. Another Snapchat page was created, then another. The plague was spreading rapidly. Students were adding the pages back and replying with hateful anonymous messages. Little did the owner know, these “harmless” confessions were branding students with harsh words that would be hard to get away from.

Of course, there is a balance between positives and negatives. A study done by John Gottoman suggests that the ratio should be 7:1 - seven positive statements to cancel out one negative statement. There is usually a negative aura associated with high school because of the overwhelming stress, which sprouts from attempting to balance hormonal changes, enough homework to keep you busy for weeks, and being involved in every activity. On top of it all lies trying to keep a good reputation. This attempt is jeopardized by these anonymous accounts. No

matter how respectable you think you might be, you could easily get knocked off of that pedestal by one “Yolo” on Snapchat. ONE person’s negative opinion of you could affect the entire student population’s opinion.

On the other side of the spectrum is the owner’s reputation. Creating an account to criticize other students is not the moral way of getting the attention you’re searching for. The overwhelming amount of confessions flooding into your notifications might make you feel like you’re on top of the world, but think about what it’s doing to the students that are the topic of the confessions. Of course, the confessions aren’t necessarily yours, but once people find out who is running the account, it brands you as well. Bullies aren’t exactly well-liked, and that’s the label you’re giving yourself. Nothing good can come from these pages.

Select students at MHS are *dying* for attention. So let’s give them a moment of silence and stop supporting these pages. Instead, leave notes of positivity on the mirrors in the bathroom. Take the time to uplift others. Treat others how you want to be treated, and always remember to cancel out those negatives with millions of positives.