

Lariat

MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL

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VISUAL ARTS PAY DAY

Bowring Brings Home the Gold

by Annsheri Reay

Each year, several seniors choose a scholastic topic that most fully suits their academic proficiency. At the start of their freshman year, they begin to build portfolios using their academic achievements in a prestigious competition against other students in their fields. This competition is known as Sterling Scholar.

Monticello High School's applicants this year featured Izabell Slade, Spencer Squires, Yeni Caranza, Shandon Bradford, Talon Black, Layne Deeter, Jared Crowley, and Easton Bowring. Each of these seniors have dedicated countless hours of work and service to their personal academic and sports records, as

well as the students of MHS and Monticello's general community.

This year's competition results featured our own Layne Deeter and Spencer Squires as runners-up in computer technology and business, with Easton Bowring as Sterling Scholar winner of visual arts!

Easton has been preparing for this competition vigorously over the past four years. Easton states, "I worked tirelessly, focusing mostly on adding pictures of my achievements to my portfolio, entering every art competition possible to boost my credibility. I reached out for something better, and that's exactly what I found."

Through cooperation with passionate teachers and staff, Easton was able to arrange and manage countless community and school events as well as take part in many school clubs, such as Model UN and drama. Using his advanced leadership skills, Easton was diligent in his work, using his hobby in photography to further advocate his talents in the visual arts and document his accomplishments throughout the years.

These past four years have been hectic for Easton, and all of MHS' Sterling Scholars. They have worked through the setbacks, overcome the hardships, and have left a new, brighter legacy of academic excellence for the younger students at MHS to look up to and achieve.

Winning this competition will pay off for Easton. He plans to attend the University of Utah in the fall. He will receive a 1,000 dollars from the Deseret News with another 5,000 dollars annually from the University of Utah for the next four years. Easton's Sterling Scholar portfolio can be viewed on BuckarooNation.com along with the other participants.



DANCING QUEENS LADY VAQUERAS FINISH 3RD AT STATE

by Brynley Bailey

The Lady Vaqueras had an excellent season this year and were able to achieve many of their goals even despite the challenges they faced. Marci McDougall and Yeni Carranza were the senior captains this year and they were happy to lead the team through an excellent season full of dance. Many girls were injured during the season but the team was still able to pull together and place 3rd overall at the 1A State Drill competition. "It was actually our team goal to finish higher than a few teams that had beat us in the past, and we were able to accomplish that team goal," added junior Breanne Slade. They finished behind 1A power-

house Duchesne and newcomer Parowan. They were very proud to represent Monticello High School at the competition and were thrilled with their personal victory. Throughout the whole season, the girls placed in the top five at every competition they attended. They worked long and hard during their early morning and evening practices. The girls feel that they became closer as they fought through the hard times together. When asked about the team, Coach Monique Christiansen said, "This was a great year. I love these girls so much! They worked so hard and put in a lot of effort to make it a successful season. I will miss our seniors deeply and wish the best in their future endeavors."

MAT THAT!

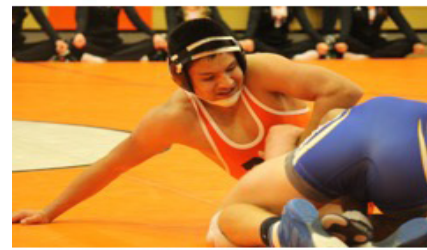
WRESTLING BRINGS HOME CHAMPIONS

by Jake Freestone and Max Hedglin

The 2016-2017 Monticello Wrestling team was led by senior captains Shandon Bradford, Parker Knudsen, and Paul Deanda. The Wrestling team had a very successful season placing 2nd at region and 3rd at state. Younger classmen on the team stepped up big to help the buckaroos to a successful season.

At the state tournament, Senior Shandon Bradford earned his first state championship while his cousin, Zachary Musselman, took first for the 3rd straight time. The team was able to bring

home two first place medals, two second place, and six third place. Although the seniors will be missed, the Buckaroos look forward to a very successful season next year with the help of returning state champion Zachary Musselman and second placer Brayson Wilcox, along with several younger classmen stepping up and making a name for themselves. The Buckaroo seniors were Parker Knudsen, Shandon Bradford, Clayton Westcott, Spencer Squires, Tacovi Warren, and Paul DeAnda.





ALLIE, IZ, AND ATLANTA LADY BUCKAROOS FINISH GREAT SEASON

by Talon Black

The 2016-17 Lady Buckaroos produced a wonderful season, sporting a 19-2 record in the regular season before finishing at 21-4 after the state tournament. The lady Bucks claimed the 4th place spot for the second year in a row. Utilizing an extremely stiff defense, the Lady Bucks gave all region teams a very tough time even putting points on the board. Offensively, the Buckaroos relied heavily on four year starters, Atlanta Black, Allie Maughan, and Izabell Slade, all of which were seniors. Ashley Adair, Alyssa Reeve, Tymbr Black, and Tristen Esplin supplied some very important attributes as well with key minutes off the bench.

Atlanta averaged 18.72 points per game throughout the year, drawing nearly all of opponent's defensive attention. She was invited to and attended the All-State game during spring break. Allie Maughan, arguably one of the best ball handlers in 1A, led the Bucks at the point guard position, averag-

ing 7.62 points per game as well as hitting nine shots from three-point land. Izabell Slade towered over opponents in the post position, working between the blocks. She averaged 6.08 points per game along with the occasional baseline jumper. The Lady Buckaroo's averaged 55 points per game, half of that coming from the three seniors.

The Bucks will be returning Ashley Adair. Ashley started and ran a lot of backup point guard for the Buckaroos, along with a very accurate jump shot. Alyssa Reeve is also returning with a lot of varsity starting experience. She plays very well down in the post position and can hit from just about anywhere inside the arc. Tymbr Black and Tristen Esplin will return with respectable resumes as well, as two of the top contributors coming off the bench. Journey Baird, Shaylin Heart, Ericka Hill, Davi Bowring, Shania Begay, Rianna Shumway, Megan Black, and Brooklyn Holt will also be part of next year's squad.



JAKE FINALLY DUNKS BASKETBALL IS A WRAP!

by Keaton Young

Another ball season is in the books for Monticello High School. They finished the season with a record of 13-11. Not lacking leadership, this Buckaroo squad was only led by two seniors, Carson Duncan (14.9 PPG) and Talon Black (8.7 PPG). The juniors, and upcoming seniors are: Jake Freestone (11.1 PPG), Ryan Bird (4.7 PPG), and Clay Goodwine, with the flaming kicks. The sophomore class consisted of Britton Brewer, Race Young, Spencer Knudsen, Lucas Hatch, Weston Nebeker,

Adam Bunker, and Parker Walker. The freshman group was led by Hyrum Johnson, Dylan Bird, Porter Black, and Aaron Christian-sen. The Bucks will also have their top three point shooters returning next season: Jake Freestone (28), Lucas Hatch (24), and Ryan Bird (17). Unfortunately, at the state competition, the Bucks were unable to place; however, during the last game against Green River, Jake Freestone finally dunked it after a whole season of disappointing his student section.

SNAPCHAT SELFIE REVOLUTION

MHS SHOWS ITS PERSONALITY THROUGH "FILTERED" MOMENTS

Snapchat! An unreasonable way to spend time avoiding school work, parental instructions, and life in general. However unreasonable, snapchat is here and has taken MHS by storm. When asked, students flocked at the opportunity to share their favorite snapchat filter-selfie. Each picture represents the student's personality altered with a touch of a button and provided "filters" from Snapchat.

Here are some statistics that show the rage Snapchat has provided for the American user! Snapchat has over 100 million daily active users! More than half (54 percent) of all Snapchat users log in every day! Snap chatters watch over 10 billion videos per day! More than 400 million Snaps are sent every day and over 8 thousand pictures are shared on Snapchat ever second. Snapchat is the most-used social media platform among 12 to 24 years-olds. 58 percent of high school and college students are more likely to purchase a brand's product or service if they are sent a coupon on Snapchat.

In addition to the convenient nature of sharing pictures, Snapchat offers an easy method of communication between friends. Snapchat keeps statistics, informing participants of their best friends, snap streaks that are earned by snapping day after day without missing one 24-hour period. Impressive snap streaks have been a point of bragging amongst the student body; however, Snapchat reported an impressive streak of 647 days early this year.

Students at Monticello High School were kind enough to share their favorite Snap Chat filters for your entertainment pleasure. Please enjoy and vote for your favorite at Buckaroonation.com



When you do a terrible job but you're still proud



When you just realized you are in love with your best friend's girlfriend **When you turn in one assignment and are expected to turn in another**



MEMES R LYFE KNUDSEN'S TAKE ON SOCIETY

by Parker Knudsen

What role do memes play in modern society? Some could argue that they're political cartoons, some could argue that they are just modern comic strips, but I believe they're more than that. I believe the meme has revolutionized the way we interact with each other and communicate with each other.

No matter what you're looking at you can find a meme that makes fun of it or sings its praises. Memes are definitely political cartoons nowadays. It's impossible to go on the internet and not see some sort of meme criticizing Donald Trump or Mike Pence or the entire presidential Administration. I think that's amazing, it brings to light issues that the American people have in a satirical way. But they're more than that. Memes depict how we feel about the world around us

using humor to mitigate any sort of backlash.

Memes help show us how we feel about issues even if we don't realize it. Memes use humor to make us think, whether it's making fun of student-athletes or the reaction you have to your girl's parents going out of town or on the other end of the spectrum, making fun of the way we speak and current political and social issues, it makes us critically think about the way we move in the world.

Memes are more than just comedy. Memes are more than political cartoons. Memes are the way that people on the internet express feelings of frustration and disapproval, as well as love, caring and genuine happiness. Memes are revolutionizing the way that we communicate in this social media era.

COCKY OR CONFIDENT WHERE DOES ONE DRAW THE LINE?

by Brynley Bailey

A successful student proudly walks up to the stage to receive a well-earned reward for hard work and dedication. A runner takes a victory lap after becoming a state champion in track, and actress takes a bow after an outstanding performance. Are these people cocky? Or are they simply confident in themselves and their accomplishments? This is an ongoing debate, and I feel there are many misunderstandings that fall under this topic. To fully understand the topic, it is important to know what the difference between confidence and cocky is. So, in preparation for this article I did the only smart thing to do.... I googled it! The definition of confident is self-assured.

While the definition for cocky is conceited or arrogant. So according to those definitions the difference between the two is significantly different. It all depends on the motives, and thought processes of the individual. Many

people walk the fine line between confident and cocky, and sometimes it is very difficult for people to distinguish which is which, simply because mind reading isn't possible. The only way you can tell if someone is being cocky is by being inside their head. There is nothing wrong with being confident in yourself, in fact it's healthy. But when that confidence crosses over into cockiness problems are created.

Confidence turns to cockiness the second the motive for why you are celebrating your success changes from, "Gee I'm so glad all my hard work has finally paid off" to "Of course I'm being applauded, I'm so much smarter than everyone in my grade". The misunderstanding come from others assuming they know what is going on inside the person celebrating head. So, next time you get ready to call someone cocky, think twice before making assumptions. Because they very well could just be confident.



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HIT THE WEDGE

A PREVIEW OF ALL SPRING SPORTS

by Easton Bowring

Spring sports are upon us once again! With excitement, energy, and a renewed passion for fighting gale force winds in Monticello, a host of student-athletes are buckling up for a wild ride through track, baseball, and golf.

Head coach Nathan Chamberlain is again leading an assortment of golfers through courses in Green River, Grand Junction, Price, and the beautiful Hideout Golf Course in Monticello. Sophomore Britton Brewer has assumed the role as Monticello's "ace in the hole!"

Coaches Des Esplin and Angie Duncan are leading the charge with the girl's golf team. Alyssa Reeve, Ellie Thayn, Tymber Black, and Nyla Maryboy will represent MHS at the upcoming tournaments hosted by region 19.

Track is an assortment of athletes led by head coach and school counselor Jeff Hunt. Mr. Hunt was out of his office and could not be reached for comment! The boys team will be defending their state championship run from the previous year.

Steve Draper is excited about the baseball squad that him and Ryan Young have assembled for the 2017 season. Seniors Hector Cordova and Paul DeAnda make up the core of a solid squad looking to compete against the evil 2A empire.

All in all, spring sports bring a busy schedule to MHS. Support all Buckaroo endeavors as they work toward accomplishing great things, both in the classroom and on the competitive plane.

LEMONADE AND MURDER

DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS TWO GREAT SHOWS!

by Thomas Anderson

The drama department has decided to do things a little differently this spring. They have decided to put on two plays! The two plays include Lemonade at the Complaint Department, and Murder at the Pie Auction. The head honcho of such performances is none other than the legendary Mrs. Boyle, with Brynley Bailey as assistant/student head honcho.

The Region Drama competition will be held in Green River on March 28. Murder at the Pie Auction will be competing in the competition. However, both

plays are fantastic! Lemonade at the Complaint Department, will be performing first and details interesting experiences that can occur at a complaint department. Murder at the Pie Auction discusses a murder that happens at a Pie Auction. It will be a lot of fun with a lot of laughs!

The two plays will perform on March 30th and 31st at 7 PM! Lemonade and Pie will be served so feel free to enjoy yourself! Come support the drama department and appreciate all the hard work that has gone into creating such a fantastic display!



COMMON ROYALTY MHS MOST PREFERRED MAN

by Annsheri Reay

On January 25th, the student body came together in the auditorium, prepared for a subtly entertaining assembly to take place. Unbeknownst to both students and staff members, the entire audience was in for one of the crazier experiences of their lives.

The Most Preferred Man assembly of 2017 was one that will not soon be forgotten. The talents featured that afternoon were inspired, to say the least, ranging anywhere from onstage cooking to theatrical renditions of the potential awkwardness of having a movie theatre date. The results of the competition featured Connor Lewis as

Mr. Congeniality for his drone footage compilation, Easton Bowring as Second Attendant for his skit on awkward movie theatre dating, Parker Knudsen as First Attendant for his skills as a five star, impromptu chef, and Shandon Bradford as the Most Preferred Man at MHS for his portrayal of the evolution of dancing.

The contestants worked hard on their talents, and the Winter Homecoming Royalty earned a full week of fame and fortune. Although they aren't the most refined individuals in our school, the royalty proved they belonged in their true callings as princes of the universe.



March 30th and 31st

Monticello High School
presents...

Murder at the Pie Auction
and

Lemonade at the Complaint Department

7 p.m.

MHS CELEBRITY COUPLES

A CLEAR AND PRECISE UPDATE ON ALL THINGS PERTINENT

by Breanne Slade

1.) Josie and Britton

This deeply intricate situation was first founded upon the night of Powder Puff football. Poor Britton was left spell bound after a stunning Miss Josie Duke. The two have recently been awarded "Couple Most Likely to Get Married," by their fellow students at MHS and are currently going strong. When asked about their current status, Britton was left with one word: Lovers.

2.) Josie and Kelyn

This back-and-forth relationship consists entirely of competitive motions, derived from Kelyn and Britton as they both fight for the hand of Miss Josie Duke. This love triangle allows for only the most elaborate of pick-up lines. Kelyn: "Josie may I borrow your cell phone? I'd like to call God and let him know I've found his missing angel." When asked about the status of their relationship, Josie wished to add no comment. Her partner, however, left the following remark, "It's lit, very engaged, and not complicated at all. Back off Britton!"

3.) Hector and Ashton

These stunning individuals have truly found their soul mates among the halls of MHS. Anyone to stumble upon this relationship can clearly see the tender embrace of Ashton smacking Hector, and his retaliation of sarcastic comments. To state clearly, this couple is one of the utmost outward affection. When asked about their status, Ashton stated, "He's going to get a job and send the money home to me." Basically, this couple can be characterized in one simple word: Heated.

4.) Race and Shaelyn

For nearly two months now, the students at MHS have eagerly awaited the relationship status of a

Mr. Race Young and Shaelyn Hart.

When asked about this delicate situation, Race was left frankly speechless. "Shae can answer for me." Miss Hart characterized their relationship as, "Just Friends, but not... ;)" This couple has been grappling at our hearts as we continuously try to speculate just what is happening there. The couple remained mysterious throughout the interview, however, and released that the most "coupley" thing they've done, is wax each other's eyebrows. Status: Depends on the day.

5.) Alyssa and Justin

MHS is proud to represent its star couple: Alyssa and Justin. This timeless relationship has truly made our 2017 school year one to remember, as we all witnessed the coming together of our favorite couple! These darling individuals can easily be spotted holding hands and cracking a joke. Can You Feel the Love Tonight softly plays in the background whenever they enter a room. When asked about their status, Justin had one simple word: Lovers. It's clear, everyone's favorite couple is going strong!

6.) Keaton and Connor

This popular couple has been in it for the long haul. Nearly two years together and still going strong! When asked what brought them together, Keaton responded with the phrase, "He's a cute kid! While everyone else liked Sony, Connor liked Microsoft." This couple enjoys the various activities of stargazing and extenuous Xbox marathons. When asked for their status, Connor explain: "First Keaton will pay off his fines, then he'll buy me a ring!"

7.) Gage and Himself

Mr. Gage Wilcox has been in a certifiably sophisticated relationship

with himself for many years now. Where did the attraction first begin? Birth. Gage enjoys messing around and cracking jokes. "Anyone is invited to join my relationship, it's open and free." When asked what he loves most about his partner, he responded with, "I'm freaking hot!" Quietly simply, this relationship can be stasured as: Saucy.

8.) Weston and Morgan

It is unclear who exactly makes the decisions in this relationship. Both individuals seem to be rather bold and compelling. The couple first got together after Miss Maloy vigorously approached Weston Nebeker and demanded for his number. The couple has been going strong ever since. What makes them such a great couple, you may ask? The long walks to band or choir of course! Miss Malloy has not ceased in her efforts to escort Mr. Nebeker to the band room and fearlessly protect him from any danger in the luminous halls of MHS. Couple Status: Just Wonderful.

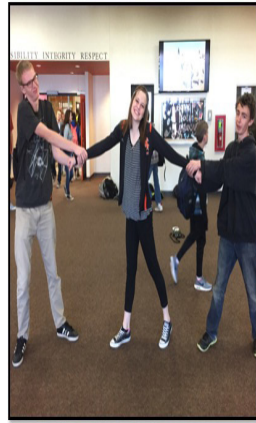
9.) Izabell and Spencer

This relationship was abruptly

sprung into our lives through the event of a promposal. No one is quite certain just where this couple came from or where they are going. All we know for sure is, we're in for a great ride! What first attracted Miss Izabell Slade to the lanky, carefree sophomore? "It was his giraffe shirt. The symbolic nature of a headless giraffe brought me to my lover's wit. He also looks fabulous in a tiara." Spencer, however, was simply seduced by her perplexing dance moves. This couple's status: Enchanting.

10.) Izabell and Breanne

Truly, the most underrated, and yet iconic couple at MHS is Izabell and Breanne Slade. They are, in fact, so underrated, that some people fail to realize that they are sisters. Their relationship began a decade and a half ago, and is still flourishing. Breanne's favorite thing about Izabell? She always puts Breanne in the best headlocks. Izabell and Breanne's most coupley moment occurred just last week, as they held hands during the duration of Pretty Woman (the TV version). Couple status: Everlasting.





WAITING FOR SUPERMAN MY ABILITY TO AVOID WITH THE BEST OF THEM!

Editor: Izabell Slade

Hi, my name is Izabell Slade and I am a repeat evader. "But Izabell, what on earth is an evader?" You might ask. Well, Dictionary.com gives five definitions for the word "evasion." 1. an act or instance of escaping, avoiding, or shirking something 2. the avoiding of an argument, accusation, question, or the like, as by a subterfuge 3. a means of evading; subterfuge; an excuse or trick to avoid or get around something: 4. physical or mental escape. 5. An act or instance of violating the tax laws by failing or refusing to pay all or part of one's taxes.

I admit, I am guilty of 4 out of the 5 definitions list-

ed (No comment on which four). I have used evasion in a variety of situations. Have homework I need to get done? Clean my room instead! Get asked an awkward question that I don't want to answer? Simply look out the window with a longing stare.

Despite my many conquests of classic avoidance, on March 24th (the day of prom), I achieved my biggest feat in the art of evasion. After returning home from state basketball, I came home to an enchanting promposal from the Mr. Spencer Knudsen himself. I was truly dazzled as I popped balloon after balloon to find the long await-

ed "PROM?" message.

The pressure of being asked was lifted from my shoulders and quickly replaced with a new pressure, how am I going to answer him? I scoured the depths of Pinterest looking for a fresh take on a bombarded social occasion with years of faded tradition. As I struggled to find an exhilarating promposal, I became discouraged and pulled out my best coping skill, evasion. For a solid month, I skirted around the idea of prom.

As I woke up on the morning of March 24th, I ran through the schedule of my day and realized that it was, in fact, prom. The sinking feeling that comes with forgetting to do something overtook my body. I never answered Spencer! As I silently rebuked myself,

I formed a plan of action at the same time. I'd keep it simple, and boy, would I make it punny.

I created a poster that read, "I know there's not much "thyme" until prom, but I thought you'd need an o'"Fish" al answer! Yes!" Included in the poster was a small jar of thyme and a package of Swedish Fish (as pictured above).

My prom date felt proud at this moment, and somewhat relieved that his efforts had not gone to waste. He had patiently waited, through fear and uncertainty, but as faithful as a little puppy, for my response. He was a victim of my need to avoid! Spencer's friend and teammate Adam Bunker, when asked his thoughts on the late response, noted, "That would be horrible!" All in all, it all worked out! It usually does, except for when it doesn't.

HUGS ARE FREE PARENTS; HUG YOUR TEEN TODAY

by Erin Rogers

In today's society, teenagers are constantly under attack by their own emotions. Whether they be positive and uplifting or negative and undermining, they are constantly hit by every angle. Such feelings can arise from gossip, failing a test, school work, lack of emotional support, being rejected by that certain someone or just not getting enough sleep. Whatever the case may be, these feelings of remorse and self-doubt seldom ever leave the mind of a teenager.

One of the leading causes of emotional stress is rejection. Throughout the daily life of a teenager, they face countless opportunities to encounter such possibilities. Rejection comes in many shapes and sizes, which lead to a wide variety of how teens can handle these feelings. Of the many ways to cope with the situation, some individuals will interpret this rejection as an opportunity to become better, and to grow stronger. Others, however, allow the feelings of self-doubt to mentally destroy them and wallow in their grief. The effect this plays on a teen is massive. The emotions one has can determine their everyday decisions and actions. Teenagers lives revolve around what their heart is deciding which is often why our decisions seem irrational and poorly thought out.

Another major factor that plays into the emotional instability of teenagers is the amount of stress they are under. A survey conducted by the American Psychology Association discovered that teenagers who responded to the

survey said they are experiencing what they think are unhealthy levels of stress, especially during the school year. Finding the best possible solution to managing this stress and heightened emotion is a goal for many worldwide. So, what can be done? Obviously, a healthy solution that will enable teenagers to deal with these emotions needs to be found.

Outside perspectives such as parents, teachers, and other adult influences can transform teens ability to handle their stress. Parents especially can provide a stable foundation for teens to come home to and release coped up emotions.

However, according to Selina Oliver, a school psychologists at Chesapeake High School in Pasadena, Maryland, "Adolescents now are becoming individuals – they don't necessarily want their parents' and teachers' help so they have more opportunities to experience failure and then they want to try and manage that on their own." Teens may not want the guidance from parents due to their desire to be their own person. They want to handle what life throws at them on their own and become successful adults.

Nonetheless, as grown up as teens try to be, they can easily be brought back childhood by a simple embrace from a loved one. A steady physical show of affection can release stress. The best remedy can be narrowed down to a brief idea according to Oliver, "One thing parents can do in the immediate aftermath of a rejection is simple. Give your kid a hug."



POWERLESS TEEN ADVICE ON HOW TO BATTLE DEPRESSION

by Parker Knudsen

Teens often get stuck in negative cycle of rejection that can lead to depression in serious cases. These feelings can be similar to those they have after a death or after realizing a life dream is unattainable in some ways, she says, which can result in teens feeling powerless or as if they've lost control. According to Alexandra Pannoni, an educational columnist for U.S. News, "When kids feel powerless, they feel worthless and when they feel worthless, they often feel hopeless." Often teens are unprepared to deal with the enormous amount of emotional stress.

Depression is something that a lot of people will have to deal with at some point in their life and teaching teens to deal with emotional anxiety and depression. Depression is a real, treatable brain illness, or health problem. Depression can be caused by big transitions in life, stress, or changes in your body's chemicals that affect your thoughts and moods. Depression can run in families. Depression is a mental illness that we should educate ourselves about more. The stigma around having depression is insane. It is an illness that we should be tolerant and aware of.

Teens are under more pressure than almost anyone else in society. They are told that everything they do will either make their life better or ruin it. Often times

teens can lose all sense of perspective. Pannoni adds, "The main strategy parents can use to help their teen manage rejection is to reinforce the idea that hope still exists." When teens lose this sense of perspective they often lose all hope and motivation. Teens need to remember that there is hope. There are many ways to deal with depression. The National Institute of Health suggests daily exercise, getting enough sleep, spending time outside in nature and in the sun, or eating healthy foods can also help you feel better. Your counselor may teach you how to be aware of your feelings and teach you relaxation techniques. Use these when you start feeling down or upset. Try to spend time with supportive family members. Talking with your parents, guardian, or other family members who listen and care about you gives you support and they can make you laugh. Try to get out with friends and try fun things that help you express yourself.

If depression or any sort of hopelessness has affected you then you should talk to someone and try to figure out a way to feel better and be healthy. There is no problem with talking to a mental health professional and solving the problems that you may have.

EVERYONE SHOULD BE A WINNER BUT NOT IN THE EYES OF A SPECTATOR

by Easton Bowring

There is a problem with our society. We have reached a point where we feel that everyone's a winner, and that we are all equal. No matter how much, or how little effort you put into something, you are a winner. This is affecting our education system, friendships and lifestyles.

Being a senior at Monticello High School, it is apparent the many students put in the minimum effort in earning their high school diploma. Receiving a high school diploma is not worth anything in our modern era. We have made it so easy to achieve simply because we want everyone to be a winner. Consequently, students are putting in little effort and still being pushed along. Are we afraid to fail someone? Are we trying to make everyone feel good about themselves by allowing them to put in minimal effort but still be awarded for it?

A student might ask, "Can I miss school and still pass?" The problem stems from the probability of that answer being yes! Students are going over their allotted tardies and absences and are not facing many, if any at all, the consequences meant for deterring such behavior. If we don't follow rules, then why do we have them?

Then there are the students who put effort into everything they do and they achieve outstandingly. But there is a limit of how much you can achieve until the spectators no longer view your achievements as a success but instead view you as a recipient of a hand out.

There are students who put hours of hard work and dedication into their dreams. They take the necessary steps to reach their goals. Many of them get awarded along the way because of the time and commitment they have put into the work. They receive public recognition for a short time, and then it becomes natural to the spectators.

They think the hard working; dedicated individual is simple receiving things that they did not earn. We view these successful people as "teacher's pets" or as someone who gets whatever they want. In reality, they have done the work to earn all that they have achieved.

The different between the two students is one is putting 10% effort into their work while the other student is putting in 100% effort. We are congratulating the 10% student for a job well done and minimizing the accomplishments of the other. We don't recognize the failures and shortcomings of the 10 percent students, but actively expect miracles and amazement from the other. When the hardworking student falls short, the criticism is high. We should start rewarding and congratulating the individuals who are working overtime to try and create a better lifestyle for themselves. We should not discriminate against them for the honors and awards that they have received. They have worked for it, and we should recognize and accept their accomplishments. We should no longer congratulate those who put 10% effort in, but encourage them to work harder.

Our society has everything turned around. Everyone should have equal opportunity to achieve something, but not everyone is equal. We should not hand out passing grades to sloughing students and gold medals to every participant on the basketball court. We should be continuously honoring those who put in the work and effort to create a better lifestyle for themselves. The U.S. Constitution guarantees equal opportunity, not equal outcome. We have become lost. We don't want to hurt feelings resulting in a sense of apathy that is crushing the work ethic of society. We need to realize that those who achieve much, have put much into their achievements.



SHOELACES EVERYWHERE THE INCOVENIENT NATURE OF THE SHOELACE

by Annsheri Reay

Shoelaces. The number one vexation plaguing our society today. The unseen adversaries contorted around our feet. The underestimated force that, when allied with the weight of gravity (no pun intended), is responsible for thousands of bone-shattering falls each day. No matter how many times you seem to knot the laces, whether it be a double, triple, or even quadruple knot, those laces never seem to stay tied for long; however, before we can get to keeping our shoes tied, we have to go through the idea of how to actually reach your shoelaces.

Shoelaces are placed inconveniently at the bottom of one's body. This means that if a person wants to reach them, he or she either has to strain his or her back and hamstrings bend completely over, he or she has to squat down and place unnecessary strain on his or her knees, or he or she has to find a convenient place to sit down which, if required during a fun night out in the middle of a crowded city, can be incredibly bothersome and near impossible.

If an individual wishes to avoid such a cumbersome accommodation, he or she can always try to

convince a friend to crouch down and tie his or her laces for him or her. (So... Many... PRONOUNS!) Unfortunately, that means placing unnecessary strain on another individual's body, and none of us are really that heartless... right? (Oh, who am I kidding? Of course we are! I mean, have you met my generation?)

Assuming you somehow manage to get your shoelaces tied securely enough for them to remain out of the way for a short period of time, every step you take is still mocked by the plastic resonance of the shiny aglet (a term we all recognize from a popular episode of Phineas and Ferb) on the end of the lace striking the solid top of your shoe. It is possible to remove this burden, but then you run the risk of your entire shoelace unravelling. Thus we fall victim to yet another inconvenience of shoelaces.

Overall, shoelaces are simply the unrecognized villains of today; however, there are very few alternatives to laces. It's not like velcro straps are any better! After so many uses, those straps lose their stickiness. After velcro has been eliminated, unless you have a zipper, that is, your shoes are doomed to come flying off at the merest twitch of your foot. It's time to face the inevitable truth: slip on shoes are now the future.

HOPES, DREAMS, AND STYLES

PLENTY OF DIVERSITY TO BE FOUND AT MHS

by Brynley Bailey

The definition of diversity is variety, or different. In our world diversity is all around us, in every situation. Normally when someone talks about diversity they are referring differences in race, which is correct. But there are different kinds of diversity in the world. Like diversity in height, in interests, even in styles of clothes! So, when someone says: "Monticello High School isn't diverse," that is a lie. There is diversity all over the place.

We have students from the age of twelve all the way up to the age of eighteen. We have students involved in all sorts of different activities and sports. Diversity is what makes society work. If everyone was the same, then we would live in a world

full of doctors or a world full of lawyers, and absolutely no firefighters or teachers (especially teachers for they define "different!" This scenario would create a huge problem!

For society to work, there needs to be diversity. So, when people think that being diverse is a bad thing, I beg to differ, what's the fun in living in a world where everyone is exactly the same? There wouldn't be anything to figure out or get to know about people because everyone you met would be exactly like you. Diversity in all forms is a good thing. So, next time you walk down the grand halls of Monticello High School, take a moment to appreciate the vast diversity that is found among our students.



DIVERSITY IS.....?

MHS EXPLORES THE STEREOTYPICAL MAJORITY

by Annsheri Reay

According to the Webster Dictionary, diversity is defined as "a range of different things". In society, diversity usually pertains to the racial variety of the citizens in a community; however, in our small town of Monticello, racial variation is limited, but the range of habitual options is rich and thick. In Monticello, each person has a preference as to whether they are more academically, socially, artfully, or athletically inclined, and within each of those categories are hundreds of sub categories where a person can find individuality and his or her own little area of expertise.

High diversity in a society can expand the understanding of different cultures, preferences, and personalities. In a city, it can strengthen relationships between those of differing opinions, which is especially useful in environments like high school where stereotypes run rampant as the leading outlets for the student body. This allows students to find their own identities without feeling attacked by a stereotypical majority. Variety in options for a person to create who he or she is assists in a secure feeling of individuality without a sense of

loneliness or the idea of being too "different", because everyone has the opportunity to create who he or she wants to become.

As a nation, diversity is a popular controversial subject. Some citizens would argue there is far too much leniency on diversity while others would claim that there is not enough. Even today, we face a new executive restriction on travel between the United States and some specific countries. This delegation was received with mixed responses as our national diversity is what allows us to understand and show our respect for other nations and cultures, as well as celebrate our differences as individuals and societies.'

On a global level, differences in nationalities and traditions allow for a richer understanding and tolerance of differentiating values between countries or even communities. It affects everyone as a whole and creates opportunities for individuals to discover new ideas and beliefs and change themselves to become the most perfect version of who they want to be.

