Bostongate?

By William Xiang

Amidst a disappointing, whirlwind conclusion to another otherwise-successful basketball season, suspicion and doubt began to creep into the minds of many concerning the eligibility of several prominent members of Memorial's starting lineup. Controversy surrounded them throughout their journey to the State semifinals and often it became unclear whether Memorial's on-court or off-court performances were more prominent. The obvious, pressing question became: How did this infamy come to pass?

Let’s flash back to January. Jamar Morris and Junior Lomomba, both stars on Memorial’s much-celebrated basketball squad, received citations for a price-cutting scheme at the Boston Store on January 21, in which they collaborated with Max Genin and Lavelle Nash, both employees at the time, to purchase hundreds of dollars’ worth of clothing for just a fraction of that cost. After receiving their citations from the police, they immediately turned themselves in to Athletic Director Tim Ritchie and Principal Bruce Dahmen, explained their misstep clearly and concisely, and gave themselves up to the jurisdiction of the MMSD athletic board. After this incident, further investigation revealed that Brendan Ortiz and Dewey Carpenter, two more members of Memorial’s team, had also been involved and were charged accordingly with retail theft and put through this situation falls under the jurisdiction of the state, one of the most notable components of the stateحد been. This discrepancy between the times of the charges explains why Morris and Lomomba served their suspensions from February 3 against Sun Prairie, while Ortiz sat later, against Beloit Memorial on February 17.

Now, this one-game suspension rightfully seems fairly paltry for the actions committed. Shouldn’t they have been suspended for much longer periods of time? It is hard to even read the expected suspension time period could result in great indignation on their part later if, following the court trials, the appropriate punishment would have merely been a one-game suspension. In closing, these athletes clearly made a regrettable mistake by attempting to cheat the system. Did it work out in their favor? There is no question that the media coverage has been over the top. Regardless of the newspaper’s coverage, it has been quite integral in shaping the image of these athletes, who have reputations that are sure to garner even more scrutiny in the future.

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The Student Section is Golden!

Photos by Arcadia Katzenberger

Far Top: Paul Blazevich leads the student section through “rollercoaster”
Top Left: the triumphant front row, Top Right: Our cheer girls can jump! Above Left: Jamar “Popcorn” Morris. Above Right: Student section “Ohhhs”
More State Game & Student Section

Top: Kevin Wilke-Nadler, Paul Blazevich, Max Genin, Nate Kipfer, Rob Sanchez, Left: Basketball player #33 with Brendan Ortiz, Right; Poms performs.

Top Left: The Memorial Band know how to liven up a crowd!

Top: Patrick Surtees and David Whayland show Spartan love, as does the basketball team in huddle (Left). Below: fans united in cheer!

Bottom: Sam Helle

Below: Cheerleaders doing stunts!

Right Bottom: Maria Vizcarra

Congratulations to the all-conference selections for JMM boys basketball conferences for the 2011-12 season. Second team: Ngjilol Songolo, sr., Madison Memorial; Third team: Jester Weah, jr., Madison Memorial.

Left: Jester Weah, Jr.
Bottom: Sam Helle

SPARTAN PRIDE!

Introducing a new Cartoon by Lydia Snyder

Meet Jerry
Technology: Coming to a Classroom Near You!
by Julia Kroll

Memorial has been led into the twenty-first century at last, thanks to a WTI Lighthouse grant from the TOSA Foundation as a part of the Wisconsin Technology Initiative. JMM was awarded $150,000 to purchase thirty sets of Promethean boards accompanied by data projectors, document cameras, and student response clickers.

Promethean boards are, most simply, digital whiteboards. They can be written on with special “pens” (or styluses), which is even more admirable when done by their ability to sync with computers to display typed material. The boards allow for more hands-on learning in many subjects, as students can mark up text on the boards in English, write and draw with various colors for both art and science classes, and solve equations in math, along with much more. Mr. Hodgson, a math teacher who is also part of the Computer Technology Committee at Memorial, acknowledges that the “upgrade is a big bonus” and hopes that it makes “teaching and learning more interactive.” He especially wants to see students (not just teachers) enjoying the Promethean boards, and to have the new equipment treated well.

To receive a Promethean board, teachers had to complete an application and be selected by the Computer Technology Committee, which chose from a pool of over fifty applicants for the twenty-nine available boards (one is in the LMC). Mr. Hodgson says that the committee looked for teachers who will use the boards to their highest potential, and not just as expensive white boards or projector screens. Teachers must be familiar with technology and also be willing to go through thirty unpaid hours of training.

The technology grants are separate from the new computers and operating systems in the LMC, classrooms, and computer labs. These upgrades were made possible with $163,000 from the Madison Metropolitan School District’s budget and a tax on communication (such as phones) which collects money for the Common School Fund, providing state funding for school libraries.

But this grant may be only the beginning for Memorial; Mr. Hodgson says that the school will apply for another grant next year, with the ultimate goal of having a Promethean board in every classroom that would find it useful. For seniors this impressive upgrade arrives a few years too late, but for underclassmen it is an exciting development in what may finally become a technology-friendly school.

Experiencing Linsanity
By: Christina Ma

In March, I went to my first NBA game, the Bucks vs. Knicks. I just went because my mother, a die-hard Jeremy Lin fan, had decided to go in a group with some family friends. I myself had been hearing about how humble, hard-working, and faithful Jeremy Lin was from my mother every day for the entire week and was quite irritated. Finally, upon hearing that he appeared in a couple of KevJumba videos, I decided to look him up. After watching highlights for a while, I got pumped for the game.

As soon as I stumbled into the stadium, I scoped out my mother’s beloved Jeremy Lin. Honestly, I had no idea who any of the other players were. I found myself taking a large number of pictures of the back of Jeremy Lin’s head, as he was sitting down and happened to be facing the exact opposite direction I needed to get a good picture for this article. After unsuccessfully trying to take pictures of him running around the court, I finally settled down and simply let the hype of the crowd engulf me. Here in the stadium, I was surrounded by a number of other Asians donning Lin jerseys. The crowd was completely engrossed in the game, but I was slightly disappointed at the beginning. I knew little about basketball and only ever watched Jeremy Lin’s highlights. After watching clips of awesomeness like spin moves and 3-pointers, I expected to be blown away by his playing. Weirdly enough, the ball wasn’t always in his hands, and he wasn’t scoring half of the team’s total points like I imagined he would be. Instead, he was constantly making assists. Gradually I realized it wasn’t all about scoring, but getting the ball anywhere near the range for shooting was just as important. It was a great game, despite the fact that the Knicks spent most of the game trailing just behind the Bucks. In the end, the Knicks lost by only five points.

Back home, I continued to search Lin up, and learned his entire “Linderella story”. As a player that had previously been cut by two NBA teams, his talent was finally discovered when injuries put the Knicks into a desperate situation, and gave Lin a chance. He then dazzled the nation with his incredible talent, catapulted himself to the top, and won the hearts of millions. So why, specifically, does everyone love Jeremy Lin? Though Linsanity has died down significantly since the Knicks had their 7-game winning streak, there’s still much to learn from Lin’s story besides a bunch of bad puns. Jeremy is a real-life example of someone whose dream came true. His story is a reminder that we should continue to believe. Believe that someday, despite any not-so-happy position we may be in now, things will get better.

Foreign Language Student of the Month:
Ruben Bolivar
I was born into a Spanish-speaking family. I was fluent in both Spanish and English by the time I started Kindergarten. Because I grew up speaking two languages, learning new ones are very easy for me. At Memorial, I took French for two years and I have been in German for three. I was motivated last year to continue pursuing my German studies due to the impact of the German exchange students. I would like to visit France and Germany to practice my skills and further improve them.

Volunteer Day Recap

- A total of 55 students from Memorial High and LaFollette High spent part of their day off of school volunteering.
- 3 events were coordinated on Friday, Feb. 24.
- 21 students went to Second Harvest Foodbank’s Warehouse and repackaged rice into family sized portions. They processed 5,060 pounds of food, equivalent to 4,217 meals.
- 34 students went to the 2 shifts at Rotary Books for the World warehouse and sorted donated books to be sent to Africa and Central America. The groups completed a total of 7 pallets @ 36 boxes per pallet x720 books per= 5,040 books; 10/lb.x 14,000 lbs= $140,000 approximate value.
- Six SCU employees and 1 member also helped out.
Horoscopes for APRIL by Madeline Vogel

**Aries** (Mar 21 - Apr 19) If your birthday happens to be April 10th, you are an astounding person who has the most amazing date of birth in all the land.

**Taurus** (April 20 - May 20) Your birthday is coming up in a few weeks, just in case you didn’t notice.

**Gemini** (May 21 - June 20) You’re feeling overwhelmed with the new school work you’ve been given after your well deserved break!

**Cancer** (June 21 - Jul 22) Your energy level is abnormally spiked today. Carpe diem and do work, son!

**Leo** (July 23 - Aug 22) Slather on that tanning lotion and lay in the sun: Ahh how you’ve missed sunlight.

**Scorpio** (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You’re gonna see that Facebook creeper in person today. Avoid eye contact and speed-walk away.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Today is the day to take some time and reminisce with your friends.

**Capricorn** (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Be in the present and accept what card you have been dealt.

**Aquarius** (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Go with your gut on the conflict you’re feeling today. You won’t regret it.

**Pisces** (Feb 19 - Mar 20) Go look through your middle school yearbook. Get ready to cringe.

**Virgo** (Aug 23 - Sept 22) Today is the day to reconnect with what is important to you and your family.

**Libra** (Sept 23 - Oct 22) Go buy everyone who has a birthday on April 10th a present. Preferably food. Baked goods are always lovely...

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I first took Ceramics and Sculpture as a freshman, and since then my interest in ceramic art has blossomed into a full-fledged passion. I find myself fascinated not only with clay’s accessibility as a medium, but with the mechanics of clay and the science of ceramics as well. Just the thought that in a matter of hours, we can take a substance which is essentially mud that has formed over millions of years and revert it back to its original stone-like state amazes me. When I first started to get the hang of throwing, I was shown that art can be just as functional as it is beautiful, and that using your own creations on a daily basis is immensely gratifying. Art has been a major influence on my life, not only because it is an outlet for creativity, but also because the collection of people that it brings together is so unique. Especially within the ceramics community, there is such a strong connection between fellow artists, regardless of experience. There is a collective need to share our creations, our successes, our failures, and our inspiration. I think that I’ve found a home with this community, and I hope to be a part of it for the rest of my life.

The teachers here at Memorial are truly some of the most outstanding people that I have ever met, and I want to thank them for sharing their treasure trove of knowledge and experience with me.

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**Artist of the Month:** Danny Gray

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“I’m pretty sure it’s the invention of *The Brave Little Toaster.*” — Alex Karr

“I’ll have to go with *Project X.* I have a lot of experience in Thomas’s position.” — Paul Blazevich

“I want my life to be like *Babies,* and *Toy Story* 3 describes my life.” — Aaron Durlaf

“*Beauty and the Beast* but I’m the Beauty.” — Alex Cramer

“The Muppets describes my life because my best friend is a muppet. Walter is Zach Schultz and my Girlfriend, Marlene Jones, and I are Miss Piggy and Kermit.” — Jack Feria

“I wish *Matilda* was my life.” — Johanna Novich Leonard

“*Tangled* because I have long blonde hair & I like to sing & dance around outside.” — Cora Collins

“*Flicka* because we’re the same.” — Betsy Kunz (Source is Mallory Durlaf and Emma Cibula)

“*Finding Nemo* because they get to travel the world by sea and they find themselves on their journeys.” — Sarah Godfrey

“The Fast and The Furious… it’s pretty self-explanatory.” — Teja Vemuganti

“I’ll have to go with *The Parent Trap.* We have matching backpacks. Best friends Annie and Hallie.” — Allison Hunter and Sara Normington

“The Parent Trap. We have matching backpacks. Best friends Annie and Hallie.” — Allison Hunter and Sara Normington

“Cinema Paradiso because it’s about a little boy who falls in love with movies because of an older mentor. In my life, I have had many mentors that taught me about art and now I’m living my dream.” — Mr. Frontier

“Life in a Day doesn’t describe my life but it describes everyone’s lives. I find it interesting.” — Leanne Hagen

“The Thing (1982). I’m the thing. (A story about a shape shifting Alien.)” — Mr. Voss

“True Confessions of a Shopaholic” — Emily Chu

“Life in a Day doesn’t describe my life but it describes everyone’s lives. I find it interesting.” — Leanne Hagen

“Project X” — Paul Blazevich

“Beauty and the Beast” — Alex Cramer

“The Brave Little Toaster” — Alex Karr

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“Matilda” — Johanna Novich Leonard

“Tangled” — Cora Collins

“Flicka” — Betsy Kunz

“Finding Nemo” — Sarah Godfrey

“The Parent Trap” — Allison Hunter and Sara Normington

“Cinema Paradiso” — Emily Chu

“Life in a Day” — Leanne Hagen

“The Thing (1982)” — Mr. Voss

“True Confessions of a Shopaholic” — Emily Chu
At a school as huge as ours, it’s impossible to know everyone—during a typical passing time you’d be lucky to name five people out of the swarm of students passing you in succession. A congested, fast-paced environment, school can feel enormous. You spend four years within these walls with 2,000 other teenagers, each with their own thoughts, beliefs, stories, and attitudes. Now, unless you’re a tad self-centered, you’ve stopped and just wondered about what goes on in the head of your fellow Memorial students.

Senior Elise Juelich, a tad self-centered, wondered these same questions: what do you want your legacy to be? What’s your passion? But instead of awkwardly having a one-on-one conversation with a complete stranger, she opened up the discussion to a whole school of strangers. “I just wanted to see how people would express themselves,” explained Juelich.

Express they did—within hours the entire JMM Art Gallery was covered from floor to ceiling in “Travel the World!!” “End World Hunger,” “Fall in Love” and more. Some were precious, “Buy my mom a house!” Elise’s personal favorite was “Make my Mom Proud of Me.”

Lin. Then there were some that were just downright wrong, “Marry Justin Bieber!” Elise’s personal favorite was “Make me my Mom Proud of Me.”

Much more than just stopping by and posting their legacy or their most coveted passion or secret, students listened. Often, you could stop by and see multiple people reading what others had written. Some laughed out loud at the funnier ones while others were touched by the brutal honesty of what they read.

Hopes, fears, scars, and jokes are all there. Standing in that gallery was like standing in the mind of the school—when you read a wall you are getting an intimate glimpse into the depth of someone’s heart and soul. This unique connection of living vicariously through fellow students is something never before seen at Memorial; the gallery was truly a fantastic concept, perfectly and simply done.

A shout out has to be made to Elise for all her work; about a week and half had to be spent setting it all up. With the help of hundreds of her fellow Memorial students, Elise and company took a small room in our school and turned it into a living, breathing room of emotions and insight into our high school.

Obviously not every post was full of meaning or eloquently put; however, something has to be said about the effortless freedom to write whatever you felt. In my opinion, if anything is taken from the JMM Gallery of Expressions, it’s that you’ll never guess what’s going on in the mind of the person passing you in the hall. Maybe it’s the right time for you to ask.

IMO: The Art Gallery Rocked
By Marco Jose De La Cruz

While the video really went viral a month ago, and has been largely forgotten during the intervening weeks, the Kony 2012 campaign is going to launch a ball into the spotlight soon with their forthcoming video “Cover the Night.” As such, this makes a good time to take a closer look at what Invisible Children is really suggesting.

Let’s start with their suggested plan of action. The video, which has gotten over 85 million views on YouTube,就可以了 suggest that the US government needs to provide technology and training to the Ugandan military and government in order to track down Kony. A simple enough suggestion, no? But the issue comes with the Ugandan government.

The current Ugandan government, under president Yoweri Museveni, came to power in 1986. Museveni has been in charge ever since. Many democratic governments have a reputation for their leader can serve; for example, 8 years in the United States. However, Museveni has been president of Uganda for over 26 years.

Even in his war to gain power, Museveni is not the good guy. His army, the National Resistance Army, has also used child soldiers. Guerillas during the Ugandan Bush War, the war that led to him gaining power, succeeding Milton Obote. Obote’s army consisted of a large number of Acholi people, a Ugandan ethnic group. Much as the US detained Japanese citizens during World War II out of suspicions over their loyalty, Museveni and his government interned vast numbers of Acholi in camps, which suffered famine, disease, and abuse of the detainee people at the hands of the armed guards.

Museveni also initiated the Second Congo War when his army invaded what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. This war had a death toll of 5.4 million people, making it the bloodiest conflict since World War II.

And the Ugandan government’s human rights abuses continue to this day. Right now, the Ugandan government is working on passing a bill calling for punishments ranging from life imprisonment to death for one-on-one homosexual activities. The Ugandan government is guilty of war crimes during the Ugandan Bush War and also used child soldiers. Five people out of a thousand had to be spent setting it all up. With the help of hundreds of her fellow Memorial students, Elise and company took a small room in our school and turned it into a living, breathing room of emotions and insight into our high school.

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Kony 2012: A New Perspective
By Owen Monsma

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So the Ugandan government aren’t the good guys. However, to be fair, Invisible Children does state on their website that “None of the money donated through Invisible Children ever goes to the government of Uganda or any other government. Yet the only feasible and proper way to stop Kony and protect the civilians he targets is to coordinate efforts with regional governments.”

But this raises another question: is it the US government’s place to intervene in such conflict and conflict situations? Invisible Children says on their website, “The Invisible Children website states: “The KONY 2012 campaign is calling for U.S. leadership to address both problems. It supports the deployment of U.S. advisers and the provision of intelligence and other support that can help locate and bring Kony to justice, but also increased diplomatic ability to hold regional governments accountable to their basic responsibilities to protect civilians from this kind of brutal violence.”

Can anyone remember another time when our government sent in members of the army on a peacekeeping mission to a developing nation in order to bring down a local warlord? The whole conflict in the middle east instantly comes to mind. Indeed, almost never has a US attempt at foreign peacekeeping been successful. Vietnam. Afghanistan. The list goes on.

Yet the biggest question, at least for me, remains: why are we focusing on stopping Kony when there are much larger human rights abuses happening within our borders? And in both Uganda and the rest of Africa? Invisible Children says on their website, they “do not defend any of the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Ugandan government or the Ugandan army.” However, more than just not defending them, Invisible Children is outright ignoring them. As I spent paragraph after paragraph trying to figure out what Uganda da’s history of human rights abuses is much larger than Kony’s. Any one of those issues I mentioned has harmed (or will harm, in the case of the anti-homosexuality bill) more people than Kony has.

And of all this, Kony is only a symptom of an unstable region, rife with illness, poverty, war, and death. He continues to be a threat because of the region of central Africa he operates in is an ideal environment for his kind of anarchic warfare. There are countless other warlords, and as the Kony 2012 video points out, Kony is only the start of their mission. But again, all the warlords are only symptoms, and treating the symptoms doesn’t cure the cause.

So if you really want to help Africa, donate your money to an organization that fights the causes. Donate to an organization that supports bettering of African standard of living. Donate to an organization like against Malaria, or the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Donate to these organizations because they will make lives better for many Africans, not just the 10,000-some kids Kony has kidnapped, or the families he’s destroyed in his area of operation. Malaria affects the whole continent. AIDS affects the whole continent. Famine affects the whole continent. But these organizations also affect the whole continent, for the better, instead of supporting a random hunt through the jungles and bushes of central Africa for a single crazy warlord and his army of children.

Most of all, I encourage everyone to do their own research. I am sure there are areas in here that aren’t complete, small facts I’ve overlooked. And there surely are things that Invisible Children has overlooked, or I wouldn’t be writing this article at all. Perhaps the most important lesson from all this is to try to see every angle of a conflict, and make your own decision. Understanding the issue is the first step to solving it.
By Chris Morgan

This month I sat down with, or rather Facebook messaged, the man behind the latest craze sweeping the classrooms of JMM – Billy Walsh of Spartan News. I asked him a few questions about his video brain child, and this what we came up with…

Chris Morgan: Did you have a good breakfast?
Billy Walsh: Wow, mind your manners Chris, this isn’t a “do whatever we want” kind of interview. I can’t believe this is happening. You really blinded me with that question, I feel like Ray Charles. Now I’m just talking to myself, alright let’s do the interview. (Do you get that? Those are Chiddy Bang references, I don’t know if that’s funny or anyone will get it, oh well).

Chris Morgan: I get it Billy, I get it (: 

CM: How was the idea for Spartan News born?
BW: Well I ran across YouTube videos about a school news show and thought we could do it so much better! So I talked with Mr. Frontier (my video art teacher) and he also had the idea to make it too! We wanted something funny, laid back that people could watch in backyard and spice up that hour a bit. So I made a pilot with Paul and we kept with it!

CM: What did it take to turn this dream into a reality?
BW: Well a lot of planning and a lot of support from the JMM art department. Also all of my fellow students that help out with the news by doing a story or even just pressing record on the camera.

CM: Were there any hiccups along the way?
BW: Ohh yeah! Hahah we struggled with microphones and bad video. We’ve had to reshoot an entire episode because the sound was so bad, but whenever I’m freaking out about it Mr. F always calms me down and assures me, “Everything will be alright, deep breaths”, and they always do turn out alright!

CM: Frontier is a wise man indeed.

CM: How did the various segments come to be?
BW: Well Mr. Frontier and I just brainstormed for a few weeks on what would be entertaining yet informative. We came up with “question of the week” to get people involved and to see what students are thinking. In addition, “clip of the week” is a place where JMM students can share their video talents.

CM: Do you think Mr. O can maintain his relaxed shoulders in future weather reports?
BW: Ohh yeah, I have complete trust that a performer of Mr. O’s caliber will keep getting better and better over the weeks. And is it me or do I smell an Emmy problem?

CM: No problem? Yikes, show some appreciation for the guy. I heard he was thinking about taking the opening on the Verona High School news.

CM: Any shout-outs to the people who’ve helped you along the way?
BW: MR. FRONTIER!!! (in all caps) seriously cannot mention anyone else. Thanks people you know who you are! And THANK YOU TEACHERS that watch the news!

CM: Are you looking to pursue any sort of news or video production activities next year in college and beyond?
BW: Next year I’ll be attending UW-Madison to study a science related field, but I would love to keep video and photography as a hobby or a side job! Also thanks to Chris Morgan for helping out with the news and the shout out in the famous Sword & Shield.

CM: *Announcer voice* Anddd Walsh lands the low blow!

CM: Got your eyes on any potential future anchors to replace the eloquent but graduating Paul Blazevich?
BW: Wow it’s hard to think of anyone replacing Paul, right now we are trying to finish out the year and worry about anchors at the end…actually you just gave me an idea for a segment, like a contest to “Find the next Paul” where people could try out to be the next star on Spartan News! OMG! (Stay tuned folks) but yeah a few people have expressed interest (who they are is VERY confidential) and they’ll have no problem taking Paul’s spot.

CM: What direction to see Spartan News taking in the future?
BW: I see a much smoother show and it’ll be completely student run, maybe next year a club or even an art class dedicated to the news. We’re trying to integrate some juniors so we can keep the tradition growing next year too!

CM: Do you think Spartan News will become a JMM staple for years to come?
BW: I hope so, well if people like it I hope so. I want the news to be fun and I want people to watch it while eating their backyard snack! If people continue to like it we will continue to get better! I also think new technology like video and YouTube will CRUSH the newspaper industry, who even reads this anyways? I have like 45 backyards that watch the news every week, now that’s an audience! Hahah shout out Sword & Shield!

CM: *Loud applause*

CM: Experience Spain in 2013!!!

Looking for a great opportunity to use your Spanish and learn about a beautiful culture? In the summer of 2013, we will be traveling to Spain for 11 days. We will be visiting the magnificent Alhambra in Granada, seeing the beautiful sights of Sevilla and enjoying a flamenco show, too. Next is a stop in Córdoba to visit an olive oil factory and then onto Madrid. In Madrid, we will have a spectacular tour and visit all the major sites. The students will participate in an exchange with some local students and then will have an opportunity to have flamenco dance lessons in the beautiful Retiro Park. Finally, we will take the AVE train onto Barcelona where the students will experience the beautiful sites of this eclectic city and also participate in an art workshop. They will also get a chance to spend time on the beach and try some paella. It’s an amazing tour and I am so excited to offer this opportunity to our students.

For more information, you can email Srta. Nickols at knickols@madison.k12.wi.us. Or, check out the tour website... www. eftours. com, tour # 1164501
Art Ventures

by Danny Gray

Nestled into the side of a certain hill in southern Wisconsin sits what, to the common eye, is a fairly normal (albeit intriguing) cluster of buildings— but to me, it is the most beautiful place on earth.

I first attended the week-long Communing With Clay workshop at the Adaham Clay Studio during the summer of 2010, and in that short week my mild interest in pottery developed into a newfound passion. Simply put, the camp is a relaxed, yet wildly immersive experience in which a group of artists from all walks of life throw pots, sculp, and share stories from dawn until dusk. We awake at the earliest hours of the morning, and after a light breakfast work until the necessity for sleep drags us back to our quarters for a few hours of rest to prepare us for the next day. In fact, the only major interruptions to our rigorous art-making are that of meals, which are prepared by the talented staff at Bethel Horizons, and are especially by the standards of summer camp) outstanding. We enjoy visits from local potters and artists, who share their knowledge and stories with the group, as well as a Thursday night trip to the American Players Theatre to enjoy a masterpiecefully performed (and often hilarious) play. In addition, camps have access to all sorts of facilities, including electric potter’s wheels, a clay extruder, a decked-out wedging station, plenty of tools, and a storeroom full of materials that would cause any lover of clay to salivate.

During my first and second years at school, I was officially studying under Phil Lyons, an art teacher at West High and an excellent potter; however, I have a far greater number of people to thank for my experience than just him. My fellow campers, who ranged from high school students to middle-aged art teachers to hoboing nonagenarians, shared an incredible wealth of knowledge with me. I was taught everything from basic throwing techniques and technical skills, to delicate decorative work, to recipes for a mean potato salad. Even with my meager two years of experience, I found myself helping and sharing advice with my new friends, both young and old. Rather than feeling like an outcast or a loser, I felt that I had gained a whole new set of friends, and most of all, a set of great experiences. From the start, I knew that I would be back.

Whether you have a mild interest in the art of clay, or have been throwing pots since the age of five, the Communing With Clay workshop at Art Ventures (Dodgeville, WI) is undoubtedly the greatest place for you to develop your skills, escape from the city, and enjoy the beautiful rolling hills, and learn the ancient secrets in the art of clay from outstanding instructors and fellow campers alike.

Danny Gray, 2012

There are three Communing With Clay workshops this summer and it is highly recommended you sign up before they fill up. The dates are:

- April 24-29 (Phil Lyons, West High School)
- July 8-13 (Geof Herman, Memorial High School)
- July 29-August 3 (Stephanie O'Shaughnessy and Aaron Weaver)

Please see Mr. Herman in the Art Complex (room 508) if you have any questions. Additional information can be obtained at the Art Ventures’ website: http://www.bethelhorizons.org/Horizons/Art_Ventures/Workshops.html. Memorial High School faculty and students have been attending these workshops since 1996. The opportunity to earn two credits through UW-Platteville after completing this workshop is available!
What are the most important things to remember on April 1st? First: don’t believe anything ANYONE says. Or does, for that matter. And second: watch your back, you never know what’s going to happen. Almost everyone has either been guilty of playing a prank on someone else or been the victim of a prank himself or herself on April Fools’ Day. Yeah, like that time when you were peacefully napping, reached up to bat away that thing that was tickling your nose, and got a face full of shaving cream? Or the instance when you so kindly filled your sister’s conditioner bottle with mayonnaise, so that her hair smelled weird for five days? The fact is, although many people have lots of knowledge of how to effectively prank others on April Fools’ Day, very few people actually know where this odd holiday came to be. Although the exact origins of April Fools’ Day are not exactly known, there are quite a few theories. It is popularly believed that it began when France changed it calendars in the 1500s to match the Roman calendar. This changed the New Year to January, instead of the beginning of spring, in late March or early April. Since information spread quite slowly during that time, many people who lived in rural areas continued to celebrate the New Year in spring, causing them to become known as the “April Fools”. Other people would sometimes send these April Fools on “fools’ errands”, leading to the modern tradition of playing pranks. Another theory links this strange holiday with the ancient festival Hilaria, which was celebrated at the end of March in Rome, involving people dressing up in disguises. Another idea about the origins of April Fools’ Day is that it had ties with the vernal equinox, or the first day of spring, in the Northern Hemisphere since Mother Nature tricked people with her ever-changing, irregular weather. April Fool’s Day spread across Britain in the 1700s, and became a two-day tradition in Scotland. Moderately, April Fool’s pranks have become a common event. April 1, 1933 proved to be a very interesting day for Wisconsinites, when the Madison Capital Times announced that the capitol building had collapsed as a result of many strange explosions triggered by “large quantities of gas, generated through many weeks of verbose debate in the Senate and Assembly chambers”. In 1957, jokers at BBC ran a broadcast that Swiss farmers would be expecting an unusually large spaghetti crop the coming spring. The result? A flood of letters from viewers to theBBC asking how they could grow their very own spaghetti tree, to which the BBC replied, “place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best.” In 1996, Taco Bell ran an ad in six major newspapers proclaiming that they had purchased the Liberty Bell, in an effort to help the national debt. As we have seen through these humorous pranks played throughout the years, April Fools’ Day is alive and well today. So when April 1st rolls around and your mom becomes infuriated at your “millions of ping pong balls fall out of the cupboard when it is opened” prank, simply launch into a long-winded explanation of the history of April Fool’s Day. It may even get you out of a punishment.

* Thought we forgot the headline?

April Fools’ Day

By: Jane Zhang

Students Services Announcement

If you would like to request a transcript, please note our process has changed: Memorial High School Transcripts are now ordered and delivered electronically (online). The Madison Metropolitan School District has joined the Wisconsin e-transcript initiative to bring you a quick, confidential, and paperless way to send your transcripts directly to colleges, the NCA, the Common Application and other destinations of your choice. Transcripts may be ordered at Parchment.com by MMSD graduates, parents and guardians, and by current students (18+). Please note: To prevent any disruptions with college applications currently in progress, seniors should continue to make their requests for transcripts through their counselor. At present, only 9th-11th grade students and alumni will be creating accounts with Parchment.com.
I told Danny I loved him, only because he asked me if I did, but I still meant it. I’m a teacher because I love working with kids and Danny could be very lovable. Oh, he could drive me crazy, too, but I’m glad he heard me say, “I love you.” He was the type that needed to hear you say I love you, so he’d just ask you. Not a lot of students are that open. Danny didn’t hide behind anything. He was a straight A student. I hated that he disappeared from my class sometimes. He was the kind of kid you’d keep in a box (or a room), not physically, not mentally. He would get behind in class and then suddenly come through with amazing work. I didn’t understand how he could get so much done in so little time. He had amazing creative energy sometimes. When the average kid leaves art school, I used to expect crap. Danny would show up with great work. He was talented and I told him so. He could go to art school, he might have made a great art teacher. He told me he wanted to be one. I told him it was a good gig.

My last conversation with Danny was one of concern. I wanted to take better care of myself. It took me so long to figure out that the way I treated my body had a direct connection on how I felt emotionally. I knew Danny needed help and I was glad to hear that his parents were getting him some. I know a lot of people are focusing on all the positive Danny brought to life. He had a way of being fun-loving and crazy. He was unique but he also was suffering. While we celebrate Danny’s life and the good he brought to our community at JMM and Madison, we do not celebrate his pain or his death. This is a tragedy and I see very little good coming from his leaving this life so prematurely, except perhaps, that he is no longer in pain.

I don’t know where Danny is now, that is a question for theologians and psychics. I’d like to think he’s up in heaven and can read all the wonderful things we are writing about him, but I’m really not sure. I do know that his friends and family that are living can. Your friends and family can also. I am reminded by this loss to cherish my loved ones, to understand that every time I talk to a student it might be the last conversation we have. I am so eager to see Danny after Spring Break. It seems crazy that he’s not coming back. I expect to see all of my friends and family again, but you just never know—I do— not really. While it’s hard to say goodbye, we need to remember to say hello. I mourn the loss of Danny in my classroom, but I am so thankful for the other 23 still coming to class. I dearly love my fellow art teachers, my friends and most deeply my children and husband. Make sure to let your loved ones know how much you care. Danny, I’m sure, would agree.

By Ben Rifkin

Danny Ransom

The Memorial Community is saddened by the passing of Daniel Ransom. Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy are with his family. JMM student services staff are available for students and those who need help dealing with this loss. Please be aware of signs that you or a loved one may need help. Common reactions are: the inability to concentrate, changes in behavior, irritability, traumatic dreams or sleep, physical health complaints. It is important as friends and family to be patient, listen, recognize emotions, try to avoid additional anxiety, keep to a normal routine and please reach out to others. If you have specific concerns, please contact our school’s student services staff (663-6173). They are available throughout spring break.

A Message from Danny’s Family
Dear Friends and Families at James Madison Memorial High School,

On March 28th we lost our beautiful beloved son Danny Ransom unexpectedly. Danny always brought a smile to the face of every life he touched, laughter to the room, and in his own unique special way, made a wonderful difference in this world.

Danny struggled with anxiety and was courageously trying to conquer his challenges. Danny was my best friend and lives on in a large part of my heart. He was big and strong, maturely, except perhaps, that he is no longer in pain.

I don’t know where Danny is now, that is a question for theologians and psychics. I’d like to think he’s up in heaven and can read all the wonderful things we are writing about him, but I’m really not sure. I do know that his friends and family that are living can. Your friends and family can also. I am reminded by this loss to cherish my loved ones, to understand that every time I talk to a student it might be the last conversation we have. I am so eager to see Danny after Spring Break. It seems crazy that he’s not coming back. I expect to see all of my friends and family again, but you just never know—I do— not really. While it’s hard to say goodbye, we need to remember to say hello. I mourn the loss of Danny in my classroom, but I am so thankful for the other 23 still coming to class. I dearly love my fellow art teachers, my friends and most deeply my children and husband. Make sure to let your loved ones know how much you care. Danny, I’m sure, would agree.

By Ben Rifkin

Danny would come in to photo every day with a huge grin and the same question as the day before: Ben, do you want to get pancakes? I’ve never met anyone else in my life that found so much happiness in a breakfast pastry. Danny, I hope you finally got those pancakes.

By Ben Rifkin

You are one of the most original, creative, iconic people I have ever met. You have this drive in you that keeps you going no matter what, and I know that this won’t stop you. You have one of the boldest ‘swaggs’ I’ve seen. S’Persys, jean jackets, corduroy pants and your infamous neon backpack with a rabbit foot—not something everyone can pull off. I just wish you could have known yourself as we knew you, and that you could have pushed through the tough times, but I know you’re happier now. You changed my view on countless aspects of my life and many others lives as well. You showed that things in life are too over thought and that you can be yourself regardless of what others think. Knowing that I’ll never come into a room or a random park in the summer and hear you say “What’s up?” makes me feel like throwing up. You were someone that I was excited to know now, but at the same time, even more so in the future. I know that you would make it big, and that you would do something that no one else could even dream to accomplish. You constantly told me that I am the next Jay Gatsby, and that you couldn’t wait to know me still 20 years from now. Danny, I promise that I will do everything I can to succeed and that there won’t be a moment in my success that you won’t be in, you’re in a world of people who don’t judge and who truly appreciate you for who you are, and I’m sure that you’re living large. I can’t guarantee I’ll see you soon, but I’ll be up there eventually man. I just can’t say it without crying again man, but Rest In Peace. You are truly an amazing person.

By Gage Kellum

Danny Boy, Dan the man, he always brought a smile to the face of every life he touched, laughter to the room, and in his own unique special way, made a wonderful difference in this world.

Danny was my best friend and lives on in a large part of my heart. He was big and strong, but had a gentle touch. He affected many in a large part of my heart. He was big and strong, maturely, except perhaps, that he is no longer in pain.

I don’t know where Danny is now, that is a question for theologians and psychics. I’d like to think he’s up in heaven and can read all the wonderful things we are writing about him, but I’m really not sure. I do know that his friends and family that are living can. Your friends and family can also. I am reminded by this loss to cherish my loved ones, to understand that every time I talk to a student it might be the last conversation we have. I am so eager to see Danny after Spring Break. It seems crazy that he’s not coming back. I expect to see all of my friends and family again, but you just never know—I do— not really. While it’s hard to say goodbye, we need to remember to say hello. I mourn the loss of Danny in my classroom, but I am so thankful for the other 23 still coming to class. I dearly love my fellow art teachers, my friends and most deeply my children and husband. Make sure to let your loved ones know how much you care. Danny, I’m sure, would agree.

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By Gage Kellum

About Danny (from Facebook)
"An adventure is an activity that is perceived to involve risk, danger, or exciting experiences." Story of my life.