

Summer 2007: A time to celebrate

By: **Katie Goebel**
Feature Editor

As the final days of the school year quickly approach us, summer plans are beginning to fill the minds of every inhabitant of Moline High School.

These plans, or lack thereof, are what keep our minds drifting beyond the newly renovated windows throughout the increasingly humid school days.

This escape from the norm is quite nice compared to the daily stress we as students feel burdened by.

I know from personal experience these high levels of stress make the school day and year seem twice as long, inevitably leading to high expectations for the summer months.

Three months is the duration of this vacation, the three months I'm sure many of us would consider the best of the entire year.

Summer is the time of year that we rely on in order to maintain our inferior work ethics and need for instant gratification.

Sleeping until noon, soaking up the sun and begging for later curfews are common sightings during this time.

And while many parents become agitated by these repetitive actions, the majority of them realize the larger picture at hand.

It isn't just that we are wasting half the day sleeping and constantly wasting gas doing whatever our hearts desire, it's that we are making the memories we will remember the rest of our lives; the very memories our parents today recall from their yesteryears.

Perhaps, for some of them, the memories they wish they would have taken more time to consider while living in them.

This is why it is our turn as diverse adolescents to realize what is at stake during this critical break from the oftentimes too harsh reality.

It seems to me that friends are what keep us going during high school. And while this may sound rather generic and

oversimplified, it is the absolute truth many of us have come to understand. Not only do we rely on our friends' advice for everyday obstacles, but we also spend the majority of our time with them.

Along with enduring the everlasting school days with them, we also spend our free time pleading to be by their side. While many of us may question how our friends compare to others, it is nevertheless true that we rely on them more than we may realize.

A simple smile in the hallway or text message late at night makes us feel wanted and appreciated; feelings we may not necessarily be accustomed to.

How is it that the same people who are maturing and undergoing struggles at the same time as we are find ways to help us through our personal issues at any given moment?

This, more than anything else, is what defines a true friendship- that selfless will to provide constant support regardless of the circumstances.

The answer to this timeless question is uncertain, but not necessarily one that has to be answered.

The mystery hidden within friendships is one that makes life more enticing; and this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the wonderment of personal relationships, particularly ones from our teenage years.

Friendships shape our personalities and outlooks on life, and while many of us consider ourselves to be independent and well managed, it's all too apparent at times that this is not something we can simply disregard.

With this in mind, I propose an outlook on this summer's ability to be memorable beyond previously set proportions.

Instead of dreading August's looming return to school, we should instead grasp tightly onto the time we have available to enjoy our friends and free time.

Let's embrace the little time we're provided to appreciate our youthful qualities and individual interests.



Savoring the good times, Seniors Adam Eaker and Kevin O'Connor swap a high five looking forward to Summer. Photo by O'Connor.

Editors win DAR/SAR

By: **Kim Spitzfaden**
Guest Reporter

The 2007 DAR and SAR award winners were recently announced for Moline High School. The Daughters or Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizen Awards is given to students who display excellence in leadership, service, dependability, and patriotism. The faculty nominates the winners, where the votes were counted and the winners were chosen. This year, the winners happen to be the LO'T's own Stephanie Mills and Alex Ryser. Both seniors have shown great leadership qualities as well as the other fields of academic success.

Stephanie Mills enjoys being Editor-in-Chief of the Line O' Type as well as being Senior Class President. She has many duties with Student Congress, such as planning dances and blood drives. She is also Secretary of National Honor Society and an All-State flutist. Her favorite out of school activity is skiing with her friends. She will attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and plans to major in biology.

Alex Ryser, coincidentally the other Editor-in-Chief of the Line O' Type is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Kaleidoscript and the captain of the varsity academic team. Most of Alex's high school career has been spent on the stage as he participated

in eleven theatrical productions and has directed one as well. He is the current president of Thespians and the founder of the Moline Drama Booster Association. Musically, he has been in the IMEA All-State Honors Chorus twice, and has sung in the concert and chamber choirs. He will attend Northwestern University in Evanston to major in theatre.



Alex Ryser and Stephanie Mills pose for a photo after receiving their award. (Photo by: Patel)



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