

photo art by Jami Bechard

## Person of Interest

Junior Beau Lahrmer said his claim to fame is his annual light show set to music in his front yard.



### What's something interesting about you?

"I make my own electronic music. ...I've always had a love of music, and I felt like a way for me to give to my love of music is to make my own."

### What made you start putting up your crazy Christmas lights with music?

"Back in 2005, I saw Carson William's display here in Mason, and I was absolutely, completely fascinated by it and I really wanted to do that. So, for the next three years, I spent researching how he did that. So in 2008, I finally purchased the necessary stuff to be able to do that tiny light show in my yard and it's just taken off from there."

### How do you pay for it?

"I have a summer job and that helps pay for some of it. My parents help a lot. People have actually given me donations; I got well over \$200 in donations last year. The whole thing is...my thing that I do, but friends help me with it because it requires a lot of labor."

### If you could meet any celebrity who would it be and why?

"Marilyn Manson because he's a really controversial figure, and most people just see his outward appearance and they are really quick to judge him by what they think he does. But, if you take the time to watch his interviews, read about him, he actually stands for a lot of good values that people overlook in contrast to what most people think of him."

### If you could have any super power what would it be and why?

"Invisibility because then I can get away with things and people wouldn't know who did it."

compiled by Megan McCormack

# For the Record

Nicole Huser | Staff Writer

An old trend is beginning to make a comeback with Mason High School students, who set out to set the record straight.

The "old school" way of listening to music, vinyl, is a trend that is slowly making a comeback. Instead of listening to music on their ipods or on the radio, teenagers have begun to use a more classic way of hearing their favorite tunes: through eight tracks and record players.

According to senior Kylee Alvarez, who listens to records frequently, vinyl brings something special to music that digitally produced songs cannot. "[Vinyl] may not be as good quality as digital music, but that almost gives it a more original, unique feeling," Alvarez said.

According to sophomore John Kincaid, who prefers listening to music on vinyl, older music has a deeper thought process behind it than more modern songs.

"There's a lot more thought put into the music, because now people pump out songs without even thinking about it, and they're pretty simple, but back then they were more complex," Kincaid said. "It's got a lot more feeling in it."

According to Kin-

caid, the grainy sound produced when listening to vinyl, which many see as a negative quality, is a major factor in its appeal to him.

"There's a certain sound that you get to it that's not perfect, and you can hear those little cracks in the music," Kincaid said. "I don't know; it's just kind of a novelty. That's how it was supposed to be played."

Although some students may say that it is too difficult to find records and record players in this day and age, it is not difficult to stumble upon them, according to Alvarez.

"[Vinyl and record players] really aren't hard to find," Alvarez said. "You can go to Half Price Books and find a lot of different records there."

Half the fun of vinyl is finding interesting places to shop for the records at, according to Senior Jimena Esparza, who loves the originality of vinyl.

"My favorite place to go is in a town called Yellow Springs, and it's an hour away from here," Esparza said. "[There's] this little old record store on top of a building, and it has all sorts of records, but they're all old and they're cool. I like going to places that aren't really known because they have the most unique records."

Ultimately, the fact that listening to records is more interactive than other forms of listening to music is what makes vinyl so unique, according to Alvarez.

"There's a satisfaction in being able to hold the record, put it on the record player and press the needle to [the record]," Alvarez said. "Listening to music that way makes it more hands-on and unique than just clicking a button on [the internet]." Although listening to music on an iPod may be easier to carry around, listening to music on vinyl still supersedes the more modern ways of hearing songs, according to Kincaid.

"I mean it's more convenient to have it on your ipod because you can carry it around with you, but there's that novelty of having it on vinyl and hearing it the way it was supposed to sound," Kincaid said. "Plus the covers are really cool--the sleeves are just sweet."

High Schoolers buy into vinyl trend