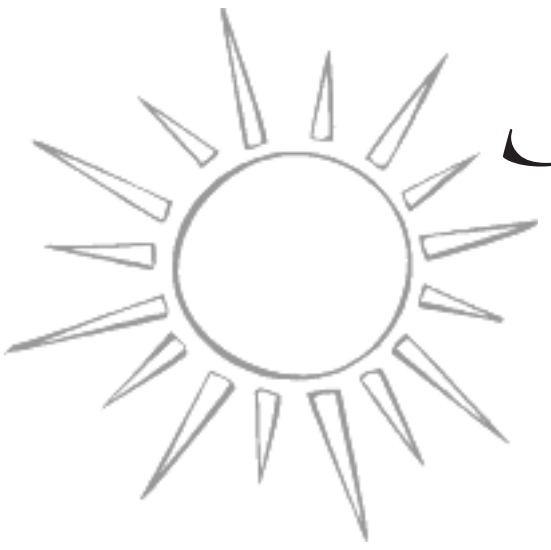
How to Make the Most of Your *Summer Vacation*



Marleigh Hill
Copy Editor

When most students think of summer vacation they daze off in to some reverie including swaying palm trees, pina coladas, and long walks on white sandy beaches.

With less than two weeks less, this dream couldn't be more real. But aside from the few lucky ones who are able to escape to sunshine and sand, most of us are stuck home sitting on our couches playing video games until our thumbs go numb. While this may seem like a perfectly enjoyable vacation to some, others dread the endless monotony of summer vacation and its care-free days of overeating and reruns on the History Channel.

So for all of you home bound summer vacationers, there's hope. Luckily there are tons of fun, inexpensive things to do right here in our home town of Kalamazoo.

Depending our your budget, the local activities in Kalamazoo are endless. They can range from completely free, to about twenty dollars. Many of these activities can be found downtown in the Kalamazoo Mall area.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum of History, Science, and Technology is one of the many free activities that can be found there. Here, visitors can check out some of Kalamazoo's local history as well as participate in interactive programs. The museum is open from nine to five Monday through Saturday, and one to five on Sundays. Its convenient location on Rose Street and its free general admission make it a must see for anyone who feels the need to tear themselves away from the computer of television screen for a few hours.

Aside from the museum the downtown mall also features tons of other fun things to do. The numerous quaint boutiques and art galleries make the downtown mall a perfect place to go an all day shopping spree.

Other activities could simply include walking through Bronson Park. Or, if you're looking for something a little more adventurous, stop by Climb Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo's only indoor rock climbing gym.

This indoor gym features an instructional program for climbing and belaying, and for only $19 students and adults alike are able to spend all day learning the ropes and climbing the walls.

But if shopping sprees and rock climbing don't happen to be your "thing," you could always stop downtown for a quick show or a movie. The Rave is one of the most popular movie theaters in town. For $5 you and a couple of friends can catch a movie. Just don't forget to bring along your ID for the reduced price.

If there aren't any good movies out there or the piggy bank is running low on cash, consider stopping by the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Admission to the media center and the main part of the galleries is free, and the prices of the private shows vary.

Also for all the art connoisseurs out there, the Art Hop falls on every first Friday of the month. From 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. local artists will have their art on display in some of the most popular galleries and boutiques in town. During this time the public is free to roam through the numberous galleries while viewing the work of local artists and spending time with friends or family.

Other "hot" hang out spots in and around Kalamazoo include Airway Lanes, Craig's Cruisers, and Putter's miniature golf. Each of these spots are great places to bowl, go-cart, or golf your way through a game or two.

So to all you students who are stuck at home over summer break instead of tanning under a palm tree, don't panic. There are plenty of fun and free things to do right here in Kalamazoo. My advice to you is to put down the remote, back away slowly, then run out the door, grab a few friends, and make the best of your summer vacation while it lasts.

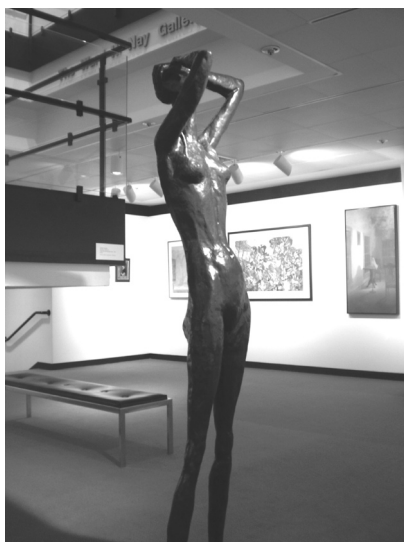
Get outside and be active, even if it only means walking around downtown or cheering on your local baseball team, the Kalamazoo Kings . Try something new, like indoor rock climbing, or get in touch with your artistic side at one of the local art galleries. Any of these activities can be beneficial to your new and improved summer plans, and can make for some wonderful memories.

So if you would rather sit at home trying to beat the last level of "Oblivion" be my guest; but if you decide to give your thumbs a break, consider paying a visit to any of these local areas. For other events and activities to do in Kalamazoo over the summer check out kalamazoomi.com for an event calendar.

ALL PHOTOS BY MARLEIGH HILL

Free fun! Take a trip back in time or into the world of science all in one bulding. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is a great place to have some good, clean fun this summer.

Get creative. A visit to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts will provide a major boost to your creative juices. That kind of inspiration might just make you into the next big thing!



Shop 'til you drop. Downtown Kalamazoo features some fantastic small town boutiques that are perfect for unique gifts.

Just do it! Feeling less than in shape in your bathing suit? Indoor climbing is an original way to escape either the heat or the rain of a summer day and get fit at the same time. This is a fun activity in a group or on your own.

Grab some popcorn. Check out this summer's newest flicks at the state-of-the-art downtown theatre, the RAVE. Grab some friends or make it a date!

G- Wagon *Sporty and chic*

ELIZABETH SZAKACS / KNIGHT LIFE

Elizabeth Szakacs
Beats Editor

Sophomore Katie Wehling is one of the few sophomores in her group of friends at Loy Norrix who officially has her license. Wehling drives a 2001 Chrysler Sebring that she got for her sixteenth birthday when her dad decided to get a new car. Not even Wehling's older sister got such a nice car for her sixteenth birthday.

"I definitely have the Hoopty of the family and she has the G-Wagon," said senior Kristen Wehling, Katie's older sister.

Being a sophomore and having a nicer car than some of the staff and upperclassmen definitely constitutes a G-Wagon. It's not that uncommon for people to ask Katie for rides in her sweet car. Especially because gas is not that big of an issue for Katie since her car gets about 22 miles to the gallon.

"I love my car, and I'm definitely not shy about driving it. It has a sporty look to it and the interior is almost in perfect condition," said Katie.

Katie's car is almost flawless when it comes to the condition it is in. Katie mentioned that it is very clean and comes with power locks and windows, along with power seats, anti-lock breaks, and leather seats. These are all qualities that Katie belives make her car a G-Wagon.

The fast acceleration and the good solid bass that the car came stocked with are two of Katie's favorite things about her car. Cranking up the music and driving around with close friend, sophomore Ava Drillock, is one of Katie's favorite passtimes.

Katie's car is very dependable; there were never any problems with the car while her dad owned it. Katie plans on driving this car for the rest of her high school career, if not longer.

Hoopty *Dirty and bleak*

DAEDAL DERKS/ KNIGHT LIFE

DAEDAL DERKS/ KNIGHT LIFE

Senior Derek Kusa (Above) never has to deal with the frustrations of the Loy Norrix parking lot because his Hoopty can be brought into the school. Kusa also never has to worry about breaking the bank on four dollar a gallon gas.

Daedal Derks
Layout Editor

This issue's hoopty belongs to an LN senior named Derek Kusa. When asked about his transportation, Kusa preaches comfort, reliability, and unbeatable gas mileage.

With a top speed of close to 25 mph and running solely on drinkable liquids during the year and a half he has been using this transportation, Derek is completely in love with his black and silver hoopty. Having never received his license, there is a very small selection of transportation that he can use legally. His favorite are his black and silver Adidas.

Kusa bought the shoes a year and a half ago and they have since been through many trials and tribulations together. The shoes have lasted through two track seasons, summer and winter conditioning, and a cross country season.

A common problem with shoes are the inevitable blisters you get when breaking them in; Kusa never had a problem with these Adidas. This seems to have been an omen of good luck with his shoes because they have survived countless attacks from beagle puppies and even lost a shoe lace in the line of duty. It is because of this loss that Kusa has fashioned a custom tie job involving only one loop, rather than the customary "bunny ears."

Obviously Kusa has no speeding tickets or serious accidents while wearing his Adidas.

Normally cops don't crack down on jay-walkers, but in his flashy adidas it is only a matter of time before Kusa catches some heat.