

## Tattoos, Continued

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Oldershaw says there are simple ways to deal with the allergic problems in his shop. For example, nitrile rather than latex gloves can be used to avoid latex allergies.

Red ink is usually the pigment that is the most hazardous for allergic reactions, says Oldershaw. Pigments can cause an allergic reaction to the skin in different ways. For some the skin might just completely reject the ink, while others will just be irritated and take longer to heal.

“There’s an occasional person who has an allergic reaction to the ink or a rough feel. Touch ups here are free,” says Oldershaw.

Like other professionals, Oldershaw has to have a license. The Missouri Office of Tattooing, Body Piercing and Branding licenses Oldershaw. Occasionally, an inspector from the office comes to check if everything is clean and going right, he adds.

Oldershaw says that if you want a tattoo, inspect the artist’s portfolio to see if it’s the style you are looking for.

Look around the shop, see if they have barrier film on everything and bags on bottles, and that things don’t have a chance of cross contamination. “Make sure the shop has a clean room,” adds Oldershaw. Most tattoo places use autoclaves as a way to sterilize needles, but since everything comes prepackaged these days it is not always necessary.

People at any age can get tattoos. Most get tattoos in their 20’s or 30’s. “I’ve tattooed people that are 80,” says Oldershaw. Just remember it’s permanent.



**Shaun Oldershaw's tattoo caused a minor allergic reaction.**

*Photo credit Jerricka Cotton*



**In this photo is YES teen, Jazmin Garrett, and Sister Helen Kiefer, resident at McCormack House, learning to use the internet.**  
By Korry Busch

*Photo Credit Terris Grimes*

## Teens and Social Networking, Continued

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But he adds, “Sometimes, to my close friends, I do vent about being single on the computer, but not for the public to see.” Mark adds “Just because my status says single does not affect the amount of friends I have.”

“The only reason my relationship status is complicated is because one minute my boyfriend and I are arguing and the next we are happy,” states Niklya M., age 17. “When I put complicated I started to get a nice amount of boys that tried to add me, it was wired. But when we were in a relationship, I didn’t have that

much friend requests.” She says that “This is not a permanent status, but for now I need [my boyfriend] to understand that we don’t have to be together.”

Most of the people surveyed say that social networks do not affect their relationships because they do not allow it. Others feel that because it’s a social network things are going to happen.



*Photo credit Desire’e Redus*

## Healthy Choices, Continued

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A McDonald’s lunch has 1050 calories, 44 grams of fat, 1195 milligrams of sodium, according to the McDonald’s website. On the other hand, a lunch with turkey at the Taylor Center contains 650 calories, 20.5 grams of fat and 1455 milligrams of

sodium. Add ham to the sandwich and the lunch has 660 calories, 21.5 grams of fat and 1455 milligrams of sodium. Which is a 400 and 410-calorie difference, and a bonus is that the lunch at the Taylor Center is free unlike the \$6 or \$7 you might spend everyday going out to eat.



**Two different types of butterflies stopping to get a bite to eat.**

*Photo credit and caption Desire’e Redus*

Photographed at the Butterfly House in Saint Louis County: Two different types of butterflies stopping to get a bite to eat.

The butterflies with the orange-banded backs are male Orange Shoemakers. The way to identify a male Shoemaker is by the color stripes on their wings backs. Females have both an orange and white strips but males only have a bright orange stripe, as bright as a pumpkin.

Also stopping to get something to munch on is the Owl Butterfly. The Owl Butterfly originates from South Africa and many were brought over to the USA. From the size and pattern on the wings, this one is a male also.

The three butterflies are sharing an old banana peeling. Ummm, tasty.

According to Butterfly House entomologist Chris Hartley, “there are 80 different types of butterfly species [inside the Butterfly House].” Moths are wrapped in silk before they undergo metamorphosis and the butterflies are wrapped in chrysalis. He explained that “butterflies live for only three to four weeks; they are only here to get nectar from flowers and lay eggs. They don’t really have a life.”



*Photo credit and caption Jerricka Cotton*

Pictured is a seismograph, which is used to measure earthquakes. According to SLU earth sciences professor, Dr. Keith Koper, seismographs, such as this one, can detect major earthquakes all the way from China. The biggest earthquake ever detected, which occurred in Chile, was magnitude 9.5 on the Richter scale. Each magnitude is 10 times bigger than the one before it.

## Uniforms, Continued

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Squeezing children into molds is detrimental. To cope, students find other means of expression that are less appropriate, they say. For example, sagging khaki pants for males and excessive make-up for females.

Maybe, there could be a compromise if students could design their own uniform? Miller tells *SciJourney* that is her responsibility to support leadership, so she is open to new design ideas.

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WORLD EXCLUSIVES

## UNIFORMS – ONE LESS DISTRACTION OR CONFORMITY?



One of the YES Community Science and Teaching Fellows, Victoria Taylor, in uniform.

Photo credit Korry Busch

**Korry Busch**

Uniform requirements have been the center of heated debates for years. In 2005–06, about 14% of school principals reported to the U.S. Department of Education that their school required students to wear a uniform. That is an increase from 1999–2000, when the percentage of principals who reported that their school required students to wear uniforms was 12%.

“If wearing an uniform means that the school rooms will be more orderly and more disciplined, and that our young people will learn to evaluate themselves by what they are on the inside, instead of what they’re wearing on the outside, then our public schools should be able to require their students to wear uniforms,” said former President Bill Clinton in 1996.

YES teens, too, have their own uniforms. “I don’t want teens to be more focused on how they’re dressed than what they’re learning,” says Diane Miller, Senior Vice President of School and Community Programs and Partnerships at the Saint Louis Science Center.

Clinton, Miller and other proponents of uniforms say that the practice helps suppress gang violence by keeping teens from wearing gang clothing, establishes school spirit, and saves time in the morning. “Many parents feel students in uniforms look nicer and the requirement keeps families with financial troubles from worrying about their child being bullied [because they can’t buy trendy clothing].

Schools can easily become competitive runways and uniforms halt scholastic fashion shows,” according to Isaac Grauke, Manager of Sales and Marketing for Hall Closet Uniforms & Apparel. As a result, students in uniforms are better able to focus more on their studies rather than trendy clothing.

However, skeptics say uniforms stifle creativity, add to the cost of school, and can make teens uncomfortable. These skeptics say that public education already attempts to strip children of their individuality and that self-expression is an important part of child development.

## TEENS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

**Desire’e Redus**

Are you or your friends addicted to social networking? Does social networking affect you and your friends?

A survey by *SciJournner* of 51 youth, ages 21 and under, finds that nearly a third say they are “addicted” to social networking, but only 8% of the teens and young adults surveyed feel that social networking affects their relationships with other people. The survey also showed that younger teens, ages 14 and 15, use the social networks Facebook and Bebo more than teens at the age of 17.

The survey was conducted by handing out questionnaires to YES teens and youth in the community, or posting as a wall on Facebook and Bebo.

Approximately equal number of males and female took the survey. Of those who responded, 37% are under 16. Most of the teens used Facebook, but 30% preferred Bebo and 20% were on both Bebo and Facebook.

How much time are teens spending on social networks? For this survey we defined addicted as checking their Facebook or Bebo page more than 3 times a day. Around a third of the 51 teens fell into that category, spending 30 minutes to 5 hours per day on social networking.

One interesting aspect of social networks is that they have a spot where you can put if you are in a relationship—married, single etc. Teens in a really good relationship will say that they are “married”. “Complicated” means that you might be in a relationship, but it is not working that well.

Around 57% of the teens reported that they were in some kind of relationship. Why do so many of the teen’s relationship statuses say something other than single?

“Being married does not have anything to do with how many friends I have; I just network,” says Maurice M. Jr., age 16. “If a girl wanted to add me that was attractive then I would add her, but that did not mean I have chat with her.” Does he fight with his “wife” on Facebook? “No. What my wife and I have going on is not for the public to know about,” says Maurice.

Do teens whose status is single look for relationships on social networks? Says Mark C., age 17, “No, I’m not really into that vibe, I want to find someone who I can ‘kick it’. I don’t want some random person on the Internet.”

## THINKING ABOUT A TATTOO?

**Ariel Stavri**

If you are thinking of getting a tattoo it’s important to get the facts. Tattoos can be marvelous works of art that symbolize something or someone in your life, but are there any health risks?

According to Shaun Oldershaw, there are very few risks from getting a tattoo as long as a professional does them. Oldershaw is a tattoo artist at Cheap Trx on Grand Avenue in Saint Louis, and

has been tattooing for nearly eight years.

Minor risks include allergic reactions to latex in the surgical gloves or to pigments of the tattoo ink, says Oldershaw. “Allergic reactions are pretty much person to person.”

However, you might run into more serious trouble if you go to “scratchers”.

A scratcher is a tattoo artist’s term for a nonprofessional who performs tattoos out of their own home. Those are the people spreading disease, if not just doing bad work, states Oldershaw.

If you go to a scratcher you run in the risk of getting hepatitis. As far as getting HIV from tattooing, well its sort of a myth claims Oldershaw. However, the Centers for Disease Control declares that there is still a risk of getting HIV from tattoos.

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## HEALTHY CHOICES: ARE YOU MAKING THEM?

**KiOntey Turner**

“Do you live to eat, or do you eat to live?” asks YES Supervisor Joshua Sams. Think of a wonderful McDonald’s lunch—a cheeseburger, medium French fries, a medium drink, and an apple pie compared to the typical YES lunch of a ham or turkey sandwich. Which one would you prefer?

Diabetes, high blood pressure, clogged arteries, and obesity are just a few of the major health risks, according to kidshealth.org, that today’s youth face when they put fast food like a McDonald’s lunch in their tummies everyday. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the current generation is the youngest group of people to have such severe health problems. But are there better choices to make when picking a lunch?

At the Taylor Community Science Resource Center, lunch consists of a



A plate of healthy food that all ages can enjoy.

Picture By: Cynthia Blue via Flickr

turkey and ham sandwich with American cheese, Miracle Whip, a small bag of chips, a juice box, and an apple or the teens can go to the local stores or fast food restaurants. According to Sams, the lunch is

served to about 100 teens on average, which results in about 80 sandwiches being made and eaten per day (excluding those that just eat chips or drink a juice box).

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