

GNARLY shredding

When the knees scrape. When the bones break. When they're feeling mad. They simply remember the feel of the sport and then they don't feel so bad.

The skating trend has swelled in popularity, especially with teens.

"The demographics have changed," Liam McGillin '15 said. "Skating has gone from groups of misfits and delinquents to a spot for anyone with a passion to pursue this physically intense artform."

For some students, that artform became an instant hit at a young age.

"I started skating around sixth grade after watching a Rodney Mullen video," Mohamed Nour '17 said. "I really wanted to try it because it seemed to give him a rush."

But the sport is different from other activities, most skaters agreed.

"Skateboarding is harder than a lot of other activities, because it takes a lot of personal endurance and practice," De'Quaun Coats '15 said. "There are so many tricks that you can do all while trying to keep your balance."

As the saying goes: practice makes perfect. And Skating is no exception.

"Just practice. Honestly, it's more failure than success," Jacquan Rouson '16 said.

Rough spots happen, but skaters persevere.

"Skating is about being innovative and making it your own," Davon Bell '15 said.

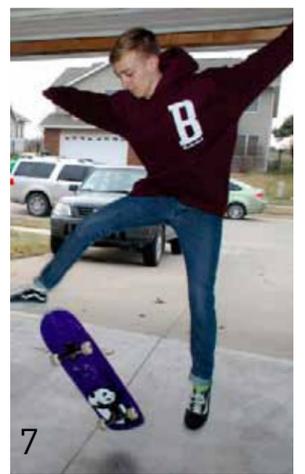
Rolling into the future, skateboarding even represents a possible career path.

"I want to skate professionally, but that's not what I plan on doing all my life," Owen Millers '18 said. "However, being a professional skater would be awesome!"

All in all, skateboarders agreed on one thing: skating requires training.

As Liam McGillin '15 put it, "No matter what level of skill you have ... you will only get out the amount of work that you put in."

—By Nisha Coney



BREAKING BOARDS

Mark McGlaughlin '16 picks up the pieces of his skateboard after breaking it Dec. 4. "Skating is really laid-back," he said.

1. On the wall, Liam McGillin '15 rides down an eight-foot wall at the Iowa City Skate Park on Aug. 31. "Skating is a sport for anyone with a passion to pursue it," he said.

2. Dropping in, Bret Eldridge '16 prepares to skate into the bowl at the Iowa City Skate Park on Aug. 31.

3. Fancy footwork, Jacquan Rouson '16 uses his feet to flip his board in the courtyard during lunch Dec. 5.

4. Jumping the wall, Davon Bell '15 flies over the bricks in the courtyard at lunch Dec. 5. "Skating is something chill to do with the homies," he said.

5. Tricky tricks, Liam McGillin '15 flips his board after sliding down a rail at the Iowa City Skate Park on Aug. 31.

6. Great grinding, Jacquan Rouson '16 prepares to grind the nose of his board in the courtyard Dec. 5.

7. Hesh heels, Nick Deerberg '16 does a heel flip after school Dec. 4. "Doing tricks is a lot different than just riding a Penny," he said.

8. Skating the stairs, Davon Bell '15 flips his board while jumping off the stairs in the courtyard during lunch Dec. 5.

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