



The Transitive Property of Cool

And that's the way I like it.

Unless you've been living in Siberia, you know that Huron high school and Huron student, Dylan Woods, was featured on the MTV show, 'Made.' Talking to a girl from Farmington Hills, she excitedly reported that "a high school in Ann Arbor" had been featured on 'Made.'

When I told her that "a high school" was actually my high school and that many of my friends had actually gotten camera time, she became incredibly excited. She asked me to tell her all about those people and if she could hang out with them. I still don't know the girl's name.

I didn't understand this fascination – the one that causes girls to stand outside TRL in a bikini, during a New York winter, for a glimpse of Justin Timberlake. It was cool seeing my friends on TV but they were just on television. They didn't achieve anything. It made me wonder, why are people so fascinated with fame and celebrity?

Being on television is like being popular. You are seen and known by people you don't know. It's a flattering thought. It's as close as most people will get to celebrity. Normal people are suddenly cool because they become more like celebrities. Why is that so cool to begin with?

It all comes down to what makes celebrities different from average people.

If Paris Hilton is any indication, one doesn't have to be talented to be a celebrity. Mel Gibson is not an attractive man but he has become one of the most well known people in Hollywood. In real life, he probably can't wield a sword and kill 5 people in a single swoop; however, his roles in Braveheart and The Patriot have given him that image. His roles and the media's projections of his person have made him superhuman. He's the ultimate tough guy. He's an enigma.

This super-human power lies in accessibility, or lack there of. The millions that see these celebrities develop their own ideas of the person's personality that aren't based on any actual interaction. Tabloids often portray people in a certain light, but films and other roles are also lenses through which the population views them. These lenses play on the viewer's imagination and imagination is a powerful tool. People become ideas. One's accomplishments and follies are exaggerated until celebrities are one-dimensional but knowing people, nobody is entirely good or bad.

Imagination turns a few chosen folk into the ultimate purveyors of cool. America's fascination with celebrity is what makes ordinary people so desperate to bask in that glow.

Relatively Speaking by Jenny An



The entrance to a culinary study of Japan

Photos by David Choi



The Cafe bustles with lunch customers.

Photos by David Choi

Sushi Cafe

Briarwood's Hidden Gem



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Finally I have found a place to satisfy both my wallet and my taste buds. When I went to the Sushi Cafe, located on the corner of Coney Island and California Pizza Kitchen in Briarwood Mall, the place was already packed with people ordering take out. The place was much more spacious than it looked from the outside, serving up to 15 customers. The ample window in front of the restaurant served as an eye-catcher, showcasing a skilled sushi chef preparing their meal. From the modern aluminum ceiling to pieces of eclectic Japanese art, the place was well decorated with its own unique style.

We asked the waitress to recommend the specialties of the house. And so we began our culinary journey to Japan with an appetizer. As soon as we ordered our food, the chef served us a heaping plate of Tako salad. The Tako salad (octopus salad) was sweet and salty; drizzled with a light vinegar dressing and leaving us wanting more.

We had an exciting lunch, sampling a variety of dishes including the house special: the sushi cafe roll. The sushi cafe roll was a clear stand out from the other dishes. This dish alone made Sushi cafe my favorite sushi restaurant in Ann Arbor. The dish was a study in creaminess and texture, with the avocado, crab meat and tempura combining to make a delicious roll. The prize for originality went to the rainbow roll: 5 different kinds of fish (sashimi salmon, shrimp, tuna, white fish, and yellow tail) were wrapped around a classic California roll to create a wonderful blend of flavor and texture. As soon as I took a bite, I could feel the sushi's freshness and the clean depth.

For less than ten bucks, I was able to get a full meal, from an appetizer to a finishing Miso soup. At Sushi Cafe, it became clear as I experienced some of their fine dishes that their success for more than four years was due to their creative pieces of sushi along with the unique atmosphere and genuine service.



The chef skillfully prepares our meal

Photos by David Choi



The menu is as colorful as the food

Photos by David Choi