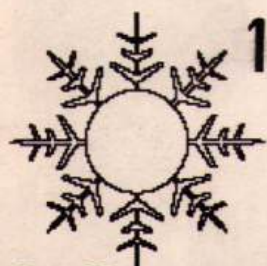


The VOX

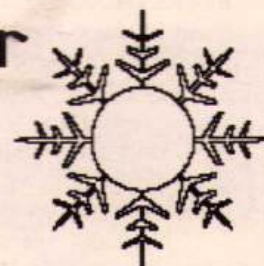
Marion High School

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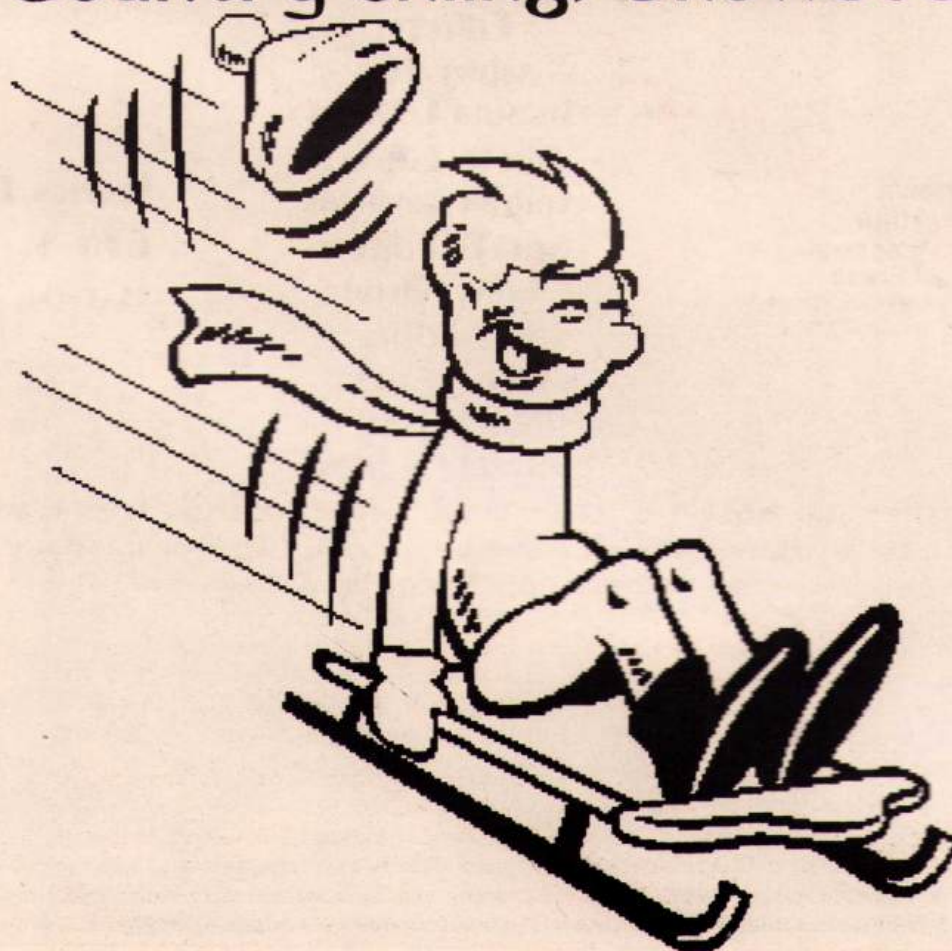


10 Reasons why the winter weather

ROCKS!!



1. Snow days/Cancellations
2. Sledding
3. Hot cocoa with marshmallows
4. Snow Ball Fights
5. Cuddling by the fire
6. Making Snowmen/Snow Kittens/Snow Angels
7. Festival lights in the snow
8. Ice Fishing
9. Snow Mobiling
10. Cross Country skiing/Snowboarding



Mean Girls, Legends, and Paula Abdul's Reign...

By Ashley Evans

Girls are evil. I think that's the only adjective that can describe us. We are fake, we are horrible friends, and we backstab each other every two minutes. Sure, every once in awhile you get the two girls that actually like each other and it throws EVERYTHING off. Then, everyone gangs up on them because they are real and they truly are friends. In this school, you can't have more than one or two REAL friends. Honestly girls, how many people would you trust with all your secrets and how many girls would you actually want to hang out with in your free time? If you answered more than a couple, I am amazed and jealous times two.

Now, one reason could be that girls thrive when drama is in their lives. Some girls NEED it, so they talk trash to everyone and use other resources to get their point across (think xangas, profiles, blogs, etc...). Other girls create the drama in other ways, like stealing boyfriends or glaring at every girl that crosses their path.

Why do we do this? I think it's crazy how we just can't get along and like each other. Boys have it so easy. They either are home dawgs for life or they beat each other up in the lunch room and everything is alright again. Is there ever going to be a time when we, as in girls, will like each other? Will we ever all get along and drop whatever drama/grudge issues we have?

I hope so. I hope so for the sake of our school. I wish we all could be nice to each other.....heck, be nice to everyone.

It would be great to say that everything is going to change once you leave for college, but in reality, does drama ever end? What's the solution to a peaceful life? In a way, it's not up to you to decide. Just be yourself and if other girls don't like you, then it's their fault. Hopefully they will be mature enough to accept who you are and leave you alone. Hopefully they won't resort to 4th grade methods of making fun of everything you do and taking pleasure out of your mistakes and problems. Hopefully the pointless cattiness that is occurring every single day will end soon. All we have to do is be nice to each other, right? Yeah...for most, though, that's easier said than done.

I have an open fourth block, so everyday at 2:00/1:00 central, when I'm not napping, I turn to the Nickelodeon "GAS" channel to watch "Legends of the Hidden Temple." I remember watching this with my older sister all the time when we were younger. The blue barracudas were my team of choice, followed by the purple parrots. We would patiently wait for the at the end episode. I mad at the wentslow or when the g u a r d s of the quick-



Now when I watch it, I giggle because the kids are so little. They take forever to run through the temple, and they STILL get held up in the shrine of the silver monkey. I think about the temple all the time and what happened to it when the show ended. I wish I could buy it and pounce through the rooms for fun.

The other night I had a dream that I, along with a few of my friends, were on the show. But instead of taping at Universal Studios, we were at the University of Dubuque and we escapaded to this huge glass planetarium at Loras College and had to try to get the pig from my laundry room.

Hmmmm. I think that's what happens when you watch too much "GAS" television.



The fifth season of American Idol is about to begin. About halfway through the season last year, I began watching it religiously. Carrie Underwood ended up winning,

which shocked me because she was a country-styled singer. Runner up was Bo Bice, 80's rock boy of the century with longer hair than me. My favorite was Vonzell Solomon, second runner-up, who could belt out songs



like no other with craploads of soul.

So the new season is starting, and I'm very anxious to see what talent will be displayed. If you pay attention to the reality show, you know that only one of the winners has actually made a name for themselves: Kelly Clarkson. The rest of them withered away after their 15 minutes of fame. I guess, if you were really desperate, you could count Clay Aiken as a potential star, but he's a weirdo, so I wouldn't.

I wrote about the show because I find it very addicting. I don't think it's a good show, and I kind of find it an hour wasted out of my life each week, but I cannot help it. It's fully addicting and I hope that you watch a few episodes to understand what I mean.

"Seasons of Love" is by far the most underrated song in the world. I went to "Rent" with two of my closest guy friends, and we were the only people in the theater, so needless to say, we enjoyed ourselves. At the very beginning, the actors sing the song formerly mentioned, we got up, began spinning, clapping, and dancing. Although this should have been too embarrassing of a moment to express on a newspaper page for the whole school to read, I am not one bit ashamed. I loved that movie and it inspired me to be on Broadway. If not for Rent, at least for Cats. I love people that sing on the streets about random junk like a coat.

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The Vox is a student run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934. It is published six times a year by the journalism class at MHS. The staff will report as accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities will be covered by the staff to the best of their abilities, without showing favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, The Vox retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of 200 words per article, and all letters must be signed in order for them to be published. The decision to include them rests solely on the staff and advisor. Turn letters into the office or to any staff member.

The Clock is Ticking...

By Kailee Jordan

The year is now almost half over, which is very exciting for most of you. For the seniors it means you have less time to decide where you want to go and what you want to do. This means that it is time to start buckling down and making your final decisions.

Some of you may already know what you are going to do after you graduate, and others may have NO CLUE. There are a lot of options, but not a lot of time. Some of you may even be graduating early; meaning some may have only a few days left. Others have a little more

grant applications filled out and ready to turn in. You should also get them turned in as soon as possible.

Now don't think that just because you are a junior that you don't have to be doing anything. By now, you should have at least narrowed down your list of colleges to five. Juniors should also start thinking about taking the ACTs and SATs. There is always something you can be doing to get ready for college.

Laura Stulken has decided where she

deciding where they are going to go to school next year or what they want to do after they graduate. It's not easy for everyone.

Senior Krisanne Ryther has known for awhile that she wants to attend Iowa. Krisanne said, "My brother and sister both attend or have attended the U of I, so I have gotten to know the campus very well. It also helps that I am a HUGE Hawkeye fan. I knew that I wanted to go to Iowa in 8th grade."

Other people are unsure what they want

"I knew that I wanted to go to Iowa in 8th grade." - Krisanne Ryther.

than a term to go. There are seven seniors who are graduating early; Kallie Horak, Dillon Lacy, Kayla Levitan, Zach Scott, Jenny Taylor, Jheri Thompson, and Sheila Kramer.

By now, there are a few things that you should have done if you aren't graduating early. You should have your scholarships and

is going and what she wants to major in. She is going to The University of Iowa and plans to major in pre-med.

Joey Swanson has set up all of his college visits before Christmas break, and will visit them soon after break in hopes to play baseball at a junior college.

Some people are having a problem

to do after high school. It can be a hard decision for some to make.

The decision might not always be easy when trying to decide what you want to do after high school, but don't give up. There is always something for everyone.



MHS Graduates Sam Ehlinger ('01) Josh Ivey ('03) and Andrew Barnd ('05).

Advice from Past Seniors

I recently had the opportunity to talk with past seniors about what they wish they would have known or what they wish they would have done as a senior. Some of the advice was about college and what to do and what not to do.

Sam Ehlinger, class of 2001, Josh Ivey, class of 2003, and Andrew Barnd, class of 2005, recently made a visit to the Journalism room and left some good advice for seniors or juniors who will be preparing for college within the next few months.

Barnd was asked what he wished he would have known or done his senior year. He said, "I would have taken my senior year more seriously because it'll pay off in college." He also said, "Make sure you get all of your scholarship stuff done." Barnd was also asked what he regretted about his senior year: "Not taking physics and finishing up my science classes. If you think you want to take a class take it because you will regret not taking it in the future."

When the guys were asked if college was hard they all said a similar thing; they just didn't know how to study. Sam Ehlinger also said, "Make sure you read before you go to college because you have to do it all the time."

In college you don't have daily work to bring up your grades. Your grade will consist of 2 or 3 tests and the papers you have to write. Josh Ivey commented that he had to write a lot of papers, especially over books that he had to read.

Now, they didn't just leave advice about schooling. They also left advice about people and the different things that you have to deal with. "You have to learn how to deal with all kinds of people," quoted Barnd. "Best friends don't make the best roommates," added Ehlinger.

Now you've heard this advice and I hope that it helps you with your college decisions. Hopefully you'll get an idea of what to expect.

Different Plans for Different People

"I'm graduating early to work a lot so I can save up money. I plan on moving to California in July to go to school. I will miss my friends and my very good friend Dr. Gregory Thomas!"

- Zach Scott



"I'm graduating early so I can work and save some money for college. I plan on attending a four-year college in the fall. But, I will miss my friends and the atmosphere at the high school."

- Jheri Thompson



"What's hard about deciding where I want to go to college after high school is a lot of things. Finding the money to go to college and trying to figure out all the applications and financial aid forms. Also finding a school I can play football at and is good at accounting."

- Eric D'Hooge



Serious Talk About Sex

YOUR LOCAL DOCTOR COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT SEX AND ITS RISKS OR TRYING TO GET YOU ON BIRTH CONTROL. HE OR SHE HAS ALL OF YOUR BACKGROUND RECORDS AND YOUR INFORMATION SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO FILL OUT ANY NEW FORMS.

Sexual education in our school

Marion High School has a class, Teen Insights, which includes education about birth control and sex. In the class, abstinence is stressed along with good decision making and the things that can effect good decision making such as drugs and alcohol. Mrs. Quinn teaches about what the consequences are when you have sex. She teaches about STI's, STD's, and pregnancy. She also said that a big thing about sex is knowing your boundaries, and knowing who you are before the situation occurs.

In the class, contraception (birth control) is discussed but not a lot of time is spent on the subject since the class is to inform students about the effects of having sex. It also makes it easier on parents, because parents don't feel comfortable talking to their kids about sex, Teen Insights does the job for them.

Even though sex can be a touchy subject, Mrs. Quinn tries not to be preachy and force her opinions onto the students. Teen Insights is a required class that students must take that will teach them about sexual scenarios and other problems teens may face. Bottom line is... **Be smart!**

By Kailee Jordan

There are a lot of parents who feel if they don't talk about sex, then their kids won't have sex. In all actuality kids will have sex whether or not their parents talk to them about it. Hopefully, parents would rather have their kids educated about it and know how to stay protected, instead of going into a situation uneducated.

The only way to be 100% protected from pregnancy or STD's is not to have sex. While TV, movies, and school conversations sometimes make it seem like everyone is having sex, that isn't the way it is. Each person needs to make the decision for him/herself, and if you don't feel ready, stand up for your decision.

While no one is saying to go out there and have sex, if you do make the decision to have sex, there are many types of protection. All you have to do is decide which type would be the best for you.

Now, if you have taken Teen Insights, you probably know about all the different types of birth control and protection. If you don't know and don't know who to ask, you can call or go visit Planned Parenthood, Aid to Women, Red Cross, Birthright, or even your family doctor. No one should feel embarrassed to go get protection or to ask about it because the the people who work there work with teenagers who want birth control or protection everyday.

Having unprotected sex is not the best or smartest decision. You risk a lot when you have unprotected sex. The risks of getting pregnant or getting an STD goes up and increases greatly if you have unprotected sex.

Whatever the decision may be, be sure that you think it over and make the best choice for you.

Statistics on Sex

* 25% of women who don't use any contraception will become pregnant within a month.

* 85% of those women will get pregnant within a year.

* 3 Million cases of chlamydia were reported in the last year.

* 1,370,000 abortions occur annually in the U.S.

* Almost 1\2 of all abortions are performed on women who have already had an abortion take place.

*Birth control is said to be 96-99% effective, but in reality it is around 87% effective depending on the users' habits.

Statistics from
Planned Parenthood

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STI Testing & Treatment
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**Planned
Parenthood**

**3425 First Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids
(319) 363-8572
www.ppfa.org/ppeci**

(Girls Only)

Would you get your parents' permission to put you on birth control if you wanted to have sex?

Yes: 51%

No: 49%

(Boys Only)

Would you have sex with a girl who wasn't on birth control?

Yes: 82%

No: 18%

Whose responsibility is it to get protection?

Boy's Responsibility: 7%

Girl's Responsibility: 28%

Both Responsibility: 65%

Places to get information:

Planned Parenthood

3425 First Avenue SE
363-8572



American Red Cross

3601 42nd Street NE Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402
rap@crossnet.org www.redcross.org/ia/cedarrap/rap.html

Aid To Women

Location:

701 Center Point Road NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Ph. (319) 364-8967

Fax. (319) 247-5784

E-mail. mail@aidtowomen.com

Hours:

Monday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

By Carly Huffman

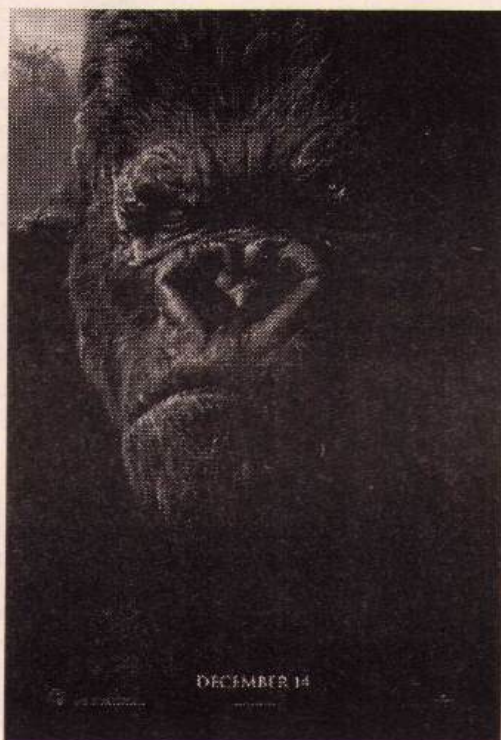
KING KONG

Review: Peter Jackson has been dreaming of directing a remake of King Kong since he was a little boy. He's famous for directing the super-successful *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, but he wanted to accomplish even more. I think we can all agree that he did just that.

The basic plot is that a film crew goes to unexplored Skull Island to make an adventure movie. As soon as they arrive, it becomes perfectly clear that they are not welcome. The natives take Naomi Watts' character, Ann Darrow, hostage and sacrifice her to the great ape that occupies the island. Chaos ensues. Not only is there a 25 foot ape, but there are enormous pre-historic bugs and dinosaurs that attack the crew.

What I liked: They decided that Kong was going to be 25 feet tall, and he stayed the same size the entire time. In other words: the graphics are amazing.

What I didn't like: I can't sit in a movie for 3 hours, especially when they don't show the main attraction for more than an hour.



RUMOR HAS IT...



Review: I'm not going to lie, I love Jennifer Aniston and everything she does. Ever since her "Friends" days, I've been a big fan and I try to see every movie she's in. She's had some good ones, and some really bad ones. This one is kind of in the middle.

Aniston plays an engaged woman who realizes that her family has an uncanny resemblance to the family in the movie "The Graduate". She goes on a

mission to find the man who slept with both her mother and grandmother in previous years. She also (surprise, surprise) ends up sleeping with him, which causes lots of problems with her whole family and her fiancé.

What I liked: It's a very cute movie. Kevin Costner does a great job even though he's not playing his traditional hunk role.

What I didn't like: It went on longer than it had to.

THE FAMILY STONE

Review: The cliché phrase "It made me laugh, it made me cry" is rarely used in a literal sense, but it's the only thing I can think to say about this movie.

The Stone family is an eccentric mix of very unique people. When all of them come together for Christmas, the house is full of both love and animosity. The most conventional of the kids, played by Dermot Mulroney, brings his girlfriend home to meet his parents. Sarah Jessica Parker does a great

job showing her character evolve and discover her true personality. This premise seems like it would be similar to "Meet

very distinct personalities, but they all fit together as a family. The ending is unexpected, but it still makes sense.



"The Parents" but it has almost nothing in common with that movie. This one made me cry as much as it made me laugh.

What I liked: The characters all had

What I didn't like: There was one character who was randomly just in the movie for no reason. That kind of stuff annoys me, but it wasn't too bad.

WHAT TO WATCH

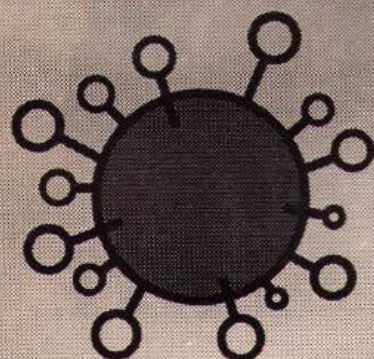
- The Gauntlet 2 (MTV) Rookies Vs. Veterans battle it out for glory and prizes.

- Related (WB) A funny and emotional story about sisters in New York.

- The Hills (MTV) Remember LC from Laguna Beach? She's back with her own show.

- My Own (MTV) Wannabe pop stars compete to see who is most like their idol.

- Grey's Anatomy (ABC) It's like a more mature Scrubs.



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ANI-MANIA

By Brian Heath

The world before Anime was dull, boring, horribly mind-numbing, the idea of a "cartoon" was just jumping from the comics to the big screen. In 1914 the Japanese first started experimenting with animation, and they didn't take to it right away. But soon, the Japanese would experience a movement into animation; the likes of which had never been seen.

The first successful Anime to hit the U.S. was Astro Boy. Osamu Tezuka, the creator of Astro Boy, is considered by many to be, the father of modern Anime.

In the year 2000, robot technology has advanced to an astounding level. Doctor Boyton is the Head for the Ministry of Science, trying to create a new type of robot. His obsession with his research causes him to miss a lot of time with his son, Toby. After breaking too many fatherly promises, Toby

runs away from home and is tragically killed in a car accident. Doctor Boyton, driven mad by his grief, goes on to secretly complete his robot with a soul in the likeness of his son. This robot is Astro Boy.

Though Anime was invented in the 50's and 60's it didn't take off until the 70's and 80's. Animes like Lupin the Third, and Mazinger Z started a revolution that lasted well into the 90's and is going strong today.

True, Anime is a force to be reckoned with, but it's still mainly underground. If you ask Average-Joe high

school what Anime is he'd probably say "Ani-what?" The truth is, It can't really be explained in the length of one article, it would need a



LUPIN THE THIRD

whole series.

Today Anime blocks are common on many channels, Cartoon Network's Adult swim, and G4's Anime Unleashed, are making significant gains toward the Anime movement, and Anime Network, the first channel devoted to Anime, definitely keeps the fans happy. Stores have whole sections devoted to Anime, and there are several magazines all about Anime, not to mention hundreds of Anime websites.

Modern Anime ranges from

the wacky to the artistic, from fairy tale Anime, such as Inuyasha to modern Anime like Azumanga Daioh and even futuristic Anime like Cowboy Bebop.

After looking at all Anime has accomplished, and all it will ever accomplish, we should stand up and say, "Thank you Japan. Thank you Osamu Tezuka, Hayao Miyazaki, Rumiko Takahashi, and Masamune Shirow."

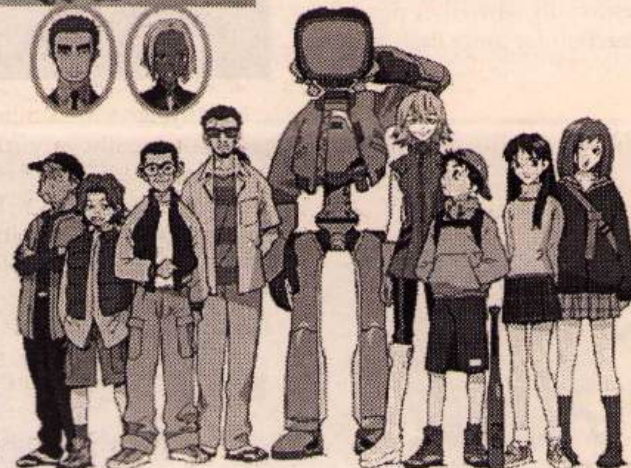


Thank you Anime, we look forward to what you have in store for us for, the many years to come.

Up: Our hero, Inuyasha (left) locked in combat with his rival Koga, in the appropriately named Anime, Inuyasha.

Left: the crew of bounty hunters on Cowboy Bebop. From left: Jet, Spike, Faye Ein and Ed.

Below: FLCL or Fooley Cooley or Furi Curi, one of the bizarre Animes out there, is about the strange goings on in a sleepy little town, and a boy who has a portal in his forehead, in which evil beings emerge.



COMPETITIVE SPEECH

By Brittney Railsback

Ensemble Acting

DMV Tyrant
Jordan Crane
Anna Lafontant

If You Were My Wife, I'd Shoot Myself
Joe Jewell
Sarah Young

A.M.L.

Taylor Bentor
Anna Doneson
Jessie Jones
Laura Stulken
Hillary Youngman

Choral Reading

Medea
Floris Bannister
Sara Beaty
Jessica Blazek
Darcy DeLong
Patrick Doubet
Sarah Gard
Amanda Harden
Drew Hingtgen
Sariah Holder
Sean Robinson
Alex Skalla
Lizz Smith
Kelsey Thornton

One Act Play
Voice of the Prairie

Michael Chervek
Will Larson
Katie Lawson
Cathy Hornback
Jodi Moore
Amanda Roberts
Katie Rosenberger
Nate Samuleson
Alexandria Sturtz
Justin Swearingner
Mary Thompson
Derrick VanDerMillen

Musical Theatre

6 Women With Brain Death
Or Expiring Minds Want to Know
Kelly Cayton
Mary Beth Gaines
Chelsea Meyer
Andrea Oldfield
Brittney Railsback
Katie Schultz

Blame It On The Movies

Diana Arnold
Brian Buh
Jordan Crane
Ryan Garman
Israel Giribaldi
Joseph Smith
Justin Swearingner

Mime

Keeley Carson
Cathy Hornback

Jennie Merrifi
Amanda Roberts
Laura Sauer
Megan Scheer
Krystle Schoon
Carrie Shaefer

Readers Theatre

15 Reasons Not to Be in a Play
Hanna Clendenen
Christina Hamous
Max Lafontant
Olivia Moskot
Jen Noe
Laura Sauer
Emily Shaw
Alicia Spurgin
Nick Walters
Ian Watt

Improvisational Acting

Diana Arnold
Brian Buh
Jordan Crane
Ryan Garman
Israel Giribaldi
Drew Hingtgen
Amber Vittitoe
Nick Walters
Sarah Young

Competitive Speech has an overwhelming 63 members for the 2005-2006 school year. Mrs. Streif, a special education teacher, and Mr. Wake, an English teacher, lead the speech group.

Choral Reading, Ensemble Acting (three groups), Improvisational Acting, Mime, Musical Theatre (two groups), and Readers Theatre are the many groups that make up the Competitive Speech team. With all these groups and people, there is a lot of diversity. Sariah Holder stated, "With all the diversity on the team you get to know the real people, you also get to hang out and get to know people from other grades and groups."

Each separated group must meet for practice each week for a total of three hours with their coach. Depending on the group you are in decides if you will be with either Mrs. Streif or Mr. Wake. Mrs. Streif and Mr. Wake are often here until nine or ten o'clock holding sessions in either the auditorium or in their rooms. Both coaches miss spending time with their family now that speech has started and will continue on until March.

Speech has a lot of experience on

the team this year. Not only is there between twenty to thirty seniors on the team, but the coaches are experienced too. Mr. Wake has been involved in Competitive Speech for 14 years. His background ranging from Jefferson High School, to Regis High School, and, now he is here at MHS. Mrs. Streif was involved in speech all four years of high school. She has also been a judge since 1990 and this is her second year coaching.

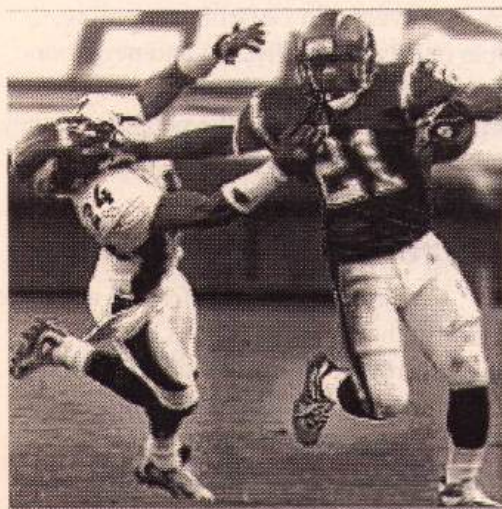
With so much experience on the team this year it won't be surprising if the teams go far. Their first competition is on January 16, 2006 and will be held in Maquoketa.



Fantasy Fanatics

By Matt Barnd, Riley Quinn,
and Pat Tiernan

"With the 1st selection of the 2005 Fantasy Football Draft the Ninja Toitles select LaDanian Tomlinson from the San Diego Chargers." To many people this may not be relevant or even make sense, but to others, this makes perfect sense and is a large part of their lives. Every year over 30 million Americans partake in Fantasy Football. The average participant spends three hours each week on these fantasy leagues and puts out \$154 toward the sport yearly.



With all the money and time required to play something that's not even real, why do so many people participate?

"I participate because it's a great way to win money," Mr. Grinstead explained. Many people play for money but most play just for fun.

"I was addicted to it. With baseball it was a daily grind trying to figure out the best lineup. Everyday I was online a couple of hours researching baseball," said Mr. Ferguson. Others play for completely different reasons.

"I enjoy using my knowledge of football to make other people fail," Brian Buh commented. No matter the reasons that people play, fantasy football is rapidly increasing in popularity.

Fantasy football is not the only fantasy sport sweeping the nation. There are over 15 fantasy sports ranging from cricket to WWE wrestling. The most popular fantasy sports are football, baseball, basket-

ball, hockey, and pick'em. Pick'em is when the player predicts who will win different games and score points based on their predictions. Of these fantasy sports, football was the most popular in a poll of Marion High School students.

Most of the available sports can be found on the many different host websites that provide fantasy sports. The most popular host websites include Yahoo!, ESPN, and CBS Sportsline. Some hosts charge for participation, but others don't. Playing for money makes the competition a lot tougher and makes for more excitement. In the school poll Yahoo! was the most popular host website.

Fantasy Football is a game in which the owners create a team of NFL players and receive points for individual statistics that the players put out in their weekly games. All the points that each player earns for the week will accumulate, creating the team's score for that week. Scoring systems are similar in some

cases but usually vary from league to league. This is one example of a scoring format for a league of several MHS students. In this case the owner gets one point for twenty passing yards, one point for every ten rushing yards, one point for ten receiving yards, six points for every touchdown, and negative two points for every turnover. The team defense or individual players earn one point for a sack, two points for every turnover, and a certain amount of points for points allowed. Because points are rewarded for individual statistics, owners must draft players based on what they're good at. For example, Michael Vick may be one of the most explosive players in the NFL, but fantasy wise he may not be the best choice for a quarterback because he doesn't score often. Other players such as Rod Smith, who is a veteran player, are more concerned about the team than individual statistics, and may not be the top fantasy player.

The set up of each league will also vary, but the majority of the leagues are Redraft leagues. In this format each owner

begins with an empty roster each year and selects NFL players through a draft. Players not drafted become free agents. Owners may add these free agents to their team or make their own unwanted players free agents. Owners may also trade their players to another team in exchange for a different player.

Others play in Keeper leagues in which owners select from one to five players to keep on their roster from the previous season and put them on their roster for the next season. Another league entitled Dynasty builds off of keeper leagues except they keep their entire roster from season to



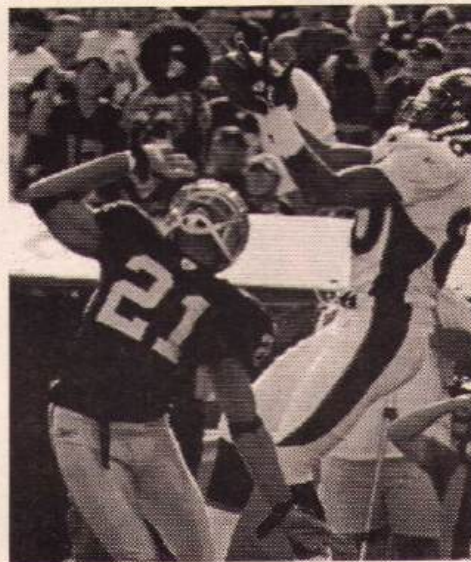
season, not just several players.

Fantasy leagues usually include eight to twelve teams that start nine NFL players each week. A typical line up consists of one quarterback, two running backs, three wide receivers, one tight end, one place kicker, and one team defense. Some leagues use individual defensive players instead of an entire team defense. Each player is a key aspect of the team and everyone is needed in order to win.

Leagues also vary in another part of the game; how the league champion is determined. In one, the winner is the team that has accumulated the most points in the season. Another, called the

head-to-head format, the team with the best overall win-loss record is crowned champion. Also, a few leagues take the head to head format a step further having playoffs for the top four teams. The winner of the playoffs is the league's overall champion, much like the actual NFL.

If you have a serious interest in virtually any pro sport, there's a good chance that fantasy sports may be a good hobby for you. That is if you are willing to put in the time and effort that it takes to be a serious and competitive fantasy football player.



Rank	Team	W-L-T	Pct.	Pts.	Streak	Wavier	Moves
1.	East Compton	9-3-0	.750	1104	W-4	10	7
2.	Santa	9-3-0	.750	1082	W-2	8	18
3.	Bozodaclan	9-3-0	.750	982	W-1	5	25
4.	Ninja Toitles	8-3-1	.708	1093	W-2	3	2
5.	Hawkeye	6-6-0	.500	913	L-1	7	11
6.	Indians	6-6-0	.500	859	W-2	4	3
7.	Ben	6-6-0	.500	830	L-2	9	20
8.	Penguins	5-6-1	.458	1005	L-2	13	16
9.	Broncos	5-6-1	.458	838	L-6	1	-
10.	LeBeau	5-7-0	.417	966	L-2	6	22
11.	Comeback Kids	5-7-0	.417	797	W-1	12	17
12.	Itchymictigerz	4-7-1	.375	630	W-2	2	-
13.	Boogey Men	4-8-0	.333	868	L-1	14	20
14.	Dawg House	1-11-0	.083	628	L-2	11	9

The chart above is the league standings for a group of sophomores at MHS. It is for fantasy football on Yahoo!. The points represent the total amount of fantasy points their team has scored against other opponents. Wavier represents what priority you have over other managers on free agents, the lower the better. The amount of transactions completed are moves, such as adding or dropping players. Trading is also another form of moves.

"My favorite part of fantasy sports is picking the perfect team so they can be as good as Allen Reisner."
- Andrew Tyne

"My first pick was LaDanian Tomlinson because he is the main option on a good team, and he scores lots of touchdowns. I also think he's the best player in the league."
- Jordan Garretson

"I first got started because my dad made a team and he then gave it to me. I took over and dominate everyone I play against."
- Bill Law

Merry Christmas

By: Ashley Cory and Shawna Leonard

Every country seems to have different ways of celebrating Christmas. Each one has special Christmas traditions and customs, traditional Christmas foods, different ways of giving gifts, and different names for Santa Claus. In many countries, Christmas is held on December 25th and is a high point of the year. But why? From November on, it is impossible to forget that Christmas is coming. Many people start their Christmas traditions the day after Thanksgiving. Whether they get up at 5:00 a.m. to go shopping with the cheap holiday sales, or begin to decorate their homes with elaborate lights and other decorations, it is a popular thing that many people do. The custom of handing out Christmas cards is also a popular holiday tradition that many people participate in around the U.S. What do you and your family do each Christmas? Do you have any family Christmas traditions or customs?



Christmas in the United States

Christmas traditions vary greatly between regions in the U.S. because of the variety of nationalities which have settled in. The majority of Americans celebrate Christmas with the exchange of gifts, greetings, and family visits. The day begins on Christmas Eve with Midnight Mass, for many. American homes are decorated with lights, holly, and mistletoe, as well as a Christmas tree, hung with lights, tinsels, bulbs, and candy canes. It is also very popular for many families to drive around, looking at Christmas lights, as the holiday nears.

Christmas in the Philippines

The Philippines is the only Asian nation in which Christianity is the religion chosen by the people. Christmas celebrations and traditions start nine days before Christmas with mass known as **Misa de Gallo**. The story behind the birth of Christ is read from the Bible during this service. A pageant called **The Panunuluyan** is held each Eve. A couple is chosen to reenact Joseph and Mary's search for shelter. On Christmas Day, mass is held hourly so everyone can attend. Christmas celebrations may have evolved from old tribal customs mixed with other influences.

Christmas in Chile

In Chile, figures made of clay are placed under the Christmas tree. These little figures are known as **pesebre**. Father Christmas or Santa Claus is known as **Viejito Pascuero**, who wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year by saying, "**Feliz Navidad y un Prospero Año Nuevo.**"

Christmas in Ireland

Christmas in Ireland lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of the Epiphany on January 6th, which is referred to as Little Christmas. Ireland's Christmas is a lot more religious, than just a time of fun. Lighted candles are placed in windows on Christmas Eve, as a guide that Joseph and Mary might be looking for shelter. The candles are usually red and decorated with sprigs of holly. After the Christmas evening meal, bread and milk are left out and the door unlatched as a symbol of hospitality. Children often put Christmas sacks instead of stockings up. It is also a tradition to leave mince pies and a bottle of Guinness out as a snack for Santa Claus.

Christmas in Egypt

In the Coptic Church, (an Orthodox church) Christmas is celebrated on January 7th. Advent is observed for forty days and during this period people are expected to fast, eating no meat, poultry, or dairy products. Some people only do this during the last week of Advent. On Christmas morning, people in Egypt visit friends and neighbors. They take with them *kaik*, which is a type of shortbread, and give it to the people that they visit. Christmas Day is a public holiday for Christians.

Christmas in Africa

Christmas in South Africa is a summer holiday. In the cities and towns carolers make their round on Christmas Eve. Church services are held on Christmas morning. Christmas Eve celebrations in larger centers include "Carols by Candlelight" and special screen and floor shows. Homes are decorated with pine branches, and they all have the decorated Christmas fir in a corner, with presents for the children around.

On the west coast of Africa, in Liberia, many homes have an oil palm for a Christmas tree, which is decorated with bells. On Christmas morning, people are woken up by carols. A church service is also held in the morning where hymns and carols are sung. Presents such as soap, sweets, pencils, and books are then exchanged. Dinner is eaten outdoors with everyone sitting in a circle to share the meal of beef, rice, and biscuits. Later that night, fireworks are lit off.

Christmas in Australia

Christmas in Australia is often very hot. Temperatures are usually near 100 degrees Fahrenheit. A traditional meal includes a turkey dinner, with ham and pork. A flaming Christmas dessert called plum pudding is also added. The warm weather allows Australians to enjoy a tradition which was founded in 1937. "Carols by Candlelight" is held every year on Christmas Eve, where tens of thousands of people gather in the city of Melbourne to sing their favorite Christmas songs. Australians surround themselves with **Christmas Bush**, a native plant which has little red flowered leaves. At many beaches, Santa Claus arrives on a surfboard, or even on a surf lifesaving boat.



Happy New Year!



What are some traditions in your family during the holidays?



"On Christmas Eve, I go to my mom's parents house and have a Christmas with all my mom's side. Then on Christmas day, I go to my dad's side and have a Christmas with them. I love Christmas because I get to see all my extended family, and it's a lot of fun."

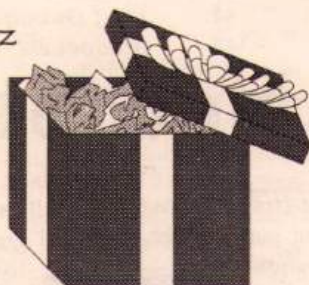
- Brady Quinn

"Christmas Morning: My grandpa comes over and we all open presents that we got each other.

Christmas Afternoon: My mom is usually running around like a chicken with her head cut off. My grandpa, dad, and uncle are cooking meat and watching football.

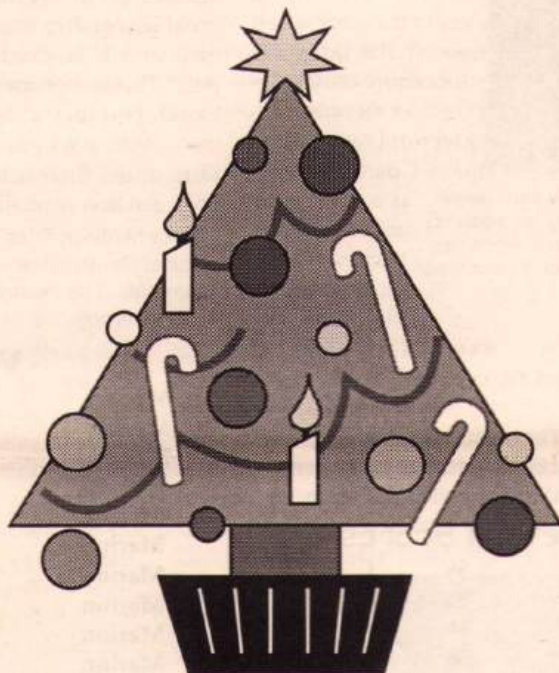
Christmas Evening: My extended family all come over and we eat dinner. Then my cousin Stephen and I go to church."

- Niki Kiburz



"My family and I always decorate our house and purchase our Christmas tree."

- Nick Jones



"We always put up the Christmas tree and watch Christmas movies together. On Christmas Eve we open one gift before we go to sleep."

- Audrey Conner

"Winning the can drive at Marion, Eating Bobka (a Russian coffee cake) on Christmas morning, waiting upstairs while Dad goes down to see if Santa has come, and listening to Christmas carols over and over and over and over...."

- Ms. Humbert

"Before Christmas we set up the tree at our house, then we go to our Grandma's house and set her's up. On Christmas Eve, we go to church, then we go to my grandma's house and open some presents. On Christmas day, we open up the rest of the presents.

- Rachel Dullea

"My family and I go caroling every year."

- Nicole Fisher



What are your New Years Resolutions?

Did you set one?

"Yeah, I usually do, but they only last about a week. I haven't put any thought into resolutions for '06."

- Sam Houseman

"Yes, I set them to do my best in school and to stay out of trouble."

- Brad Rose

"I have never really had a New Years resolution, but I think they are a good idea because they help people accomplish goals."

- Drew Clark

"For 2006, it's going to be: Have as much fun as I possibly can because I graduate in 2007, and I only get to experience high school once."

- Janessa Senter

Top 10 New Years Resolutions

1. Spend more time with family
2. Work out more
3. Commit to healthy eating habits
4. Quit smoking
5. Enjoy life more
6. Quit drinking
7. Get out of debt
8. Learn something new
9. Help others
10. Get organized



Top 10 ways to follow through

1. Write it down
2. Commit
3. Tell people
4. Get accountability
5. Make a plan
6. Do a goal check
7. Get real
8. Focus with reminders
9. Believe and visualize
10. Focus on yourself, your dreams, and your goals so you can follow through.

Team Effort

By: Ben Messerli

"This year we have a team where almost any of the players could start on most varsity basketball teams, which will make us very competitive and thirsty to win every game," says Brandon O'Connell. That quote summarizes what this year's Marion Basketball team is all about.

The varsity boy's basketball team has 16 players on the team, which doesn't seem like a lot when watching them practice but it is all they need. "This year there are a lot of good players that all get along and it gets very competitive," said Jake Cram when talking about the team.

The team has very competitive practices with the talent that everyone has. The main thing that the Indians are focusing on is trying to jell as a team.

Coach Laube said that it's different only having 16 people to practice with. He has to adjust the

practice schedule, but it also helps the players become better because of the number of reps each day. Everyone keeps involved in practice too. "It's competitive one through sixteen on the team which helps everyone get better," said Coach Laube on the depth of his team.

Also, the varsity has a new assistant coach, Coach Brunson. He helped out with the sophomore team last year but got moved up to varsity this year when Coach Rahe, last year's sophomore coach, decided to advance his career in law enforcement. Coach Brunson

is a very good attribute to the team with his knowledge of the game. Before coaching at Marion he coached at Independence.

The season is looking up with no distractions, with very competitive players all throughout the team.



Jake Cram defends a Center-Point Urbana player. This is Jake's second year on Varsity, he is part of Marion's stingy defense. The Marion defense has held their opponents to an average of 51 points per game.

Varsity Boys Basketball Scores

Marion	40	Linn-Mar	66	L
Marion	61	Central Dewitt	50	W
Marion	61	South Tama	36	W
Marion	74	CPU	56	W
Marion	49	Beckman	58	L
Marion	44	W. Dubuque	42	W
Marion	51	Maquoketa	47	W

Working Together

By: Natalie & Krisanne Ryther

Going into the season with only five sophomores on the team, they immediately faced challenges. The girl's basketball staff decided to move freshman girls up to the sophomores to complete their squad. "The best players get moved up to fulfill the needs of the entire program," says Mr. Wikert, coach of the freshman team.

The next problem the girls faced was adjusting. "Anytime you move athletes up there is a period of adjustment," says Mr. Perkins,

coach of the sophomore team. The sophomore girls adjusted well to their new team, which reflects in their record of 8-2. With only a total of seven girls on the team, the girls all get their fair share in each game. They do an excellent job hustling at all times, causing them to score the majority of their points off of fast breaks. The girls continue to keep working hard to better themselves and get used to one another, to hopefully have a winning season.



During the sophomore Dewitt game, Freshman Sam Rinehart ties the ball up against a few of the Sabers defenders.



Sophomore Rachel Duillea fights for possession of the ball during the Dewitt game. The girls won the game with a final score of 73-38.

Sophomore Girls Basketball Scores

Marion	63	Vinton	29	W
Marion	48	Mt. Pleasant	43	W
Marion	65	Linn-Mar	70	L
Marion	73	Dewitt	38	W
Marion	75	South Tama	49	W
Marion	56	West Delaware	58	L
Marion	66	Beckman	31	W
Marion	91	Anamosa	23	W
Marion	60	West Dubuque	58	W
Marion	63	Maquoketa	16	W

Stepping Up

By: Krisanne Ryther

Sitting at 5-6 and 3-4 in the WaMaC, most people wouldn't think that the varsity girl's basketball team has much to show. However, the Indians believe that they can add some more notches to the win column this season and convert the student body into believers. Assistant Coach Humbert thinks that the 3-4 record is deceiving, "Our team has held strong thus far. These girls are determined and have the will to win."

The Indians return four starters from last season and also have seven seniors on the roster. The team has great leadership from many different girls and is stacked with lots of talent. "This is a promising team," adds Coach Humbert.

With a win over Vinton-Shellsburg under their belts, the girls know they can accomplish anything if they Senior Madison Bliss scans the floor against Central Dewitt to find an open teammate. The Indians are 4-6 and looking strong.

keep playing hard. Vinton is always a tough team to beat and has had Marion's number the last few years.

Games against strong WaMaC competition are just around the corner and the girls believe that they can outperform any of them if they stay together as one. "I think the team has not yet reached the height of its potential," says Coach Humbert, "when they do- watch out!!!"



Courtney Helms backs into a Center Point Urbana defender, for an easy lay-in.

Varsity Girls Basketball Scores

Marion	45	Vinton	39	W
Marion	35	Mt. Pleasant	42	L
Marion	32	Linn-Mar	68	L
Marion	18	Central Dewitt	41	L
Marion	43	South Tama	47	L
Marion	43	CPU	40	W
Marion	48	West Delaware	54	L
Marion	26	Beckman	43	L
Marion	55	Anamosa	48	W
Marion	54	West Dubuque	48	W
Marion	48	Maquoketa	32	W

A New Start

By: Jordan Garretson

While this is his first year as the head coach of the sophomore team, Mike Manderscheid conveys his strong beliefs in the fundamentals of basketball to his players each and every day in practice. He runs his team through multiple drills focusing on the most basic aspects of the game, such as passing, lay ups, and defensive positioning. To stress his strong faith in the simple things, foolish errors such as unconverted lay ups and misfired passes are tallied on the electronic scoreboard during practice. This number is directly correlated to how much conditioning the team goes through, in an effort to reduce simple mistakes.

Volunteer assistant coach Kyle Von Behren assists coach Manderscheid in his efforts to better the team by helping the team with defensive, and ball-handling drills. He also helps the team through stretching and offers players health tips.

The sophomore class comes into

Sophomore Boys Basketball Scores

Marion	63	Linn-Mar	76	L
Marion	44	Central DeWitt	33	W
Marion	64	South Tama	48	W
Marion	55	Beckman	52	W
Marion	58	W. Dubuque	46	W
Marion	68	Maquoketa	34	W

this season with high expectations. Rightfully so, as the class of 2008 has enjoyed great success in basketball

throughout their lives. As a result, the team possesses great chemistry and is very used to playing together. In addition to the class already loaded with talent, 2 freshmen, Amry Shelby and Levi Lynott have been playing up with the sophomores since the onset of practice. They are both expected to remain with the team throughout

the duration of the season. Both are also expected to see plentiful amounts of playing time this season as well.

The team will look to use a tough, in your face style defense to complement their athletic superiority to enable themselves to get out and be successful in the transition game. If they can accomplish this, along with complying with Manderscheid's simple demands such as a good effort, good focus, and a positive attitude, the sophomores should be able to enjoy yet another strong season.



New Adjustments

By: Matt Barnd & Pat Tiernan

This year's freshman boys basketball team has had to make many adjustments transitioning from junior high to high school basketball. One of the hardest adjustments to make for many of the players was the 6:00 A.M. morning practices. Other adjustments



Matt Barnd goes up strong against one of Anamosa's defenders. The boys beat Anamosa 45-37.

for the team were, the increase of intensity, in both practice and in games, and the longer season.

The hard work and intensity is a result of the freshmen head coach Craig Foote. Coach Foote has been coaching the freshmen

for several years and always brings out the best in the team. From hustling from drill to drill, to always being attentive when instructions are being given, Coach Foote demands that his basketball team is well disciplined and hard-working. He also encourages the team to always

have fun on the court and maintain a family atmosphere at all times.

Besides the early morning practices, another obstacle that the freshmen faced, was losing two of their top players to the sophomore team. Amry Shelby and

Levi Lynott were both moved to the sophomore team before the season started. Both players were guards, which left the point guard and two-guard position open. This called for several position shifts on the team. Although the team did lose two players, four were added from different schools. These players look to fill roles that were left open by the promoted players.

The freshmen girls team has the potential to be a very competitive basketball team if they continue to work hard and use the fun-

damentals that have been stressed.

Going into the season with only five sophomores on the team, they immediately faced challenges. The girls' basketball staff decided to move freshman girls up to the sophomores to complete their squad. "The best players get moved up to fulfill the needs of the entire program," says freshman coach Wikert.

The next problem the girls faced was adjusting to their changes. "Anytime you move athletes up, there is a period of adjustment," says girls sophomore coach Perkins. The sophomore girls adjusted well to their new team, which reflects in their record of 7-2. The freshman team has put in a lot of

minutes now that three of their fellow teammates have been moved up to the sophomore squad. They're battling through adversity and trying to find their true identity.

As they continue to keep working hard, and keep battling, the freshman girls have been improving game by game.



Freshman Girls Basketball Scores

Marion	29	Benton	41	L
Marion	22	Linn-Mar	42	L
Marion	46	Anamosa	20	W
Marion	38	Mt. Vernon	66	L
Marion	36	Springville	32	W
Marion	30	Monticello	37	L
Marion	54	West Delaware	42	W
Marion	44	CPU	46	L
Marion	43	West Delaware	46	L
Marion	54	Vinton	33	W

Freshman Boys Basketball Scores

Marion	45	Anamosa	37	W
Marion	37	South Tama	40	L
Marion	27	Benton	53	L
Marion	64	Springville	28	W
Marion	38	Mag. Valley	45	L
Marion	58	CPU	38	W
Marion	57	Monticello	41	W
Marion	53	Independence	52	W

Other scores will be in the next Vox

Staying Strong

By: Alicia Zanzie

The Wrestling season is underway, and the team is off to a good start. They came out of their first tournament with a fourth place finish out of eight teams. After that, they took first place at the Mid-Prairie Tournament and took third at Mt. Vernon.

One of the challenges for this season is the lack of experience due to the smaller number of upperclassmen. Only four of the fifteen Varsity wrestlers are seniors. This means that some of the Varsity positions have been filled with freshmen and sophomores. The underclassmen have had to work extra hard and compete well. Sopho-

mores Kris Thompson and Ryan Immerfall are both Varsity wrestlers with winning records. Thompson is 11-4 and Immerfall is 11-5. "Our team is young and inexperienced, but we are work-

ing well as a team. We've had good accomplishments, like winning the Mid-Prairie Tournament," commented Zach Blazek.

The seniors are leading the team with their strong performances. As of January 4, Joey

Swanson had a record of 13-2, while Austin Conway and Zach Blazek were each 13-1. All three of them placed first at the Mid-

Prairie Tournament. With the first half of the season over, the Indians plan to continue their hard work and success to end on a strong note. The next home meet will be the Marion Invitational on Saturday, January 14.



Varsity Wrestling Scores

Marion	34	C.R. Washington	41	L
Marion	34	C.R. Jefferson	37	L
Marion	34	Hempestead	33	W
Marion	44	Vinton	30	W
Marion	51	Columbus	29	W
West Delaware Tournament	4th/8			
Mt. Vernon Tournament	3rd/10			
Mid Prairie Tournament	1st/6			

Pulling It Together

By: Brandon O'Connell

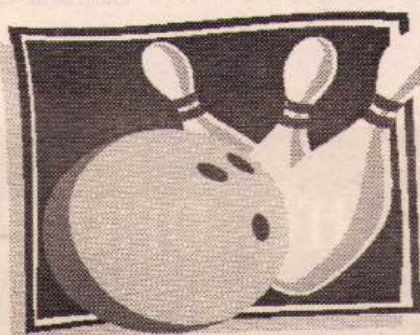
This year, the bowling team has had a rough start with a record of 1-3, but they have a lot of talented bowlers with a lot of experience. For example, they are rotating 4 players from the JV team to the Varsity team. These

players are Kevin Meeker, Adam Post, D.J. Miell, and Corey Nathan. When asked who the team's leaders were this year, the coach said, "I can really count on Chris Barry and Nick Walters." These two bowlers are very consistent due to their experience and focus during the games.

Although they had a slow start, they have been working to improve their game in practice and are looking forward to the rest of the season with their new coach.

The girls did not start off the season the way that they would've liked to either. They have a record of 0-3, but these were only the opening games of the season and hopefully the losses will fuel them with motivation to win.

The leading bowlers for the girls are Sara Teff, with an average of 153 in practices and Nachele Duecker close behind. The girls are excited for the rest of the season and are ready to add some wins.



Varsity bowler Nick Walters bowls for a strike during practice at the Cedar Rapids Bowling Center.



Varsity bowler Sara Teff attempts to pick up a spare during one of her practices. Teff is the leading bowler this year with an average of 153.

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Name: Charlie Williams

Main Activity: Bowling
Other Activities: Golf, NHS, SODA, and volunteering.
Season Highlight: When our coach last year tried to get us to run laps in the bowling parking out.

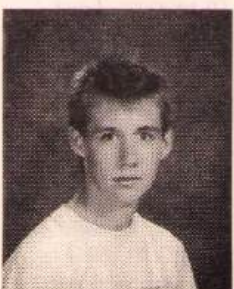
Best High School Memory:

Getting hit every night of Homecoming week this year. I love cleaning up TP.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: The Friday night football games, homecoming week, my friends, and driving to school when I live less than a block away.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: "Life's a garden, Dig It."

Future Plans: Get rich or die tryin.



Name: Michael McVeigh

Main Activity: Wrestling
Other Activities: FBLA
Season Highlight: Seeing Zach peeing on Jon.

Best High School Memory: Hanging out with friends.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: The people

and the teachers.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: Don't let fear or good judgement slow you down.

Future Plans: Go to MMI.



Name: Ashley Cory

Main Activity: Basketball
Other Activities: Volleyball, Track, Win With Wellness, Student Senate, NCYL, FBLA, and SODA.

Season Highlight: Well the season just started, so I'm sure there will be more to

come. As of now opening up to Vinton and beating them was pretty exciting, considering this was the first time we beat them at the varsity level in a few years.

Best High School Memory: I'd probably have to say that walking home in the middle of winter after freshman WPA with Tori at 12:00 AM, then getting caught by my dad was actually pretty funny. Also getting chased by a praying mantis along with Podoll and Bailey after going to the Exorcist of Emily Rose. Last but not least, winning WAMAC and making it to state for volleyball is something I'll never forget.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: Going to the football games with my friends, hanging out with friends, playing sports, team dinners, teachers, coaches, and most of all the easy classes I had second term, along with my open blocks.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: Although you may hear it a lot it's true. High school goes by faster than you think, so have fun, make smart decisions, and have no regrets. Give it your all everyday.

Future Plans: To attend UNI and major in Athletic Training.



Name: Bill Law

Main Activity: Basketball, Band/Choir

Other Activities: Football, Track, and NHS.

Season Highlight: Honorable Mention All-District and All-Metro team.

Best High School Memory: Winning the district title in football as a junior.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: Easy classes.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: "Don't build downwind of a dump," Mr. Clark.

Future Plans: Attend Iowa State and major in Biology.



Name: Adam Spear

Main Activity: Wrestling
Other Activities: Cross Country, Soccer, and SODA.

Season Highlight: Playing soccer and only getting beat by Xavier by five points.

Best High School Memory:

Going to districts for wrestling.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: The excellent teachers and fun classes.

Future Plans: Kirkwood.

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black and white.

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Name: Niki Kiburz

Main Activity: Basketball

Other Activities: Cross Country, Take Charge, Lean On Me, FBLA, SODA, volunteering, and Champs.

Season Highlight: Beating Vinton in season opener.

Best High School Memory: There are too many to pick only one.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: Krisanne Ryther

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: "A good friend will bail you out of jail, but a true friend will be the one sitting next to you saying man that was fun."

Future Plans: Undecided



Name: Dan Teff

Main Activity: Bowling
Season Highlight: Making

Second Team All-State freshman year. Winning state my sophomore year.

Best High School Memory: Watching Tori run over the Easter Bunny (Adam Smith) sophomore year. Also the time we pulled an all nighter at Charlie's house and then we Robin Hooded newspapers at 5:00 AM.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: If it's fun, then it's worth doing. If you get in trouble doing it, at least you learned something.

Future Plans: Four year college somewhere warm.



Name: Anna Lafontant

Main Activity: Band

Other Activities: Speech, Choir, and Thespians.

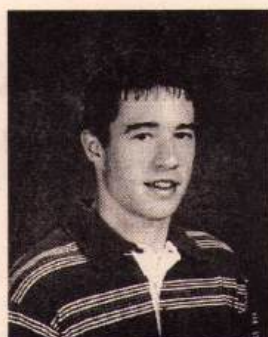
Season Highlight: The really sad bell solo.

Best High School Memory: University of Iowa honor band banking with snow.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: The random conversations in our free time.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: Taking the time to enjoy yourself.

Future Plans: Attend BVU for math education to teach high school math.



Name: Brandon O'Connell

Main Activity: Basketball
Other Activities: Track, SODA, and FBLA.
Season Highlight: When we beat Central Dewitt for the first time in my high school basketball career. We were trailing by ten points

in the first half and ended up beating them by eleven.

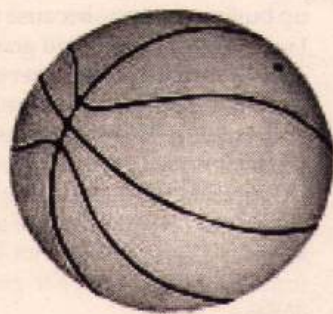
Best High School Memory: Going with my friends to the football games and tailgating.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: I will miss being with my friends, playing sports, and most of all easy classes.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave:

Enjoy your life while you're young and in high school because it goes by faster than you think.

Future Plans: I plan to go to UNI and major in Criminology, and if that doesn't follow through I will move to California and be a realtor.



Name: Nicole Cox

Main Activity: Basketball Cheerleading
Other Activities: Football Cheer, Competition Cheer, Journalism, FBLA, NHS, NCYL, and SODA.
Season Highlight: Placing first and taking home "Grand Champs"

trophy at Prairie for competition.

Best High School Memory: Sprinting through the halls for my last holiday dinner and sweating off the turkey by running timed line drills for punishment.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: The football games, and watching Clancy lay people out.

Getting to see all my friends everyday; cheerleading.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: Don't let the little stuff get you down. Don't worry about what other people think of you because it doesn't matter.

Future Plans: Go to Coe or Iowa and do something with business.



Name: Heather Rowe

Main Activity: Dance
Other Activities: SODA, Take Charge, FBLA, NHS, NCYL, and Tennis.

Season Highlight: Hearing people say the dance team is the best they've seen.

Best High School Memory: Placing our home routine at dance camp and getting a bid to Nationals.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion: The dance team and football games.

Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: "Live like you were dying" and always be yourself.

Future Plans: Kirkwood for a year and then transfer to Art Institute of Minneapolis.



Name: Joey Steffek

Main Activity: Basketball
Other Activities: Football and Track
Season Highlight: Being suspended all year in football, it was fun.
Best High School Memory: Summer '05.
What Will You Miss Most About Marion: All my friends and the football team.
Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: "Any day above ground is a good day," Al Capone.
Future Plans: Rooming with Charlie at

Kirkwood.



Name: Kallie Horak

Main Activity: Art
Best High School Memory: Meeting a lot of new people who eventually become really good friends and changed my life.
What Will You Miss Most About Marion: The teachers, they're all so nice and very easy to talk to. They make you feel very welcome at the school.
Favorite Quote Or Some Advice To Leave: If someone wrote a book about

your life, would anyone want to read it?

Future Plans: Graduating early in January, then maybe getting a job second semester to help save up for college, and then start college next fall.



Senior Kallie Horak poses with her winning art piece that will be placed in a calendar about recycling in Iowa. She made this picture in Layout and Design with Ms. Thilges.



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DIFFERENT STROKES

By Amanda Grieder

Will Larson is a junior and is involved in many things. He is apart of concert band and marching band. He is also in speech and will be playing soccer in the spring. Along with being apart of all of those school activities, he is also involved in one outside of school. Will is apart of Peer Court. Peer Court is a group of kids that is student led. What happens is when a student gets

convicted of a small crime they then get sent to Peer Court. Students then act as lawyers for both sides of the case. There is a real, certified judge and a jury full of students. The convicted teen goes to court. After both sides have stated their cause

the jury decides how they are going to be punished by the severity of the crime. They pick the punishments from a list given to them by their supervisor and decided on by their fellow peers. When asked if he ever feels weird putting his peers on trial Will says, "They never pressure me to work on a case that I feel uncomfortable about. We aren't supposed to represent or be on the jury for anyone we know."

Will is very busy with his extra curriculums that he is involved in at school. He also has

a large homework load. "I usually find time in between things, and I do my homework on weekends and after my activities. It's not as bad as it seems though because I all of my activities are all at once. Usually I just have like two at a time to work on," says Will. Peer Court is a volunteering group. Every student that is involved is a volunteer. Will is only

one of the many that work hard while doing tons of school activities.

In addition to being so involved in school, Will also works at Drug Town. "I like to have a little extra money and work-

ing at Drug Town isn't all that bad. It's not that hard for them to work around my schedule as long as I always turn it in on time," says Will. He doesn't really know what he wants to do when he is older. He might do something like peer court but he also has a lot of other interests. "There are a lot of things that are out there and I just have to keep working hard to figure out what I want to do."

AJ Jilek is a senior, and is very creative and pretty much creates anything her mind can think of. "I'm obsessed with clothes. I go shopping weekly and whatever I get I destroy. My mom has given up buying me jeans because they are all destroyed. I just get crazy ideas and go with it until it's done," says AJ. Usually AJ tears her jeans and layers tons of shirts together to make her outfits more interesting and exciting. She also just recently decorated her room. She uses her computer to make the pictures in her room more appealing. She makes different colors stand out more. She also made a city scape out of pictures that she took on vacation. "It's not finished yet, but I hope to get it done before I go to college."

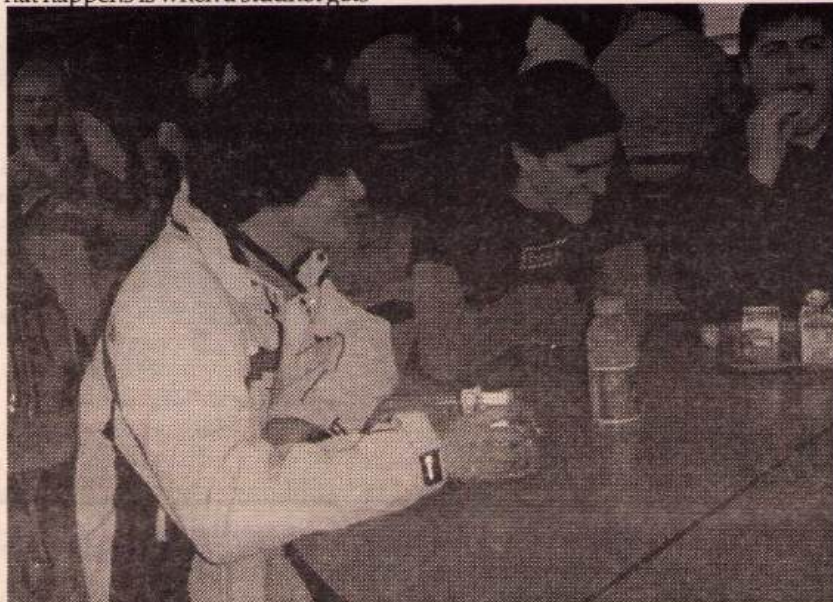
AJ is also hoping to go to college for something that has to do with art or fashion. She isn't sure where she is going to go to college, but she knows she wants to use her artistic and creative abilities in her job someday.

Lizz Smith is a freshmen bassoon player in the Marion Highschool band. She is a very dedicated member of the band. Lizz practices one to two hours a night depending on what she is working on that week. "Lizz is a very dedicated person in our band. She practices a lot outside of rehearsal and she works with a private lessons instructor," says Mr. Bobe.

In addition to being apart of the Marion High School Concert and Marching Band, Lizz is also involved in the Coe College Senior Honor Band and All-State Honor Band. She also plays at the All-State music camp at the University of Iowa.

Lizz is also involved in speech, soccer, jazz band, and concert coral. This makes for a very busy schedule during the school year. "At the beginning of the year my schedule was pretty tough. Now I have time to hang out with friends. I also have time to babysit to earn extra money. Before when I was working on All-State auditions, I didn't have much time to do anything extra," says Lizz when asked how she found time to do anything with her busy schedule.

In addition to playing the bassoon, Lizz also plays the bass. "I try to practice once a week, but sometimes it's hard with all of the other things I have going on."



Will enjoys a nice lunch with his friends. Will still finds time to hang out with friends with his busy schedule and with doing Peer Court.



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The Bytes-Xbox 360

By: Aaron Lockwood



anything like this. More powerful than today's top PCs, the Xbox 360 redefines interactive entertainment.

It is the new "it" item for any gamer or tech head, but is the Xbox 360 worth the 300-600 dollars for a cutting edge gaming experience? I'm here to give you the low-down on the power packed inside the new Xbox's box, its abilities and some insight into possible problems or areas for concern.

Comparing hardware, the new Xbox is leaps and bounds ahead of its predecessor. It sports three separate processors that clock in at 3.2GHz each. Which is triple the normal processing power of most computers, it also comes with a 500MHz graphics processor. When it comes to video game consoles their power is measured in what are called polygons, the more polygons that a system can generate means the more detailed the graphics can be on the system. The Xbox 360 is capable of generating more than four times as many polygons as the original Xbox. It also comes with 512MB of RAM built into it, which is the same amount that base level computers come with, as compared to the 64MB of RAM in the original Xbox. There are also 2 USB ports located on the front and back of the device, allowing owners to attach many accessories.

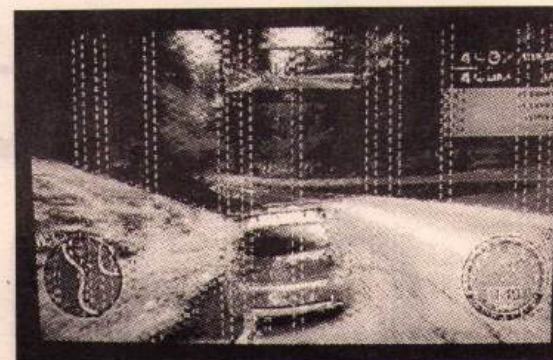
What does all this techno-babble mean? Simply put, there are more features, bells & whistles on this than on anything that has come before it. There is an optional removable hard drive that allows users to save games, music, and video on it for use whenever they want. If desired, players can take off the hard drive and take it to a friend's house to share their music, or movie collection. If you have any saved music on the hard drive, you can play it on the Xbox 360 while you are playing a video game. Other features include High Definition TV support; built in 5.1-sur-

round sound support and the ability to play any type of CD, DVD, or Mp3 music/movie disc you can throw at it.

Now it's time to talk about one of the coolest things that all the next-generation video game consoles will have; wireless controllers. Out of the box the Xbox 360 is wireless ready, so depending on which system package you bought you may or may not have a wireless controller, however once you buy one all you have to do is get within 30 feet of an Xbox and you are in control, no setup needed! Up to four wireless controllers can be running on each Xbox 360 system, and thanks to a constantly cycling wireless signal, your controller will never be interrupted by other wireless devices in your home such as wireless internet, or cordless phones. When playing on the wireless controllers there is not a bit of delay between when you press a button, and when the game registers you pushed a button. In the middle of the controller, just like on the original Xbox, there is an Xbox emblem. Un-



like the original however, this emblem is actually a button that powers on and off the system, which in turn makes us Americans even lazier then we already are, which is perfectly fine by me.



Above is an example of a commonly seen problem with the new Xbox, it demonstrates screen-stripping.

All of this greatness aside, there is plenty of problems with the new Xbox 360. There have been many reports of overheating systems, screen stripping, and system crashes after a short while of game play. According to Microsoft only 3% of all Xbox 360's manufactured are defective. However, when you read different news sites and online forums it seems that there are a lot more people that are experiencing problems. One other thing to note is that Microsoft has said that they will not

issue a recall to fix the defective systems, instead they have an 800 number you can call to report your problem. If your unit is still under warranty then you should be able to get a replacement unit that hopefully isn't defective.

In conclusion, does it have great graphics? Yes. Does it have features galore? Yes. Is it worth anywhere from 300-600 dollars? In my opinion, no, the risks outweigh the rewards. I don't want to invest that kind of money into something that isn't going to work right. In the end however, it is up to you to decide.

Features	Xbox 360	Xbox 360 Core System
Console	X	X
Wireless Controller	X	Optional
Wired Controller	Optional	X
Hi-Definition AV Cable	X	Optional
Composite AV Cable	X	X
Hard Drive	X	Optional
Play Xbox 360 Games	X	X
Play an Array of Original Xbox Games	X	Optional*
Ethernet Cable	X	Optional
Xbox Live Headset	X	Optional
Xbox Live Silver	X	X
Xbox Live Gold - 30 Day Trial	X	X
Premium Chrome Finish	X	Not Available

*Hard drive required.

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Mint Surprise



Peanut Butter Balls



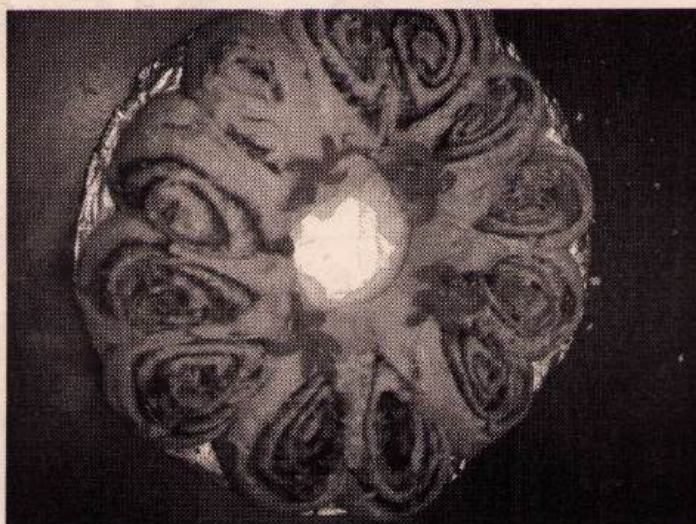
Nutty Crackers



Star Cookies

WINNER

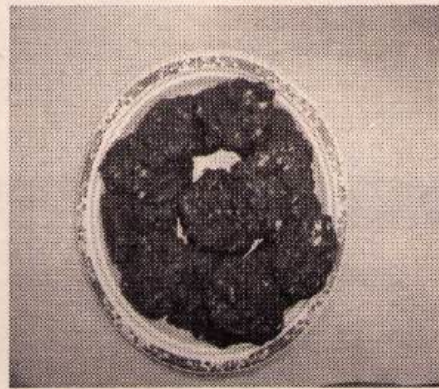
Tea Ring



Peanut Clusters



PB & C



Chocolate Pecan Goodies

Morning:

2/3 c. half and half
1/2 c. sugar
3/4 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. butter flavored shortening
3 eggs (well beaten)
2/3 c. lukewarm water
2 tbsp. sugar
2 tbsp. dry yeast
6 c. pastry flour

Filling:

8 oz. softened cream cheese
1/4 c. granulated sugar
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 c. softened butter
1/2 c. brown sugar

Icing:

1/2 c. powdered sugar
2 tsp. cream
1 oz. softened cream cheese
1/8 tsp. almond flavoring

Note: Make 2 batches of filling & icing for each tea ring. Scold half & half. Stir in sugar, salt, and shortening. Cool to lukewarm; add lukewarm water and additional 2 tbsp. of sugar. Sprinkle in dry yeast & dissolve. Add eggs, stir well. Add 3 cups of flour, beat until smooth. Add remaining 3 cups in mixer. Add 2 more cups, knead for 10 mins. Put in greased bowl, brush top lightly with oil. Rise 1 hr. & 25 mins or until double. Punch dough & divide in 1/2. Roll each 1/2 into a 14 x 12 in. rectangle. Mix cream cheese, softened butter. Spread 1/2 on each rectangle. Mix sugars & cinnamon & spread 1/2 on each rectangle. Roll up as for a jelly roll. Place on greased cookie sheet. Form each piece into a circle and seal ends together firmly. Cut 1 in. slices almost through the top with scissors. Turn each slice partly on side, pointing away from the center. Cover & rise for 55 mins. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 mins. Drizzle icing over immediately (this will freeze well wrapped). You can reheat on Christmas morning. Do not put the icing on if you freeze. Made by: Jessica Blazek.