

L 1993

First Impression. . . .

By Steve Herreid

MY FIRST IMPRESSION was that I had stepped into the midst of a soupy fog on a dark London street corner. Shadowy figures materialized before me like phantoms, only to vanish moments later into the oppressing gloom.

Startled, I groped about in the murkiness, searching for the security of a wall. When I finally made contact with one, I got my next surprise. The orange concrete bricks were laced with every type of obscene slogan and "famous quotation" imaginable, giving me the feeling that I was standing in a New York subway station contemplating the graffiti on the walls.

Through a momentary break in the fog, I glimpsed at the mirror, and I immediately advanced toward it. But suddenly I heard a "splish-splish" underfoot, and when I glanced at the floor I was standing in a puddle of water several inches deep. It reminded me of the Bever Park wading pool and, as I watched, the cold fluid seeped through the eyelets of my tennis shoes and chilled my feet. Thoroughly uncomfortable by now, my only thought was to escape from that awful place to the relative comfort of the hall.

And all I had wanted to do was wash my hands.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYONE ELSE, but I am a big fan of nice, clean restrooms. It just seems to me that the more spic-and-span the place is, the more enjoyable it is to utilize its facilities. Not to mention the peace of mind which results from knowing that there aren't any stray germs or diseases around to pick up.

But, unfortunately, the restrooms (at least the boy's room and I've heard the girl's is just as bad) at Marion High School all too often bear a striking resemblance to the fog, the subway and the swimming pool, rolled into one. And students have no choice but to put up with these inconveniences, so consequently, many of them have had the same experiences I have had.

Frankly, the restroom situation is a mess (again, I can only speak for the boys, but I will assume that the girls have many of the same problems).

One of the more annoying problems is the soap situation. The problem is, we don't have any. But it's not the school's fault. The janitors have, in the past, tried to keep the rooms stocked with both bar and liquid soap. But

some students with marbles for brains always dump out the liquid stuff and throw the bars around like hockey pucks, until they end up anywhere but in the sinks.

This in itself is inexcusable, but if it stopped here, one would at least be able to rinse one's hands. Yet this is often impossible as well, either because some smart so-and-so has kindly removed the faucet handles from the sinks, or because the paper towels have all been removed from their dispenser and are lying in a soggy mess at the bottom of the sinks. Here they serve a dual purpose--not only do they prevent students from drying their hands, but they also clog the drains to make the sinks overflow.

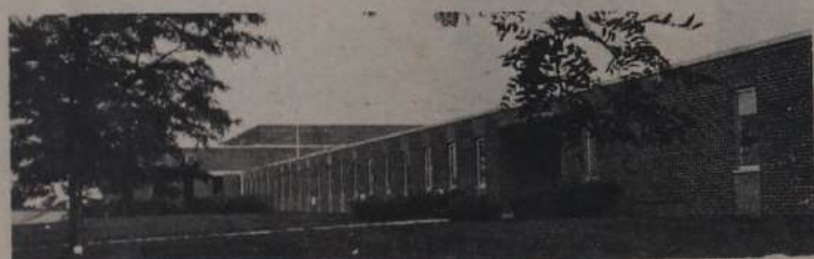
But, by far, the worst problem are the smokers. You see them all the time; huddling in the far stall with their backs toward you, with nothing to incriminate them save the fluffy mounds of gray smoke billowing upward from their midst. However, the truly nauseating part comes when they leave, and you walk over and peek into the just-vacated stall. You almost retch at the sight of the cigarette burns covering every square inch of the toilet bowl, and the butts themselves adorning the receptacle like some revolting decoration. You won't

believe it until you see it; and even then, it's not easy.

We could go on and on describing these babyish "games students play;" the graffiti on the walls, the mangled waste cans, the sporadic teepeeing' the constant littering. Suffice it to say that a problem DOES exist. THE OBVIOUS QUESTION at this point is "Why doesn't somebody DO something about it? Alas, that query is far more easily asked than answered. The truth of the matter is that if a workable solution existed, it probably would have been discovered and implemented by the administration long ago.

The only actions I can think of which would solve the problem are 1) posting a guard in each rest room; 2) locking them up for good, or 3) instilling in all students so much pride in their school and its appearance that they wouldn't even think of making any kind of a mess anywhere, and thus, the dilemma would take care of itself.

Of these solutions, the first two would undoubtedly create more problems than they solved, so that leaves number three. It is impossible to develop this spirit? There are those who would say yes, but it is hard to say for certain without actual proof. For as the saying goes, "You never know till you try;" and we sure do need to try something.



THE VOX

Marion High School

Editorial, Editorial, Editorial

We, the student senate, feel the students of Marion High School are not aware of the double standard that has been in existence for the past 15 years. Therefore this editorial is to inform both the students and parents of the position that the student senate is taking in this highly controversial topic. But first maybe some facts should be brought out into the open for everyone. The state fire marshal given the authority in the Code of Iowa, chapter 100, paragraph 100.1, page 518 which states briefly that the fire marshal shall decide the safest places in a public building where smoking can go on. In the high school building these TWO places are the teacher's lounge and the boiler room. Since no other rooms are designated if the building did catch on fire the insurance company would not pay for it. This would mean a heavy loss to Marion and a new school would have to be built out of the taxpayers money.

Therefore the smoking that has been going on at half times and in between games is basically as illegal as the students smoking on school grounds.

It is also the fire marshalls duty to enforce these laws along with the local police. In the Code of Iowa chapter 100, paragraph 100.35, page 522 it states:

The fire marshal shall adopt, amend, promulgate and enforce rules and standards relating to fire protection, fire safety and the elimination of fire hazards in churches, schools, hotels, theatres, . . . etc. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of such rules of the fire marshal, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100. Each day of the continuing violation of such rules after conviction shall be considered a separate offense.

The student senate has been considering various solutions in which the problems would be eliminated. The first solution would be to ban smoking in the cafe area all together, the second would be to allow parents to smoke there at game nights, and let students smoke there during the day.

Thirdly to contact the fire marshal to get him to O.K. the cafe as a place where smoking can go on. Or to just let the problem go all together and not get any solutions at all. The student senate is not even considering the last solution because you don't get rid of a problem by ignoring it, the problem will just get worse. If the students or parents have any questions about the laws governing this problem or the problem itself please contact any student senate member for more information.

Signed,
The Student Senate

One of the most beautiful words in the English language is the word EMPATHY. American Heritage Dictionary defines the word thus: "Understanding so intimate that the feelings, thoughts and motives of one are readily comprehended by another." How nice it would be if every human being upon the earth could somehow, whether innately, or through conscious perserverence, master this highly developed art of understanding. Alas, we mortals, being flawed to the very root of our being, fail to take the time to REALLY put ourselves in another's shoes. At times, we become so adamantly biased in favor of our own opinions, that our eyes become blind to the views of others.

I'm one who believes that items containing any amount of truth, wisdom or virtue should be acted upon, and carried out to the ultimate in day-to-day living. How else can one put such things into working practical applications? As far as EMPATHY is concerned, we, as patrons of Marion High School, can begin to take steps in the right direction by making efforts geared to eliminating some real people-to-people problems.

For instance, freshman girls, let's try to figure out what motives under-lie our name-calling. After all, NO ONE likes to be called a "rag". And senior girls, let's try to empathize a bit with the student senate president. No one, even a red-neck, enjoys being put-down behind his/her respective back(s). And student senate members, let's all try to be a little more understanding of the administrations' side of every issue. After all, they're not hired to act as tyrants who snub every students' opinion.

Let's face it, all of us are sorely sub-par when it comes to forgetting our own needs and wants for even a few seconds, in order to examine the other guy's point of view. And since all problems, in the final analysis, stem from some form of selfishness or another, everyone of us would do well to follow the advice of the 16th president. ". . . strive with your whole being to reserve your judgment until you have felt the lash that cuts your adversary's back. . . ."

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from the entire
VOX staff!!!



Tids and Bits

By Dana Jeffrey

Whatever happened to the days of central heating and the "environment controlled" surroundings within the realm of MHS? Somehow, I find it hard to believe these times ever existed--not even in the days before the exploded radiator of room 12 during '72-'73. Believe it or not, though, underclassmen, there was a time when the surroundings were semi-bearable four days of the week with Friday being the only "parka day." Unfortunately "parka days" are no longer in existence--"parka weeks" have nor arrived. The studying conditions are unreal as many students now suffer not only from writers' cramps, but also from cold purple hands. Polar boots are also becoming a necessary fad.

The causes for these extremes are varied. The central section of the building is constantly in threat of the air conditioner whether it be 60 degrees above zero or 30 degrees below. The outer sections of the building also suffer from a mysterious o form of air conditioner also, as cold air is only vented from the radiators during the winter. During the sweltering days of early fall and late spring, this air conditioning system disappears and the heating system takes over.

The remedies for these extremes are also varied. In addition to the parkas and polar boots mentioned earlier, mittens, ski caps, ear muffs, and long underwear have also been known to be suitable attire for the "winter wonderland" of MHS.

Open Letter To Frosh Football Players

Open Letter To Freshmen
Football Players:

A thank-you to the young men of the freshman football team and their coaches.

You have given us many happy memories along with those we already have of Cary. We are grateful he had such fine friends and his accomplishments in his short life were due in part to your team-manship. Cary was a son we were always proud of as your parents can be of all of you. The football you presented us will always be cherished by his family. We look forward to following you and his classmates through many more winning seasons not only in sports but in life as well; you have already proved to be winners.

Thank you,
Ken and Mary Jo Smith
Kelly, Noel,
Sean, and Shelly

NOTICE!

NOTICE: The Quill staff would like to extend a hearty thank you to the following attorneys, dentists, and medical doctors for their kind assistance this year by taking out patron ads in the Quill Yearbook.

Gordon Gibson, attorney; White, Stone, and Horan, attorneys; Dr. Thomas Wright, M.D.; Richard Hingtgen, D.D.S.; Allen & Fishel, attorneys at law.

Once again these people have shown a true interest in the community, especially in our young people.

The Quill tips their hat to you people.

Yearbook Makes Memories Last

Good times should be made to last.
Hasta, that notorious enemy of memories,
turns awareness into forgetfulness.
And momentous experiences are over
almost before they've begun.
Fun times, unique times

become lost times . . .
unless they achieve immortality
between the covers of a book.
Some say yearbooks can make
time stand still.
they can.

ORDERED YOURS

Looking Back At MHS

By Sharon Kewley

This article is the second of a thrilling three part series which involves the history of our high school. The years we will be considering will be from 1918 to 1950. What was happening in our nation at this point in time was reflected in the high school annual. The first copy was in 1918 when the graduating class made the QUILL a tradition that has been followed all of these years. Even during the depression of 1929, the Quill was printed for the students to enjoy.

The 1918 Quill turned yearbook after a class meeting and came out in the spring of that year with Wilson Femow, editor, now deceased. The Quill reflected the wars by honoring the young men in our high school. First to put his gold star on the service flag was Everett Leasure. The themes for the yearbooks in the 20's were in a light devil-may-care-attitude. In the 30's Our New Deal, and in the 40's the All-American theme was predominate.

An individual who shaped many a student's life at MHS was Chester B. Vernon, who served as teacher, superintendent, and friend from 1933 through the 1950's. He was a true educator, amending and setting respect. Mr. Vernon was a great man and one that we should all be proud to say was involved in our school system. As the school kept growing the Lincoln building was getting too small so in Sept. 1, 1924, the doors of the now C. B. Vernon Jr. High were opened as a high school for Marion. This year as in three years previous Marion had a woman principal, who also taught geometry, on the side, so women's lib is not such a new thing after all, is it? Women shaped the history of Marion--one particular one stands out, her name was Miss Gretchen Mentzer, who taught many subjects in her long years of service to Marion such as Spanish, History, and Commercial Geography. The newest building in our system has been named after her. The Vox, or as it was named back in 1935 the first year it was put out, The Vox Pop, meaning "voice of the people" in Latin. The school paper was created by a group of students lead by John Granger, Mrs. Costello's brother. This group was not school sponsored until the next year, so to cover expenses they sold it for 2¢ apiece. They would gather Sunday morning and start to write. John was the editor, he was also, the first cheerleader. John was a junior when they printed the Vox.

Marion, even back then, was labeled an achiever-school. In athletics for instance we were beating the jerseys off such schools as Brandon, West Branch, Tama, (How ironic Indians fighting Indians), Belle Plaine, and Central City. Marion still has the reputation as a winner in all fields of school activities.

Ever since the 1918's the high school had a military outfit when the girls had one, both companies continued until 1946 when the world was trying to settle back down into a peaceful situation. This was reflected in the 1946 Quill dedication which said, "We, the class of '46, who have been taught to believe that the fellow in the house across the street, in the seat across the aisle, . . . in the land across the ocean, is our friend, dedicate this book to the world of tomorrow in which a spirit of good will and brotherhood shall prevail."

The next year Marion received two very important teachers who affected hundreds of students lives from then on. Les C. Hipple, and Mrs. Willys O. Hulin stepped through the doors at Marion High. I am sure our seniors remember Mrs. Hulin with all of her great achievements in the music and theatrical fields of endeavor. Mr. Hipple is still serving Marion as a teacher and coach.

Back in '47 was the beginning of a still growing great career for their men.

Still more to come on these two and a few more people in MHS history (and those who are still living) in my next report on the history of Marion High School.



MRS. QUICK

Six "New" Teachers Featured

MR MESSERLI

Mr. Dave Messerli comes to the High School from the Jr. High so most of the kids are familiar with him. He's a graduate of the University of Iowa. He teaches American Studies I and coaches freshmen football, JV wrestling and varsity golf.

He likes the High School better because there's more "action". He feels the kids are responsible and have a good school spirit. Sports and golfing are Mr. Messerli's interests. (Not necessarily in that order!) He is also involved as a Deacon at his church.



MR. MESSERLI

MR HULBERT

Jim Hulbert is another new counselor. He was born in Detroit, Michigan but grew up in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Washington High School.

He has worked in the Peace Corps (in Malasia), worked on a Japanese dairy farm and hitchhiked in Denmark and Greece.

He enjoys the outdoors and likes to go trout fishing and camping. Athletics are another of his favorites and he enjoys following Marion volleyball and cross country in particular.

He feels the students are "incredibly mature" and finds the teachers helpful and unified.



MR. HULBERT

MRS JENSEN

The new teacher in the Business Education Department is Mrs. Jensen. She teaches personal typing, typing I and record keeping. Mrs. Jensen was born and raised in Hong Kong. She was a substitute at Marion High School during the '74-'75 school year.

The kids at MHS are cooperative, kind and polite according to Mrs. Jensen. She feels they're "great" kids.

Her outside interests include gardening, camping, and cooking.



MRS. JENSEN

MR NASH

Mike Nash graduated from MHS and is presently student teaching here. I asked him to compare the school today with the school when he went to it: "It's not as strict and the kids were more serious about the classes they were taking!"

Seems as if teaching runs in the Nash family. Mr. Nash's wife, Lisa is a teacher at Squaw Creek where she teaches second grade.

Mr. Nash's plans are to go to Iowa into counseling in January. He will graduate in December from Mt. Mercy, where his major is History.

"I like to WATCH all kinds of sports and swim when ever I can find the spare time."

"The kids don't put their spare time to use, Mr. Nash stated with emphasis. But the kids certainly are more friendly here, than other schools I've been to."

We wish Mr. Nash good luck in counseling.



MRS. BROOKS

MRS BROOKS

If ever you're looking for a very art oriented person, you won't have to look far. Sharon Brooks fills the bill. In high school, Mrs. Brooks started making her own jewelry. She told me that someday she would like to go into art professionally. Her main interests in art as a professional center around jewelry and print making.

A bride of six months, Mrs. Brooks and her husband live in Iowa City, where her husband is a student. He is majoring in pharmacy.

Mrs. Brooks is kept busy by teaching part time here and part time at the junior high. Not to mention that she's working on her masters degree at the University of Iowa.

Sewing, waterskiing, and scuba diving are some of her interests. In fact her husband and herself took a scuba diving course this summer.

"There is a lot of talent as far as fine arts in general here at M.H.S.," stated Mrs. Brooks.

MR BROCKWAY

Along with the new look the band has there is a new band director. He is Mr. Steve Brockway from Pennsylvania originally. He came to Marion High from St. August High School in Iowa. Mr. Brockway finds MHS "favorable." Theater, music and art are among his outside interests.



MR. BROCKWAY

MR KELM

"It sure is nice to be with a winner," was one of Mr. Kelm's first comments in talking about sports.

Mr. Kelm teaches practical algebra and pre-algebra, not to mention that he coaches J.V. basketball and sophomore baseball.

Mr. Kelm hails from McGregor and taught at McGregor before coming to Marion. Plus he graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Riverfalls.

Going to sporting events is Mr. Kelm's all-time favorite thing to do.

"Computer's are useful to know how to run because we run into them everyday of our life." Mr. Kelm would like to see the kids become more interested in them. And feels that a stronger interest is needed on the part of the student.



MR. KELM



MRS QUICK

"Marion's a nice sized school. It's not too big or too small," stated Kathy Quick, a student teacher in the Home Ec department. She teaches such classes as foods, sewing, home furnishings and family living.

Mrs. Quick was born in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Kennedy High School.

In December she will be graduating from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. After graduating she will move to North Dakota to be with her husband, who is a graduate student in micro-biology.

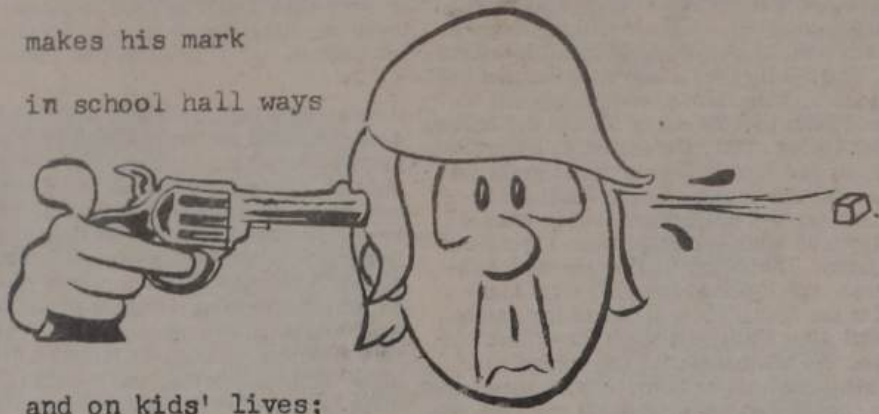
Whenever she has spare time she enjoys sewing, cooking, and playing recreational sports.

"I really like the students here," exclaimed Mrs. Quick. And I'm sure the students really liked Mrs. Quick, too. We wish her the best of luck.

POETRY POWER. . .

THE PUSHER

makes his mark
in school hall ways



and on kids' lives;

and smiles outloud because the

send-me-higher child

will hide him between apathy and

foolishness...until he's pushed himself into

another victim's life.

The Power of Time Remember When

By J. McKinzie
THE POWER OF TIME
Time is always near us;
Time can leave us bored,
Wishing it had hurried.
Time finds us amazed
By how quickly it has passed,
Wishing it had gone slower.

Time has so much power.
Time controls our ability to communicate,
To reach an understanding;
It takes a certain amount of time
To say what you feel.

Time, when you don't take enough
of it,
Can change the understanding of a
moment.
Time is something that there
Never is enough of.
Time has so much power.

Remember when hippie
meant big in the hips,
And a trip involved
travel in cars, planes
and ships?
When pot was a vessel for
cooking things in,
And hooked was what
grandmother's rugs may
have been?
When fix was a verb that
meant mend or repair,
And be-in meant merely
existing somewhere?
When neat meant well-
organized, tidy and
clean,
And grass was a ground
cover, normally green?
When groovy meant fur-
rowed with channels
and hollows.
And birds were winged
creatures, like robins
and swallows?
When fuzz was a sub-
stance, real fluffy,
like lint,
And bread came from
bakeries and not from
the mint?
When roll meant a bun,
and rock was a stone.
And hang-up was something
you did with the phone?
It's groovy, man, groovy,
but English it's not.
Methinks that our lan-
guage is going to pot.

All right, kiddies, the lesson for today
is: How to Avoid Bankruptcy during the
Christmas season.
1) Loudly tell everyone that you don't
believe in Christmas. Besides saving
money, you'll probably lose your friends.
2) Come to school in battered up clothes
the week before Christmas and moan about
how your family will just sleep through
Christmas day to avoid disappointment.
3) And then--there's the easiest method,
Rob a bank!

SAVE MY LIFE

Are YOU a hair-raising driver? If you
are, you are tempting fate. You are no
doubt a gambler. Using your parents car
or your own as an X-15 test rocket, allows
you to discover just how fast those little
white lines will fly by.

Police . . . man's best friend, right?
If you're the speed demon type, you will
surely agree. Receiving those well-deserved
pieces of yellow paper always stimulates
one's vocabulary. Thanking those nice
men in their blue uniforms for their
signature is always a thrill. But in reality
you know that it is your fault, right?
If you're the type that hits Main Street
around 1 a.m. pulling six grand in third
gear, you deserve to get 90 days.

As we both know the city police will
give you a break . . . sometimes. So don't
push your luck by taking on Main Street
or any street for that matter at a semi-
high rate of speed. And do you remember
there are little kids playing on side
streets? So stop driving like a devil. Cool
off before you are stone cold . . . six
feet under.

Believe it or not, others care for you
and wouldn't like to see you in a body
cast. Take your dad's, mom's or girl-
friend's advice and slow down. Drive
carefully, the life you save may be mine!

ANYWAY

"The Meaning of Christmas"

By: Unknown (a little elf)

"Well. . . I never did like Christmas
that much anyway," she thought to her-
self as she placed the receiver on the
phone. After being separated from her
family for four years, she had been look-
ing forward to this Christmas season. But
now her mother had just informed her,
"Oh dear, I feel so terrible, we won't be
able to make it for Christmas after all.
Your father has important clients we must
entertain this holiday. You do understand
. . . don't you dear?"

Sure, she understood completely. It was
always the same. They were always too
busy. Too busy with clients, too BUSY
with BUSINESS. She wondered if she would
even recognize her parents if she passed
them on the street. Probably not. Their
new-found wealth brought with it a new
life style. One that she had found un-
bearable to live with. That's why she left.

Sometimes when she was alone (as she
was often) she could recollect the days
when she was younger. Christmas time .
always stood out in her memories as being
the best times. The whole family, aunts,

Fuel Economy Tips

You may have seen them once
before, but they are worth repeating.
In fact, why not clip this list and
fasten it to your sun visor so that
everyone who drives your car will be
more aware of how to improve fuel
economy. We even put it in bold
type for easier reading in the car!

1. Keep your engine in proper running order with periodic tune-ups and maintain your vehicle.
2. Drive at constant speeds whenever possible.
3. Drive at lower highway speeds.
4. Avoid unnecessary rapid acceleration and "jack rabbit" starts.
5. Avoid unnecessary stops and starts, plan your driving.
6. Use recommended fuels.
7. Don't "pump" the accelerator.
8. Plan trips to avoid unnecessary driving.
9. Keep tires inflated to recommended pressure.
10. Don't "ride the brakes".
11. Be sure the parking brake is fully released.
12. Turn off engine if idling more than a few minutes.
13. Use air conditioning only when necessary.

uncles, cousins, and grandparents used to
celebrate the occasion for days. The high-
light of the events was when Grandpa dres-
sed up as Santa on Christmas Eve and
brought gifts for all of us younger kids. (Of
course, she was the only kid that knew
Grandpa was really Santa!) They were all
together and happy. Her parents never
used to fight back then.

But Grandpa died, and her parents started
moving from place to place. The simpli-
city of Christmas became non-existent.
"It's just one day of the year, like all of
the other days," her mother used to say.
A single tear crept over her cheek. She
didn't want it to be another day like all
the others. She wanted this Christmas to
be something special like it used to be.
She was tired of being alone. She felt
almost helpless.

"But maybe mother is right," she
thought. "Why should there be so much
commotion over one day? One day of
the year, like all of the other days?
Maybe, well maybe I never did like
Christmas that much anyway. . . ."

COLLEGE BOARD TOUGHIES

With SAT and ACT tests coming soon,
juniors and seniors can exercise their brain
cells on the following sample questions:

1. Pick out the verb in this sentence:
Run, Run, Run.
2. Without looking, what is the color
of your right eye?
3. Ho Chi Minh is (a) a small dog
(b) a mouth disease (c) a color (d) another
name of Hopp'in John.
4. Does your dog eat alpo?
5. What is the significance of the color
of the floor?
6. Is the wad on the ceiling about to
fall?
7. What is the favorite color of a
blind snail?
8. When did the war of 1812 begin?
9. In what state is the University of
Southern California?
10. Who wrote the autobiography of
James Thurber?
11. What is the square root of 0?
12. How do you make a Venetian blind,
(a) with glue and a string (b) with white
paint (c) poke him in the eyes?

Senior Spirit. . .

Those seniors have done it again! Besides
being the most intelligent, best looking,
most spirited, and most talented class at
Marion High School (all right!), a spe-
cial group of senior men have helped the
spirit of MHS rise to the top of the scale.
Fondly known as the Marion Bases, they
showed football fans at the home foot-
ball games this season that they could
get spirit going like it's never gone be-
fore! Flashy stunts, like their three high
pyramid, and double mounts with the
cheerleaders that really entertained the
fans, (not to mention the super job they
did when the cheerleaders needed help
in getting the crowd up) all were made
possible because these guys took time
out from their own busy schedules to
work with the cheerleaders and learn
the basic stunts from the University of
Iowa cheerleaders.

Dressed in overalls, flannel shirts and
their MHS league hats, these guys stuck
to the field even on the coldest nights,
throwing candy to deserving pepsters,
screaming their lungs out, and flipping
the cheerleaders around like sacks of
feed.

It was a great season for the football
team, cross country team, and thanks to
Brad Ciha, Tony Jensen, Dave Nash, Greg
Digney, Tom Parnan, Tim Mooney, Joe
Parker, Steve Herried, Curt McMillan,
and even Perry Anderson and Jim Harford
for their guest appearance on Halloween.
It was a great season for MHS spirit.



How to Survive

By Nancy Beadle

The time of "Jingle Bells," and reindeer, and "ho-ho-ho's" is upon us once again. Usually we think of Christmas as a happy and festive time. But there is one part of Christmas that many people dread: something we call "Christmas Shopping."

Ideally we should begin our Christmas shopping in July. But, who feels like shopping for Christmas presents when it's 95 degrees in the shade. Most of us wait until the Christmas spirit hits us. Often this happens on December 23. At this time you must take a deep breath and head for your nearest shopping center.

When you enter a department store two days before Christmas, you should be prepared to take your life in your own hands. YOU risk being stepped upon, bumped into, elbowed, trampled, and mugged. Watch out for little kids in parkas (they have an annoying habit of walking into you), runaway shopping carts, and people carrying large boxes (such as the Deluxe Evil Knievil Stunt and Skycycle Set). All may be hazardous to your health.

The biggest problem in shopping is knowing what to buy. It is better to ask for suggestions than to "surprise" at Christmas-time, especially when they'll have to stand in a long line AFTER Christmas to exchange it. If you have no idea as to what to get someone, you can always fall back on the faithful gift certificates for everything from French Fries to clothes.

If you have someone rather unusual on your shopping list, one of the most popular items this Christmas are pet rocks. Each pet rock comes in its own box (with air-holes, of course) and an instruction manual to help you care for and train your rock. If someone you know would like a pet, but doesn't want the responsibility of feeling, brushing, or walking it, buy them a rock for a pet.

Shopping is not as bad as it seems, and you may even learn to like it. Happy Shopping and Merry Christmas!

You Know It's Christmas

When...

- Everyone is hurrying from place to place
- Bells ring out Christmas songs.
- Everything turns out red and green.
- Wonderful smells drift out of the kitchen.
- Parents get very secretive.
- Kids get very snoopy.
- Everyone wears a smile.
- Christmas trees go up.
- All the kids start praying Santa makes it down the chimney.
- You have a long vacation.
- Couples smooch under the mistletoe.
- The perfect snow is falling.
- The mailman, loaded with mail, falls flat on his face on YOUR porch.
- Colored lights decorate houses.
- Christmas carolers come to your house.
- You're invited to Christmas parties.

We wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
THE VOX

Christmas Presents

It has been proposed by a number of conscientious students that a collection be made of the people of MHS to provide some Christmas presents for the faculty.

Suggestions for some presents are: 1. Dishwater-blond toupee for Mr. Bates, and a "How to be Graceful" course. A set of "floating quotation marks" for Mrs. Pantini so she doesn't have to waste time by saying, "quote" and "unquote". A pair of 9" platform shoes for Mrs. Klopp so she can look a student "right in the eyes." And last, but certainly not least, a REAL, R-E-A-L Christmas tree for Mr. Boquist.

Huh??

By Janis Chapman

Has anyone ever asked you a question or made a statement that was so obvious that you didn't know the answer? All you could say was, "Huh?" Many people have talent for this and here are a few of the better ones:

"When was the war of 1812 fought?"

"How many ten cent stamps in a dozen?"

"Why should I go to YOUR funeral, you'll never come to MINE?"

If someone says "Hey," you say: "Straw".

If someone says "Do you know What?"

You say: "No, but I knew his brother, Who."

Next time someone says one of the set-up words or phrases, you can let loose one of these fatastically 'witty' answers! Don't let them have the satisfaction of getting a "huh?" from you again!

Girls BBall

The varsity girls basketball team ran into some tough competition in their last two games with Maquoketa and Independence losing both. In the Maquoketa game Karen Williamson led the Indians with 19 and Shelly Jacobs chipped in with 14. The final score was 61-50. At Independence the girls lost 55-72. Karen Williamson paced them with 27 points, Beth Edwards tallied 8, and Shelly Jacobs and Kim Parman both added 6. Free throws were dominant, as the Fillies shot 26 out of 35 and the Indians shot 19 out of 31. Defensively, Diane Dolinger and Wendy Sumner did a great job.

So far this season, Coach Pantini's Indians are 4-5 overall and 2-3 in Wamac play with wins collected from Tipton and Vinton. Their next battles are with Anamosa the 13th and (tough?) rival Linn-Mar the 18th. These will end the games until after Christmas when they meet Wamac foe Maquoketa for the second time. This game will be home, which they hope to consider an advantage. In any case, the Marion girls will be ready.

On Dec. 6, the Marion girls junior varsity basketball squad traveled to Independence and returned home with a tremendous 62-47 victory over the Fillies.

Beth Edwards led the way with 24 points, Denise Jackson 15 and Kim Parman 12. Pam Painter added to all the glory with 9 numerous assists.

On the guard court Jeane Hutchins, Cindy Von Ashen and Debbie Miller were credited as doing a great defensive job. The teams next rivalry is against Anamosa on Dec. 13 on Marion's home court.

Freshmen are early birds, practicing at 7 every morning. There is a saying: "The early birds get the worms." So far this has been proven true, with four victories. They play Independence on the 13th. We wish them good luck and a continued winning streak.

A Guided Tour

By Jane Maxey

"Hello ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to this special guided tour. Before we begin, I must inform you that I will not be responsible for any accidents, fatal or otherwise. I will ask you to please not touch anything and to stay on the rubber runners. . . if you can find them.

Now we will begin. As you step in the door, you will notice how tightly compacted everything appears. Just to the right of that apple core you see a very rare and old, genuine, mutilated, chewey-gooney gum wrapper, and right beside it a piece of chewey-gooney gum. Straight ahead of you you'll find a pile of clothes. As we remove these fabulous threads of wool and such, we discover many valuable treasures. Among these are: 1/2 of an apricot, 3 forks, and 2 coffee mugs, a partially eaten omelet and an overdue library book. Now we must move on. Pardon, we try to shove our way past this over-crowded bookcase. Oh no! Look out everyone! Take cover! The books are falling! Well, so much for the man in the green hat. He didn't heed my warning and got hit with a dictionary.

As we continue, you'll notice many objects of interest. If you have any questions about these items, just ask and I'll answer . . . come to a stack of brown paper bags with large holes in the bottom. I have quite a rare collection of those and they're well worth saving. Just to the left of those thrilling sacks, is a very valuable stack of 12 years. As we continue left, we find a sneaker with a sizable piece of it's sole missing. I wonder what that patch of green is. Do you see it over there past that orange-peel? Lets take a closer look. Careful that you don't slip on the rug. Of course, it might be the dog, in which case you ought to run. . . FAST! Now we are at the scene of the patch of green. My goodness gracious! Ladies and Gentlemen! For the first time in 7 years, anyone has been allowed to witness the appearance of Jane's bedroom floor!!!!



Remember to be

a good boy or girl

'cause Santa (or

the CIA or a VTR member)

is watching!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Quiz reveals knowledge of sports vocabulary



We can't test your ability to hit a baseball against Bob Gibson or tackle a pro quarterback like Johnny Unitas but we can test your sports vocabulary. Here's a quiz designed to reveal your knowledge of sports terms.

1. If someone tells you he just had a turkey, chances are he just played a game of:

- a. polo
- b. tennis
- c. bowling
- d. volleyball

2. What is the term a golfer uses to describe his score on a hole when it is two under par?

- a. downhill
- b. Schuss
- c. slalom
- d. cross country

3. The ski event in which a runner must pass through pairs of poles with flags is called:

- a. downhill
- b. Schuss
- c. slalom
- d. cross country

4. The boxer's word for a swelling under the eye is:

- a. cross
- b. ring
- c. mouse

5. What is the term in tennis when a ball is hit before it bounces?

6. When a race-car driver is signaled with a black flag, he knows that:

a. dangerous conditions have been cleared up

b. racing conditions are dangerous and drivers must retain their position in the field

c. the race is over

d. he must pull into the pit for repairs

7. The basketball team against which a foul is committed is

awarded:

- a. a rebound
- b. a field goal
- c. a free throw
- d. an assist

8. When a defensive player catches the opponents' pass, he has performed:

- a. a punt
- b. an interception
- c. a block
- d. a bomb

9. The words tack, stretch, and length are terms used in:

- a. sailing
- b. horse racing
- c. lacrosse
- d. water polo

10. When a baseball player intentionally uses the bat to block the ball rather than swing at it, he has made a sacrifice play called:

- a. a gopher
- b. a bunt

- c. a bean ball
- d. a bag



ANSWERS:

1. c	2. an eagle
3. c	4. a mouse
5. b	6. a bunt
7. c	8. a block
9. a	10. b