

The VOX

Volume LV
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February 20, 2004

Marion High School

Winter Wildness

By: Valerie Crutchley

This year's WPA (women pay all) dance was special because it was held on Valentine's Day. Unlike the other dances throughout the school year, WPA is a chance for the girls to pay and ask people to go as dates with them. This year, many people went with dates, but a large number of people went alone or in groups. Many students just want to go and have a fun night of dancing and hanging out, and WPA proved to provide this for students.

WPA is always put on by the cheerleading and dance teams, and this year, for the first time ever, a Marion student was the DJ for the dance. Seth Walters brought a computer, some speakers, and a taste of music that students particularly liked. "We have our own DJ this year," junior Alisabeth Caraway stated. "He knows what people like to hear at the dance." Walters played a variety of music ranging from oldies to rap to techno.

Slowly, WPA has become more and more dressy in the past few years. This year, however, the attire ranged from jeans and t-shirts to dresses and ties. Some students like to be more relaxed and casual, while many enjoy creating the "perfect" picture by dressing up. Pictures took place for about three hours during the night and many people took some time to pose for a lasting memory.

Group, alone, or with a date, the dance proved to be a fun time for the many students that chose to attend. It was a good time to dance, get some exercise, and spend time with friends.

The competition squad performed for the last time this season at the pep assembly. Charley Martin flies in an X-cut.

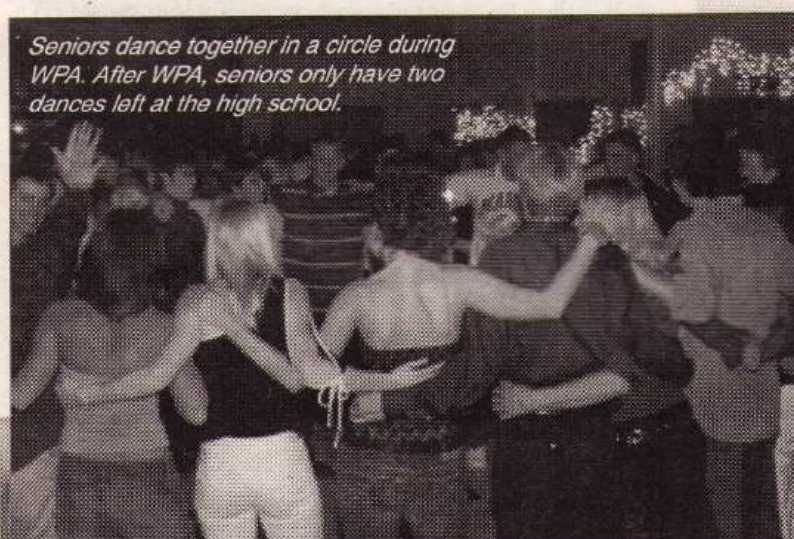


Megan Anderson, Anna Hauskins, and Ashley O'Neill deliver carnations for SODA during 4th hour.

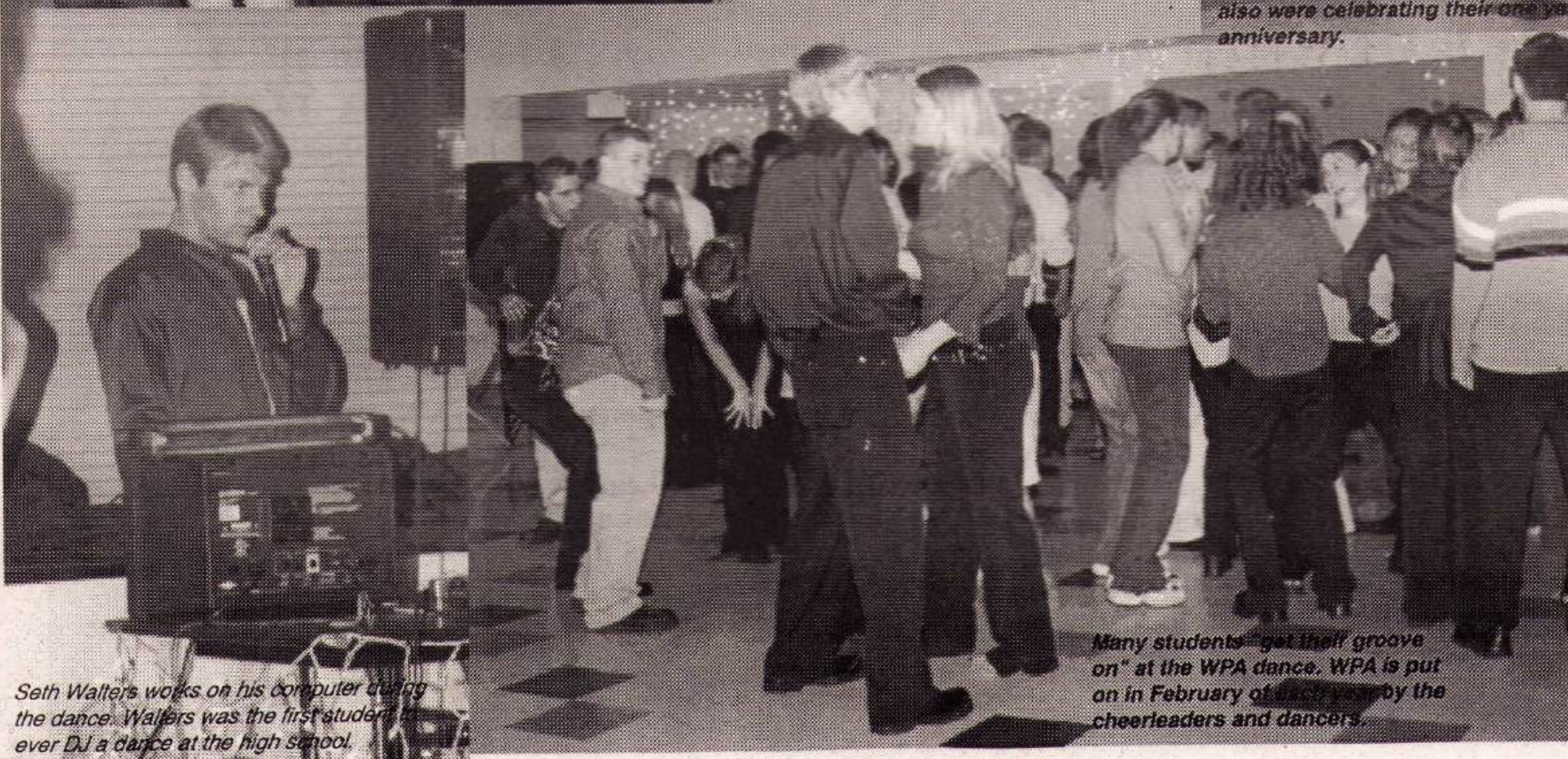
The first pie thrown went from Chad Turner to Mr. Bates. Bates had attempted all week to encourage pies for Immerfall and Weisinger.



Seniors dance together in a circle during WPA. After WPA, seniors only have two dances left at the high school.



John Likens and Ashley Brown dance the night away at WPA. Likens and Brown also were celebrating their one year anniversary.



Seth Walters works on his computer during the dance. Walters was the first student to ever DJ a dance at the high school.

Many students "get their groove on" at the WPA dance. WPA is put on in February of each year by the cheerleaders and dancers.

Face-Off
The Prom Issue

By: Jenny Fager, Editor

Besides Homecoming week and graduation, prom is one of the biggest events of the year for students. It's a special night to get all dressed up and have a great time with friends or that special someone. You get a chance to feel extra special in your dress, fancy hair or tuxedo. It has always been a fun evening for all. Some people are starting to say that prom has gotten out of hand, with expenses, etc. People feel discouraged to even go because of costs. However, I have seen people dress really fancy to simply wearing a t-shirt and jeans. Both are equally accepted at the dance, the main thing is just having fun. People shouldn't feel discouraged because you have the option of coming just the way you want. Tickets are usually only ten dollars, and even eating at fast food places has become more popular. I do agree that some people spend ridiculous amounts of money on their dresses, it is just for one night. But I guess to some people it's worth it. For that one night you get the chance to feel like you are Cinderella at the ball. If people want to spend hundreds of dollars on a dress, I guess that is their choice. Overall, prom is only as expensive as you make it to be, so people shouldn't worry about costs.

I think part of the problem is the growing similarities between Homecoming and prom. I remember being a freshman and the dress was fairly simple. Now people come in big prom dresses, and then outdo themselves even more at prom time. Even at WPA girls used to wear pants and a nice shirt, now a lot of people get fancier with dresses. I think dances like Homecoming and WPA need to go back to being informal. This would help save money for prom.

Another issue with prom is underclassmen being invited. It is typical of upperclassmen to be very upset when they find out that underclassmen are attending. Honestly, who cares? There have always been a pretty big number of couples in different grades here. I don't think it would be right to tell a junior or senior they can't bring their boyfriend or girlfriend, what fun would that be? Even if they aren't officially "dating," it is the rule that underclassmen can go if they are invited, so I don't really think it is a problem, and I don't see why people even care that much if they are there. A lot of people bring dates from other schools, so either way I think you should be able to bring whomever you choose to make your night special.

Prom has always been one of the most highly anticipated events of the year for students. No matter who you go with, what you wear, or where you eat, prom is truly a special night. I think everything about it is fine the way it is (though it would be nice to have it at a different location.) It's a high school tradition that means a lot to people, and I don't think people should worry about other people spending too much. Just go how you like and have a great time.

Prom is a tradition at Marion High School that has been around for forever. Just because it's a tradition, however, doesn't mean it has to stay the exact way it is now. Should underclassmen be allowed to attend? Should girls be spending hundreds of dollars on a dress for one night? Brought forth below are the opinions of the Editors here on the staff. Like usual, there's no wrong or right answer.

By: Sara McGrew, Editor

Prom. For some people when they hear that word, they get excited, and begin looking forward to that magic filled night that seems to be right out of a fairy tale. For others, they shudder with horror, thinking how much money they are going to spend on one night. For me, it's a little bit of both.

Prom has always been a special night for the upperclassmen, particularly the seniors, because it's their last dance in high school, and one of the last times they will all get to spend together before Graduation. How come, then, are there so many underclassmen that are attending? Personally, I have no problem with them going to the dance, but for some people, they feel as if their dance is being overran by underclassmen. The only exception for some is if the pair has been dating for awhile. But that's just one issue.

I believe the biggest issue relating to prom today is the costs. First off, the junior class spends at least two thousand dollars on decorations for one night. Two thousand dollars. Tell me, couldn't that money be a little less and put towards the leaky ceilings in the school or more computers or something? It's insane, but I guess it's acceptable because the class fundraises the money just for prom.

Continuing with the whole money problem, a simple prom dress these days costs at least \$80. Some girls even go as far as spending a couple hundred on a dress. A dress. For one night. I don't get it. The dress is just going to sit in the back of their closet for the rest of their life, so why do some spend so much? Then figure in getting your hair done, which ranges anywhere from \$20-\$50. For guys, they have it a little easier, but they still spend at least \$70 on a rented tuxedo. They don't even get to keep it! Throw dinner in the mix, and you have maybe about \$20-\$30 for one couple, and then the tickets to the dance, which are about \$10. The money adds up fast. I guess the question you have to ask yourself is whether or not it's worth it to you.

Now I'm not saying that prom should be taken away, I just believe that people should rethink the ideas behind it. Prom was made for the upperclassmen, for the exact reasons that I stated in the beginning of this article. The reason the juniors are in charge of prom is so the seniors can enjoy their last high school dance. This should be a magical night filled with fun and life-time memories. It shouldn't be about how much money you spend on a dress, where you rent your tuxedo from, where you go out to dinner, who your date is. None of that should matter.

I went to prom last year, and it was one of the best times of my life. I hope everyone who is planning on attending this year's prom has an awesome time, but remember what Jenny and I have mentioned in this article. Just have fun, but don't spend ridiculous amounts of money. Because when you look back on it ten years from now, it won't matter what dress you wore.

THE VOX 2003-2004 STAFF



Editors:

Sara McGrew

Jenny Fager

Photo Editors:

Josh Immerfall

Daige Johnson

Sports Editor:

Kristina McCusker

Assistant Sports Editor:

Andrew Earnd

Advisor:

Cynthia Martin

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Ashley Berry, Alyssa Clark, Perry Clouse, Nicole Cox, Valerie Crutchley, Ashley Cudworth, Jaimie DeLong, DJ Engle, Ashley Evans, Holly Grieder, Blake Hacker, Daniel Hocken, Brock Holub, Hilary Meeks, Alyx Miskell, Clancy Quinn, Amanda Smith, Cameron Thomas, Seth Walters

MARION HIGH SCHOOL

675 S. 15TH STREET

MARION, IOWA 52302

mhsjournalism@marion.k12.ia.us

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.

Entertainment: Something Old, Something New - Movies, CD'S and TV shows you should know about

By: Blake Hacker

Movies: Dirty Work

Summary: Norm McDonald stars in the funniest movie of all time. Artie Lang, from "The Howard Stern Show," plays Norm's best friend. Adam Sandler and Chris Farley add to the genius comedy of the film. Norm and Artie are very good at plotting revenge, so they start a revenge for hire business to get \$50,000 for a new heart for Artie's dad.

Did you know?: This was one of Farley's last movies.

I like: All of it, especially the scenes with Chris Farley.

I don't like: Though it is perfect, more Farley doesn't hurt.

What to look for: The outtakes at the end credits, especially the last one with Chris Farley.



Groundhog's Day

Summary: Bill Murray plays a mean weather man who has to go report on Groundhog's Day for the fourth year in a row. After he does his job, he wakes up the next morning back on Groundhog's Day!

Did you know? The concept of the movie was taken from a Twilight Zone episode.

I like: Bill Murray's dry comedy, and all the funny things he does with his unlimited amount of time.

I don't like: Nothing about this movie is bad.

What to look for: The little differences in the same scenes when Bill tries to change things.



Music:

The Shins - Chutes Too Narrow

Summary: This is the band from Albuquerque that is good. This is their second release with the Sub Pop record label.

Did you know?: That Nirvana started off on Sub Pop records.

I like: How awesome it is, and how different it is.

I don't like: How it is only about a half hour long, with 10 songs. Come on Shins, give me more.

What to listen for: The music.

Phantom Planet - The Guest

Summary: This is the debut release of the California garage band. It was released in 2003.

Did you know?: That the first song on the record, "California," is the theme song to the new Fox teen drama show, "The O.C."

I like: The garage band esque of the music, carried out through the entire album.

I don't like: I like it all.

What to listen for: The new release of the CD has a demo track of "California" and 3 other rarities.



Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines

Summary: Arnold comes back for the third Terminator movie. In this one, Arnold comes back from the future to save John Connor from another bad machine. But the twist in this one is that the war with the machines begins.

Did you know? I saw this movie three times in the theaters.

I like: The story line, it is more progressive than any of the other movies.

I don't like: How Arnold turns evil at one point and is scary.

What to look for: The cool special features on the extra disc on DVD.

Green Day - International Superhits

Summary: Green Day's only greatest hits type of album, with songs spanning from their first four albums. They are one of the most rockiest bands ever. A punk trio that has inspired many popular bands like Blink-182.

Did you know?: Green Day has been a group for over 10 years.

I like: The two new songs at the end, and the span of good songs from the years of rocking.

I don't like: It is pretty good, I like it all.

What to listen for: Good songs like: "Brain Stew," "She," and "Welcome to Paradise."



TV:

Adult Swim

Summary: Funniest thing on TV, period. With many different hilarious cartoons for people who aren't children. Space Ghost: Coast to Coast has an old 60's Hanna Barbara cartoon hero as a late night talk show host, talking to celebrities all the time. Home Movies is about little kids who make movies and their funny soccer coach. The Brak Show is about an alien guy, with a miniature Hispanic father, comedy. Former Fox shows Futurama and Family Guy air on Adult Swim also.

Did you know?: There are DVD sets of two Adult Swim shows.

I like: All the funny cartoons, especially The Brak Show.

I don't like: How there are not more DVD box sets of more shows. I would also like if the Adult Swim people made an Adult Swim channel so I could always watch it.

What to look for: On Sunday nights, we get two full hours of this awesomeness.



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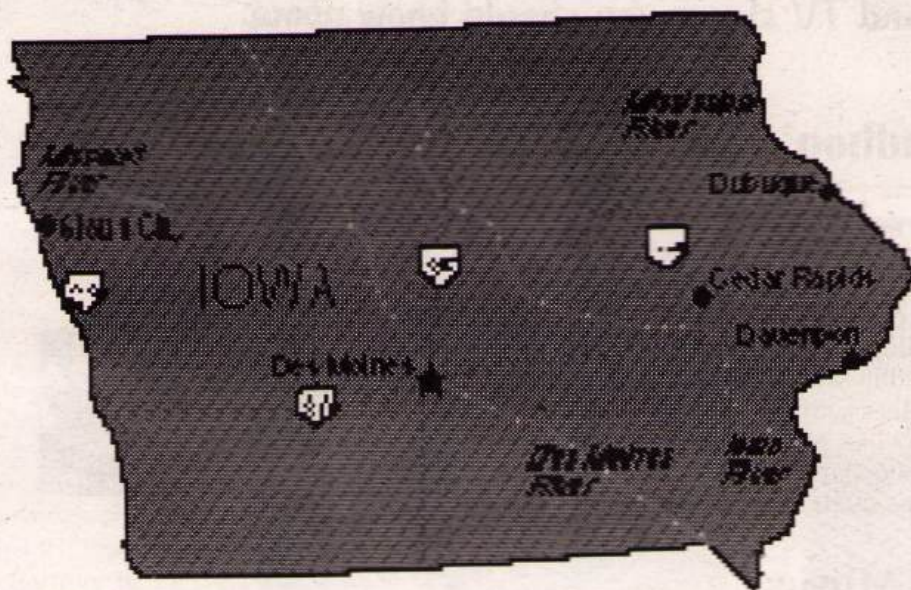


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Corn, Cows, and what else...?



By: Kristina McCusker

If you are a teen you have had the problem of deciding what to do during your free time on the weekends. The question, "What can we do in Iowa?" is asked way too many times. The majority of the time, the answer of "nothing" comes to mind. Iowa can be boring at times, that is a fact, but then that gives you the perfect chance to go and make your own fun. For example: "cow tippin'." Who wouldn't agree? If you aren't into the "rural" kind-of fun, go for a night on the town. There are many things to do all around the state of Iowa. There are sporting events, concerts, shopping malls, amusement and water parks, along with many local businesses for

teens.

During the winter months, you can attend comedy shows at the Penguins Comedy Club which is located at 209 1st Avenue SE Cedar Rapids, next to Gringo's. Coming in March, Dr. Jim Wand and Tony Rock will perform. Dr. Jim Wand is a master hypnotist, actually one of the top in the world today. Each one of his performances are unpredictable and they take on a unique style of its own. Tony Rock on the other hand, has a wonderful knack to entertain just like his older brother Chris. The Hollywood Reporter recently picked him up as one of the hottest young talents to come out of New York.

If you aren't interested in attending a show at the comedy club, you can keep watch on all of the concerts coming to the area.

On www.ticketmaster.com, the website, you can find all the information about the concerts, ticket prices, the time and date, and the location of where the concert is being held. Listed below are some of the many concerts coming to Iowa and Nebraska area. Maybe some of these will catch your interest and you would want to attend.

If none of the concerts catch your attention, how about the idea of shopping? Men, I know you all will be jumping for joy on this one. We all know there is the Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids, the Coralville Mall in Coralville, the Outlet Center in Williamburg, and even the Amana's have many little shops for all ages. You can even tour the Amana Brewery which is famous for their rootbeer and some specialty drinks. Here at these shopping malls, you can find pretty much anything for all ages

and styles. From Target to The Buckle, American Eagle to Ambercrombie and Fitch, these malls offer styles for everyone.

Shopping? Concerts? Comedy Club? Still nothing interesting? What about in the summer time? What can you do then?

Plenty! Iowa now has around five or six amusement and waterparks.

Adventureland

is an amusement park that contains over 100 rides, shows and attractions. After a day of fun, go over to the Adventureland Inn and relax for the night.

- Located in Des Moines, Iowa.

Arnolds Park

an amusement park with more than 30 rides and attractions including a 63' ferris wheel, "Boji Falls" (a log flume with a 94' drop into the water), and the area's fastest go-karts. - Located in Arnolds Park, Iowa.

Coralville Beach

This is a place where there aren't any waterslides or miniature golf, but you can still have fun. Grab your friends, a radio, maybe a bottle of sun block, along with a towel and head down to the place where the waves come to you. - Located in Coralville, IA.

Grand Harbor

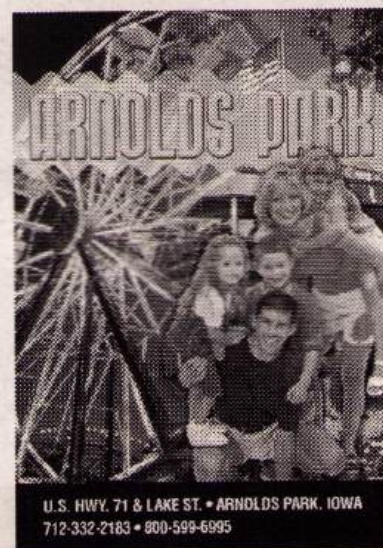
A new indoor waterpark and resort located close to Marion. Facilities include a fitness room, indoor and outdoor swimming pool, a golf course along with a game room. - Located in Dubuque, IA.

Lost Island

A Polynesian-themed park in Iowa's country-

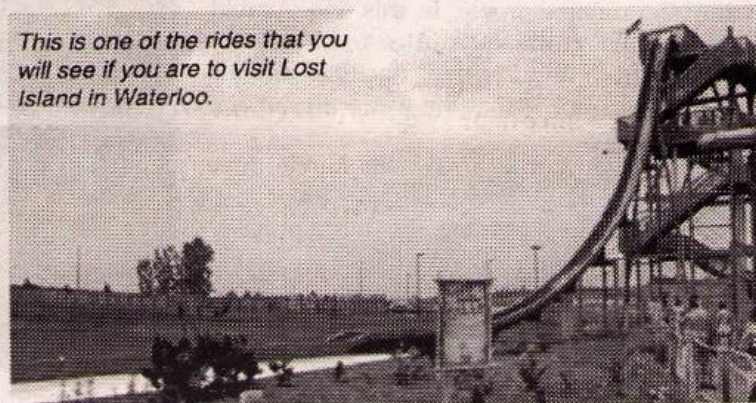
pool. - Located in Des Moines, Iowa.

What about all of those county fairs that go on in the months of July and August? There's plenty to do there. Go with the whole family or even just a couple of your closest friends. This is the time and place to go to have some fun and to act like a kid again. Head down to Des Moines for the Iowa State Fair. They have plenty of rides, shows and attractions. Here you can see all of the crazy ideas that have been judged for the ugliest cake contest, hear all of the entries for the mom-calling contest, you can see the state fair queen be crowned during the ceremony, and here you can even see how the judges critique all of the different ani-



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WHAT'S COMING UP?

02/25/04 - 7:00 p.m.

The Harlem Globetrotters - Tyson Event Center, Sioux City, IA.

02/28/04 - 8:00 p.m.

Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy - Orpheum Theater Omaha, Omaha, NE.

02/29/04 - 2:00 p.m.

Extreme International Motorcycle Ice Racing - Tyson Event Center, Sioux City, IA.

02/29/04 - 3:00 or 6:00 p.m.

Bill Cosby - Orpheum Theater Omaha, Omaha, NE.

03/06/04 - 8:00 p.m.

Blake Shelton - 1st Avenue Club, Iowa City, IA

03/17/04 - 7:30 p.m.

Britney Spears - Qwest Center Omaha, Omaha, NE.

03/20/04 - 8:00 p.m.

Monster Truck Nationals and Thrill Show - Tyson Event Center, Sioux City, IA.

03/24/04 - 7:00 p.m.

Kelly Clarkson and Clay Aiken - Qwest Center Omaha, Omaha, NE.

05/24/04 - 7:00 p.m.

Shania Twain - Mark of the Quad Cities, Quad Cities, IA.



On The Road To Success

By: Perry Clouse

After months of memorizing lines, blocking, timing, and perfecting all the mechanics of a great performance, the speech team felt ready. They were determined. After the disappointment of five division II ratings and only one division one rating at WAMAC in Manchester, the team pulled it together and turned it around with eight division I ratings and only two division II ratings at the district contest in Monticello. For eight groups it would be on to state, to compete for the chance at All-State.

MHS Speech students loaded the bus at 6:45 a.m. with pillows, blankets, costumes, props, snacks, and a lot of enthusiasm. After a three hour long bus trip, the group arrived at Ottumwa High School. Due to the weather, the bus ride was delayed more than one whole hour, the Choral Reading Group, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" to perform immediately upon arrival, and without any practice. Many parents came to help support the Marion speech team. Mrs. Watt, mother of junior Valerie Watt, drove to Ottumwa the night before to participate as one of the Ensemble Judges in the speech competitions.

Approximately 3,000 people packed the hallways, classrooms, cafeteria and even the elevator of Ottumwa High School. At one time twenty-two half-crazed kids piled into the small phone-booth-like elevator at one time. At that time a Ottumwa police officer came to the rescue. Fortunately for one of Marion's students, he was able to get the elevator unstuck

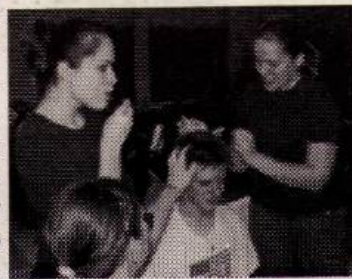
before the officer arrived. To pass the time students watched other events, played games, styled each other's hair (freshman Coulter Page had three girls fixing his hair at WAMAC), flirted with students from other schools, and even made some new friends. Despite the fact of everybody being sick or tired, everyone had a great time, because speech isn't just about acting or performing, it's also about having fun with your friends.

Twelve hundred students competed in Ensemble, Mime, Musical Theater, Readers Theater, One Acts, Improvisation and more. MHS walked away with Division I ratings in Improv group "Brown", Ensemble Acting "The Wool Gatherer" and "The Blue Hour: City Sketches," and the One Act "The Couch Potato." An All State Speech Honorable Mention was awarded to Sarah Young and Ben Shinrock for "The Wool Gatherer." They will be going to Ames February 21st to receive their award.

Competitive speech coach, Mr. Wake, gives a pep-talk to seniors, Ben Shinrock, Jessica Sauer, and Cameron Thomas, before they perform in improv. Unfortunately the group only recieved a division II rating for their state performance and could not proceed to All-State



Freshman Colter Page gets a slight make-over from junior Megan Anderson, sophomore Jodi Moore, and freshman Diana Arnold at the WAMAC speech contest. This was the first year in a long time that Marion participated in the WAMAC Large Group Speech



Senior Perry Clouse, junior Valerie Watt, and freshman Lisa Burns, joke around while waiting for speech results to return. Although Valerie's speech group did not make it to State, she was still there to support her friends that did make it.



Sophomore Sarah Young and senior Ben Shinrock were the only group selected to go to All-State as honorable mention award winners. This is Ben's second time going to All-State for competitive speech.



A WAR AT HOME

By: Perry Clouse

It's 1943, in Indiana; the time of ration coupons, war bonds, the jitterbug, and zoot suits. On the homefront, the Reverend Peter and Anna Farenkamp and their three children are doing everything they can to help with the war effort. Young Bernard 15, dreams of becoming a famous drummer while the youngest, Luana, can only dream about the new teen sensation, Frank Sinatra. The oldest David feels more adamant about helping fight the war, and plans to join the Army in two weeks on his eighteenth birthday. He currently serves as a plane spotter, waiting impatiently until he can see some action.

Tension builds when the close-knit family volunteers to house Rita and Louise Baxter, so they can work at the defense plant down the block. A call from Louise's soldier fiance sparks in David an even stronger determination to join the Army.

But Peter, who has seen the terrible effects of war, tries to dissuade him. When Peter confronts his son, the two have an emotional clash of wills, resulting in David riding off in an army recruitment officer's car. With no communication for seven weeks, Peter worries that he may have lost his son forever, and Anna can't help but fear the worst for her oldest child.

The Cast

Rev. Peter Farenkamp
Anna Farenkamp
David Farenkamp
Bernard Farenkamp
Luana Farenkamp
Ruth Ann Dressler
Emit Dressler
Cleopha Curtis
Louise Baxter
Rita Baxter
Samantha
Patty

Perry Clouse
Sara McGrew
Nathan Young
Josh Immerfall
Katie Lawson
Jenny Kruk
Daniel Rhodes
Jessica Sauer
Megan Anderson
Nicole Ivers
Sarah Whited
Ashley Brown

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SUPERFANS



By: Andrew Barnd

A note to serious Iowa State fans: this article is not about the Cyclones. In fact, it is basically anti-Iowa State. Unless you have a strong stomach, turn the page, or just put down the paper and walk away.

The sports fan has been around for many hundreds of years, resulting in the creation of the modern sports freak. In an age of modern technology, it is all too easy to turn on the t.v. and catch a pro basketball game on ESPN. You can capture the excitement of a live game on the big screen from the safety of your favorite chair. But for two MHS students, the role of the sports fan is taken to a whole new level.

Junior Thomas Greene has liked the Iowa Hawkeyes since he was a little kid. He used to watch the basketball and football games and liked the coaches Tom Davis and Hayden Fry. When Kirk Ferentz took over the football program after Hayden Fry, Thomas really started to like them. "I like the Iowa football team mostly because of Ferentz and what he's done". Nowadays, Thomas attends every home football and basketball game, and watches the away games on t.v. When this fan



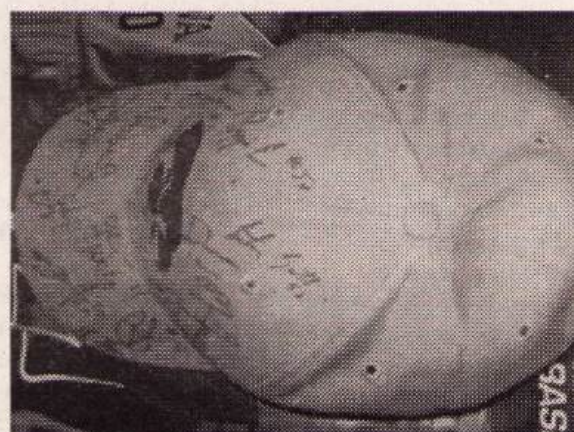
watches the Hawkeyes play, he expects them to win. "I get angry when they lose and I end up playing Playstation 2 to relieve my anger," he says.

Another MHS super fan is senior Phil Lala. He first became a Hawks fan when his dad took him to a football game at Kinnick Stadium eight years ago. Phil loved the excitement of the fans and the atmosphere at the stadium. Just like Thomas, he now attends every game he can, and if he can't make it to a game, he'll tape it and watch it later.



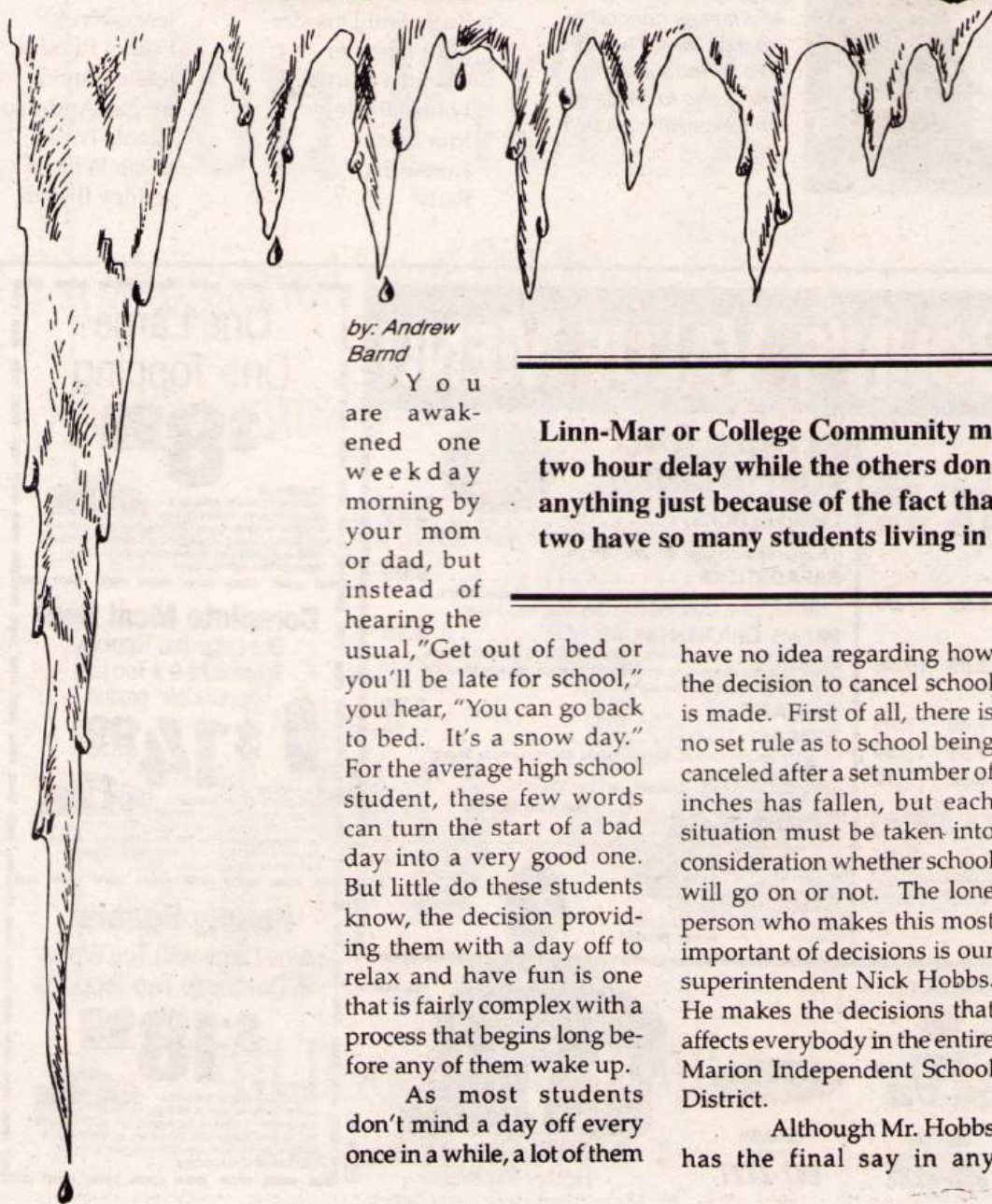
One thing Thomas and Phil pride themselves about being a Hawkeye fan is that they strongly dislike the Iowa State Cyclones. They both think a strong rivalry exists between the two teams because they are the only two Division-I schools in the state and that they play each other so often. As Iowa beat Iowa State in football this year, Phil strongly believes the Hawkeyes have a much better program. Phil says, "Kinnick (in Iowa City) is a much better stadium than Jack Trice (in Ames) because of the fans and the tradition behind it. There's nothing better than a Saturday afternoon at Kinnick stadium, hearing the roar of the crowd when the Iowa flags go up and the team swarms out during the fight song."

After he graduates in the spring of 2005, Thomas will be attending the University of Iowa to be a full-on Hawkeye fan. When he completes college, he still plans on being a fan of his favorite team and will probably like them for the rest of his life. As for Phil, his first and only choice is to go to Iowa. One thing he will like about it is that he'll be able to see his favorite athletes outside of arenas and stadiums. Win or lose, these are two people that will be Iowa fans for life.



Thomas has got the autographs of all the Hawkeye players from basketball and football players.

LET IT SNOW



by: Andrew Barnd

You are awakened one weekday morning by your mom or dad, but instead of hearing the usual, "Get out of bed or you'll be late for school," you hear, "You can go back to bed. It's a snow day." For the average high school student, these few words can turn the start of a bad day into a very good one. But little do these students know, the decision providing them with a day off to relax and have fun is one that is fairly complex with a process that begins long before any of them wake up.

As most students don't mind a day off every once in a while, a lot of them

Linn-Mar or College Community might have a two hour delay while the others don't have anything just because of the fact that the first two have so many students living in rural areas.

have no idea regarding how the decision to cancel school is made. First of all, there is no set rule as to school being canceled after a set number of inches has fallen, but each situation must be taken into consideration whether school will go on or not. The lone person who makes this most important of decisions is our superintendent Nick Hobbs. He makes the decisions that affects everybody in the entire Marion Independent School District.

Although Mr. Hobbs has the final say in any

weather related closings or delays, his decisions do not go unaided. According to him, a phone tree exists between the superintendents of all the major school districts in the area: Marion, Linn-Mar, Cedar Rapids, and College Community.

When Iowa winter weather threatens, the four let each other know what they are all doing, whether it's starting two hours late or closing altogether. But for each district, the circumstances are a little bit different. For instance, Linn-Mar or College Community might have a two hour delay while the others don't have anything just because of the fact that the first two have so many students living in rural areas. Out in the country, roads aren't always as much of a priority as streets in town. Here at Marion, the majority of the student population lives within the city limits, and that makes it easier for ev-

eryone to get to school during a weather related crisis.

So now you know what it takes to cancel school, but what about delays and letting out early? You might think that starting later or letting out earlier would be an easier decision to make than choosing to close school for the day. But for a superintendent, it is much more difficult. It is important to remember that any sudden change of schedule affects everyone from the high schoolers all the way down to the elementary students. An important difference between the two is that the younger kids can't drive. If school starts two hours late, and a child's parents go to work at eight o'clock, what will the kid do for that extra time. The same thing goes for letting out early. You have to be sure everyone has a ride home and is not going home to an empty house.

So next time you wake up in the morning or are at school and it starts snowing, don't say "It'd be easier for everybody if they just canceled school." Because in reality, it's not easier. So don't get your hopes up.

WEDDING BELLS

By: Val Crutchly

One teacher who has helped many kids, as well as adults has just had something very big happen in her life. Madame Knepper got married.

Madame received her college education from the University of Iowa and she also attended a college in France. She lived in France for five years and therefore, she is highly qualified to teach French class here at Marion. She has been teaching since 1992 (12 years). First Madame taught at a school in France for four years, teaching adults to speak English. Then she returned to the United States and taught at the University of Iowa for two years. Next she went to Xavier High school for one year and then Bennington College in Vermont, also for a year. Finally she returned to Iowa and came to join us at Marion High School. She has now taught at Marion for four years.

The first time Madame met her husband, Wayne, was eight years ago at graduate school at the University of Iowa. Both were attending for foreign language education and they would work on projects for the class together. Wayne now teaches Spanish at Central City High school.



September 16th, 2003 started out as an average day for Madame. She attended the cross country meet held at Squaw Creek Park and then headed off to The Texas Roadhouse for her friend's birthday.

Wayne showed up a little bit late for the meal and he was acting kind of jittery. Right after they ordered their drinks, Wayne told Madame that he had seen a bug crawl into her purse. Her friends agreed that they too had seen it. She opened it up and looked inside. And then she saw it. A big, black...ring box!!

This was not the first time Wayne had proposed. This was actually the 3rd or 4th time that he had asked for her hand in marriage. The reason Madame accepted this time was because the relationship finally felt stable enough for the next step, marriage.

Now they began the process of deciding when and where to have the big day. They actually thought about eloping over the summer (before the proposal was made). They considered having the wedding at the Art Museum in Cedar Rapids and also at the Czech Museum. But they were "tres chere" (very expensive). They liked Biaggi's and knew that they wanted a small ceremony. So they checked just to see....

Biaggi's agreed to let the wedding occur there. Madame went shopping to get her wedding dress. She chose an ivory, beaded dress. They got married in the wineroom on December 28th, 2003. The ceremony lasted only about 30 minutes. But finally, after seven and a half years dating, Madame and Wayne are married!

Madame's name now is Madame Knepper-Swanson. But she is still known as Madame ("Mom") Knepper to the students and staff of MHS.

There will be a reception on Sunday, March 14th for Madame's French students. To find out time and location, see Madame Knepper.

AT THE TOP

By: Ashley Evans and Nicole Cox

At the beginning of the competition cheerleading season, the MHS cheerleaders had no idea what they were getting themselves into. They didn't realize that at the end of the season they would be state champions. They didn't know that they would place 1st in 4 of their competitions. They didn't know that they would beat their rivals Pleasant Valley and go on to become Grand Champions at the Iowa Spirit

Hitting their first motion of the cheer, the competition cheerleaders begin the routine with a smile and a "Hey! Marion! Here we go!"



Competition. All they knew was that if they worked hard enough they could accomplish the goals set by themselves and their coach. And that's exactly what they did.

The Westdale competition always starts off the season. This is a place to show off what you've been working on all summer and to check out the competition for the year. Even though Marion was up against all 4A schools, they came out

on top, placing 1st for the second year in a row.

The next competition was the State Championship. This was the first year our school had the chance to show their stuff against teams across the state. Beating last year's champions, MHS placed 1st in the state, and became the school's only state champs since 1991.

Trying their hardest at Stack the Stands (Prairie), Marion placed 2nd, losing to a team with 24 members (including 10 guys). Even with a shaky routine, MHS beat Jefferson, who had a solid routine but not enough spirit to come out ahead.

At the Hawkeye Classic Competition, Marion was the only small coed team, so they challenged themselves to perform a perfect routine and received high scores from the judges.

The last competition of the year was held at Carver Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City. They were against a very elite team with a large



amount of members, Pleasant Valley. The MHS squad defeated them, but that wasn't the end of their awards. They were awarded Grand Champions, which means Marion scored the highest out of 20 teams in the cheer division. Also placing were Danny Hocken and Charlie Martin. They received a first place in the partner stunt competition beating three other competitors.

With the hard work, dedication, and spirit, the MHS competition cheerleading squad proved that with all these victories, they could come out on top.

Searching For A College

By: Holly Greider

As Spring rolls around the senior class is fast approaching graduation, and the junior class is waiting for their chance either excited to get out or dreading the time. Whether we like it or not as we watch the senior class have their last prom, last school lunch, last test, last everything we have to face that we are going to be in the same situation in a year.

As that time rolls around every junior will be making decisions that will affect the rest of their life. Getting ready for life after high school entails a lot of planning, for most people that planning begins in their junior year. The first decision most of us have to make what we'll do afterwards: going to college, entering the military, or getting a job.

Most people that plan on going to

college take their ACT during their junior year, but some wait until their senior year. Also most juniors start to look at what kind of college they would like to go to. The most obvious decision is if you want to go to a two-year or a four-year college. Once you have that decided there are less pertinent choices to make. For some of us that means making the choice between a large school and a small school. For others, it means making the choice between going away for college or staying close to home.

Some juniors know exactly where they are going. Trent Jordan says, "My search has been narrowed to one college. Iowa. This college to me is going to be an important aspect in my life. I may meet the future Mrs. Jordan there." Thomas Greene also wants to go to Iowa stating, "I want to be a trainer on a football team and a coach and I think that would be a good school to learn to coach because they have awesome coaches like Haden." Others don't have quite as good an idea of where they are going. Amy Bahl says, "I don't really have any idea yet. Whether you know exactly where you are going or have no idea the next year is sure to be full of exciting and stressful times for the junior class."

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Oscar Fever

by Seth Walters

On Sunday, February 29, millions of healthy, trendy Americans will be sitting on their couches with a bowl of popcorn in their hand and a smile on their face. What are they all doing? Watching the 76th Annual Academy Awards, of course.

This year there is a great deal of hype on who will win what. This year there are nine main movies in the nominations. Taking the lead is *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* with 11 nominations and *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* with 10 nominations. (It seems this year the contest is for the longest name.)

Hosting this year's Oscars is the comedic genius Billy Crystal. This will be Billy's eighth year hosting the Academy Awards. He hosted four consecutive shows beginning in 1990, then returned following a 3 year hiatus to host the 69th, 70th and 72nd telecasts. Steve Martin did a great job of hosting the show last year, (I won't mention Whoopi Goldberg) but we're all glad that Billy's back. With his brilliant standup routines and his hilarious spoofs at the beginning of each show, Billy has a lot to offer for this year's ceremony.

There are a lot of great actors put up for nominations this year as well. Johnny



Smile! This is the poster for this year's Academy Awards. It's all about the fun and excitement, the flash and pizzazz of Oscar night. If you want, you can buy one online for \$25.

Depp is nominated for best actor in a leading role for his outstanding portrayal of Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Charlize Theron is nominated for best actress in a leading role for her portrayal of serial killer Aileen Wuornos in *Monster*. Critics say that her performance in *Monster* is one of the best performances in the history of cinema. Another nominee is Ken Watanabe who is nominated for best actor in a supporting role. Ken played the leader of a Samurai village in "The Last Samurai."

The nominees for best picture are: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*, *Mystic River*, *Lost in Translation*, and *Seabiscuit*. *Lord of the Rings* has not been very fortunate in the past two years in this category, being beaten by *A Beautiful Mind* in 2002 and *Chicago* in 2003. Maybe this year will be different. It will be tough deciding the big winner, though. All movies in the category are highly praised by critics and all deserve a round of applause.

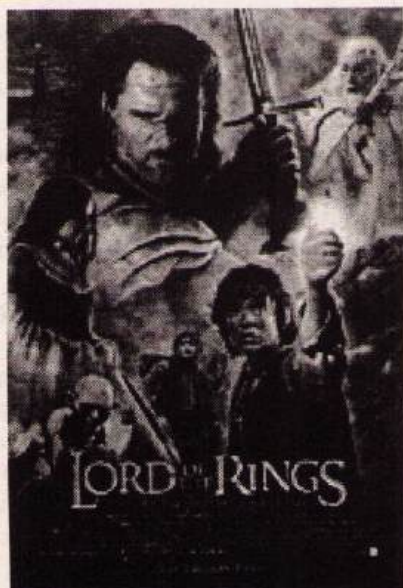
With all the hype and glam, this year's Oscars will most definitely be entertaining. From the stars walking down the red carpet in their beautiful dresses and snazzy suits, to the announcing of the best picture award, the Academy Awards have always been something to look forward to. Who will win? Who will lose? No one will know until Sunday, February 29.



Charlize Theron is nominated for Best Actress, for her portrayal of a serial killer in the movie *Monster*.



Johnny Depp, who starred in last summer's smash hit *Pirates of the Caribbean*, received his first Oscar nomination this year for Best Actor.



The Lord of the Rings swept the Oscars this year, with 11 nominations.



Ken Watanabe is up for Best Supporting Actor for his role of a Samurai in *The Last Samurai*.



Hey kids! Be sure to tune in on Sunday, February 29 to watch film history be made, live from Los Angeles.

Venus and Mars

By: Alyssa Clark & Ashley Cudworth

When trying to answer the age old question, what do girls like about guys and what do guys like about girls, there are actually a variety of questions to be asked. What do you first notice about a guy/girl, what is the best feature about a guy/girl, what is the most important quality that a guy/girl should have, etc. According to an internet poll guys first notice a girls face in general then her body. Girls tend to notice personality and good looks. When looking for a long-term relationship, girls tend to find that a good personality is the most important. Marion High School students were polled and gave various responses as to what they find attractive.

Jeff Hapgood - "Her personality."

Rachel Grissom - "The way he smells good."

Niki Kiburz - "The way that he makes me laugh."

Emily Schroeder - "I like the little things that they do holding doors, etc.. and how close they get to you."

Thomas Murray - "I like her lips."

Travis Eagle - "I like the way that she looks at me."

Mel Schnieders - "How they compliment you."

Phil Lala - "I like girls that like the Iowa Hawkeyes."

Dane Anderson - "I like girls who roller blade and wear a little bling bling."

Ashley Brown - "I like his cute butt and hot buff bod."

Seth Walters - "I like her smile."

Cyrus Coffman - "Her sense of humor."

Carly Huffman - "His smile."

Kara Griggs - "His eyes."

A Few Reasons Why Guys Like Girls

Compiled by Chicken Soup For the Teenage Soul II

1. The way their heads always find the right spot on our shoulder
2. The way they take hours to dress but in the end it's all worthwhile
3. The way they smile
4. The way their hands always find yours
5. The way they fish for compliments
6. They always smell good, even if it's just shampoo
7. The way they kiss you when you do something nice for them
8. The way they hit you and expect it to hurt
9. How cute they are when they eat
10. The ease with which they fit into your arms

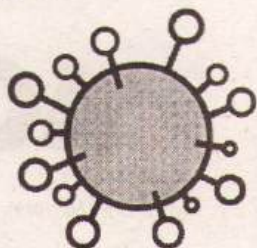
A Few Reasons Why Girls Like Guys

Compiled by Chicken Soup For the Teenage Soul III

1. They always wear your favorite cologne
2. The way they run their fingers through your hair
3. The way they show off around their friends, even though you know you would love him if he missed a basket or two
4. The way they make it their personal mission to ensure that you are never cold
5. That smile they flash that can make your stomach drop to your feet.
6. The way they touch and hold you so gently, as if they are afraid they will break you
7. The way they would die before saying "I love you" in front of their friends
8. The way they hold you when you are crying
9. The way you miss everything about them when they are gone
10. The way they always let you win any game you play together

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According to an American survey, the most important qualities that a boy must have for a girl to be interested in him are: (in this order)

- Intelligence
- Good Looks and body
- A good conversationalist
- Confident, but not conceited
- Sense of humor
- Well groomed
- Romantic and affectionate

According to the same survey the most important qualities that a girl must have for a boy to be interested in her are:

- Good looks and a good body
- Friendliness
- Intelligence
- Sense of humor
- Honest
- Similar interests and values



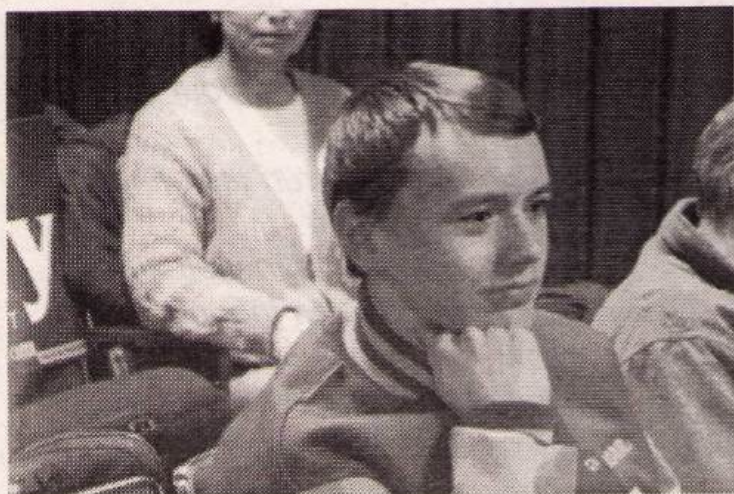
POLITICALLY INACTIVE

By Holly Grieder and Josh Immerfall

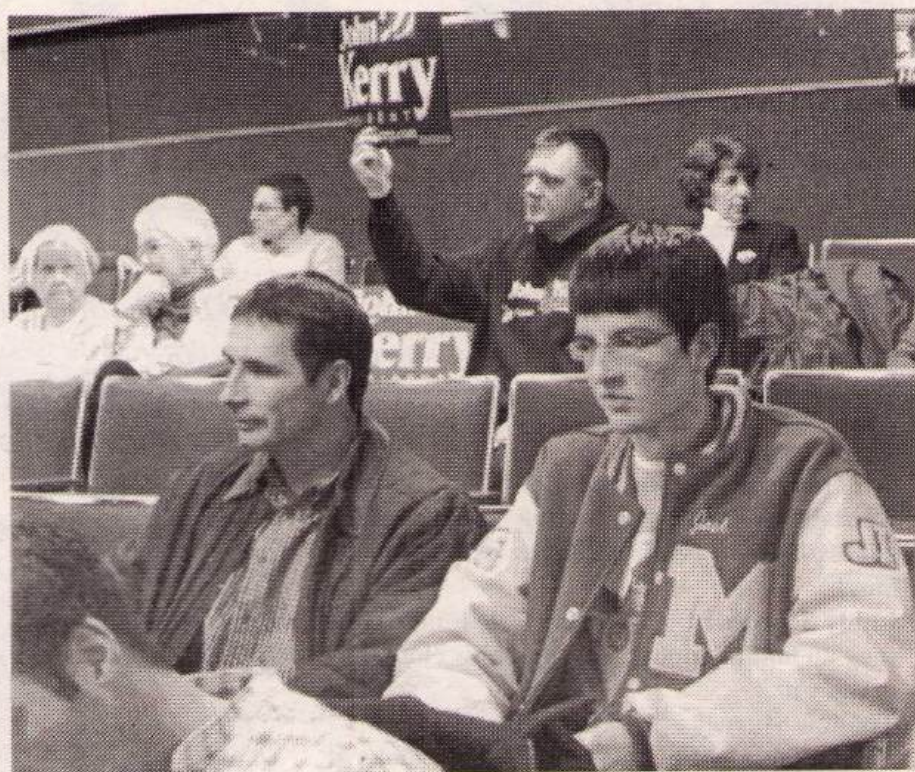
This November all of the seniors in our high school and a few of the juniors were able to participate in a part of our political process that doesn't

the fact that it takes time. It takes about an hour and a half to caucus, but the time goes

fast as you watch people acting obnoxiously crazy trying to support their candidate. The reason a caucus takes longer



Foreign exchange student Ivan Sablin listens closely as the instructions for the caucus are being given.



come around very often. They were able to participate in the Iowa Caucus, an event that is a big part of nominating the presidential candidates. Anyone who is eighteen or will turn eighteen by the presidential election day was able to caucus. This is a great opportunity for high school students to nominate a candidate that will change the things they complain about on a daily basis, but hardly anyone took part in it. Nearly all of the candidates have plans for making it easier for families to pay college tuition, something that will directly affect quite a few high school students soon, but very few students attended to caucus for a candidate with a plan that would make college less of a financial burden.

The most burdensome part of the caucuses is

than a normal vote is because you have a chance to talk about the issues that concern you after the votes are tallied up. School activities make it quite difficult to be politically active. On the night of the caucus, the JV girls and boys basketball teams had games, there was a large group speech contest, and band members were participating in the Augustana Honor Band. These things made it impossible for people involved in these activities to be politically active. Many students also had to work the night of the caucus. Senior Brett Kane says, "I would have gone if I didn't have to work. I think most high school students don't go though because they're not educated about the political process and

they don't care." That statement probably sums up the students from Marion that had no excuse not to go that night. On the other hand, foreign exchange student Ivan Sablin attended the caucus. "I was really excited to participate in the caucus. There is nothing like that in Russia," Ivan said.

Mr. Immerfall was present the night of the caucus. When asked about the low attendance of young people that night he replied, "They could have a lot more impact than they realize." That statement is true so in November when it's time to vote in the national election, take the time to get involved and vote.

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CALLING ALL ACTORS!

By: Cameron Thomas

Do you like William Shakespeare? Do you like to entertain people and make them laugh a lot? Then come on down to the Marion High School Auditorium on February 26 and 27 to audition for the Student-Run-Play, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged). The show consists of all of Shakespeare's plays, including: Romeo and Juliet, Othello, and... others, that all takes place within a whole 90 minute performance. There is everything from sword fighting to cross-dressing and even a cooking show. The play calls for three actors, preferably men (sorry girls, but it's a lot funnier with three guys), but can be used with four. There are, however, many things for other people to do. For example: Curtain boy/girl, Props manager, Stage manager, Lighting technician, sound technician, and... well, that's about it. Rehearsals will be in March and April, three or four times a week and on weekends. After the Spring Play is over, rehearsals will pick up more and will end with the performances on April 23 and 24.

Different Strokes

By: Clancy Quinn
and Blake Hacker
Marion
High School is

D'Hooge are the
two Marion stu-
dents on the Linn-
Mar swim team.



Drew Hingtgen prepares for his leg of the medley relay. This is Hingtgen's first year of competitive swimming.

known for the tradition of sports such as football, wrestling, basketball, and baseball. But for two MHS students they have chosen a more unique sport which is swimming. Drew Hingtgen and Eric

So far the season has been a complete success, with both of them placing in some of the meets, and neither have placed last. Eric has missed some of this seasons' practices due to tendonitis in his shoulder. "I hope to recover and get

back to top swimming form."

Eric has been involved in summer swim leagues since he was seven years old because his dad was a swimmer in high school, too. Drew swims in the 4 x 50 medley and his team won



In the backstroke, Eric D'Hooge prepares for the start of the race.

their heat in a big meet.

Just like any other sport the

swimmers have superstitions before each and every race. They will not eat before any meet and Eric listens to his CD player to get him pumped up before a race.

"I swim because it is fun, and I'm not as good at the other winter sports," says Eric when asked why he likes to swim. Drew

friends through out the season. They will keep in touch with many of their buddies and hope to remain friends with them for years to come.

Eric is involved with a lot of other activities besides swimming, such as football and track. In his free time he likes to weight lift, hunt and fish. Drew is also in a lot of other activities like football and weight lifting.

Even though swimming is not as recognizable as other sports at Marion, it still provides another opportunity for people to be involved and participate in things they like to do.

swims to keep in shape and to also have as much fun as possible. They have bonded with many Linn-Mar

TEXAS HOLD'EM

By: Clancy Quinn

"I see your bet and raise you four more," says sophomore Eric Hanna as he attempts to bluff his way to winning the pot. This is just a typical Saturday night for some of Marion High School's students. The card game they are playing is called Texas Hold 'Em, a poker game that has taken off in the past couple of years. Due mainly to the televising of "The World Series of Poker" and other professional events by ESPN, Texas Hold 'Em has

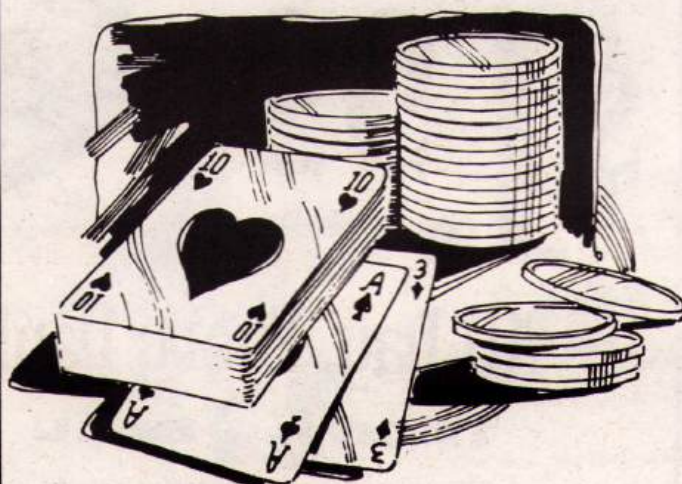
become one of the most popular card games to play.

Another reason the game has become so popular is because of the high stakes and the chance of winning the huge pot. With betting happening four times, it's inevitable that you either lose big or hopefully win big.

Playing Texas Hold 'Em isn't just about winning or losing for students at MHS. It's about hanging out with your friends, and it gives you something to do on a Saturday night.

Rules of the Game

- Each player is dealt two cards, face down.
- A round of betting takes place, beginning with the player to the left of the two who posted the blinds. Players can call, raise, or fold when it's their turn to bet.
- The dealer then flips the next three cards face up on the table. These cards are called the "flop."
- After the flop, another round of betting takes place, beginning with the player to the left of the dealer.
- The dealer burns a card and plays one more face up onto the table. This, the fourth community card, is called the "turn card."
- The player to the left of the dealer begins the third round of betting.
- The dealer burns another card before placing the final face-up card on the table.
- Players can now use any combination of seven cards - the five community cards and the two cards known only to them - to form the best possible five-card Poker hand.
- The fourth and final round of betting starts with the player to the left of the dealer.
- After the final betting round, all players who remain in the game reveal their hands. The player with the best hand wins.



Coming Soon to a Classroom Near You

By: Clancy Quinn

With next year's schedule right around the corner, you might have seen some new classes in the Program of Studies. Some of last years classes have been renamed, and a couple of classes are brand new and hope to catch the interest of students.

Global Issues is a new class that has to do with the current events. You will study world cultures, poverty, government, and more. It is for grades 9 and 10 and is one term long.

Another new class is Criminal Justice which will replace Personal and Social Law. This course is to help people understand their legal rights and responsibilities. It will help students learn about many practical law situations.

"That class seems really fun and it has to do with something I'm interested in," says sophomore Adam Smith, talking about the new Marketing class. This class will take students on a step by step journey through the world of marketing in the entertainment and sports industry. You will learn the basic functions of marketing and how those functions are applied to sports and entertainment.

The West is moving to the East with the new class Eastern Civilization I and II replacing Western Civiliza-

tion I and II. Students will look at the development of eastern civilization from, the period 2500 BCE to approx. 1700 CE.

While you were looking through your Program of Studies you might have noticed a lot of old classes being renamed. American Lit.2 will be the name for 19th and 20th Century Lit. You will learn the same things, but the name is different. Instead of having Algebra Concepts and then Algebra Studies, you will just have to go through Algebra 1, 2, 3, and 4. Social Psychology is titled to Social Sports Psychology. It will explore the same concepts as the old class and the last unit of the class you will explore Sport Psychology to show students how to use the brain to its greatest effort. The classes Science Motion and Science Matter have been renamed to just General Science I and General Science II. Before there used to be three separate classes, CBS, Excel, and Powerpoint, but this year they have decided to combine them into one class called Excel/Word/Powerpoint.

The 2004-2005 school year is filled with many new and exciting classes and some old classes that have been renamed. Look for them when you are signing up for classes.

12 Senior Interviews

THE VOX

February 20, 2004

Name: Phil Lala
Activity: Golf
Other activities: Baseball, NHS
Season highlight: When I golfed in the #2 spot. I did the best I've ever done.



What do you like most about your activity?: Getting to go to the varsity away meets and riding in the suburban with my teammates. Recalling all the fun times we've had on prior golf trips.

Best high school memory: Pitching against West Delaware and UNI recruit Kyle Kelchen, and winning 3-1. Also being ranked in the top ten in the state at the end of the year.

What will you miss the most about Marion?: The bus trips to the different sporting events. Especially hearing stories about Coach Laube and Coach Manderscheid's college years.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: "It's a great day to be a HAWKEYE!"

Name: Ashley Berry
Activity: Journalism/ Tack
Other Activities: Volleyball, SODA, NHS and that's about it.



Future Plans: To attend Drake University and major in Publication Journalism

Season Highlight: Well... The season hasn't started yet so.... and when we are in season, I always make the finals and never get in the "placing status" and it sucks.

What do you like most about your activity?: I would say the people and the bus rides and definitely the meets... just sitting around watching people run and stuff... and what do I like about journalism... I dunno what isn't there to like... eating out regularly, doing other homework, not coming to class... no just kidding it is really challenging especially at deadline time.

Best high school memory: I dunno there are so many... I wouldn't even know where to begin... the time Mary Soldner, Taryn Hyduk, Nicole Ivers and I drove around in the van and watched watched Jena and Aaron, and the time we were sledding and Amanda Smith and I were riding together and well if you know the rest it's funny right? Well, I could could go on forever

What will you miss the most about Marion?: I know what I won't miss but what will I miss ...hmm... maybe the kids and stuff.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave the class of 2004?: Don't look me up for class reunions... no just kidding I have to idea what advice to leave!

Name: Jessica Sauer
Activity: Speech, concert band and choir
Other activities: Thespians, jazz band, jazz choir, chamber choir, fall musical, spring play, student-run productions, competitive, large group, and individual speech, S.O.D.A, CHAMPS, Take Charge, Lean On Me, NHS, tennis, winterguard and V.P.C.



Season highlight: Last year improving with Ashley Brown and Cameron Thomas, taking Cam the frisky cow to state fair and calling home the pigs.

What do you like the most about your activity?: Playing freeze tag and doing improv situations, stage fighting with Jehny, trying to stump Mr. Wake (it's next to impossible, the man's a genius), and using the CB radios on the way to individual speech contests.

Most memorable memory: Going to Mexico with Tess and Amber, wheeling and dealing for cheap blankets, t-shirts and jewelry, other people's toilets back up into ours, and in Cozumel when the toilet overflowed and water flooded our hotel room, came out the door, down the hallway and greeted us at the elevator - 2 hours after we had told the hotel that the toilet was overflowing.

What will you miss the most about Marion?: competitive speech, play practice with Mr. McMahon's - comments and antics, skateboarding down the aisles in the auditorium, screwing around in set construction, and the talent show.

Future plans: Going to Czech Republic this summer, and going to college to double major in Spanish and theatre, travel a lot as a foreign exchange student, become a high school spanish teacher and director. Maybe one day run a community theatre.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: "I'm a slow walker, but I never walk back."

Name: Miles Wahe
Activity: Track
Other activities: Wrestling, cross-country, baseball



Season highlight: When the 4x400m team and 4x800m team both made it to state and I was in both of them. We got 5th in 4X800.

What do you like most about your activity?: The dedication you have to have, and how hard you have to work and practice while still having fun.

Best high school memory: Placing at state in track.

What will you miss the most about your activity?: The atmosphere, the people, my underclassmen buddies and some teachers.

Future plans: I would like to attend Kirkwood College for 2 years, and then transfer to a university.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: "Keep your head up and your eyes wide and keep an open mind!"

Name: Jenny Kruk
Activity: Speech and concert band and choir.
Other activities: Spring play, jazz band, NHS, S.O.D.A., thespians, track, soccer, fall musical
Season highlight: Dora and I have a full-out open brawl on stage for our One Act. I must say that I thoroughly enjoy this scene. Dora has a mean right hook!



What do you like the most about your activity?: I love acting. It lets me be someone new, start all over being someone different. I have been onstage since I was six years old and plan to stay there for many more years.

Best high school memory: Bus singing with Nick Campbell and Kyle Martin, freshman year band/choir trip to Florida, marching band...good times...(haha), the "whooping stick" with Sarah Hansen, "Vinnie", AP English discussions, honor bands, Z Rogers and the "Wang Picture."

What will you miss the most about Marion?: Duct tape, art classes, the funny kids, great discussions (w/ Mrs. Braun, Mr. McMahon, etc.), Monsieur Virlee, set construction, speech contests, Vinnie, Mr. Wake - he is a genius, VPC, pep band craziness, watching movies.

Future plans: Iowa State - major currently undecided (thinking about architecture, video production, drama, animation, or foreign language.)

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: "If you have it, strut it; if you don't have it, make it up." "Life is like a sewer: what you put into it is what you get out." "Don't let youth be wasted on the young." "All the world's a stage."

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Name: Jenny Fager

Activity: Journalism, soccer and tennis

Other activities: Concert choir, fall musical, NHS, NCYL, bowling, volunteering

Season highlight: For soccer being conference champs sophomore year, and for tennis it would have to be all of Coach McNutt's crazy shenanigans.

What do you like most about your activity?: Tennis is more of an individual sport, and in soccer you really have to work as a team, so I like that variety. And in tennis we goof around and don't get in trouble because Coach McNutt still doesn't know our names.

Best high school memory: Freshman year's band/choir trip to Florida, going on the London/Paris trip, tp'ing at three in the morning on a school night, the dances, and just all the fun times I've had with my friends these past four years.

What will you miss the most about Marion?: I'll miss journalism a lot, Ms. Martin, my friends, and the Salisbury steak and potatoes.

Future plans: Going to UNI and major in elementary education.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: "Dream as if you'll live forever...live as if you'll die today" - James Dean



Name: Mike McCue

Activity: Track

Other activities: Football

Season highlight: Homecoming football game

What do you like the most about your activity?: Being a part of the team

Best high school memory: Sophomore year Homecoming scoring in the last 30 seconds to tie.

What will you miss the most about Marion?: The people

Future plans: Counselor or own a small business after college.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: "Restoring Order"



Name: Emily Gerald

Activity: Tennis

Other activities: Bowling, S.O.D.A.

Season highlight: Being able to go outside and just hit the ball around.

What do you like most about your activity: You can smash the ball at your opponent.

Best high school memory: Watching Ashley Spear throw her bowling ball 10 ft. in the air on her approach.

What will you miss the most about Marion?: Being able to leave for lunch.

Future plans: Attend ISU and major in architecture.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: "Everything is funny as long as it happens to someone else."



Name: Chaz Beck

Activity: Basketball

Other activities: Tennis, S.O.D.A., NHS

Season highlight: Beating Benton with the craziest shot I have ever seen by Curt Hansen.

What do you like the most about your activity?: It's very demanding on your body and it's always exciting.

Best high school memory: Mr. Messerli's "Banana Man"

What will you miss the most about Marion?: The atmosphere and the people

Future plans: Going to Iowa State University and major in aerospace engineering

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: Life is not about the number of times you fall down, it's how fast you get up that matters.



Name: Amanda Smith

Activity: Golf and Journalism

Other activities: Take Charge, SODA, FBLA, NHS, NCYL, Lean On Me, Tar Wars, Volunteering, Linn County Partnership Against Substance Abuse, Green Square Homeless Meals Program

Future plans: Go to Coe College and major in public relations with a collateral in business

Season highlight: Medaling in Monticello sophomore year and getting "love-tapped" by Caleb Lynott's pitching wedge freshman year

What do you like most about your activity?: M-Dogg, the 'Burb, and Burger King crowns

Best high school memory: Too many...every day is a memory!

What will you miss the most about Marion?: My friends and all the fun times - oh, and especially the scum between Josh's toes.

Favorite quote or some advice to leave to the class of 2004: Mr. Cahalan's friendly "words of wisdom:" "Don't blow out someone else's candle to make yours glow brighter."



CURSED CLASS

By: Sara McGrew

For us seniors, our thirteen years of education are almost completed. With Graduation day coming in just a couple of months, there's a lot of reminiscing about our years in school. One thing remains the same throughout it all, however. The Class of 2004 is jinxed. Now, wait a moment, don't get all hostile on me. Let me explain however, and I'm sure my fellow class members who have been through it all with me will back me up.

Let's start in middle school. First off, we spent five years at Vernon Middle School. We were the first eighth grade class to transfer from the high school back down to VMS. Five years of Mr. Hoyt. Man, how did we survive? Next, we always had bad weather on field trip days. Remember? We went to Elkader. It rained. We went to Omaha. It was cold. We went to Des Moines. It rained. We went to Thomas Park for Science Field Day. It rained. Band and choir went to Chapman's Fun World. It rained. Next, there was one new female teacher who made our lives hell in gym class. I'm not going to name names, but I'm sure you all remember who that was. There also used to be an eighth grade lock-in, but not the year we were eighth graders. Oh,

and how about the two fires that were started our eighth grade year? The mysterious "paper room" fire and the time Mrs. Schindler's heater broke and caught on fire. One would think things would get better when we go to the high school, but no I don't think so. The jinx continues...

We are the first class at Marion High School that is plus/minus sensitive. We are the only class that has had the chance to see four Spanish teachers. We are the first class that is required to take Money Math Matters. Does anybody remember halfway through our sophomore year when they told us that Practical Life Planning wasn't going to be required to graduate? Just after most of us had already taken it. Oh, and do you know that next years seniors are not going to have to take ITEDS if they meet certain requirements (being in at least the 40th percentile, attend Transition night, and have already taken the SAT/ACT)? I've also heard a rumor that there will be 12 Advanced Placement (A.P) classes offered next year.

The Class of 2004 has been through a lot together, but we have survived. Let's just cross our fingers and pray that we make it through the rest of the year to Graduation without any more drama. Only a few more months. I think we can make it.

CLASS



2004

Post Season Quickly Approaching

By: Clancy Quinn

Even though plagued by losses, the Varsity boys basketball team is still working hard and not giving up. "We have had ups and downs, but our team has a lot of character and has not quit. They continue to work hard and practice to get better. They have maintained positive attitudes and team unity. We are excited about finishing the season strong and improving from where we started," says Coach Laube on his basketball team and the season. With the return of

been some real nail biters this season that kept the fans on the edge of their seats. One

coast and made a lay up that you only see in the NBA. The Marion fans went

overtime, where Marion was too much for the Sailors to handle with Marion taking the

some hits by losing a couple of games, but they have persevered and fought through it to get back on the winning track. The same unselfish attitude by them and the old never give up has kept them playing some great basketball. "We started to get into kind of a skid, but I think the last 4 games of the season we really got back on the winning track," says Captain Brady Quinn about the end of the season. The freshmen boys had one of the best seasons a Marion basketball team has had in a long time. With an explosive offense that averaged 64 points a game they were a tough team to beat. Combined with the sophomores the future of Marion basketball looks very bright.



Senior Ben Remington, junior Kurt Hansen and senior Jamie Bolsinger play in zone defense during the game vs. the Benton Bobcats. The Indians defense has been very hard to beat.

Senior captain Dustin Henderson defends his opponent from the Benton Bobcats. Henderson has been having a very successful season this year.



Junior Travis Eagle jumps the ball at the beginning of a home varsity boys basketball game. Usually one of the taller members on the team jumps the ball.



Sophomore Bill Law goes up for a shot as other members of the sophomore boy's basketball team watch. The sophomores have been having a great season.



Sophomore girl's basketball coach, Coach Humber talks to the girls on the floor during a home game. Humber has been involved with the basketball program for four years.



The freshman girls scrimmage during the winter bowl earlier in the season. The freshman team did very well competing against many of the teams they faced in the gym.

Ready to Strut Their Stuff in District Play

By: Alyx Miskell

Ups and downs is the best way to describe the Marion girls basketball season. Just like a rollercoaster, the girls have had their fair share of wins and losses, but as their district play comes closer, they are ready to get started.

With only four wins in their regular season, the girls have a lot more skills than their record shows for them. Many of the girls are filled with a lot of determination and plenty of hard work to go around. For senior Sarah Weston the game against Dewitt was the most memorable. "We not only beat one of the top teams in our confer-

ence, but we started to really come together as a team."

Junior Whitney Perkins said, "I think we had high hopes at the beginning of the season, without factoring in our inexperience and how young we are. We did not play with our full potential at all times and we over looked some teams we should not have. But as far as team compatibility goes, this has been one of the most enjoyable teams I have ever been on. I will miss the seniors, but you always have to look forward to next year."

Anamosa is the one team that Marion faces their first round of

district play. Already competing with them earlier in the season, the girls are fired up and ready to get revenge. Nikki Kiburtz thinks it will prove what we really have been working for this past season.

With this group of ladies, pregame rituals have been happening. For example, on the bus rides to the opposing school they are all quiet. After the National Anthem, the girls all run to the middle of the floor into a circle where they get down and pound on the floor, scream and yell to get ready for their game.

Junior Whitney Perkins looks around the court for an open teammate. Perkins is one of the team leaders this year for the varsity girls basketball team.



Senior Jena Hugg dribbles around a defender as senior Sarah Weston follows. Both Weston and Hugg are varsity captains.



Members of the varsity basketball team come together on the floor to talk about the game. This is one of the team rituals that they participate in before the game.

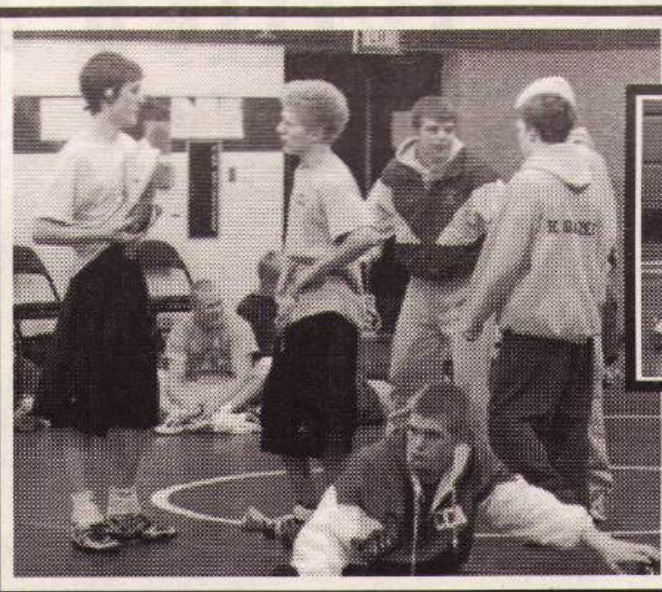
Prevailing Through Losses, Coming Together to Win

By: Holly Grieder

The varsity wrestling team has prevailed through injuries and people quitting. Since winter break the team has had up to four weights open for any given tournament and has never placed less than third, with the exception of the WaMac Tournament.

The WaMac Tournament was completely different this year, with the addition of schools in the WaMac. Held on January 31, there were twelve teams in the tournament making for the largest bracket and the longest meet of the season.

The team finished seventh out of twelve, but had a good showing that day. The lone champion was Dan Rhodes pinning the 189-lb. wrestler from Western Dubuque. About his win Rhodes says, "At WaMac you need to be on top of your game. I was, and for the first time I believed in myself." Also placing was



Members of the boy's varsity wrestling team talk while warming up for their matches at a tournament.

Senior captain Eric Steffes holds on to his opponent during a match at home. Steffes placed fifth in his weight class at the WaMac Tournament.



Junior Jon Trumpold sits in ready position waiting for the referee to start the match.

Kody Blazek and Austin Conway at second and Joey Swanson at third.

At The Marion Invitational on January 17th, the Indian wrestlers placed third out of eight teams. The team managed to have seven wrestlers place in the top three, and Kody Blazek was the only wrestler to earn a first place medal. Joey Swanson,

Austin Conway, and Dan Rhodes finished second and Jon Trumpold, Eric Steffes, and Jon Fitch finished third.

The next weekend the boys were up early to catch the bus to the Williamsburg Tournament. Michael McVeigh made his

varsity debut after a hand injury and started his season with an impressive second place. Also placing that day was Kody Blazek, Austin Conway, and Joey Swanson with first, Jamie Offerman and Dan Rhodes with second, and Jon Trumpold as third.

The Fairfield Invitational.

was the last tournament that the wrestlers travelled to before sectionals. This is the first year that Marion attended this tournament and they did quite well against many 3A schools. The overall team scores ended up with Marion in third place, only losing to second place Fairfield by 1.5 points. The champions in Fairfield were Kody Blazek and Dan Rhodes. Other wrestlers to go home in the top three were Joey Swanson, Austin Conway and Eric Steffes with second, and Cory Mohling and Jamie Offerman placing third.

The past weekend the wrestlers were at Solon for sectionals, the first step on the road to state. Despite a difficult sectional Marion managed to qualify five wrestlers for district which are held on February 21. They were Kody Blazek, finishing first, and Cory Mohling, Joey Swanson, Austin Conway, and Jamie Offerman. The wrestlers finishing in third place were Keenan Gehman, Eric Steffes, and Dan Rhodes.

GETTING COMPETITIVE

By: Valerie Crutchley

Over 6,000 athletes and families traveled to Dubuque on January 30th- February 1st. They came from more than 60 Iowa counties. What were they all coming to do/see you ask? Well, that was the weekend of the Winter Iowa Games. This was the 12th annual Winter Games and a record number of participants were expected. This is when the opening ceremonies took place. Included in the ceremony was a parade of the athletes and an indoor fireworks display. Some of the games played on this weekend were: hockey, downhill skiing, road racing, basketball, table tennis, snowboarding, indoor soccer, swimming, mall walking, and many more.

Marion junior Kasey Bellach participated in the road race held at Murphy Park and was 5K (3.1 miles) long. The race was "very hilly and really icy". Kasey finished in second place in his age division (16-18) with a 20:58. He qualified for nationals that will be held later this year. To prepare for the race, Kasey ran every morning and lifted after school. He would also swim which is a great cardiovascular workout.

This year Marion also had three indoor soccer teams entered in the Games. There were two male teams and one

female team. All three teams were in the U19 (under 19 years of age) division. The girls team members include: Tess Putnam-Marion, Brittany Mohling-Marion, Jaclyn Klopfenstein-Marion, Mel Schneiders-Marion, Valerie Crutchley-Marion, Erin Wynne-Xavier, Jade Forrester-Anamosa, Neanna Conklin-Mt Mercy, and Jamie Sunderman-Mt Mercy. They finished with a 2nd place. The refs were a huge disappointment in the championship game and Coach Jim Conklin even said, "This was the worst refed game I've ever seen." There were 9 teams total.

The boys have a huge interest in the games this year. So they had to split up into two separate teams. The first team is: Leo Rey-Polo-Marion, Jeremy Allan-Marion, Jamey Reinier-Marion, Ivan fablim-Marion, Tim Garrett-University of Iowa, Garrett Wood-Mt Mercy, and Dan Handler-Washington. They came up with a 3rd place finish out of 12 teams.

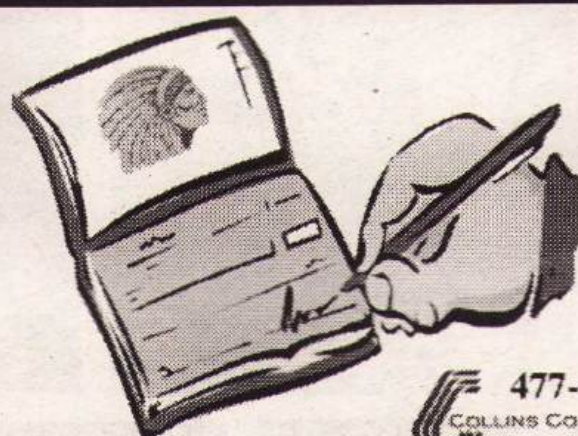
The second consists of: Jefford Ng-Marion, Brian Garrett-Marion, Tom Peterson-Marion, Jake Barnes-Marion, John Hauskins-Marion, Sam Mazuk-Marion, Ben Handler-Washington. This team finished 5th out of 12 teams.

All three teams were coached by Jim Conklin.

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Disney Dazzle - Follies 2004

For two evenings, over 1/5 of the MHS student body was all in one place. They were in the auditorium performing in the 4th annual production of Follies.

This year's theme, Disney Dazzle, meant that the singing acts were related to a Disney movie. The combined Cantorei and Concert Chorus performed the opening and closing acts from "The Mickey Mouse Club."

Along with the various singing acts, there were comedy bits throughout, including Danny Rhodes reading Dr. Seuss, Zach Labs selling his soul

to the devil for a singing career - and then changing his mind when it turns out the devil had no talent - and Zach Labs and Ben Shinrock explaining the entire Lord of the Rings trilogy with a modern twist.

A new addition to the vocal music program is Jazz Choir. This select group made its debut with "When You Wish Upon a star" and "Zip A Dee Do Da."

Follies is performed each year as a fundraiser for the Vocal Music Department. They are currently trying to raise enough money for new risers to use for performances.



1. Concert Chorus performed a group of songs from the movie *Newsies*. 2. The first and last acts included all 121 choir members performing "The Mickey Mouse Club" theme. 3. What started out as simply making time for a costume change turned into a summary of *The Lord of the Rings* as interpreted by Zach Labs and Ben Shinrock. 4. Cantorei did a selection of songs from the movie *Sister Act*, including a solo by Jaimie DeLong. 5. A new group to MHS, Jazz Choir, made their debut during follies. 6. Megan Anderson and Darcy DeLong showed off their dancing skills. 7. Since the theme of Follies was "Disney Dazzle," Lindsey Reinhardt and Amanda Van Meighem sang "Kiss the Girl" from *The Little Mermaid*. 8. Sarah Whitte, Jessica Sauer and Bethany Godar were the trio of Muses from *Hercules*. 9. Danny Rhodes performed some bits, including a "costume malfunction." 10. Alisabeth Caraway as a mermaid sang "Part of Your World." 11. Seth Walters introduced the audience to the wonders of the Saxaboom. 12. Sarah Young was part of a duet who performed the song "Outcasts" from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. 13. As well as accompanying several other acts, Danny Hocken sang "Go the Distance" from *Hercules*. 14. Sarah Jarmon and her cousin Abby went Hawaiian with "Aloha Oe."

