



Past life presently speaking

How relationships have changed through the years.

By: Rachel Wilkey @RachelWilkey

-Commentary-

What would the relationships today be like without Snapchat, texting, or the internet? The answer is quite easy and can be found by asking a parent or grandparent. In the last 10 years dating has changed quite drastically, including how dates, communication, or attitudes have changed.

Relationships of the past were filled with men opening car doors, phone calls to talk outside of school, and

drive-in movies. Relationships of the past were more thoughtful than the dating of today. Much more thought was put into going on dates in the past. The decision on where to eat for dinner, go to the movies, or where to go were made to impress the other person. The same decisions today have no thought to them; they are answered with "I don't know", "I don't care", or "You choose". If these decisions are answered without care why are they even going to happen?

Relationships back then were filled with much more meaning; there were no dating apps or constant texting. The anticipation of the date added to the meaning and intensity of a date because that's what dating was for, making a meaningful connection with someone. Relationships were made to find a spouse or someone to spend the rest of one's life with. Dating today is filled with dating for fun, and just trying to fill some empty void. There are many things that dating of the past better than now, but the one that is most important is the

passion.

There are however many things that make relationships today much better than the past, and all of it has to do with the positive progressions. In this day in age, more people are free to love whoever they want to love without having to hide it. Women also hold a lot more control in a relationship than ever before. It's no longer considered taboo for a girl to ask out a guy, or for a girl to pay for the check. Women are able to hold more responsibilities, and not be deemed a damsel in distress.

With the comparison of past vs. present there are just the basic differences that have come and eventually gone. Movie dates have changed by going to a drive in to the movie theatre, and now has turned into just watching Netflix at home. Just as dinner dates have become way more casual than making them dramatic and extravagant. However, when going on actual planned dates many things have not changed. There are still the caring pumpkin patch, or just going out for ice cream. Many basic dates have stood the test of time, and will continue to.

It's no lie those relationships now and then are so incredibly different. The acceptance and passion vary from year to year, but one thing remains the same. Dating is all about one thing: being with someone who one cares enough to create a loving relationship.



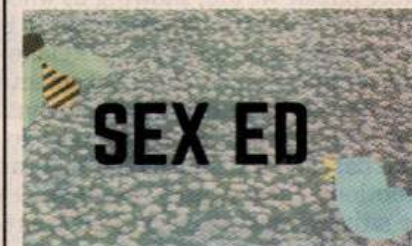
Everything about dating is changing, even how couples watched movies back then versus today.



Head to page 2 to read how to move on from a relationship.



Go to page eight to see how love speaks.



Flip to page 15 and read about how important sex-ed really is.

What's been happening around Marion?



The choir practices for their All-American Concert.



Madalyn Lovejoy, '20, and Bryan Crow, '19, perform their improv.

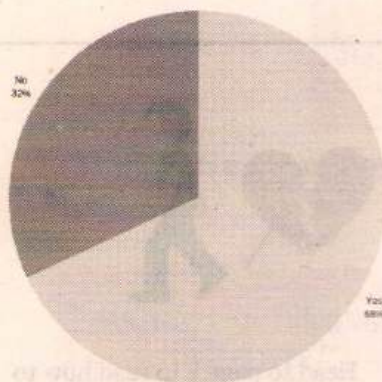


Trevor Paulsen, '19, signs his letter of intent to play college football.

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Should students date in high school?



Above is a poll of MHS students stating whether students should date while in high school. 68% polled said yes, while 32% said no.

Dating in high school

Should students date while they're still so young?

Teagan Miskimen @teagmisky

Being in high school and maintaining relationships can be hard, but many students form relationships. If your grades are maintaining a constant level of success and you can multi-task being involved in school, school activities, while being in a relationship, then dating is okay.

Dating is getting to know someone and figuring out yourself along the way. Loving yourself before the process is key, and you'll know when you're ready to proceed into a relationship. Although, students dating can be a toxic thing, some date for a title, others date to fit in, knowing your own happiness is a priority. In middle school,

health class talks about boundaries, and students are forgetting the lesson. Knowing someone's boundaries is important, but knowing your own holds more value.

There shouldn't be a moment of doubt when it comes to dating the right person. You'll know what is right. That being said, is there negative affects of dating in highschool? Students grades fail, breakdowns during school or work hours, lower self esteem than before at times, why date? It's great to give yourself time, but it's also great to help prepare you for a future. As high school prepares you for college, dating prepares you for marriage. No one should fear heartbreak and hesitate to start a relationship, if it doesn't work out,

that's okay. Move on, and enjoy high school.

On the other hand, if you're single and you're cool with that, don't be pressured into dating, it's totally okay to stay put with yourself. There is a common ground to having friendships and relationships. Keeping around your friends is important while also keeping yourself near too.

Don't rely on a relationship to make you happy. Real friends will be there regardless to what happens, and so will family. Don't forget to remember who is in your corner when things are going wrong, or when you needed someone prior to your relationship, those people will be the ones to always stick around.

Above all, dating is a choice. Don't hold back, be outgoing, and go for what you want. Ignore the regrets, don't regret before doing. In every life experience, there is a lesson to be learned. Embrace every part of today, tomorrow isn't promised.

A not so bitter end

By: Patrick Bleadorn @patty_b0116

Relationships are a big piece to the 37.2 trillion piece puzzle we are, showing us who we can be and guiding us towards who we want to be. We wouldn't be who we are without them. Relationships make an impact that's unmatched, but sometimes we have to let go to better ourselves or someone else. It can be one of the hardest decisions to let go of a relationship that has meant so much, and that can evoke intense emotions. Far too often, we channel those emotions negatively, making it easy to end a relationship in a harmful way.

It's not easy to end a relationship in any case. It's hard to be the one to have to cut things off and it's just as hard to be the one to get cut off. It's easy to let anger, confusion and fear take over and cloud our

judgment and sometimes that can result in the situation getting worse. It's okay to be upset, confused and afraid, but we have to channel that emotion into something like a serious and mature conversation about why it's ending rather than resorting to yelling and physical outbursts. Handling the situation as it happens is definitely important, but it's far more important how we handle the aftermath.

Many relationships will come and go, it's no secret. Friends come and go, most girlfriends/boyfriends aren't long term commitments anymore, and sometimes family phases out of our lives. Whether it was inevitable or not, we can't give in to the negative emotions we feel in hindsight. Instead of slandering that person out of raw hatred, we can better ourselves by trying to focus on the future. By doing something as simple as not lashing out, we keep our own mood up.

Relationships are life lessons. It's so easy to take to social media and post about how much we hate

the people that walked out of our lives so abruptly. It's easy to be selfish and compassionless, but that doesn't describe humanity. We are selfless and compassionate so that's how we should be, even in tough times. Don't hang on to the past, focus on the future. Focus on yourself and the people that make you happy because at the end of the day, that'll make tomorrow look a little brighter.

Things to do to help you move on

See a movie with your friends

Get out of town for a day

Listen to some good tunes

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Editorial Policy

The Vox is a public forum student-run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934.

It's published four times a year by Tri-Co printing company and is distributed during the final block of the school day by the journalism staff.

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 staff retains the right to edit articles

without changing the writer's intent.

There is a limit of two hundred 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 the advisor.

Turn letters in to room 26 or any staff member.

Hopeless romance

Look ahead, and don't forget what's behind.

By: Hope Faley @hopefaley

High school is hard. Students are trying to figure out who they are, and who they are going to be. Teachers range from being super helpful to ignoring that factor of high school. And we, as teenagers, are supposed to take it all in and enjoy it like in the movies. Except high school isn't like the movies, that has become common knowledge.

One thing, that is failed to be represented in the movies, is how small the chances are of having some amazing high school relationship that lasts forever. Movies like these are what have formed the hopeless romantics of the world. By definition, "A hopeless romantic is a person who holds sentimental and idealistic views on love, especially in spite of experience, evidence, or exhortations otherwise." On the opposite end of the spectrum, you have people who want no strings attached.

This has become a common way of thinking, and millennials have become known as the generation who created the hook up culture. Hook-up culture could be described very easily, but we can't talk about that here, so instead, let's talk about what it is not. It isn't people going on dates for more than just an Instagram picture. Opening doors, passing notes, asking to be one's girlfriend or boyfriend in person. Surprise gifts and a date that isn't watching Netflix at home. It isn't kisses full of love and sparks. It is shallow, secret kisses in the dark, with nothing but a physical connection. High school has lost the romance.

Being a hopeless romantic in a generation of hopeless hook ups is hard. Constantly being let down by the reality that people don't put in the same effort is upsetting. The name itself lets people down. Hopeless, romantic, as in, people who have their sights set too high. Romantics find themselves hiding that part about them, because they could be taken advantage of because of

how badly they want to find the one. It has become a kind of joke to want something serious. This generation is so intent on not trusting people, and holding back, that there are less and less hopeless romantics every day. It's just a joke, it started as just a joke, but if high schoolers look around, that's what is expected. Nobody expects to be treated well these days. Not how we were raised and expected to act. Snapchat replaced notes, and peer pressure replaced chivalry.

Romance is where you find it. Stop expecting little, and remember your worth. There is nothing wrong with wanting a hero. Nothing wrong with wanting to have a person, a person you can rely on. Dreaming of having someone come into their life and making it into a kind of fairytale. People need people. So whether two people meet like how Harry met Sally, or through a dating app. Romance is still out there. The idea of being a hopeless romantic should be taken more seriously, and this generation needs to bring romance back to life, and raise expectations. Everyone deserves a grand love story. Love is what makes the world go 'round, so take it seriously when searching for someone to love.

Tips finding romance

1. Don't settle, know your worth
2. Don't expect a perfect movie situation, it will come when you least expect it

Missing the meaning of love

By: Ally Sara @AllySara05

Valentine's day, originally a feast meant to honor the Saint Valentinus, now an extremely commercialized holiday where we are supposed to spend loads of money to show our love. Early in the 14th century the day first became associated with love. 4 centuries later, it turned into a day where we show our love for each other by presenting them with small gifts like flowers and cards. Sadly, in the recent centuries, the day is more about spending money on your loved one rather than showing them how much you love them. We as people and significant others should be able to show our love every day and without spending money.

We as people spend way too much money on this when originally all we were supposed to do was show our love. According to ABC, as a whole, we spend 18.2 billion dollars each year on Valentines Day.

That averages out to about \$136 per person. We even spend money on our pets who do not understand the concept of holidays. I get that we should spend some money on our loved ones, but why can't we do it all year round.

What's the point in only having one day where we specifically are supposed to show our love, it makes it feel like we should only show love on that specific day? We should express our love

beyond Valentines, your loved ones would much rather being randomly surprised rather than feel like you felt forced to. I understand that the day is about showing our love for one another and yes I do feel that we should celebrate it just a more relaxed version of it.

"It's nice to have a day to remind us to show romantic gestures towards [our] significant others," said an anonymous online blogger. I feel like if someone has to be reminded to show love to their S.O. that is an issue. We should always be trying to make sure our loved ones know how much we care about them and appreciate them.

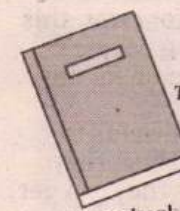
All around the meaning behind Valentine's day is fine, but the way we celebrate is excessive. Just toning down the day will help, people are much more grateful for small meaningful gifts than expensive gifts. To sum it up this day is quite pointless.

Random Gifts for your significant other



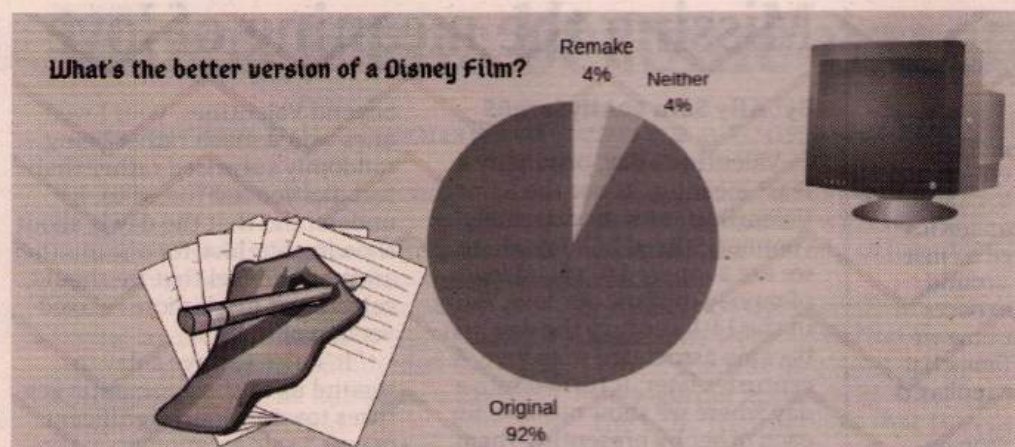
Flowers

Love letters



A new book

Their favorite candy



Which movie-type is better? 92% said the original, 4% said remakes, and 4% said neither.

Changing dimensions

Would you risk ruining your memories for a remake?

By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

The magic of animation has been around for almost a century, filling the souls of adults and children alike with wonder and awe. While many love the fluidity of old Disney films with their impeccable 2-D animation, Disney decides to reboot everything they hold near and dear, but in 3-D animation. Many of these "live action" films are just rehashes of old stories with a modern aesthetic, but should we really just let ourselves be fed the same exact film with a new shiny coat of computer graphics over it?

Currently, three of these films have had trailers and confirmation of their existence, remakes of Dumbo, The Lion King, and Aladdin. This makes up a good portion of Disney's line up this year, not counting Marvel movies or anything. The problem with this is, while it leaves little room for error, this business model of remaking people's childhoods doesn't leave room for any originality and new ideas.

The thing is, Disney just wants to make a quick buck on nostalgia, they will remake all of the films they can get their money ridden hands on in order to make their hands more money ridden, and they have a lot of movies to cash in on under their belt. Painting a house with a new coat of shiny paint doesn't

make the house a newer house. And it's even worse when that coat of paint isn't as impressive as the older one.

2-D animation in the 20th Century was time consuming, more than it is now. People must create these drawings by hand, and would make some of the most beautifully realistic animation, even though it's a bunch of flat photos. CGI allows you to make puppets and track every little detail of a person's body movements, which makes the process of animation even more simple. With the technological advances of the 21st Century, the process of animation gets easier and easier, undermining what they grew from, which was hand drawn masterpieces of singular frames of animation. While neither process is close to being exceedingly easy, the original was more beautiful and difficult all at the same time.

While these films might breathe new life into old franchises, the life they breathe is new and advanced, and undermines what made animation special: soul. The people making these new original films really put their heart and soul into their work, and while people remaking them do the same, it's not as much as the original. So, instead of painting houses a newer paint, we should love the old coat, for all of its charm and imperfections.

Taking no for an answer

By: Amy Noble @amy_noble12

One simple, two-letter word we have all known since we were able to talk has a very large meaning.

No.

People have known and used this word for close to their entire life and yet some still don't know how to use or respect it.

The word no is used by almost everyone on the daily for many different reasons. In middle school, Marion students work through a program called "Draw the Line and Respect the Line." This program was created to educate middle school students on how to say no to avoid situations that could make them uncomfortable and how to respect others boundaries. And for the most part, people's peers will respect it, but there are some instances where that line is completely disregarded and a boundary is crossed.

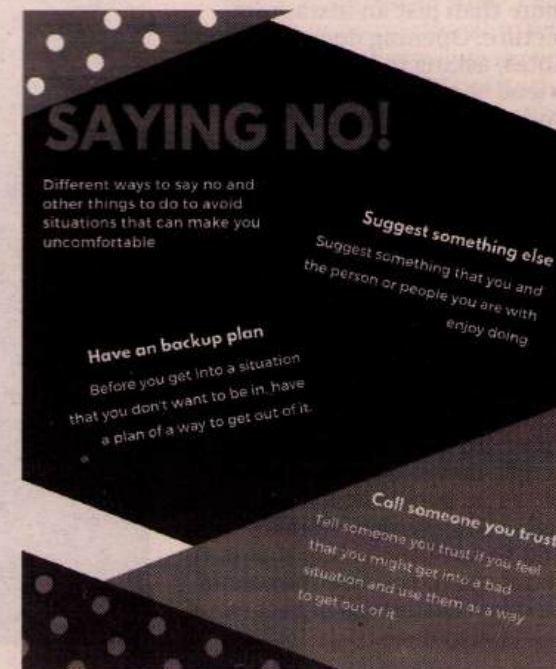
Many parents have said the phrase "No means no" to their children when they are begging to eat a cookie for breakfast.

These morals are instilled into the brains of every child, yet according to Peer-PressureAssesment.com, 90% of all high school students have been peer pressured at some point. A student said no and a person or a group of people continued to nag and pressure them to a point where they were uncomfortable and knew it wasn't right. Where has that "No means no" mentality gone?

The Draw the Line program starts out with lighter topics for the younger students, like how to properly

avoid any situation that could make them feel uncomfortable. For the eighth grade students, is where the more serious topics come up, like how to say no to sex and respect others when they are not comfortable with having sex. However, kids are often too busy laughing to understand the seriousness of the topic. Consent isn't represented in the media often. The romance movies often are one person chasing the other, the girl clearly saying no and then they end up together anyway. While this is okay in most situations because they truly love each other, it puts this idea in the minds of people that when they have a crush, if at first, they don't like them back, just keep trying.

It's all fun and games until it isn't. People can laugh and try to change someone's mind when it's something like preference of french toast or pancakes, but when it comes down to someone saying no to giving their body or mind up, it isn't a joke and no means no. There is no convincing and there is no pushing, listen to someone when they say that word, it could save a life.



Maintaining a lasting legacy

Winning a state title takes more than just talent.

By: Dalton Cannon @daltoncannon99

The girls' basketball team holds a legacy of excellence and success that is tied to its name. The team consistently has been a top competitor in the state of Iowa and an overwhelming force for opponents. As the 2019 Indians prepare for this year's postseason, senior Randi Wright spoke about the opportunity in front of the team.

The team has put in a lot of work during the regular season to allow themselves an opportunity in the postseason. The girls have dismantled opponents across the WaMaC as Wright, along with fellow seniors Sophie Willette and Leah VanWeelden, have brought their experience to the team. Wright herself has been involved basketball for nine years, making her more than qualified to help the most dominant squad in the state achieve yet another championship.

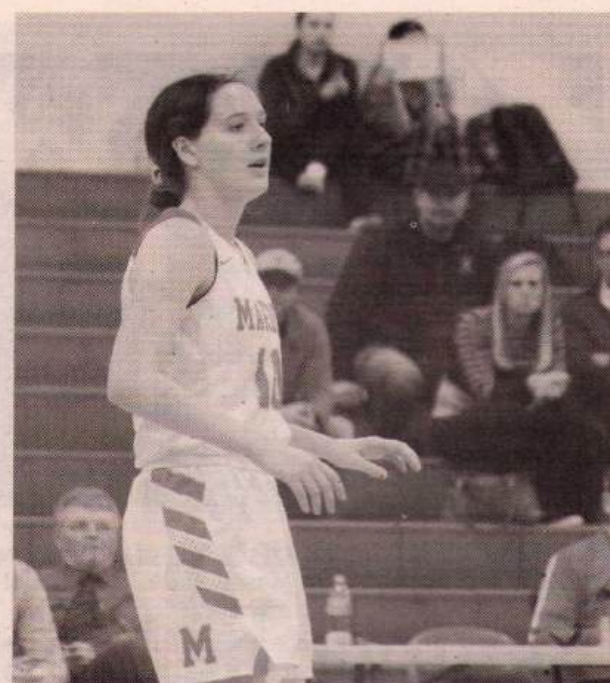
To prepare for the postseason, the team "is

having more detailed and intense practices to prepare for each team we are going to play," Wright said. According to the IGHS AU website, the team is heavily favored moving into the postseason, with their only loss during the season coming to reigning Class 5A state champion Iowa City West.

While not as deep as last year's team, the girls are still confident they can get the job done this year. "We are making sure to be passionate, hungry, and driven, and to come to practice with a positive attitude and focus 100% of the time," Wright said. "If we can do that, we will be able to accomplish any of our goals including winning another state championship." The girls are looking to take the same high powered offense that petrified the WaMaC into the postseason, as junior Kayba Laube put it, "We have a lot of hardworking, unselfish players. That make things run smoothly on the offensive end."

"It would be amazing to be able to win a back-to-back state championship my senior year and to know that I made a big impact in Marion girls' sports," Wright said. "Make sure to come out and support us at every game and to spread the news through social media!"

With the stage set and the pieces in place, all eyes are on our dedicated and talented group of girls to play their heart's out and bring home another trophy.



Randi Wright, '19, looks for a pass during a home basketball game this season. Wright has been playing varsity since her freshman year.

Sometimes you just need a little nudge

By: Gabe Larios @Gabe47365039



Riley Swehla, '21, tries to fake out a Central DeWitt Saber's player at their matchup on February 1st at home.

When most think of basketball, they only think of their favorite teams and how they're doing this season. Rarely do people ever think beyond those simple questions, and yet every single person on their favorite team likely has a unique and interesting backstory about why they even chose to be there in the first place.

One such player, Riley Swehla, '21, has quite the intriguing story indeed on how he started his career in not only basketball but many other sports he plays. "When I was about eight, my dad randomly signed me up for basketball one day," Swehla said. From there, a baseball coach noticed his skills during a basketball game and offered him to sign up for baseball.

Now, Swehla has been involved in more than six different sports including track, boxing, and football. "Looking back on it, I'm actually really grateful for my dad signing me up be-

cause I was really scared of signing up by myself," Swehla said.

Without the nudge in the right direction from his father, Swehla may not have ever gotten into all of the different sports he's tried and wouldn't have found his favorite and least favorite sports. Most importantly Swehla wouldn't have realized he wants to play baseball professionally after high school.

Sometimes you just need a little nudge and motivation to try out something new, and even if you don't like it, you will still walk away with a little more insight towards your personal preferences and may even have an idea of what else to try based off of those experiences.

There's a world of opportunities out there waiting to be discovered, and you never know what could be achieved with just a bit of effort and motivation.

Whether it's basketball, football, baseball, or any other sport and activity, why not give it a shot?



Julia Funck, '21, along with the rest of the Revelation Show Choir perform at the 2018 Marion Masquerade.

Behind the Masquerade

The process and benefits of the Masquerade

By: Cory Fairbanks @cory_7558

Bored on a Saturday, what is there to do? The Marion Masquerade! During the marion masquerade there is a variety of choirs that come to perform in different classes such as 2a, 3a, and prep. It is an annual competition with lots of show choirs performing. "As every year goes on, the competition that comes gets better and better," said Julia Funck, '21. Funck is a sophomore who is part of the show choir and participates in the masquerade. The masquerade is important to the show choir because it buys things they need such as microphones. But the masquerade is also fun. "All the groups are really good and it at the high school so it's convenient," said Funck. The shows must be good because they are getting scored on everything. From untucked shirts too if their singing doesn't blend correctly. There are usually 5-7 judges who are scoring them on a number based scoring system. The higher the score, the better. And even the smallest mistakes can be deducted. Most mistakes are fixed during the

"circuit." "There is a process, the rooms teachers teach in are called homerooms, in which they get makeup and dress for their performance. After that, they go to the choir room to warm up their vocal cords. The band room is next, in which they practice visuals on risers which have been set up in the room, and then to the read gym to perform. In the Red Gym, there is a large platform on which they place more risers for the actual performance, with stairs at the side that connect to tents with their clothes they switch into during the show.

The masquerade is a spectacle of different groups presenting different shows for other's entertainment held at Marion. The masquerade isn't just for the show choir, it can help one get accepted into colleges. One thing colleges look at is Volunteer hours. it is convenient because if someone needs hours for their silver cord it is a great way to get volunteer hours. Someone could volunteer for anything at the masquerade and get hours for it. It is a great opportunity that shouldn't be passed up.

Get yo' speech on

By: Lucas Wendt
@lucaswendtt

While some students are gearing up for the upcoming track season by working out and keeping a healthy diet, at the same time the speech team is practicing for their competitions with their groups before or after school or whatever time works best.

When most students think speech they think of Mr. Wake's speech class, where you stand in front of a crowd of people and you give an oral presentation on whatever subject.

Speech has two groups, individual and group. Individual is comprised up of 14 different groups. The speech team is comprised of many large groups including musical theater, solo and group mime, improve, radio, readers theater, ensemble acting, one-act play, choral reading, and TV news team. Even if students don't like talking in front of people or have a fear of public speaking there is always mime and radio.

"For radio and broadcasting you record your voice and put it on a tape, then it will get played in front of judges and other people that want to listen, and after that, you just hope it goes well," Trent Bartling, freshman and first year speech member, said.

Bartling gave his first speech in seventh grade, for the students who went to Vernon they can also relate. "I really don't like public speaking, but I feel like if I need to, then I have the right voice for it," he said.

This is Bartling's first year on the speech team and he is apart of the radio broadcasting group.

Unlike sports, speech doesn't have certain divisions and they don't compete against a specific set of schools, they compete with any school that has a speech team. A typical season lasts one or two months, depending on how far a team gets and when practice starts. With only three or four competitions in a season, a single competition can last 12 hours.

Olivia Webber, junior, first gained an interest in speech when she saw her older sister, Marion alumni Isabelle Webber, act and perform. She thought it looked like fun and decided to join the team her freshman year. This year marks Webber's third year in speech, she is apart of large group ensembles this year, previous years she has done mime and musical theater.

"Your group picks out a skit that is under 15 minutes and everybody has to memorize it then perform in front of judges and other people at the competition," she said.

By joining speech it has helped Webber with life skills such as leadership and talking in front of large groups of people. "The only bad part about speech is waiting for your rating from the judges because the results are not immediate," she said.

This year is the second year in a row that large group improv made it to All State. Last year the group was comprised of different kids, but this year it includes Rachel Wilkey, Sierra Cochran, and Marshall Boche. It is Cochran and Boche's first year making all state and Wilkey's second year for large group improv.

If you have a talent for the musical arts or just want to get your voice heard joining speech is a great way to start. For more information about the Marion speech team go to marion-speechteam.com



Sierra Cochran, '19, practices her improve speech with fellow speech-member Marshall Boche, '19.

Wrestling woes

The team pushed through a tough season

By Dalton Cannon
@daltoncannon99

Wrestling is a sport that tests the human psyche unlike any other. Countless hours of pushing one's body to the limits in hot, humid conditions everyday, as well as careful diet and weight management would take a toll on anyone,

but those who endure it do so because they love the challenge and the sport. The willingness to move past the soreness and pain to successfully

wrestle is something not often seen in students, but a select few have dedicated the last couple of months to exclusively that. Senior Nathan Miller, a four-year wrestler, is one of this unique group.

The team this year faced many challenges. "We didn't have the best year as compared to past seasons, but we worked hard all season and finished well," Miller said. The team struggled to get things early on in the season, forcing them-

selves to play catch-up as they attempted to move closer to breaking .500 on their duel record. "Our mentality really suffered all season long. Wrestling is a very mental sport; just as much as it is physically demanding, and I think our mentality wasn't where we needed it to be at the beginning of the

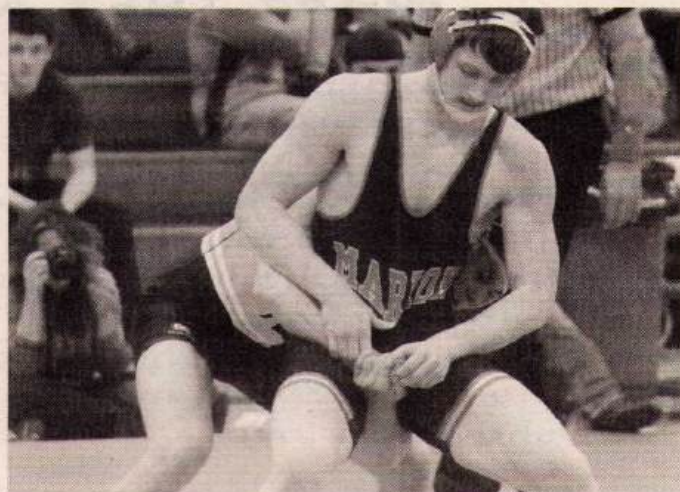
season," Miller said. Logan Hangartner, a junior who wrestles in the 285 lbs. weight class, attributed the shortcomings to a lack of num-

bers. "I definitely think it was the lack of people who went out for wrestling. The low numbers meant a less people to practice against."

"I've had fun during my time with Marion wrestling. It's always good working hard with a couple of guys who all have a common goal," Miller said. "I think they'll have a better season next year as long as they keep working hard and get more

experience. They just need to push themselves every practice to get better, and encourage each other to get better. If they can do that, they'll have a great season next year."

"We didn't have the best year as compared to past seasons, but we worked hard all season and finished well."
-Nathan Miller, '19



Nathan Miller, '19, breaks free from the hold of an opponent at the home wrestling meet against Solon.



What do we do over winter? Out of a convenience poll of 50 people, 4% said they do snow sports (ice fishing, skiing, etc.), 24% said school activities, 40% said they do nothing, and 32% of people said they did something else.

Making the cold fun

By Kyle Mehlberger
@KMehlberger

Since the dawn of man, people have always wanted to go outside. From running, hunting, biking, and sports. But the cold, wintorous tundra of the beginning and end of the year can stop people in their tracks, leaving them inside without anything to make themselves active and no way to be energetic. However, some choose to brave the cold and do activities anyway, some of said activities only being doable during the winter time. Jace Whittle, '21, is one of these brave souls.

Whittle does what most people would do during the winter, hang out with friends. He also does ice fishing. He started doing this when he was six or seven, when his uncle got him into the idea, and he has been hooked on the it ever since. "It's something fun to do because I like being outside and it's hard in the winter," Whittle said.

Ice fishing is a fun activity, and when there is cold weather like there is here, there's lots of opportunities. People around the world will put on layers and cut a hole in the ice of a body of water and chuck in a fishing lure, and await a fish to be reeled in hook line and sinker. "It just takes a lot of patience," Whittle said, as fishing always does consist of a

lot of waiting, but with a big reward at the end.

Ice fishing can take getting used to because of the cold and takes patient effort to catch a single fish, but Whittle has some advice. "Go to ponds, those are good places to start," He said, "And don't fall in."

There is also an abundance of school-offered activities to do during this ice cold, one of which April Lawyer, '21, is a part of.

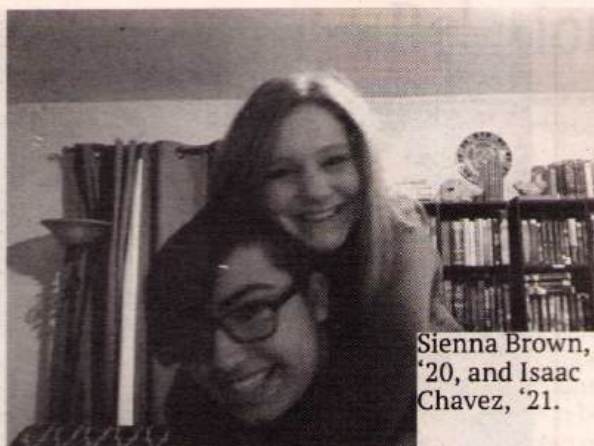
Lawyer spends most of her free time drawing and writing, but during the winter, she participates in speech. "I really like talking and I like doing it in a fun way, like acting out a character or putting on a funny voice," She said. The winter has caused it's hardships to this activity and most others, with -40 degree wind chills and heaps of snow. "The district contest for large group speech was postponed and moved about two times," Lawyer said, and the team eventually had to hire their own judge instead of going to the district competition.

Whether you're going to try ice fishing, or speech, there is something for everyone to do this winter. So try and find something to do during those snow days or cold weekends, go outside, when Mother Nature says you should not. When the weather outside is frightful, go outside, and find something delightful to do.

Sweet



Selfies



Sienna Brown, '20, and Isaac Chavez, '21.



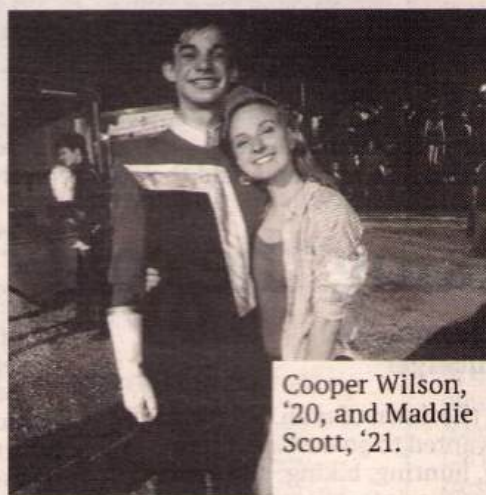
Zander Morris, '22 and Essence Meyer, '22



Kaden Swanger, '21, and Ella VanWeelden, '21.



Maddy Redmond, '19, and Linn-Mar student, Drew Strottman.



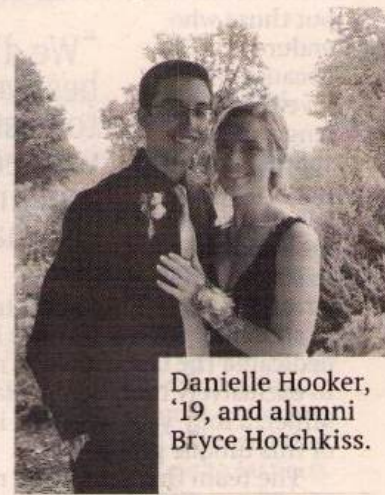
Cooper Wilson, '20, and Maddie Scott, '21.



Marshall Boche and Anya Schobert, both '19



Grace Hinrichs, '21, and her dog Maggie.



Danielle Hooker, '19, and alumni Bryce Hotchkiss.

LEARN THE LOVE LANGUAGES

THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES

1. WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Compliments and reassurance of feelings.

2. ACTS OF SERVICE

Actions speak louder than words.

3. RECEIVING GIFTS

The act of receiving a gift, no matter the size.

4. QUALITY TIME

Just being able to spend time together.

5. PHYSICAL TOUCH

Physical touch speaks deeply.



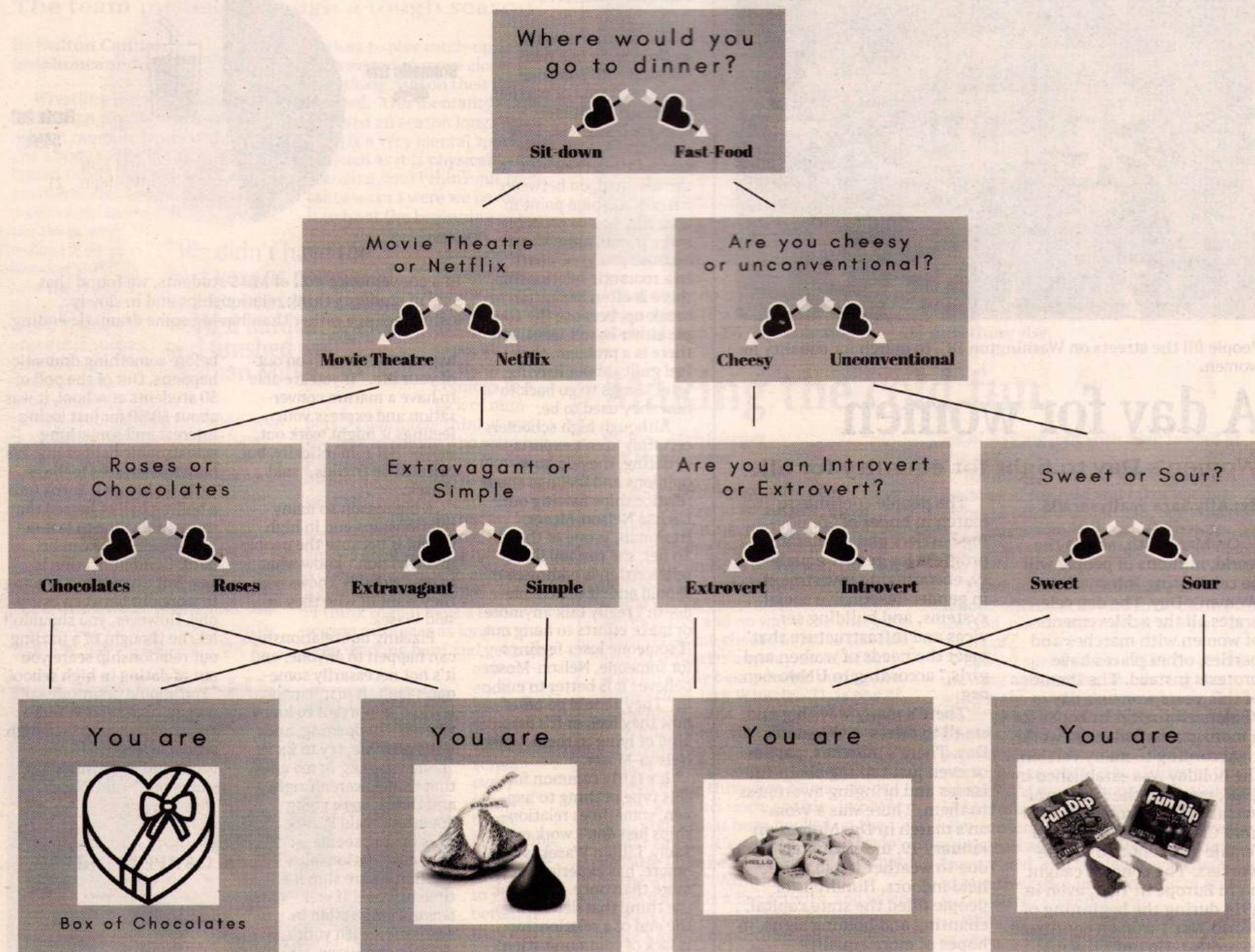
WHAT THEY ARE

Love languages are the way people feel and experience love.

WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT

Knowing and understanding your significant others love language can help your relationship because you'll know how they feel the most loved and how they show you love.

What kind of V-Day candy are you?





People fill the streets on Washington DC, to march for equality for women.

A day for women

Women's Day to fight for equality for all.

By: Ally Sara @allysara05

On March 8th, across the world, millions of people will be celebrating International Women's Day. The day celebrates all the achievements of women with marches and parties, other places have protests instead. The theme of this years women's day is #Balanceforbetter in hopes for a more gender balanced world.

According to many version, the holiday was established in 1907, marking the 50th anniversary of the protest by New York City's highly repressed female garment and textile workers. The concept caught on in Europe in 1911, even in 1914 during the beginning of World War 1 women continued to protest. Up until the mid-1970 the day was celebrated by almost only socialist countries. The day is now celebrated in more than 100 countries across the world.

The people continue to march in hopes of "removing barriers and accelerating progress for gender equality, encouraging investment in gender-responsive social systems, and building services and infrastructure that meet the needs of women and girls," according to UNwomen.org

There's many ways big and small to celebrate Women's Day. There's marches, parties or even just talking about the issues and bringing awareness to them. There was a Women's march in Des Moines on January 19, unfortunately due to weather it had to be held indoors. Hundreds of people filled the state capital, chanting and holding signs, in hopes of more equality.

The most important thing to gather from this article are that on March 8th millions of people around the world are will be celebrating how far women as a whole have come.

Relationships don't always work out

By: Jenna Sackett
@jenna_sackett13

It's one of the worst feelings to be in a relationship with someone you love, friend or partner, and realize that feelings are being lost. This doesn't only happen in romantic relationships, it can also happen between friends. At some point in your life, you've probably lost a friend, more simply because you grew apart. In a romantic relationship, there is often hesitation to break-up, because the couple either hasn't identified there is a problem, they feel guilty about leaving, or want things to go back to how they used to be.

Although high schoolers certainly aren't experts in dating, they do have opinions and feelings about relationships fizzling out. Larissa Nelson-Moser, freshman, is one of them. To her, she can tell if the relationship is ending or should end: if the couple doesn't really talk anymore or make efforts to hang out. If someone loses feelings for someone, Nelson-Moser believes it is better to end it. "They should go off of how they feel, or it's just kind of lying to them," said Nelson-Moser.

It's fairly common for this type of thing to happen, sometimes relationships just don't work out. Sadly, Lillian Wasek, sophomore, has experienced this more than once. To Wasek the thing that determines the end of a relationship is lack of communication, more arguments, sneaking around, keeping secrets, and just overall not feeling comfortable anymore. To Wasek loss of feelings doesn't always mean you

Dramatic End
46%



Fizzle Out
54%

In a convenience poll of MHS students, we found that 54% of students think relationships end in slowly losing feelings rather than having some dramatic ending.

have to cut the person out of your life. "If you are able to have a mature conversation and express your feelings it might work out, maybe not romantically, but can still be friends," said Wasek.

A big reason so many relationships end in high school is because the people involved don't know what to do. "Nobody knows who they want or who they are," said Wasek.

Fizzling out relationships can happen to anyone, and it's not necessarily someone's fault, it just happens. It's just important to know when it's happening, and if it's possible, try to fix it. "I had a feeling in my chest that things weren't right and things were going downhill," said Wasek.

This feeling seems happens relationships often. It a sure sign it's time to leave. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation with your partner or anyone, you have every right to leave. Sometimes one doesn't feel uncomfortable, they just feel nothing. This may also be a good time to leave

before something dramatic happens. Out of the poll of 50 students at school, it was about 50/50 for just losing interest and something catastrophic happening. It's better to express feelings early on before it turns into a boiling ball of hatred that causes someone to last out.

Relationships can be hard. Communication is key. Not everything is going to work out between everyone. However, you shouldn't let the thought of a fizzling out relationship scare you out of dating in high school. "You should definitely still date in high school, there are some romanticized high school sweetheart stereotypes, but sometimes it works out," said Wasek.

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Worth the effort?

Giving a little time to those we love.

By: Patrick Bleadorn
@patty_b0116

In high school, we begin to experiment with one of the most complicated aspects of our social lives: relationships. We make new friends and test the waters of love. We figure out how relationships work and what we have to do to make them work. One of the most important things we have to learn is the importance of putting effort into a relationship we care about. Showing you care shows that you want the relationship to continue. It is one of the most important pieces to a relationship which is something Gabby Foster and Wyatt Cannon, sophomores, know very well.

But first, are relationships even worth it in high school? Some say they aren't because high schoolers

are too young to understand what a relationship is all about, but ask almost any high schooler and they'll say relationships are definitely worth it. "Relationships are worth it because it's always good to have someone there for you and go get you food whenever," said Foster. Either way, being in a relationship in high school can teach us lessons, especially about how to put effort into relationships.

The issue with knowing if someone is putting in the necessary effort is what that effort looks like is different from person to person. "It's making sure your boyfriend/girlfriend is on the same page as you and you are always there for them when they need you," said Cannon. "It's also making sure they know you want to be with them," said Foster. What one person sees as actions that shows you care isn't identical to what someone else sees, however, the signs of someone not showing they care are universal.

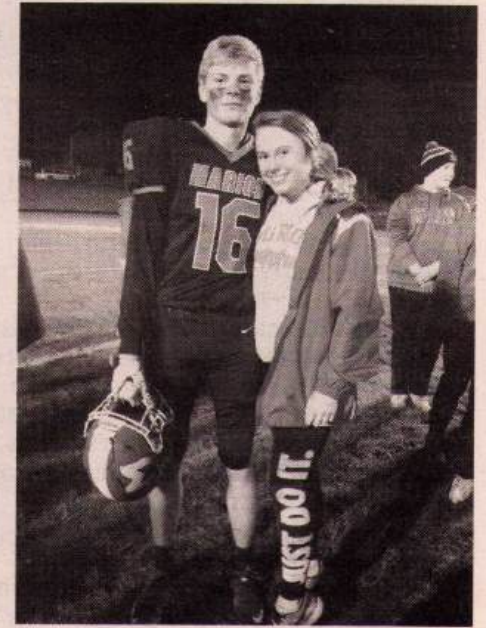
When a relationship isn't going

well, some people might just decide that it isn't worth the time or effort. More often than not, the signs are clear. "You will drift apart and you won't be as happy together," said Foster. "You might be less happy than you thought you would be and you might be holding stuff back that you want to say," said Cannon. While it may seem hopeless at that point, it's not too late to try to fix what's wrong.

There are a multitude of solutions to this problem which means that there's no wrong way to go about it. "Communicate with them and ask if they are enjoying the time they have spent with you," said Cannon, "kind of define where your relationship is as a whole." So keep in mind, just because the relationship is in a bad spot, it can be fixed.

It's up to ourselves whether we really care about a relationship we're in or not. If we don't, we shouldn't sugarcoat it, we should be straight up and honest. If we care, we have to make it obvious that we do. That doesn't mean we have to go all out, but if it's a relationship worth our time, all we have to do is give a little

time and a little love to those we care so much about.



Wyatt Cannon and Gabby Foster, both '21, take a picture together after a football game.

The ideal date

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna_Sackett13

Dating. It's romanticized in movies, books, and TV shows. In movies, everything seems to work out perfectly. There is always the picture-perfect relationship, with the picture-perfect dates, but real life hardly ever works out that way. This, however, doesn't mean that teenagers and adults can't have amazing dates, it just requires a little effort.

Alexis Walker, junior, has been in a relationship with Zach Triplett, sophomore, for almost 8 months. They go on dates, that may not be so picture perfect, but it's perfect to them. A date to them can mean many different things to Walker it could be as simple as "sitting at home and playing soccer on the Xbox," said Walker.

Their usual dates consist of going out for dinner, movies, coffee, or just staying home together. "We're boring," said Triplett. Although the couple doesn't think that they are the most interesting, they are at least doing more than what some other couples are. In high school, many couples don't

even go on dates or hang out that much. It's not to the same extent it was in middle school where a lot of kids would ask someone out, and then never talk to them or even associate with them besides saying they were "dating". For some people, this doesn't change in high school. "They don't think it's needed anymore because the term "dating" has changed to just together, instead of going on dates," said Walker.

To Walker and Triplett dates are just something that takes a little work, but are important and worth it. They might not have the perfect movie dates, but to them, that's not even the thing they want. "In

the summer I want to have a fire and lay blankets out and watch a movie," said Walker, describing her idea of her ideal date. This seems like something that wouldn't require much effort and is an amazing date idea. Triplett's ideal date isn't hard to achieve

either. "Going to a movie, and then after the movie we get dinner, and then we just chill," said Triplett.

Walker and Triplett take the time to have dates and spend time together, which is important to many people in relationships. Dates don't have to be extreme, it just about doing what the couple likes to do. For Walker and Triplett it's movies, coffee,

and the occasional concert. For others it might be watching the stars, taking hikes, and getting ice cream. The ideal date isn't one thing because it's different for everyone. Don't worry about having perfect dates, because if you're with the right person that's all it takes to make it ideal.



Alexis Walker, '20, and Zach Triplett, '21, go on a date to a Casting Crowns concert.

"... the term 'dating' has changed to just together, instead of going on dates."
- Alexis Walker '20

A post-secondary plan

College is a stressful time, it's time to get a plan.

By: Rachel Wilkey @Rachelwilkey

For many people college is a decision that causes stress, anxiety, and nervousness. College is everything that students that want to further their education have been working for. It's filled with textbooks, school pride, and student loans. One of the biggest kickers that comes out of college is the financial issues that always seem to come and never go. However for senior Ashley Hilzendager, she already has a basic plan for preparing for trials of post secondary education.

Hilzendager being involved with choir and show choir, is used to the funding and saving for something she wants, but it's always been with the help of her parents. Except now this new chapter in her life is with minimal help from her parents. "My parents will help me pay for my books and I will pay for my classes through student loans, or as I go," Hilzendager said. College is expensive, there is no doubt about it, but the cost can seem to look less scary when having a job at the same time. Hilzendager has been working since she was 16, and uses these jobs to help for funding for her extracurriculars. "I work at Express in Lindale Mall and

the Cedar Rapids YMCA," Hilzendager said. Hilzendager plans to keep these positions to maintain flexibility for scheduling.

It's important to have someone to help one throughout the college process. For Hilzendager it's her very own father. "My dad has been my biggest supporter, he wants to make sure I'm happy and that I will make wise choices," Hilzendager said. Hilzendager plans on attending Kirkwood Community College for interior/graphic design, or early childhood education, so that family support will only be a few steps away.

In certain cases some students that family support is a lot more than just a few steps away, for senior Holly Faley that support will be an entire state away. Faley is planning on attending Purdue University Northwest in Indiana to study nursing. Faley also has a financial plan in play for her college. Faley is attending Purdue on a volleyball scholarship. "I'm getting about 80-90% paid for by athletic, and the rest is covered by academic scholarships," Faley said. Faley has worked hard on all her awarded scholarships and encourages others to work just as hard. "Apply for all the scholarships you can

find, it's worth working hard on your resume and scholarship applications," Faley said. Due to the amount of scholarships, Faley herself will be able to deal with more things than just student debt.

While College sounds like a frightening time it does bring new and exciting adventures into one's life. Whether it may be for the excitement of new friends like Hilzendager, or being in a new town like Faley college is just one more page in the book of life that is ready to be opened.



Brayden Bettenga, '20, and Carter Lantermans, '19, play their bass clarinets with Jayden Yirkovsky, '21, during band practice.

Multi-purposed

By: Cory Fairbanks
@cory_7558

Some complain that being in several activities is hard and that only the best can do it, but it may not be that hard, it has its own pros. Some might surprise one.

Brayden Bettenga, '20, is in many activities. He is a runner for track, performs in the show choir, and plays bass clarinet for the band and marching band. "They have different difficulty levels, show choir competitions are more time consuming than a football game which is more laborious," says Bettenga. Bettenga has a hard time between his activities and school because he stays up later just working on homework. "I might stay up to 11:30 - 12 doing homework," said Bettenga.

Brevin Hahn, senior, is not only in Football and Choir like Bettenga, but also throwing for the track team, performing in show choir, acting in the musical, and playing the baritone and marching baritone in the band. "It's really not hard to make it to the activities," says Hahn. "The activities aren't hard they are just time-consuming." Hahn wakes up at 6 in the morning, goes to school and his activities, goes home, then goes to sleep at 10 pm. "I'm so tired I fall asleep

very easily," says Hahn. He gets it done during mentor. Not only does he participate in all those activities after school, but he also works at Menards.

To help Hahn and Bettenga, there is a priority to all activities. All performances come first. During a football game, Hahn and Bettenga do not perform during halftime with the marching band, their team is the priority. And when practices conflict the coaches work with the player to get to the middle ground, such as leaving a little early. Brevin and Bettenga both have some advice to give about this. Hahn says "I would recommend being in the Arts because of the variety of good people, and definitely recommend a sport to learn team skills, discipline, to enjoy winning while also learning how to lose, and to stay in all the activities because it will help you in the long run. Try to stay in everything, don't quit." "Being in many activities makes you organized; it helps you prioritize," said Bettenga, "Never waste time, you only have so much."

Being in many activities can sometimes be a hard thing but is very helpful. Between learning team skills, being organized, and easy sleeping, being in many activities, isn't that bad.



Holly Faley, '19, signs her letter of intent with her mother by her side.

Looking towards spring

Trying to see past the endless winter.

By: Gabe Larios @Gabe47365039

This past winter has been quite a difficult time for even the hardiest of Iowans, but such a trying time gives even greater gratitude towards the coming spring. Consequently, many more students are increasingly looking forward to spring break, a moment of relief from both the stress of school and the harsh elements of winter. And with a big break comes big plans for many.

For most, spring break consists of staying at home and enjoying precious days off of school, but for others, including Ella Kuchenbaker, '20, spring break is a time to seize the day. "In past spring breaks, I've gone to the Palisades Park and walked the trails, to the Amana colonies, and I

almost always spend them with my friends or family," Kuchenbaker said.

However, this year things are going to be a little different and a lot less local for Kuchenbaker. "This spring break I'm planning on going on the choir trip all the way to Memphis and Nashville in Tennessee." Not only is a trip to Tennessee a great opportunity and change of scenery after seeing nothing but pure white snow for weeks, but the

great temperature difference would be greatly appreciated by anybody caught in the blast of this year's devastating polar vortex.

Spring break doesn't just bring warmer weather but also brings relief from the stress of daily student life.

"Without spring break, or any other break, school would be a lot more stressful than it already is," Kuchenbaker said. Spring break gives time to do other activities away from school such as shopping at the numerous local malls, going rollerskating at Super Skate, going to the movie theater, and many other local activities one may not typically have time for.

Whether it's tucking in for the week away from the cold weather, going out and seeing the world, or just keeping it local with friends and family, there's always something to do for students to unwind and get away from the daily grind.

"Without spring break, or any other break, school would be a lot more stressful than it already is."
-Ella Kuchenbaker, '20

What are you doing for Spring Break?



"I'll be taking a week long trip with the music facility to Nashville, Tennessee."
- Trent Bartling, '22



"I'm doing absolutely nothing for Spring Break."
- Dylan Evenson, '21



"I'm going to Orlando, Florida."
- Danielle Hooker, '19

The value of leadership

By: Patrick Bleadorn @patty_b0116

There are many people that turn away from the opportunity to be a leader. Being a leader is a monumental task at times, requiring effort and commitment that few are willing to give. Few people rise up the challenge that being a leader presents, and even fewer excel in rising up to that challenge. Not only does Nolan Freymark, senior, excel at being a leader, his actions suggest he was born to be a leader.

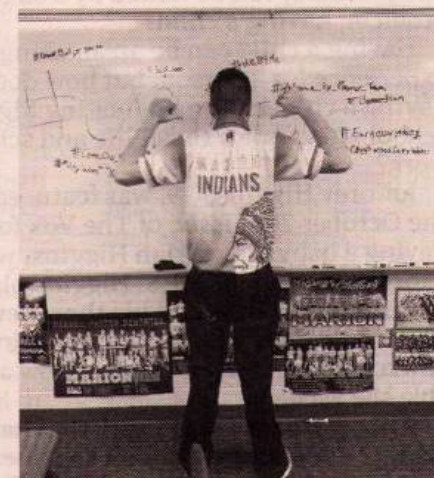
Freymark is now in his second year of being on student senate. Freymark has moved up the ladder from secretary his first year to vice president this year. He wouldn't make this progress without displaying leadership roles that his other classmates may have lacked. Freymark also earned himself an officer position of National Honor Society this year. To be on National Honor Society, one has to display qualities that set themselves apart from the majority, most often being qualities that leaders possess. And to add onto his impressive list of leadership roles, he is now the bowling captain.

Becoming a captain for a sports team doesn't always happen just because you're popular with the team. It takes a set of skills that few have: determination, commitment and willingness to be the example. "We nominated people for team captain and the rest of the voted on me," said Freymark, "I think the team saw good leadership qualities in me."

Being a leader gives someone an insight into how the rest of the team will perform.

Not only does being a leader give Freymark an insight on the team's status, it gives Nolan a chance to look attractive for colleges, businesses and etc. "It will definitely look good on a resume later on," said Freymark. Each opportunity to lead has also gave Freymark a chance to try out different methods to

figure out which ones work best. "I've implemented different leadership styles in the different clubs I've been in," said Freymark, "which helps me adapt to various situations easier." At the end of the day, being a leader is meant for few people, but for even fewer, they are just born to do what many will not.



Nolan Freymark, '19, shoulders a big responsibility as team captain.

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Stay Comfy, my friends

When teens become parents

Taking on adult responsibility can be a tough yet rewarding.

By: Lucas Wendt @Lucaswendtt

High school is the time where most teenagers are trying to figure out who they are, looking for colleges or are trying to decide what they want to do once they graduate. But all that thinking and planning can be halted by a slight problem, having a child.

Having a child can be an amazing experience for a person, but how does having a child before graduating high school affect one's social life and school work?

JuCorey Higgins, '19, was featured in the October 2017 issue of The Vox for having a baby girl, Jakiah Higgins, with a former student at MHS. Higgins played football at the time and his then-newborn could be seen at his games being gawked at by many because of how adorable she was.

Although some may think that having a baby would make it harder to have a social life, Higgins begs to differ. "Everybody likes to hang out with her it's really not that bad. It's like she's apart of the group," he said.

When Higgins' daughter gets sick he will stay home with her to take care of her, "Having a kid now is like having a normal life but harder, but it's definitely not as hard as people say it is," he said.

Higgins is fortunate enough to have a good relationship with the other parent, having joint custody of Jakiah with Jade Harter.

He is not with Harter anymore, but when she went to Marion they were. While she was pregnant it was hard to be together apparently. After having the baby Higgins says that they are best friends and don't have that many complications over spending money on Jakiah.

Katy Shoemaker, '21, took the school, mainly the sophomores, by storm with the news of her expecting a child. On December 20th, 2018 Shoemaker took an at home test that tested positive.

Shoemaker has had only one bad reaction to her news, and that was from her mother, "My Mom freaked out and was really mad at me, but as time passed she has gotten used to it," she said.

She has chosen that she wants the father to have no part in their child's life, "Our relationship is not terrible right now, but don't want him to see the baby or be in it's life at all," she said.

When comparing Higgins' and Shoemaker's stories, both say that do not regret it, there are some differences. Not every teenager is fortunate enough to have supportive parents like them. To meet up with the demands of having a baby most teens drop out of high school and get a job.

There are a lot of risks of having a baby while young, jeopardizing your future if you do not plan accordingly. So it is safe to say that you should always use protection to prevent the chance of having a child and catching STD's or STI's. For more information on safe sex go see Hope Faley's story on page 13.

If you or somebody you know is either a teen parent or is expecting a child as a teen, YPN is a great foundation that helps teen parents in the area, for more information please go to

ypniowa.org



Cece Roggentien, '21, and her mom and brother take a picture by the water.

Separate lives

By: Teagan Miskimen
@teagmisky

50% or more children will experience their parents being divorced according to Very Well Family. Divorce can be hard on students growing up through school. Students struggle on a day to day basis when it comes to divorce, whether that's seeing a friend struggle through it, or themselves. It's become something that is being normalized, and it's something that shouldn't be. Step-parents are another factor, some students find it normal to have two parents, and some have four. Austin Johnson, sophomore said "My parents have been divorced since I was three, I don't think much about it, though it's hard to except a new parent." Could that be the reason for an increase of chances to be divorced? Also in the article it mentions, children with divorced parents are more likely to be divorced in their future. Diversity in being some students are okay with their parents being divorced and the other half wishing their parents had stuck together. Cece Roggentien said "I'm pretty okay with it because I don't remember my parents together, and I feel like

it would be weird." Students don't bring enough attention to divorce and how many students go through it, or have. Is it possible we have forgotten the situations other students go through or the parents who have raised the students? Every home is different, and it's okay to address it. Instead of making assumptions of other's life, learn their story. Whether they struggle living in two houses, not seeing siblings, parents not getting along or time management. Roggentien said "I don't have a good relationship with my dad, so I've grown up with my mom as the role of both parents. The only difficulty I've had is seeing my siblings when I want to." Some students are completely okay with divorce, no complications. Ashton Graham, sophomore said, "My parents have been divorced for nine years, they get along and I think it's because they spend less time together so their tolerance has built up, but it's not a big deal really, whatever makes them happy, works." Looking toward the positive on such a diverse topic is difficult, but this is where students should come together, form relationships with one another, and relate to each other.



Katy Shoemaker, '21, shares her ultrasound at around 5 weeks pregnant.

We need to talk

Sex-ed is a necessary subject.

By: Hope Faley @hopefaley21

It's fifth grade, your palms are sweaty and your heart is racing. You've watched the videos about puberty but this class is the first time in school learning about sex. Fast forward to eighth grade, and you're taught how to put a condom on, once. You learn about sex all through middle school and touch on it in high school, it's an iconic class that every kid goes through. However is it being taught how it should be taught?

Anya Ogilvie, a health educator that works through Planned Parenthood, goes to many different schools around eastern Iowa, and sees all types of sex ed being taught. Ogilvie has been passionate about education and planned parenthood since she was a little girl and in her house education was thought of.

"When I was about 10 years old, I watched my mom suffer from cancer that was caused from HPV, when I was 13 she became a life coach," Ogilvie said.

According to Ogilvie having a positive and healthy sex life is important, and something to be educated on. Nothing changes as much as the reproductive system does, so it is important to be educated on it.

"I get to work in the community and see the people impacted," Ogilvie said. She then goes on to say, "I love teachers, they are one of the most important members of society. I love being able to talk to different teachers." Ogilvie said.

One of the hardest parts of Ogilvie's job is when she does anonymous questions, and they are questions involving sexual identity, orientation, and abusive relationships. However Ogilvie is only 22, so it is not hard for her to relate to the kids. The state requires a certain amount of sex ed to be taught from kinder-

garten through sixth grade, then seventh and eighth a certain amount of times. Except, there is a loophole schools can use. Alcohol and drug awareness falls into that certain quota that schools need to meet. So instead of actually teaching sex education, schools can teach saying no to drugs. According to Ogilvie, Marion does a good job of teaching sex ed, and every school teaches differently. Being inclusive when talking, by using words like they, them, and not specifying if it is a hetero or homosexual relationship is important these days, because it is important for all kids to feel included.

At MHS, abstinence is the first choice, however teachers still show other forms of contraception like a condom and birth control. High schools have adjusted to the reality that teens will have sex, and instead of just teaching abstinence, they teach safe sex, because whether it's wrong, or right, if it's happening, it needs to be happening safely.

It is not as common as people think however. According to hhs.gov, 41% of teenagers in the country are have had sex, less than half. Of that percentage, 57% of them said their partner used a condom, and 18% said their partner was on birth control.

Ms. Micaela Combs, family consumer science teacher, teaches teen insights alongside Mrs. Vivian Quinn, a class that covers sex-education.

Their main curriculum is soft skills, developing character, communication, understanding sexuality, values, then they get into the sex ed portion.

Each part of the sex-ed taught is about a day of learning, and it covers the reproductive systems, STD's why teens have sex, contraception, and how to recognize abuse. Quinn just recently added self care as well to the curriculum.

"Teens are going through natural changes, at that time when they may be making choices, they need to be safe," Combs said. Combs feels that teachers should listen to students and talk about different views, and also cover consent more along with mental health.

When Combs took her sex-ed, the LGBTQ community and sexual orientation

was not talked about, and now Marion's sex-ed has that in their curriculum.

Lucas Unsen, sophomore, took teen insights and has gone through the sex ed portion.

"It's important so people know the risk, and I think I was taught enough but not at the same time. It doesn't go in depth and it isn't for that long, but we did still cover a good amount," Unsen said.

Whether a student has sworn to abstinence or has already had sex, it is still something that needs to continue to be discussed. Safe sex is important, and being educated on your body is important. With Valentine's day here, and spring blossoming, so are relationships. While nobody plans on teen pregnancy or STDs, it can happen, and it is important to know how to prevent, and where to get help. For any questions regarding sex, visit Plannedparenthood.com for any more information. It's an awkward topic, but it's necessary.

How could sex ed. be improved?



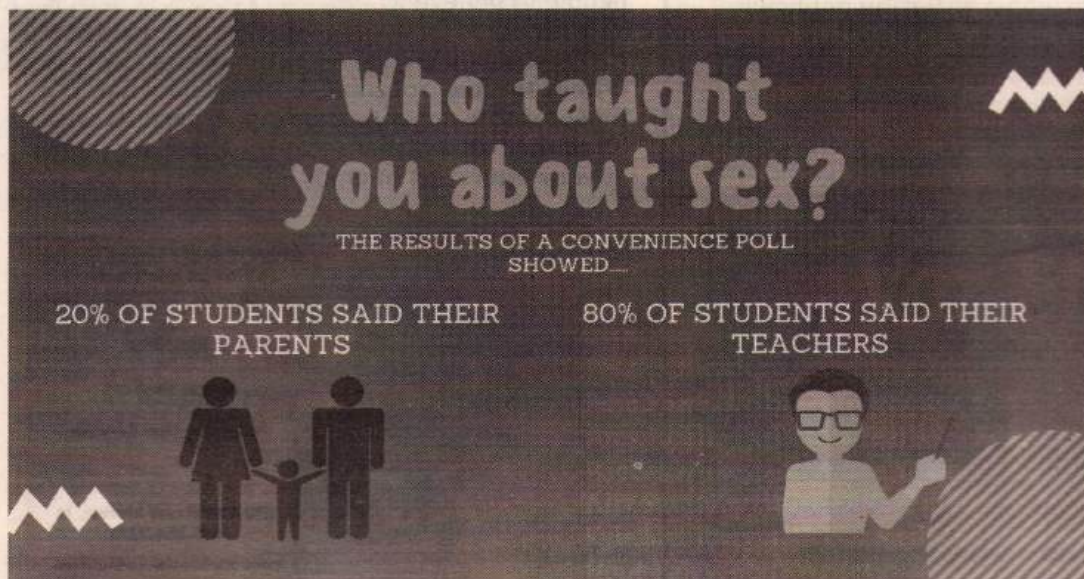
"If they talked more about birth control."
-Amiah Williams, sophomore



"Have an actual full class for it."
-Dausen Miell, senior



"Stuff to be explained more."
-Cael Hodges, freshman



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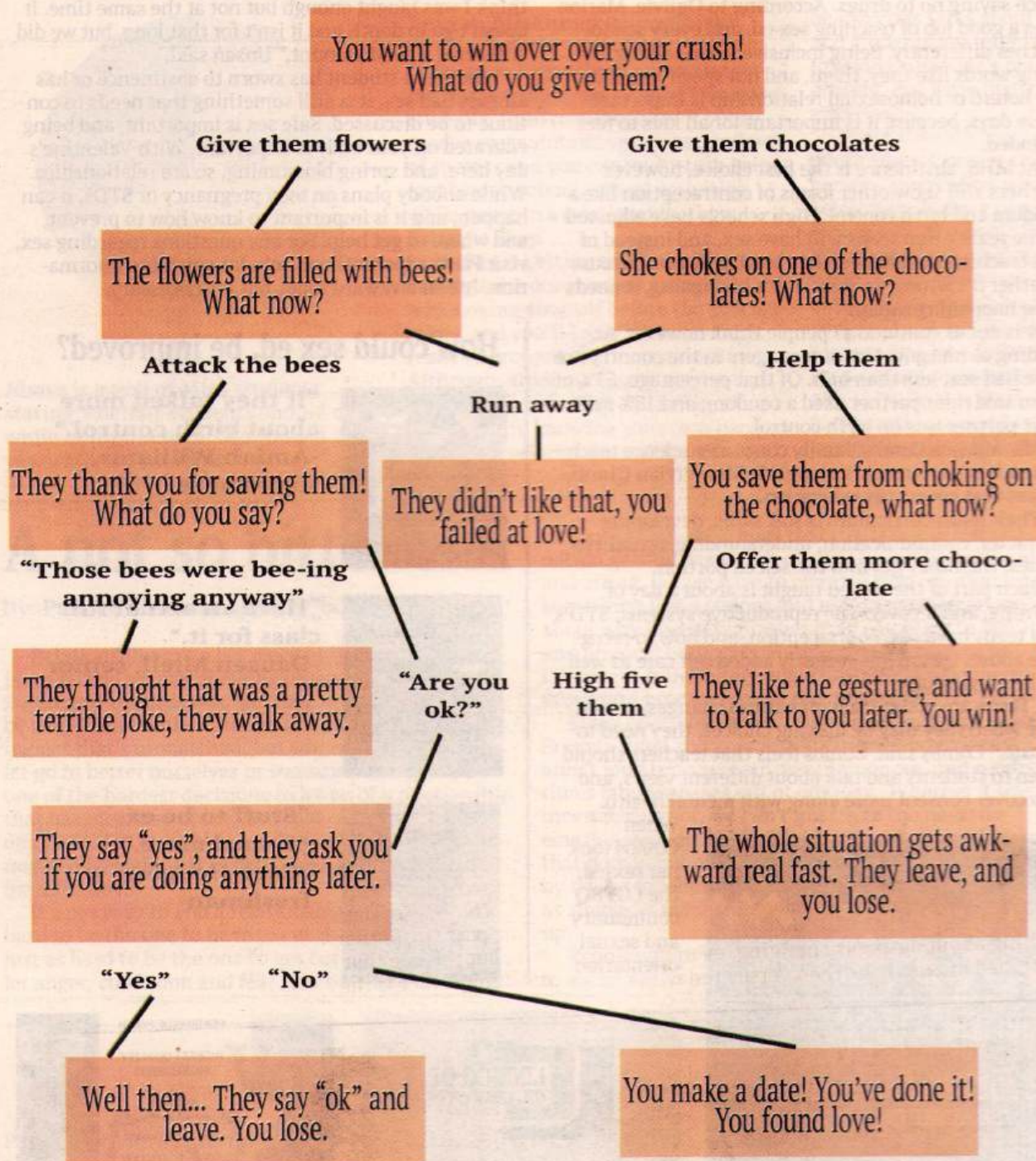
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Valentine's: an interactive story

By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger



Month of mysteries

Netflix brings crime series to the forefront this winter.

-Commentary-

While February brings love and joy and the end of winter, this year, it has also been the month of mysteries.



By: Hope Faley
@hopefaley21

Recently a new trend has appeared. Thanks to YouTube channels like Shane Dawson's and other that cover conspiracy theories, it raised almost everyone's want to be a detective, and now true crime seems to have taken over.

Netflix in this past month has released several documentaries and docu-series covering cases like the Ted Bundy case, "Abducted in plain sight", and many more.

A new movie called "Extremely wicked shockingly evil and vile" is following Zac Efron has Ted Bundy and taking a different approach to telling his story instead of just a document.

With a movie like this, controversy has risen due to the concerning of attractive and charming they portray Ted Bundy, as people don't want him to be romanticized. However, the reality is Bundy got away with what he got away with for a while because he was charming and attractive, and that's how people get away.

The directors played him like that for a reason, and wanted to show how hard it was for people to believe it.

Whether it's a documentary or a docu-series, sitting down and enjoying one of the true crimes Netflix, Youtube, or even Snapchat, is a must for this upcoming spring, especially with all of the bad weather recently, there are plenty at your fingertips to enjoy.



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