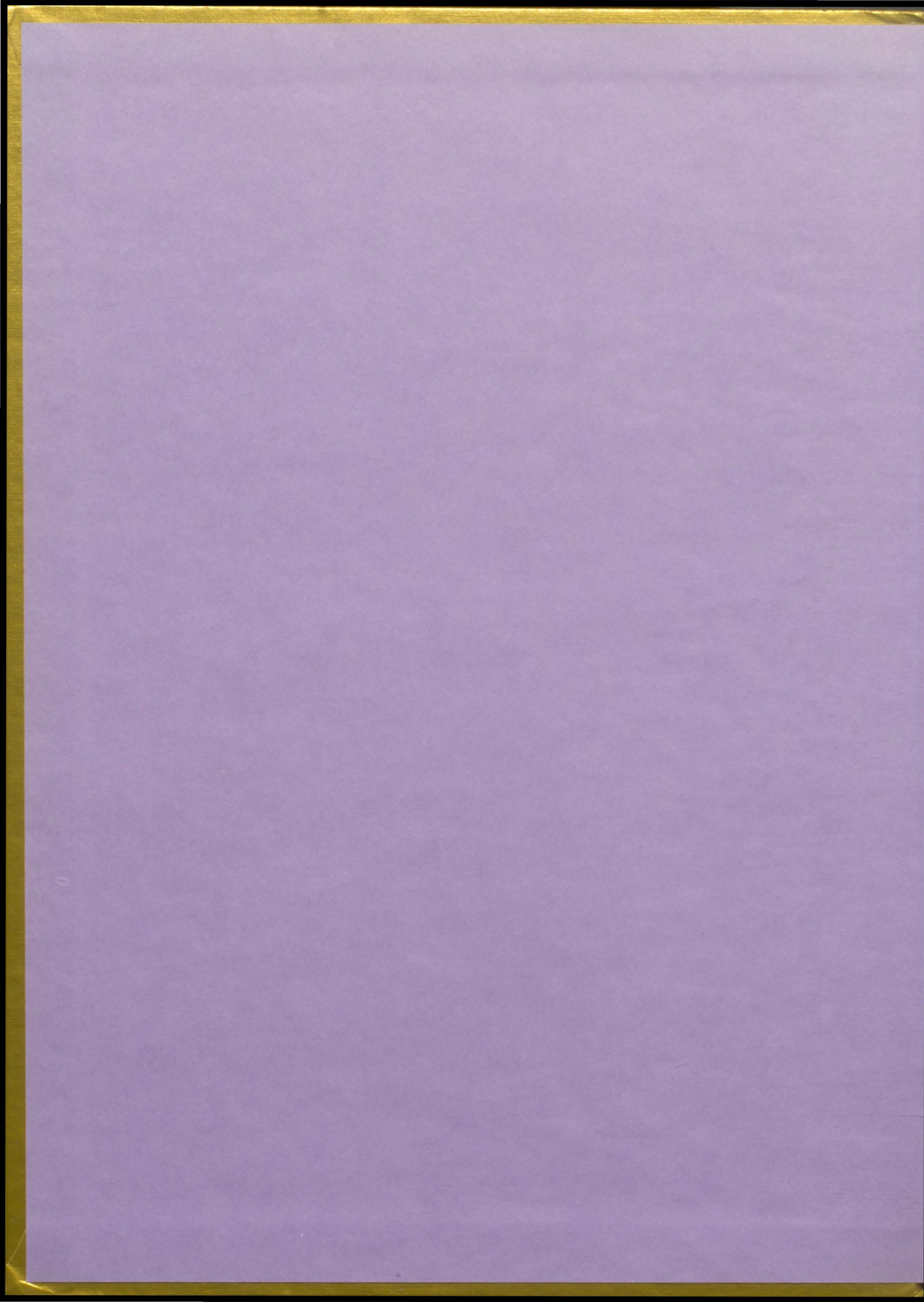


who are we?



1997 ELYSIUM





who are we?

From the first day as a freshman to the last day as a senior, students go through a continuous identity search. High school is a time for trying new things and discovering talents, skills, and interests. Along with learning English and algebra, school is also a time to learn who you really are. We may put on facades during our time in high school, but hopefully when we receive our diplomas we will be able to answer this question: "who are we?".

1997 Elysium
Blissfield High School
630 S. Lane St.
Blissfield, MI

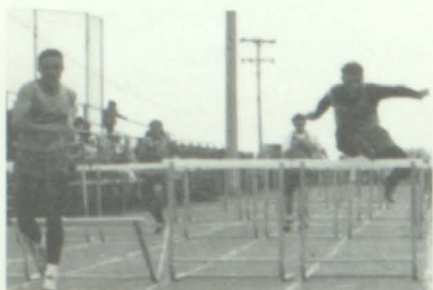
WHO ARE WE?



Activities

We are students who are able to learn outside the classroom.

3



Sports

We are athletes who understand the value of teamwork.

11



Academics

We are scholars who place learning above all else.

35



Students

We are individuals who become one community.

47



Arts & Organizations

We are members who showcase our talents and skills.

61

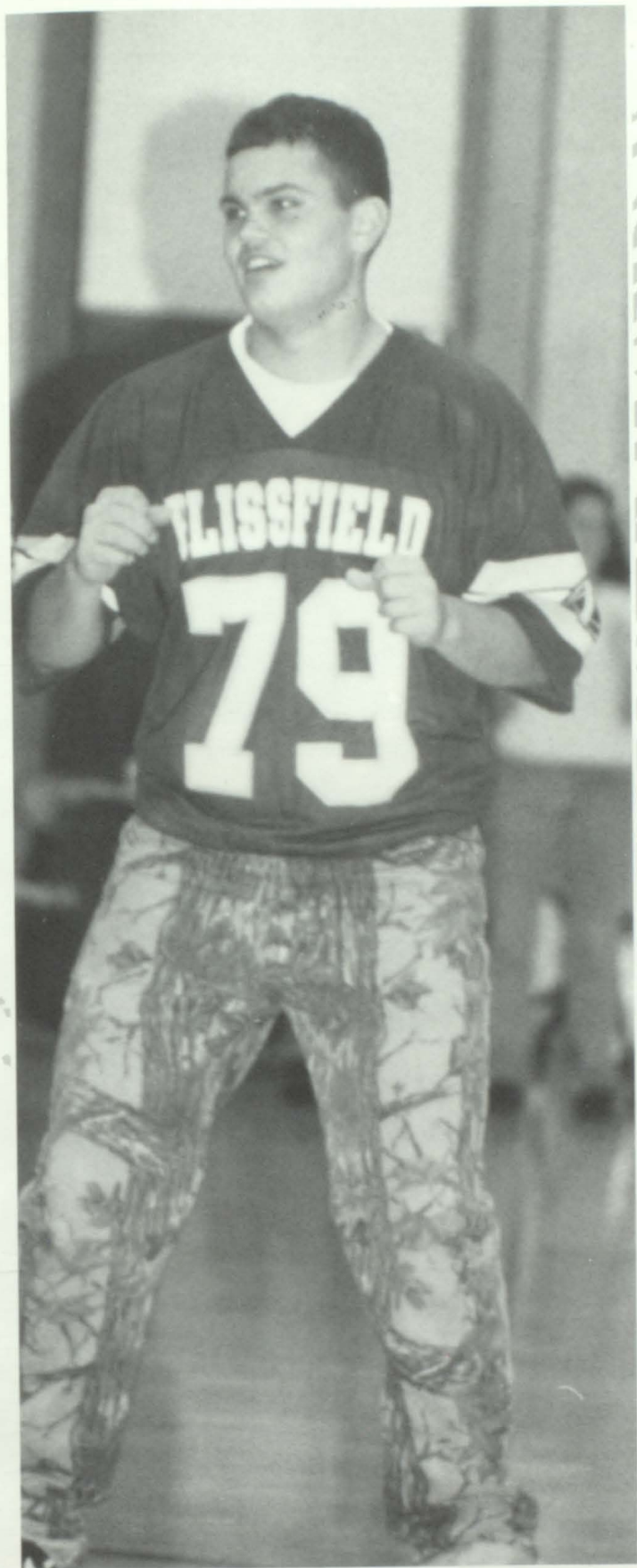
**Buy A
Yearbook!!!**

Ads

We are consumers who appreciate community support.

81

Activities



Micah Hinde does the "hanky panky" with the rest of the football team at the Homecoming assembly.

Todd Rupp works intently on the sign for the Freshman Coming Home float.



Nick Sheldon and Jessica Streby take a break from the hustle and bustle of prom building.

Activities at BHS are a very important part of student life. They take time and dedication, from everyone involved. Whether it be for pep assemblies or to help set up for dances, taking time out from learning is always fun.



Two winners at Homecoming' 96 were Shane Prielipp (above) and the Freshmen Class with their float ridden by Kari Hallet and Kim Sander (below).

Homecoming



Left: Renee Porter and Lindsey Ruhl ride the sophomore float titled "This is Our Planet". Center: The Junior float was ridden by Janine Filipek and Laura Diebel and titled "Royals Just Do It". Below: The senior float, titled "Royals Are All Stars", was ridden by Sarah Munoz and Mandi Goetz.





Left: Catherine Navarro, Tina Bergman, LeeAnn Winkler and Shane Prielipp were this year's Homecoming court. Left Center: Some entergetic seniors build a pyramid at the assembly. Below: Sophomeres Cori Goetz and Jenny Overhulse decorate the hallway while Brad Collins watches.



Left: Yoshie Tomada and David Smith pass a life savor down a line of juniors. Right: Freshman Kenny Wells shows off his "nerd" apparel.





Robert Ball, Matt Wittscheck, Cris Rupp, and Charlie Jacobson were Cominghome candidates for 1997.

Coming ⁹⁷ 19 Home



A good home crowd turned out for the game, and the floats were one of the highlights of the evening.



The freshmen class gets "all twisted up".



Above: The four candidates got a little creamed in the twinkie-eating contest, as they all ganged up on one another. **Below:** His highness Charlie Jacobson sits upon his "throne" and holds his "golden scepter".



Some brave participants from the junior class build a human pyramid at the pep assembly.

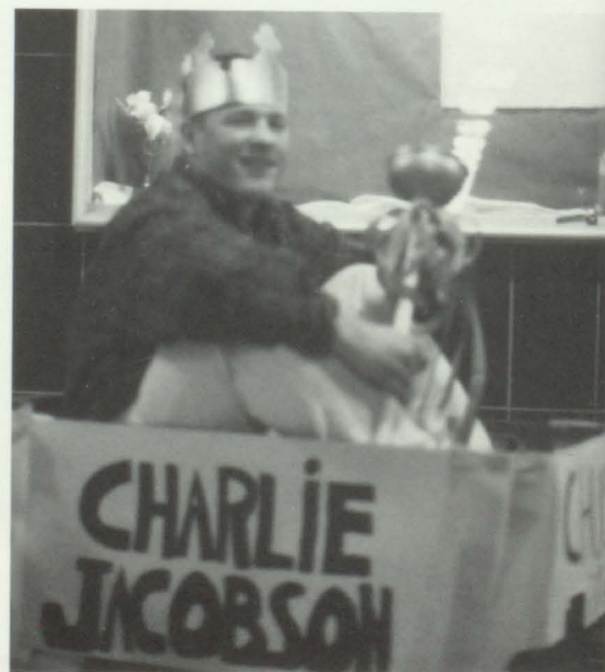
Cominghome Champs

Royals: Defeated Hudson Tigers 67-55 at the Cominghome game.

Junior Class: Won spirit week with the most participant points.

Freshmen Class: Won the Cominghome float competition.

Charlie Jacobson: Was voted 1997 Cominghome King by BHS.



Snow Ball

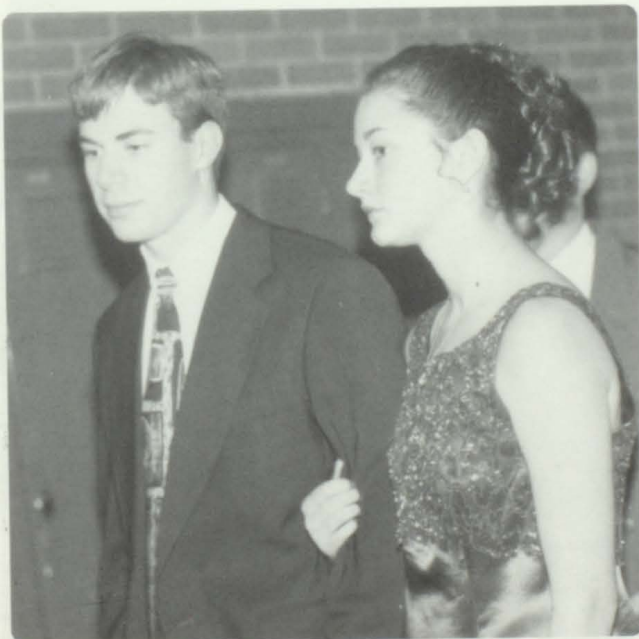


Above: A group of students break it down on the dance floor. **Below:** Neil Terry and Jennah Gentz enter the snowball, looking forward to a good time. **Below Right:** Shane Prielipp, Tara Bowman, Mandy Jensen and Tina Bergman enjoy the evening.

On January 11, 1997, the student council hosted the first ever Snow Ball. At first there was a slump in ticket sales, but in the end, many students attended. There was fear that the ball would be canceled because of a snow storm the night before, but the weather held.

The night included dinner and dancing. After the dinner ended it was right onto the dance floor for all the energetic teens. The students were having such a good time that the student council was tempted to extend the dance by an hour. A problem with chaperones prevented that from happening and the students left the dance floor content, but yearning for more.

The student council hopes to start a new tradition with the Snow Ball.





Above: Amanda Emerson, Nick Sheldon, and Jessica Streby work together to make the prom a success. Below: Beth Miller and Sarah Miller take a break from the stress of prom building.

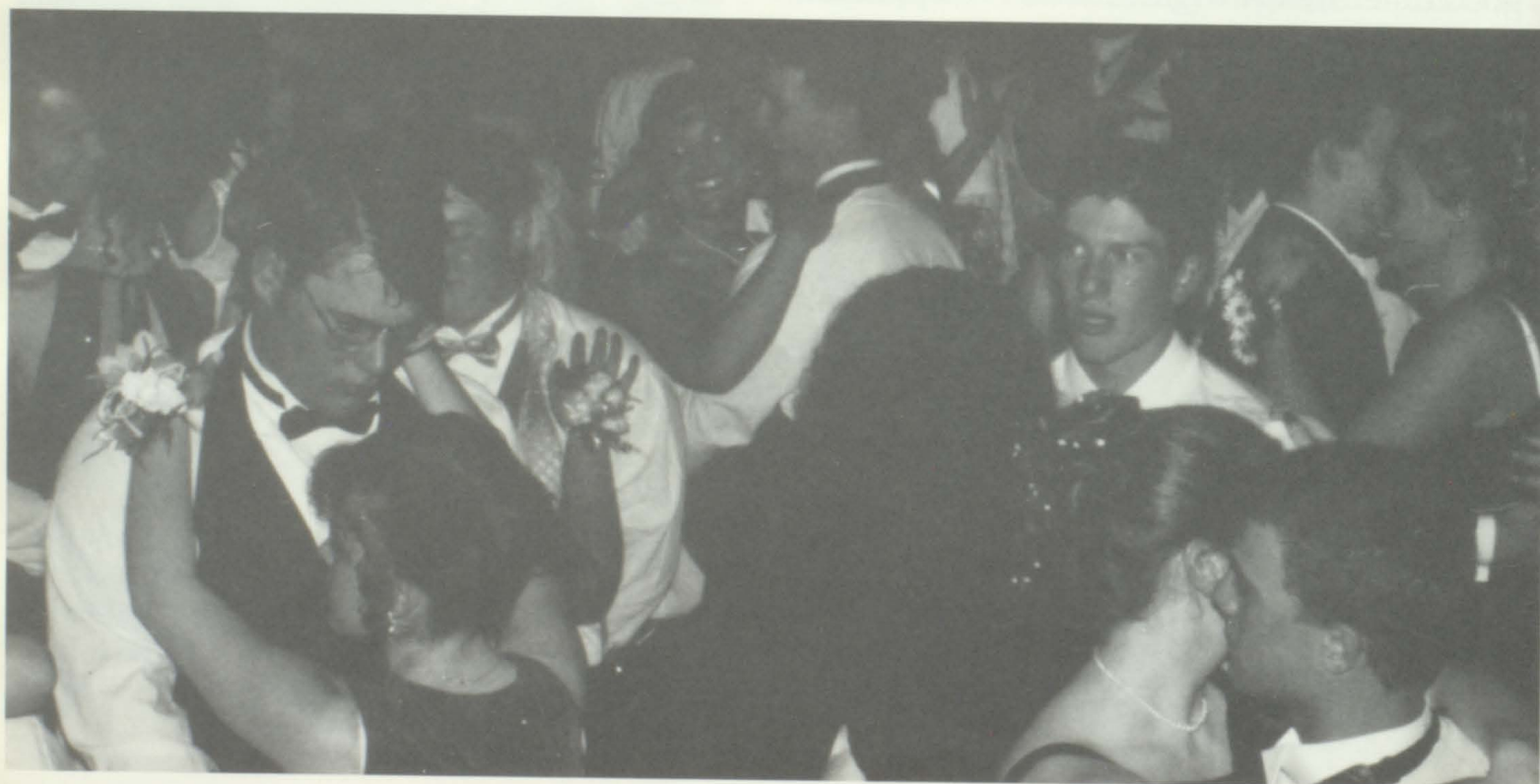


PROM

An Evening Under The Stars

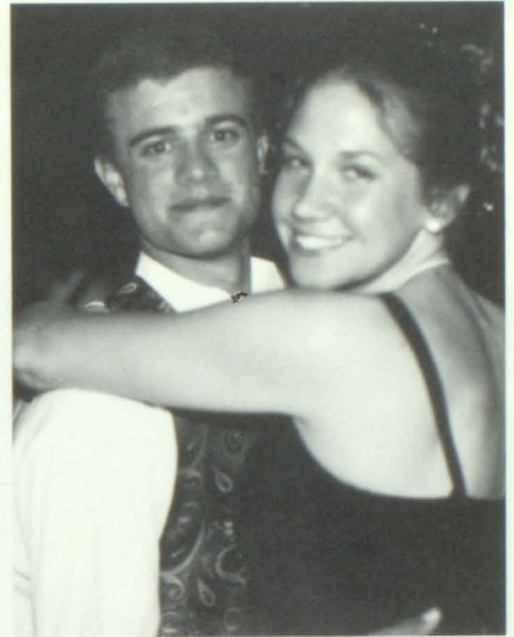


Above: Lana Frye and Mindy Kendall enjoying themselves at the finished prom. Below: Students take advantage of a slow song and get close to their dates.



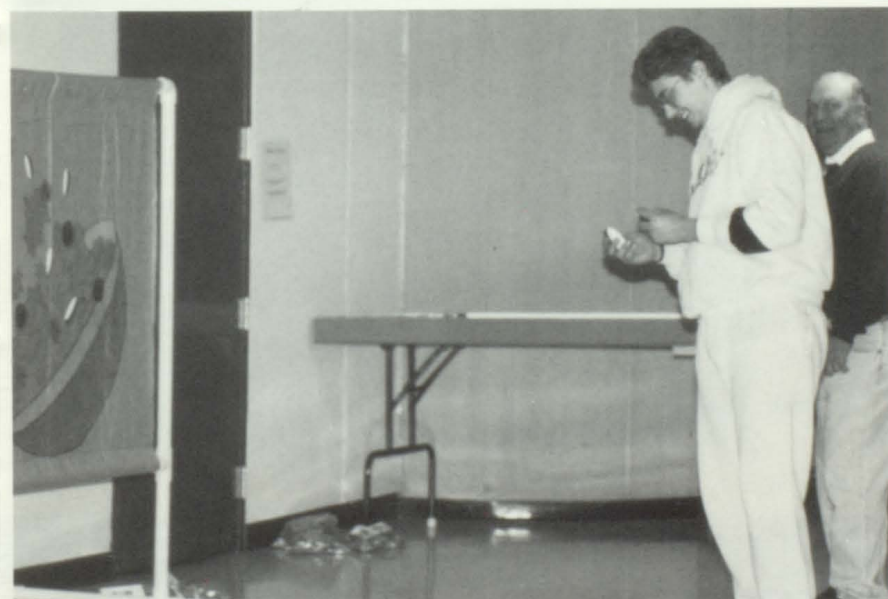


Left: King Matt Wittscheck and Queen Tina Bergman enjoy the traditional dance. Below: Brian Stutzman and Janine Filipeck share a smile with the camera.



Left: Melanie McGovern, Ryan Courtright, Josh VanCamp, Tina Murphy and Brad Phillips take a break from dancing to chat. Below Left: Jason Butler throws "food" in attempt to win a prize at the after prom. Below: Yoshie Tomada snacks on some pizza.

After Prom



Assemblies

Assemblies at BHS do not go unforgettem. This year we had two motivational assemblies that really got the students thinking about certain aspects of their lives. Besides some thought provoking words of inspiration, there was also lots of music, laughter and fun.



ABOVE: Tom Tuffs and The Katinas put on an entertaining assembly at BHS. The Katinas got students involved in their songs, and Tom Tuffs spoke energetically about making responsible choices.

LEFT: Guest speaker, George Burk (far left), talks with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Case. During the assembly, he told students about his nearly fatal burns and overcoming adversity. Mr. Burk was a great encourager to the students of BHS.



LEFT:
"I love you,
a bushel
and a peck"



RIGHT:
Molly
Niemen
was the
hostess of
the
evening.



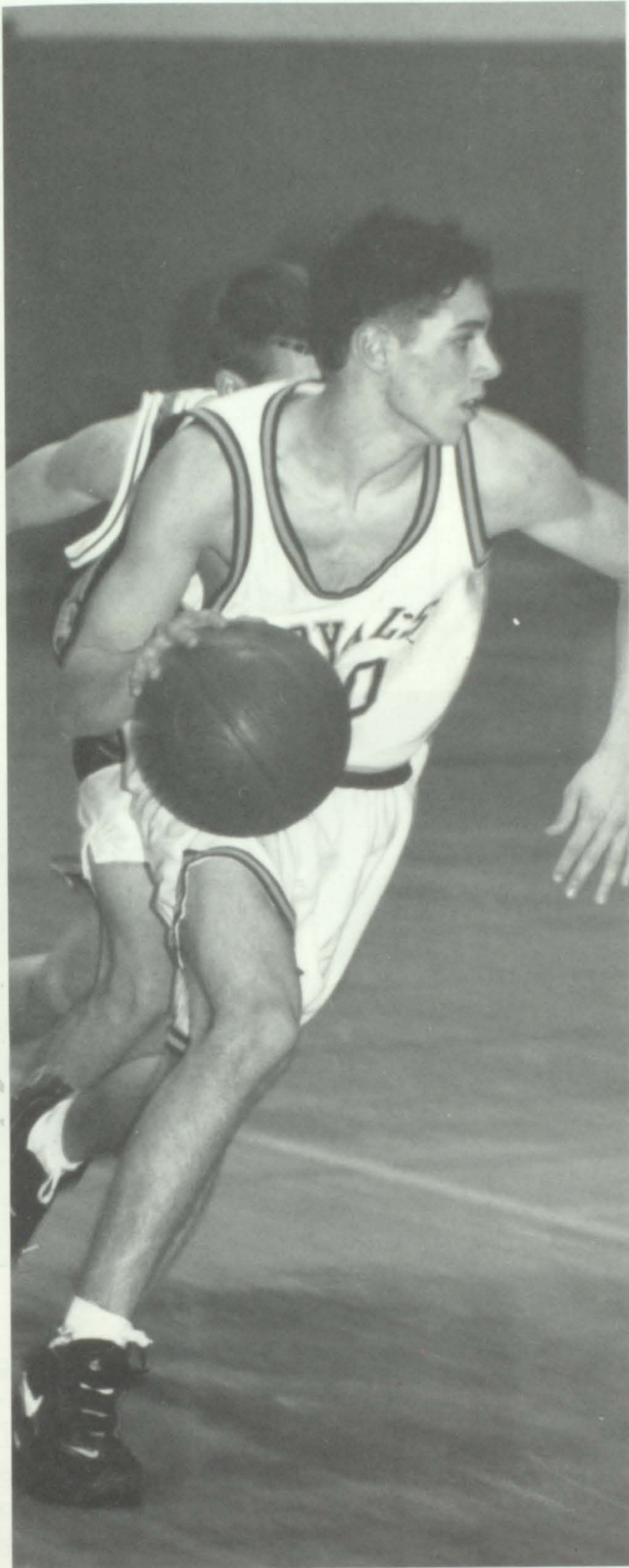
ABOVE:
"The Royals"
performing one
of their smash
hits!

Students singing a piece from "Les Miserables."

The choir put on an evening full of singing, dancing, laughter and fun as they performed their acts.

Variety Show

Sports



Senior, Kyle VanSchoyck finished off a fine basketball career with a stellar season.

Following his state-title match an exhausted Reggie Robinson emerged victorious, giving Blissfield its first state champion wrestler.



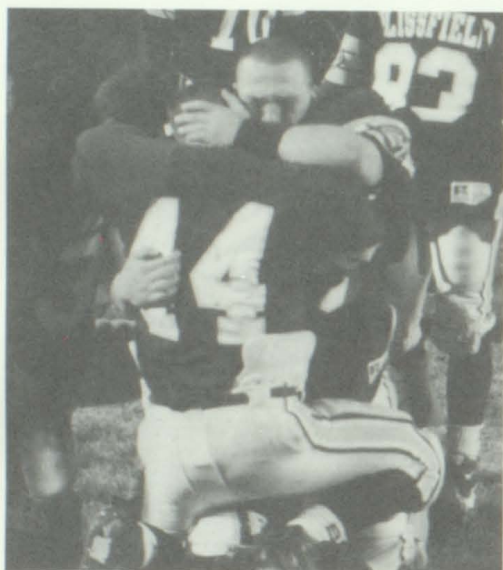
Sarah Pyle excelled as a first year track runner.

This year Blissfield sports teams proved once again they are the best. Many of the teams won league, district, regional, and even state titles. Perhaps every contest was not won, but everyone gave 100% all the time, and represented the school and community positively.



19 Football 96

Front, L to R: Managers Phil Kerbawy, Kris Ruhl, Kirk Sander. **Second:** Cris Rupp, Chad Fetzter, Micah Hinde, Ryan Mallory, Matt Wittscheck, Ryan VanLooke, Eric Frederick. **Third:** Steve Viers, Luke Mazur, Mike Karg. **Fourth:** T.J. Young, Chris Piros, David Smith, Ryan Andrews, Adam LaTour, Nick Sheldon. **Fifth:** Neil Wilson, Nick Loader, Andy Fay, Justin Thompson, Reggie Robinson, Justin Rosas. **Sixth:** Dickey Robinson, Rocco Freer, Jason Bradshaw, Tim Kudlac, Justin Miller. **Seventh:** Al Langmeyer, Coaches Denny Thompson, Greg Jackson, and Steve Babbitt, Brandon Milosh. **Missing:** Coach Ron Smith.



Above: Matt Wittscheck and Ryan VanLooke say a tearful goodbye to four years of memories.



Left: The players are still as they await the signal for action.



Above R: The guys at the sidelines cheer on their teammates as they wait for their turn to go in.

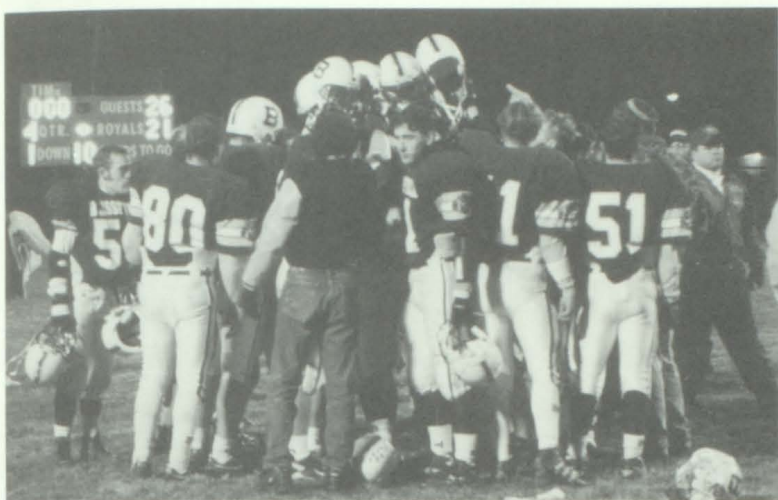


Left: The Royals have every man covered in this game.



BAHUNA!

These Royals know how to crush their opponents!



The Royals put their helmets up for the last time in '96.



1996 Sideline Cheer

Front: Katie Zimmerman, Kelly Forgacs, Michelle Wahl, Laura Diebel, Tiffany Isley.

Second: Melissa Porter, Gretchen Pagel, Jessica Streby, Emily Sell, Laura Saxton, Jill Weirich, Misty Taylor.

game, Blissfield stayed with their opponents until halftime, when the tables seemed to turn. Despite disappointments, the Royals finished out the season with a solid fourth-place standing in the LCAA, and a 3-6 record.

MVP:

Eric Frederick

F-I-R-E, Fire Up!

The fall cheerleaders carried both the J.V. and Varsity Teams through another exciting season. With their energetic cheers and flashing smiles, the squad boosted the crowd to show their Royal Spirit.

1996 JV FOOTBALL (L TO R) Front:

Scott Seifert, Cazzie Casanova, Ryan Klump, Ben Mainka, Zeb Waterbury, Justin Fuhrman, Jordan Brusseau, Casey Schaedler, Jeff Wells. **Second:** Brad Decatur, Todd Rupp, Ben Wilson, Gary Portillo, Justin Yovanov, Nic Austin, Jeff Lietzke, John Townes, Paul Mercer. **Third:** John Mowery, Steve Clark, Coach Kip O'Leary, Coach Kris Herman, Coach Neil Heiden, Jason Brown, Dennis Vore.



Women's Basketball

'96



Nothing but net! The team watches on as Techia Vore sinks a free-throw shot.



The Royals huddle up for some quick pre-game advice.

1996 Women's Basketball Team
(L to R) Front: Beth Berry, Jennifer Leking, Holly Bowen, Techia Vore, Jennifer Visingardi, Tina Bergman.
Second: Coach Gary Brink, Amanda Heiden, Kilee Goetz, Heather Nevins, Beth Miller, Amanda Emerson, Missy Benko.



Amanda Heiden and Kilee Goetz fight off a Sand Creek player.



Royal fans came out to support the basketball team all season.



The varsity team poses for a quick shot before game time.



Beth Berry looks for an opening in order to pass the ball.



The Lady Royals warm up in a little more relaxed setting.



Holly Bowen waits for the referee's call and the inbound of the ball.



1996 JV Basketball (L to R) Front: Hillary Brockway, Renee Porter, Sarah Pyle.
Second: Sarah Betz, Renee Walters, Deatra Fritz, Debbie Aldrich, Jami Gallatin.
Third: Vicki Sell, Rachel Walters, Kristin Moore, Suzanne Reis, Brooke Cranor, Coach Mike Noel.

'96 Men's Cross Country

1996 Team: Front, L to R:

Kyle VanShoyck, Robert Ball, Gary Wells, Brian Mitchell. Second: Brent Stutzman, Kenny Wells, Nick Darm, Brad VanStavern, Brian Stutzman.

Third: Coach Tom Durbin, Nick Furgason, Bo Koppelman, Jared Snyder.

Missing: Luke Wold.



Left: And they're off! The Royals start a LCAA race.

Right: Nick Furgason gives it all he's got to finish ahead.



"15 men, 1 team, one goal."

This was the slogan of Blissfield's 1996 men's cross country team. It graced the back of the warm up shirts, and was in every runner's mind each time he stepped to the line. The goal was simple: be the first team in 23 years to qualify for the state meet. Coach Tom Durbin set his men to the feat, running the Royals at tough Ohio invitational to prepare them for local racing. Though an invitational title eluded them, they never finished lower than six place in the team standings. Duel meets went smoothly, with only one loss going to the Royals. League Jamborees proved to be another story, however, with the team going in to the LCAA meet with a sixth-place standing. Tough running got them a final fifth place. At the Regional meet, the Royals knew what they had to do, and regrouped and focused on the state qualification goal. Many team members ran their individual bests, but the Royals fell short 43 points, finishing sixth. 1996 MVP Kyle VanSchoyck was an individual qualifier to the state meet. Finishing with a 9-1 record, the team completed a season that went far beyond the expectations of many, but surprised few.



Above: Jared Snyder, Brent Stutzman, and Luke Wold pack together to beat out a Dundee opponent.



Left: This year's MVP Kyle VanSchoyck knows what it takes to be the best. Here he strides for excellence at Erie Mason.

'96 Women's Cross Country



Front: Erin Marchal, Carrie Cole, Shane Prielipp, Bethany Harpst, Melonnie Furgason, Meran Miles. **Second:** Coach Al Navarro, Jennah Gentz, Kayla Brown, Catherine Navarro, Amy Marine, Julie Sell, Juanita Navarro.

This fall, the Blissfield Women's Cross Country team continued its dominance in the sport, running to a 25-0 record. They captured major invitational titles at Erie Mason, Monroe, and Ypsilanti, defeating many Class A schools. As well as winning both league jamboree meets, the team won the LCAA League and MHSAA Regional titles. Led by senior captains Melonnie Furgason, Meran Miles, Catherine Navarro, and Shane Prielipp, the team ran to a fourth place finish at the state finals.



Shane Prielipp (**above L**) and Melonnie Furgason (**above R**) strived for excellence this season - both were named to the All-State team.



The team prepares to race as they listen to last minute advice from Coach Navarro.



Above: The gun is fired for the start of the state meet, held at Michigan Speedway.
Left: The team poses with their 1996 LCAA championship trophy.

Men's Golf



1996 Golf team L to R. Front: Jim Seiser, Charlie Jacobson, Brad Fritz, Scott Bergman, Jason Berry, Jerry Marchal. **Second:** Mark Saxton, Levi Stoker, Josh Porter, Matt Stutzman, Ryan Betz, Brad Collins. **Third:** Coach Al Knoblauch, Nate Lajiness, Kyle Knoblauch, Justin Casterline, Mike Newsted, Brandon Elliot, Sam Pyle, Coach Lyle Camron.

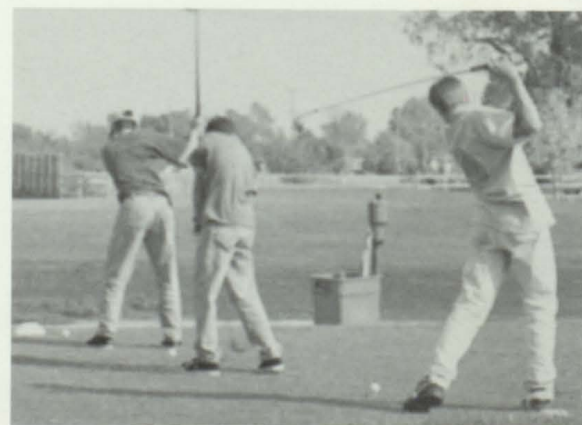
The 1996 Blissfield Golf team faced a challenging but rewarding season this year. Led by senior captains Mike Newsted and Nate Lajiness, the team surpassed a lot of expectations, missing state qualification by one stroke at the Regional match. 1996 individual standouts were Mike Newsted, MVP, and Kyle Knoblauch, outstanding freshman.



Nate Lajiness hopefully looks on after completing his swing.



Above: Kyle Knoblauch digs his way out of the sand trap. **Right:** Three Royal golfers warm up with some practice swings.





Charlie Jacobson breathlessly watches after making a putt.



Kyle Knoblauch takes a practice swing after school.



Jerry Marchal concentrates on making the best shot possible.

Ninety-Six



Right: Jim Seiser clears the green with a great putt.

Left: Levi Stoker makes a swing for the hole.



The 1996 Golf team puts up a valiant fight at the homecoming pep assembly, facing the Men's Cross Country team in a match of tug-of-war.

19 Men's Basketball 97

1997 Men's Varsity team (L to R):

Front: Manager Steve Marks, Manager Phil Kerbawy, Neil Terry, Gary Wells, Jason Bradshaw, Nathan Loar, Kyle VanSchoyck.

Second: Coach Mike VanSchoyck, Bo Koppelman, Tony Lubinski, Brad Phillips, Andy Fay, Nick Bates, Coach John Vandecaveye.



1997 Men's JV team (L to R):

Front: Josh Porter, Trevor Seeger, Mike Cory, Jake Rye.

Second: Ben Mainka, Ryan Betz, Levi Stoker, Tim Kudlac.

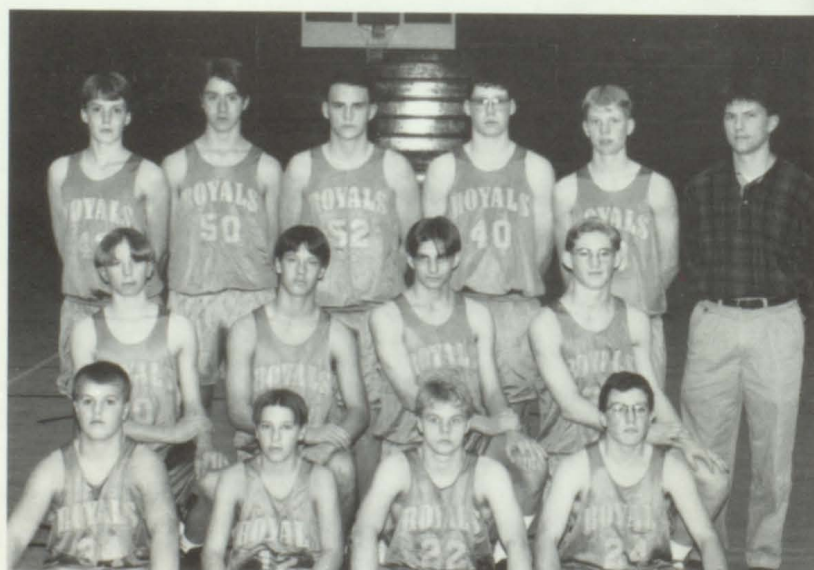
Third: Rocco Freer, Justin Casterline, Kyle Knoblauch, Mickey Vance, Eric Eisenmann, Coach Denny Thompson.

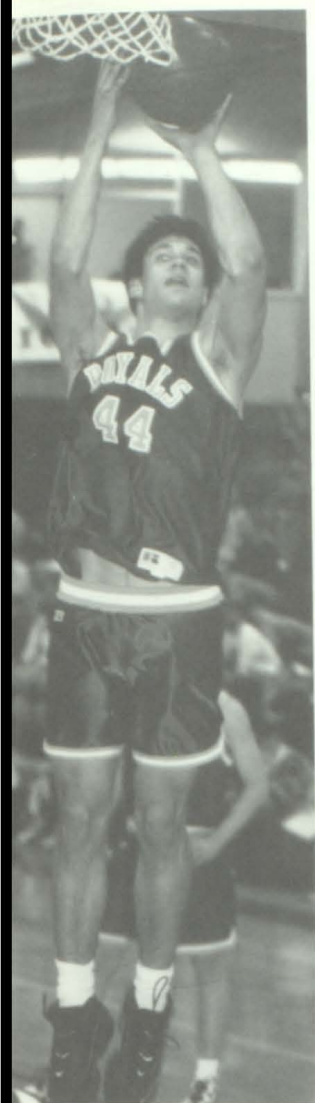
1997 Men's Freshmen Team (L to R)

Front: Todd Rupp, Jake Jensen, Zeb Waterbury, Dennis Vore.

Second: Stuart Killian, Ryan Klump, Kenny Wells, Chad Segur.

Third: Jake Thompson, Brandon Elliott, Jason Brown, Justin Love, Scott Siefert, Coach Mike Noel.





Left: Brad Phillips often brought the crowd to it's feet with his slam dunks. Here he goes for a lay-up over his Summerfield opponent.

Above: Nate Loar isn't letting this Mason player get around him!



Neil Terry concentrates and rises above his defender to put in another basket for the Royals.



Above: Andy Fay watches the every move of this Hudson player. Fay was 65% for two-point field goal percentage, breaking a school shooting record that has stood since the 1973-74 basketball season.

This year's basketball team brought Blissfield back to the standard of play which fans are used to. Using a balanced attack, and having five players averaging double figures at points in the season, the Royals were nearly impossible to defend. Led by the one-two punch of co-captains Kyle VanSchoyck and Neil Terry, the team was very efficient on offense and rolled through the regular season with a 15-5 record. When the curtain closed, the Royals sat atop the LCAA standings at 11-1, clinching the league championship at Onsted in an exciting game.

The Districts' opening round would be a test, as Blissfield looked to avenge

an earlier loss to Morenci. The team responded ferociously and blew out the Bulldogs, advancing to the finals. In the finals, the Hudson Tigers proved to be a worthy adversary, matching Blissfield stride for stride into overtime. Hudson managed an early lead, but Jason Bradshaw sunk a three-pointer at the buzzer to win it.

The District crown was sweet. The team played valiantly against defending state champ St. Martin de Porres, but an early 18 point deficit was insurmountable, as they could never completely overcome the quickness and athleticism of de Porres.



Volleyball

Ninety-Seven

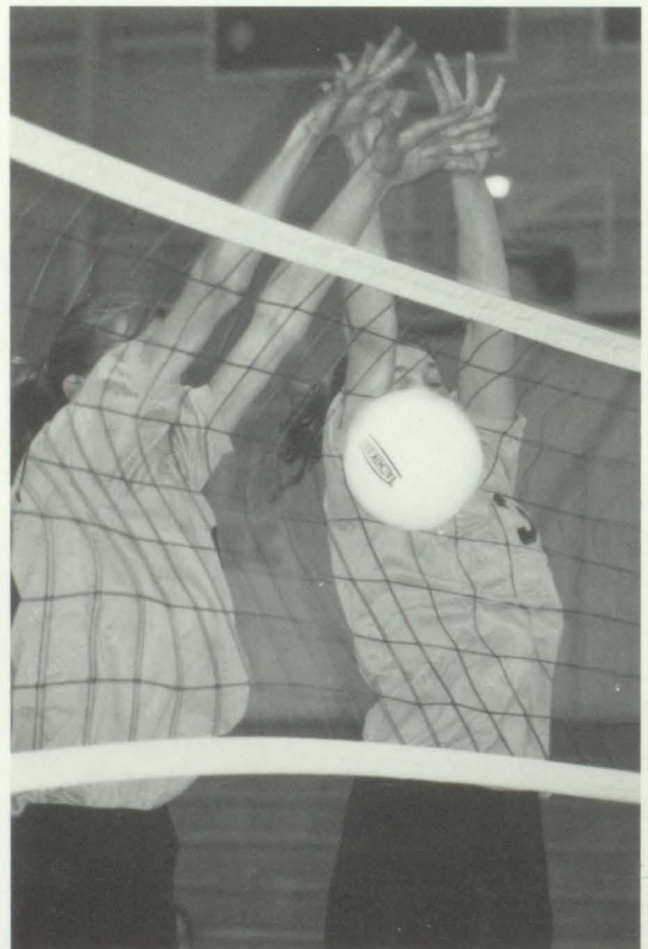


Above: Kilee Goetz prepares to serve another powerful ace. Her talent and ability on the court made her a unanimous selection to the All-League team. **Right:** Kelly Gill and Janine Filipek go up for a block against an opposing spike.



Top Left: The team takes a quick break for a candid shot.

Left: Coach Norm Potter watches on as his team plays. It was his first year as Varsity Coach.



All-League Academic:
 Renee Porter, Laura Mitchell,
 Janine Filipek, Mandy Jensen,
 Kilee Goetz, Amanda Heiden,
 Stacy Barrett, Nicholas
 Gutierrez, Holly Bowen, Kelly
 Gill, Sarah Munoz.

The Varsity Volleyball team was named to the Class all-state academic team. Combined, the team boasted 3.57 grade point average. They are the first Blissfield Volleyball team to receive this honor.

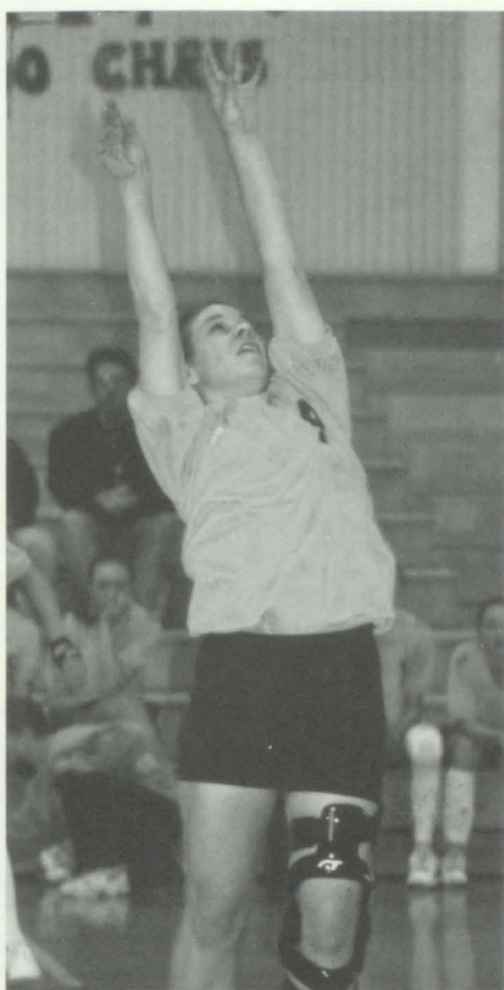


1997 BLISSFIELD WOMEN'S VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Front: Amanda Heiden, Mandy Jensen, Sarah Munoz.

Second: Renee Porter, Stacy Barrett, Kilee Goetz, Laura Mitchell.

Third: Nicholasa Gutierrez, Janine Filipek, Kelly Gill, Holly Bowen.



Above: Mandy Jensen fought back from a summer knee injury to lead the team as a senior captain and a defensive specialist.

Right: Holly Bowen and the team have a little fun before their last home game against Hudson.

Under the direction of new head coach Norm Potter, the '97 Volleyball team set their hopes high. The regular season came first, and each league game and tournament was a chance for individual players to focus on their role and contribute to the team. Senior co-captains Sarah Munoz and Mandy Jensen led the team on the court, and Amanda Heiden and Janine Filipek jumped to new heights as they helped set a team record of 3.12 blocks per game. Returning starters Kilee Goetz and Stacy Barrett provided consistency in serving and setting, while the "Beat Feet" award went to Holly Bowen for her never ending hustle as a defensive specialist. Ending the season with a 11-16 record, the team had more wins than any other BHS team before them. When districts rolled around, the team was ready to compete, with Renee Porter filling in as setter, but fell short in the first round match. Although the numbers didn't say so, a new tradition in Blissfield Volleyball had begun as the team gained experience and confidence.



Contributing on J.V. Volleyball: Bethany Harpst, Sarah Betz, Hillary Brockway, Deatra Fritz, Suzanne Ries, Vicki Sell, Jennifer Leking, Beth Berry, Kristin Moore, Brooke Cranor, Heather Burgermeister, Missy Benko, Debbie Aldrich.

Competitive Cheer

1997 Varsity Cheer Team:

Front: Laura Diebel, Tiffany Isley, Amanda Davis, Katie Zimmerman. Second: Melissa Porter, Misty Taylor, Kelly Forgacs, Gretchen Pagel. Third: Jessica Streby, Jill Weirich, Laura Saxton, Emily Sell.



Kelly Forgacs, Katie Zimmerman, and Melissa Porter get their point across as they put all they have into their cheer.



Laura Diebel celebrates with her teammates after another victory.



The cheerleaders often wowed the home crowd with their talent, pep, and enthusiasm.



The Varsity team waits for the next round of competition. Their stuffed animals, for good luck and encouragement, were a common sight at cheer meets.

**MVP: MELISSA
PORTER**



1997 JV Cheer Team

Front: Brandy LaTour, Jessica Loveland, Miriam Douge, Karen Yockey.

Second: Jenny Overhulse, Tabatha Gonzalez, Nikki Fowler, Nicole Hoagland.

Third: Heather Francouer, Lindsey Lake, Shelby Piotter-Anderson, Coach Tammy Fetzer.



The 1997 Competitive Cheer team entered into the season as one of the best in the state, having taken second place at the 1996 state meet. The question everyone wanted to ask was, "Can they come back for another great finish *this* year?" The Royals came back with a resounding answer: **YES!!!** Dominating the LCAA in championship form, the team came through to overcome archrival Onsted, and capture the league title. That wasn't the end, however, as Blissfield went on to win the Class C Regional title and advance to the 1997 state meet. Spectators held their breath as the team cheered their way to a great finish once again, taking second place for the second year in a row. With a winning reputation, the only question these ladies will have to answer is "**WHAT NEXT?!**"



State competition was an exciting time for the Royal cheerleaders, as they competed at their best (above) and took home the state final runner-up trophy (below).

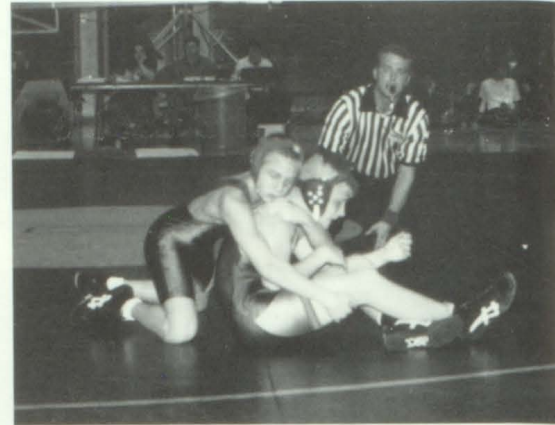


Jill Weirich stood tall and proud all season as a senior and a leader.

Wrestling '97



1997 Wrestling Team (L to R): Front: Brad DeCatur, Nick Aneed, Jacob Visingardi, Steve Clark, Jerry Marchal, Manager Jay Yockey. **Second:** Nicholas Furgason, Nick Loader, Ben Wilson, Ryan VanLooke, Charlie Jacobson, Manager Vinny Briggs. **Third:** Coach Kip O'Leary, Manager Mark Hudson, Reggie Robinson, Nick Sheldon, Justin Thompson, Dickey Robinson, Andrew Jones.



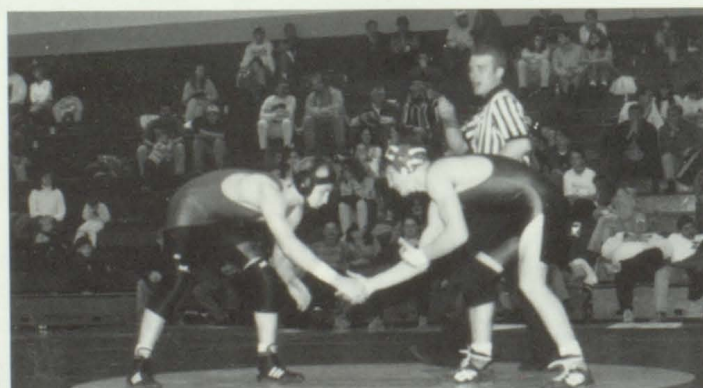
Jerry Marchal holds his opponent down as he struggles to make the pin.



Above: The Royal wrestlers watch and offer advice as they cheer on their teammates in competition.



Charlie Jacobson brings his opponent down for a hard landing.



These wrestlers display good sportsmanship before their match begins.



Nick Loader and others wait at the sidelines for their turn at a victory.



The crowd and ref pay close attention to the action on the mat.

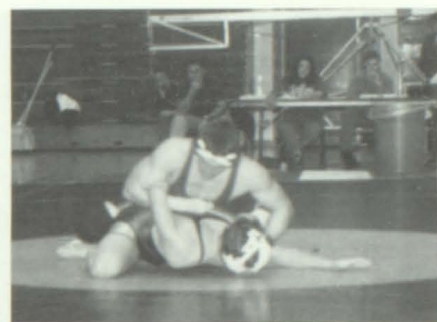
Led by captains Charlie Jacobson and Reggie Robinson, the 1997 Wrestling team had an active season, facing 17 teams in numerous matches. It was also an exciting season as the first Blissfield wrestler ever was crowned state champion. Many first year wrestlers joined the team, and all were enthusiastic about winning. The Royals captured matches against Milan and Erie Mason. Charlie Jacobson was named to the All-League Sportsmanship team, and Nick Furgason was All-League Academic.



There's no escaping this Royal hold.



Dickey Robinson stretches and mentally prepares for his match.



Reggie Robinson displays the power and dominance that made him one of the best wrestlers in the state.



Coach O'Leary gives one of his wrestlers some advice and words of encouragement.



Steve Clark and the ref check out what is going on down below.

Reggie Robinson
Blissfield's first ever state wrestling champion.

*Division: III
Weight: 171*

1997 Record

43-1

BLISSFIELD BASEBALL A WINNING TRADITION



'97 Varsity Baseball 1st: Tim Kudlac, Adam LaTour, Ryan Andrews, Reggie Robinson, Chad Fetzer. **2nd:** Ryan Mallory, Luke Gritzmaker, Gary Wells, Steve Viers, Justin Thompson, Marc Saxton, Manager David Thompson. **3rd:** Coach Larry Tuttle, Neil Terry, Nick Bates, Tony Lubinski, Michael Newsted, Andy Fay, Ian Fay, Coach Stan Masters, Coach Wayne Heineman.

'97 JV Baseball 1st: Sam Forche, Dustin Loar, Matt Kwiatkowski, Gary Portillo, Dennis Vore, Sam Pyle. **2nd:** Dickey Robinson, Trevor Seeger, Nick Loader, Levi Stoker, Todd Rupp, Steve Marks. **3rd:** Nick Fisher, Tim Cook, Al Langmeyer, Kyle Knoblauch, Nate Loar, Josh Porter, Scott Siefert, Coach Kris Herman.



'97 Freshmen Baseball

1st: Steve Clark, Brad Decatur, Zac Friess, Jerry Marchal.

2nd: Randy Gallup, Brandon Elliott, Jeremiah Hackathorn, Ryan Klump, Coach Steve Babbitt.

1997 Varsity Season Record:
32-3

1997 MVP:
Nick Bates



Neil Terry swings through a strike.



It's a Royal scramble as the team tries to tag out a batter before he can make it to first base. **Below L:** Coach Tuttle and some of the team watch the action out on the field. The baseball field underwent major renovations thanks to a \$75,000 donation. **Below R:** Ryan Mallory focuses on the incoming pitch.



Above: Adam LaTour warms up for his turn at bat.

Above R: The team huddles up as the inning ends.

R: Nick Bates prepares to pitch to a Colombia Central batter.

The tradition of excellence in Blissfield baseball continued with the Royals winning the LCAA once again with a 13-1 league standing. Captains Lucas Gritzmaker, Mike Newsted, and Neil Terry led the team to a 32-3 record, capturing the district title, and Coach Larry Tuttle had his 600th career win.



1997 VARSITY SOFTBALL:

1st: Beth Berry, Deatra Fritz, Crystal Hershberger, Techia Vore.

2nd: Melanie Fritz, Jennifer Leking, Amanda Davis, Jill Weirich, Nikki Gould.

3rd: Coach Cathe Pawson, Marcia Winzeler, Mindy Kendall, Lindsey Lake, Brooke Cranor, Jami Gallatin, Coach Brian Barrus.

Missing: Amanda Escobedo



1997 JV SOFTBALL:

1st: Brandy LaTour, Jennifer Wells, Christina Ebright, Kim Sander, Nicole Sauter.

2nd: Celeste Dixon, Nicole Hoagland, Ellie Risher, Kendra Scobie, Jamie Dominique.

3rd: Coach Neil Heiden, Shelby Piotter-Anderson, Manager Ginnie Fleenor, Missy Benko, Alycia Demey, Marcia Winzeler.



L: The team huddles up for their plan of action as they switch from batting to the outfield.

R: Lindsey Lake watches on as her pitch sails toward the waiting batter.





Left: Techia Vore and Jill Weirich position themselves for an outfield catch.
Above: Nikki Gould thought about stealing, but on second glance she runs back to safety at first base.



Left: Royals catcher Beth Berry warms up before the next inning.
Above: Mindy Kendall concentrates on connecting with the pitch.



Brooke Cranor watches the third base action as she mans first.

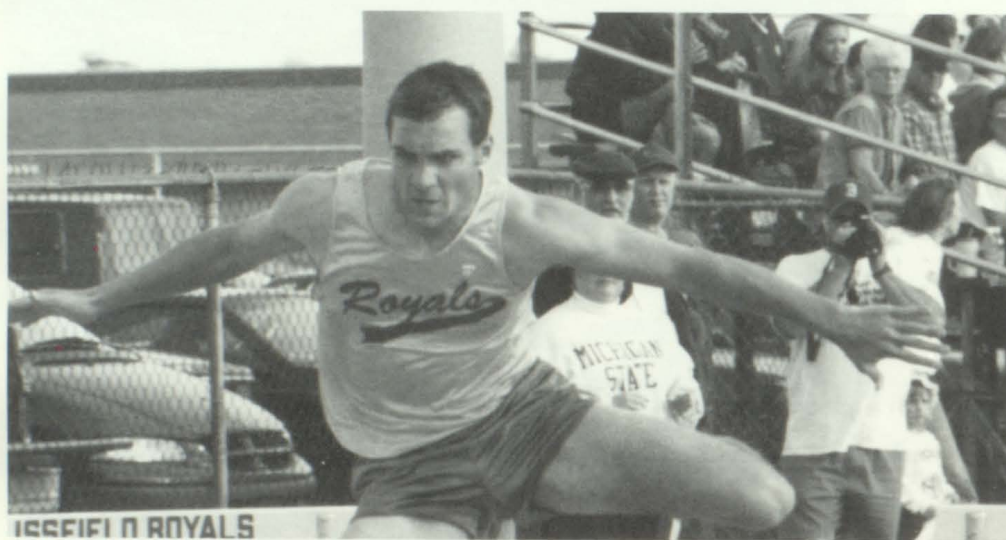
Beth Berry was vital to the Lady Royals as the team's catcher, and was voted MVP by her teammates. Senior captains Jill Weirich, Techia Vore, and Nikki Gould provided experience and leadership, and Jill Weirich was awarded the LCAA sportsmanship award for her team attitude. Players making All-League Academic were Jennifer Leking and Jill Weirich. Blissfield softball faced Summerfield in district play, but were defeated 4-1.

MEN'S TRACK 1997



1997 Men's Track: **1st:** Nick Darm, Brian Stutzman, Ed Loar, Robert Ball, Kyle VanSchoyck, Ryan VanLooke, Brent Stutzman, Matt Stutzman, Jared Snyder. **2nd:** Nic Austin, Jeff Lietzke, Neil Wilson, Collin Ayres, Luke Wold, Chad Segur, Jeremy Martis, Nick Aneed, Justin Yovanov, Chris Piros, Micah Hinde. **3rd:** Coach Jeff Marsh, Dave Smith, Martin Balestra, Brad VanStavern, Bo Koppelman, Justin Casterline, Rocco Freer, Nick Sheldon, Ben Mainka, Jason Bradshaw, Matt Cremean, Jared Snyder, Jason Bourdette, Coach Tom Durbin. **Missing:** Brian Mitchell

As the top Blissfield career varsity point winner, Robert Ball has a lot to smile about as he strides in with another win.

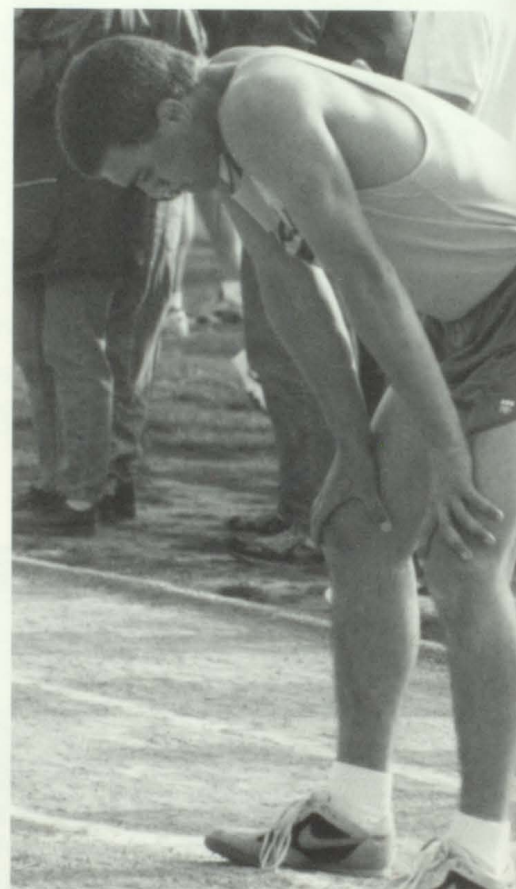


Nick Sheldon leaps toward a first place finish in the 100 meter hurdles. Nick paced the Royals in hurdle events until suffering an injury late in the season.

The Men's track team captured consecutive LCAA championships for the first time in school history. The 800-meter relay school record was broken, as well as the 1600-meter relay. The Royals finished 6th at the Regional meet, and Robert Ball was named MVP.



800 relay - B. Koppelman, Ball, K. VanSchoyck, B. Mitchell. 1600 relay - J. Bradshaw, R. Ball, K. VanSchoyck, B. Mitchell.



Above: Brian Stutzman takes a breather after a tough race against Hudson.

Left: Ed Loar and Brian Mitchell fight against the wind to beat out their Erie Mason competitor.

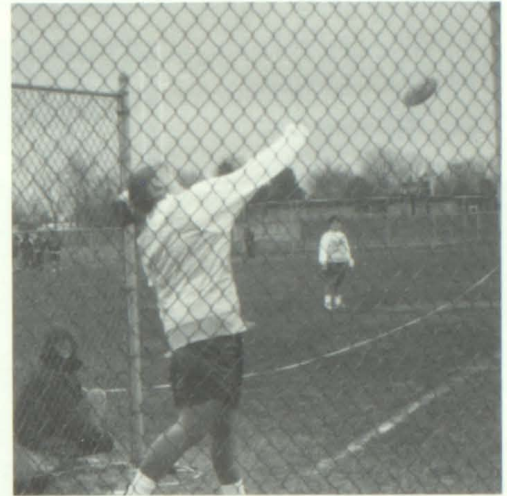
1997 Blissfield Men's/Women's Field Events



Renee Porter had no problem clearing the high jump bar this year - she shattered the school record, re-setting it at five feet, four and a half inches.



Jason Bradshaw goes up for opening height at a home meet against Hudson.



Amanda Emerson gives the discus a mighty whirl. She was the top performer for the Royals in both the shot put and the discus.



DETERMINATION! Senior Micah Hinde gives it all he's got in the shot put competition.



Katie Zimmerman floats through the air in the midst of her long jump effort.



Bo Koppelman is all technique as he effortlessly soars over the bar.

Women's Long Jump: Jessica Streby, Katie Zimmerman, Sarah Pyle, Amy Marine, Renee Porter. **High Jump:** Renee Porter, Laura Mitchell, Debbie Aldrich. **Discus/Shot put:** Amanda Emerson, Anne Veres, Denise Libstaff, Sarah Miller, Kim Sutherland. **Men's Long Jump:** Kyle VanSchoyck, Bo Koppelman, Luke Wold, Jason Bradshaw, Matt Cremeans, Chad Segur. **High Jump:** Bo Koppelman, Justin Casterline, Matt Stutzman, Jason Bradshaw. **Discus/Shot put:** Micah Hinde, Neil Wilson, Rocco Freer, Ben Mainka, Martin Balestra, Nick Aneed, Justin Yovanow, Jeff Lietzke.

WOMEN'S TRACK 1997



Melonnie Furgason anchors in the winning 3200 Meter Relay.



Amanda Heiden fights her way to the finish.



Catherine Navarro was consistently ranked on top in the 100 and 300 meter hurdles.



'97 Women's Track: 1st: Lorelei Laviolette, Leigha Woodward, Carrie Cole, Miriam Douge, Heather Hagenbuch, Yoshie Tomada, Jessica Loveland, Nikki Fowler, Hillary Brockway. **2nd:** Denise Libstaff, Anne Veres, Melonnie Furgason, Anne Bradshaw, Sarah Pyle, Renee Porter, Heather Burgermeister, Sarah Miller, Erin Marchal, Juanita Navarro, Meran Miles, Catherine Navarro. **3rd:** Heather Knight, Diane Jones, Kim Sutherland, Jessica Streby, Leah Stimac, Sara Retter, Jessica Cooner, Julia Barton, Erin Hufford, Bethany Harpst, Coach A Navarro. **4th:** Coach Hazel Brown, Kayla Brown, Julie Sell, Jill Dickerson, Michaela Laviolette, Amy Marine, Debbie Aldrich, Megan Ricker, Vicki Sell, Amanda Heiden, Jennah Gentz, Amanda Emerson. **Missing:** Laura Mitchell, Gwyne Mock, Shane Prielipp.



Meran Miles focuses at the start line for the quarter mile.



Sarah Pyle and Anne Bradshaw (third back) prepare their hurdle starts.

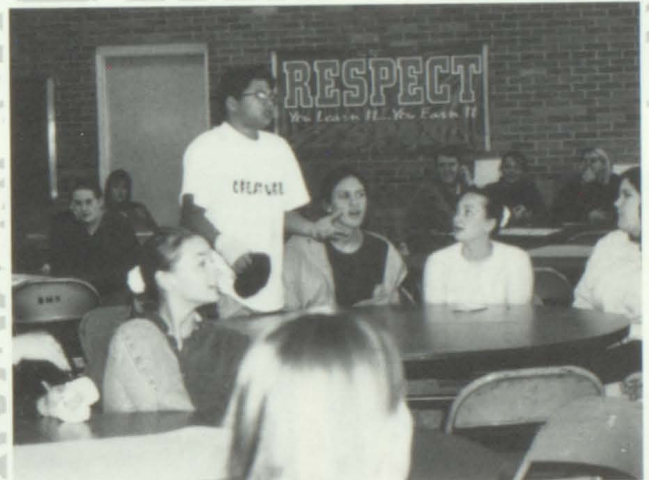
Led by senior captains Catherine Navarro, Meran Miles, Shane Prielipp, and Melonnie Furgason, the track team once again was undefeated in LCAA meets, and captured the League and Regional titles. Nine girls qualified for the Class C state meet, and the team finished ninth. Shane Prielipp was named MVP.

Academics



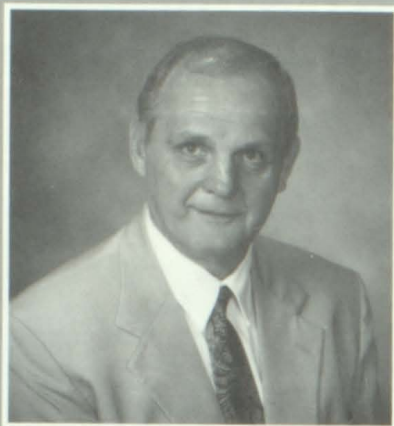
Neil Terry served well as the master of ceremonies at the annual Blissfield Honor Society banquet.

Jon Courtright and Mrs. Wright discuss his life skills grade.

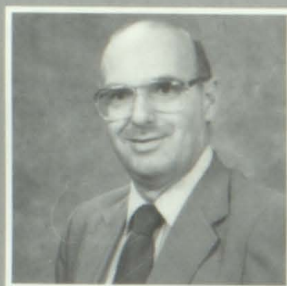


Ron Navarro pleads his case during the Blissfield convention.

Academics are a very important part of Blissfield High School. We pride ourselves on high academic standards. However, academic does not automatically mean classroom. Many times we take field trips and have in school functions to aid in the learning process.



Paul Paulka
Superintendent



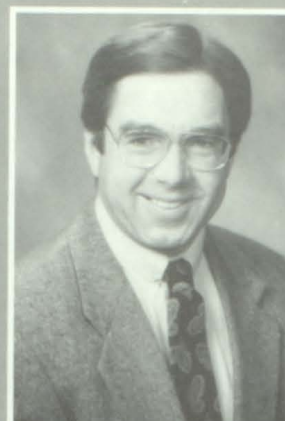
Richard Iott
Comptroller



Mary Lou McAlpine
Secretary



David Thompson
Principal



Norm Napier
Admin. Assistant



Pat Farnsel
Secretary



Sharon Cambal
Secretary

BOARD
OF
EDUCATION



David Knapp



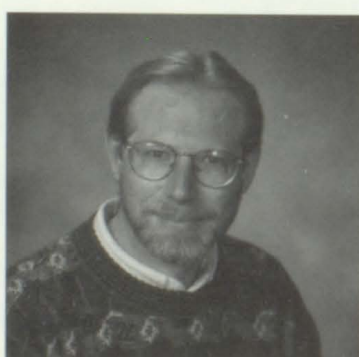
Don Neuroth



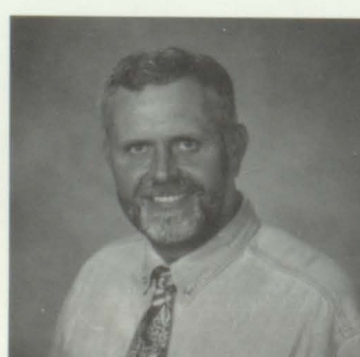
Bruce Porter



Sam Rupp



Martin Sauter

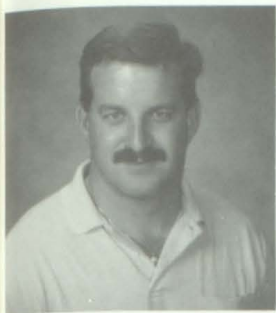


William Stutzman



Diane VanLoocke

T E A C H E R S



Steve Babbit
P. E./ Social Studies



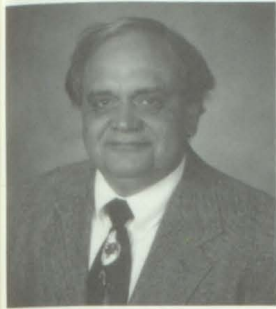
Cheryl Bausman
Science



Gary Brink
Math



Hazel Brown
P.E./ English



Richard Clark
English



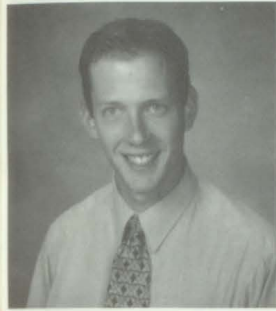
Rich Coscarelli
Science



Karen Dillie
Business/Computers



Peter Durbin
English



Tom Durbin
At-Risk Coordinator



Ralph Harris
Instrumental Music



Irene Hawley
French



Kris Herman
Social Studies



Laurie Isley
Science



Stan Masters
Social Studies



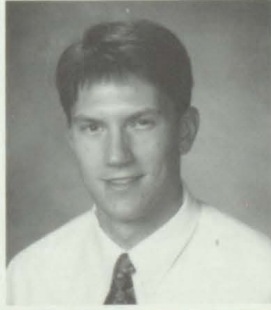
Judy Mershon
English



Colleen Miller-Ayers
Teacher-Consultant



Phil Nino
Spanish



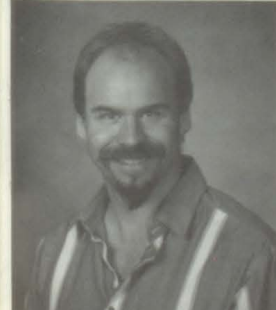
Michael Noel
Science



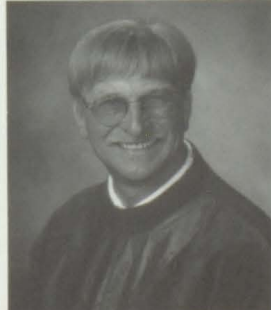
Sandra Sell
Vocal Music



John Smith
Math



Greg Tarrant
Art



Larry Tuttle
Math



Maralee Wright
Social Studies

Career Counseling Center



Rhea Mills



Mark Willson



Cathy Horky

..... SUPPORT STAFF

Custodians

Supervisor: James Sharp
James Shepard
Mark Duffy
Todd Shepard



Cafeteria



Joann Kerekgyarto, Pat Cranor,
Vivian Warner, Barb Heineman,
Barb Eisenmann, Char Horky

Bus Drivers

Supervisor: David Dunbar
Mina Dunbar, Cynthia
Dvorsky, Linda Fisher, Don
Fritz, Deanna Goddyn, Lori
Smith, Judy
Smith, Nancy
Strouse, Harold
Thompson,
Elaine Winzeler,
David Wood



Athletic Director



Gary Sullivan



Judy Beagle

Media Center



Elaine Webb

Junior Rotarians



FRONT: Brian Mitchell, LeeAnn Winkler. **SECOND:** Neil Terry, Tina Bergman, Amanda Jensen, Shane Prielipp, Melissa Porter, Cris Rupp.

Each year the teachers at BHS select eight seniors to serve as Junior Rotarians. These students attend Rotary meetings every Wednesday during their assigned month. There they enjoy a meal, join in on singing, take part in the business, and socialize with other Rotary members. This year's Junior Rotarians agree that the program is an enjoyable experience as well as a great opportunity to communicate with men and women of the community.

Camp Counselors



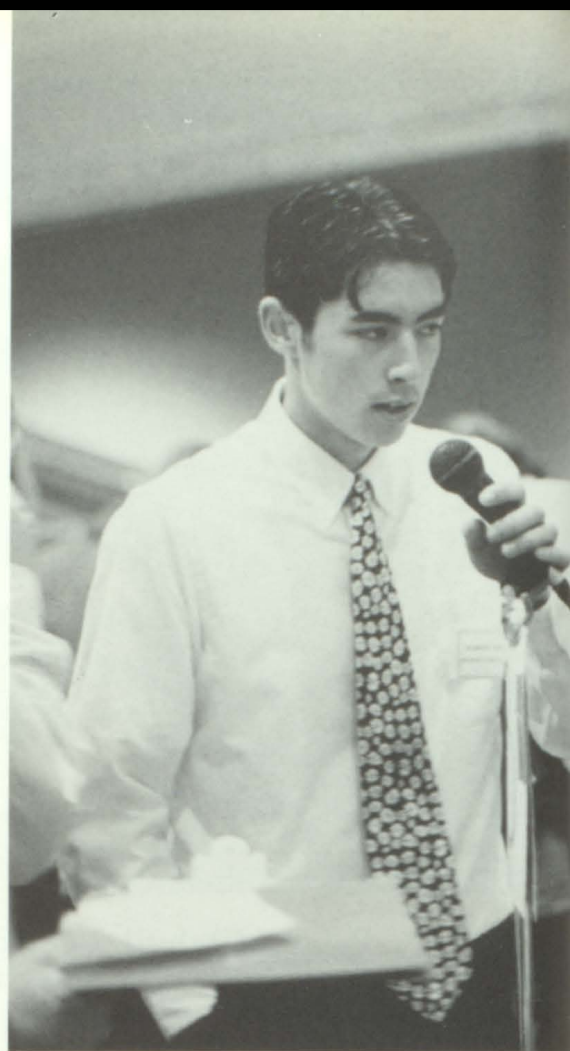
FRONT: Alison Prielipp, Jill Weirich, Tina Bergman, Melissa Porter, Stacey Keswick. **SECOND:** Cris Rupp, Bo Koppelman, Brian Karg, David Pixley, Ryan Horky, Jacob Heine.

These eleven juniors and seniors were this year's fifth grade camp counselors at Camp Storer, Jackson, MI. They were chosen by a committee from the elementary school through an application process. During this three day two night experience, the counselors helped with a variety of activities including games, singing, and the traditional kissing of the moose!

BLISSFIELD DELEGATION

On October 31 and November 1, Mr. Herman took thirty-five Blissfield students to participate in a mock convention at the Lenewee Christian Family Center. Students from every school in the county were there to debate about issues concerning affirmative action, technology censorship, gay marriages, education, abortion, gun control, welfare, and doctor assisted suicide. Resolutions were drawn up, voted on, and a political platform for the students of Lenewee County was decided. Blissfield Delegation came away with winning all of the resolutions they stood for.

RIGHT:
Robert Ball,
chairperson
and voice
of the
delegation,
delivers
Blissfield's
vote on one
of the eight
resolutions.



Mr. Herman,
leader of the
pack!

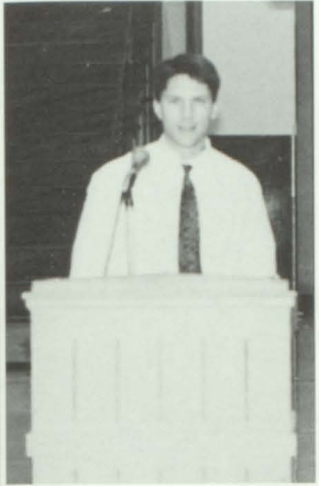
DELEGATION MEMBERS:
Mandy Jensen, Stacy Barret,
Ryan Mallory, Neil Wilson,
Nicolasa Gutierrez, Amanda
Heiden, Greathen Sauter,
Melissa Swartz, Julie Sell,
Jason Butler, Steve Cook,
B.J. Rodriguez, Jill Weirich,
Melissa Porter, Misty Taylor,
Carrie Lott, Jennifer Jerew,
Kayla Brown, Leann Mason,
Brian Mitchell, Ryan
VanLooocke, Robert Ball,
Micah Hinde, Tony Lubinski,
Eric Frederick, Nathan Stull,
Neil Terry, Shane Prielipp,
Tina Bergman, Angie Fetzer,
Techia Vore, Renee Porter,
Jennifer Visingardi, and
Sarah Miller.



Tony Lubinski, Ryan Mallory, Greathen Sauter, and
Leann Mason participate in a discussion that seems to
involve a bit of humor!

CONVENTION '96

On November 4, the gym was transformed into a place where all Blissfield students would hold a mock convention. The day was filled with debates, voting, and music courtesy of the band. Opinions were displayed and thoughts expressed on eight different issues affecting our country.



ABOVE:
Mr. Noel was chosen as the presidential candidate for the political convention.

RIGHT:
Elizabeth Cornell and Steve Viers have fun with confetti!



BELOW:

Junior Nick Furgason expresses his opinion on gun control in America. After the debates and discussion, a resolution was drawn up and it was accepted that there should be minimum gun control in America.



Students cheer with excitement as they participate in the day's activities.



Sam Pyle, member of the New York delegation, displays his spirit and pride.



Mrs. Wright, leader of the Washington delegation, sits and chats about political ideas with other members of the delegation.

Honor Society

Honor Society is a select group of students with a grade point average of 3.5 or above. Each year there is a banquet held in honor of their achievement.

Seniors

Robert Ball
David Buehrer
Elizabeth Cornell
Melonnie Furgason
Amanda Heiden
Ryan Horky
Amanda Jensen
Kurt Keller
Lisa Lewis
Brian Mitchell
Catherine Navarro
Michael Newsted
Melissa Porter
Alison Prielipp
Shane Prielipp
Cris Rupp
Melissa Swartz
Neil Terry
Ryan VanLoocke
Kyle VanSchoyk
Jill Weirich
LeeAnn Winkler

Juniors

Janine Filipek
Nick Furgason
Kelly Gill
Alanna Hephner
Leann Mason
Beth Miller
Sarah Miller
Alaina Phillips
Greathen Sauter
James Seiser
Emily Sell
Jessica Streby
Jennifer Visingardi

Sophomores

Stacy Barrett
Scott Bergman
Ryan Betz
Hillary Brockway
Justin Casterline
Nick Darm
Christina Ebright
Eric Eisenmann
Jacob Fink
Jennah Gentz
Kilee Geotz
Jared Goulart
Sarah Heydinger
Craig Horky
Tamira Kafer
Matt Kwiatkowski
Jennifer Leking
Jessica Miles
Laura Mitchell
Kristen Moore
Laura Pixley
Renee Porter
Laura Saxton
Kendra Scobie
Levi Stoker



ABOVE:
Beth Miller and Alanna Hephner present Honor Society certificates to students.



ABOVE:
Laura Pixley and Sarah Heydinger wait for dinner.

BELOW:
Students share the flame during the candle lighting ceremony.



BELOW:

Molly Force and Brook Cranor work with Nicolasa Gutierrez's mom on a scientific experiment in biology class.



Parent's Day

On October 24, the school conducted a student/parent switch day. The students whose parents came to school that day were able to stay home. The purpose of this activity was to increase parent involvement in the school. About 100 parents came to school on Thursday and the classes were conducted as usual with few interruptions.



College & VoTech

There are two out of school educational opportunities that upperclassmen are involved in at Blissfield High School.

VoTech is a program where students gain hands on training along with on the job experience in the career field of their choice.

Siena Heights, Adrian, and Jackson Community colleges participate in a program that allows qualified students to get a head start on higher education in which either high school and/or college credit may be earned.



Senior Melonnie Furgason sits and goes over an english paper for her class at Siena Heights College. She along with many other seniors spend much of their time cramming for their tough college courses.



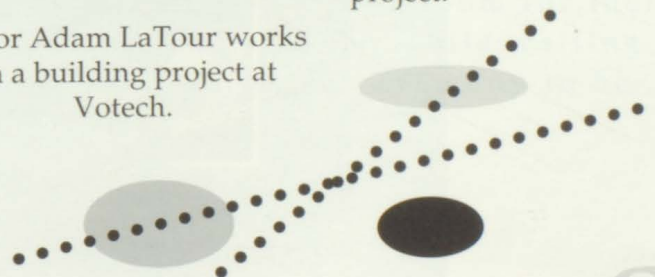
Junior Abbie Brown tickles the keys in Votech's advanced computer facility. Here she gains valuable experience for a variety of computer related career fields.



Junior Adam LaTour works on a building project at Votech.



Sophomore Jacob Jewel, also a student at Votech, carefully uses a blow torch for his welding project.



GRADUATION 1997

*"DO NOT FOLLOW WHERE THE PATH MAY LEAD.
GO INSTEAD WHERE THERE IS NO PATH AND LEAVE A TRAIL."*

Class Colors: Cardinal & Black **Class Flower:** White Rose

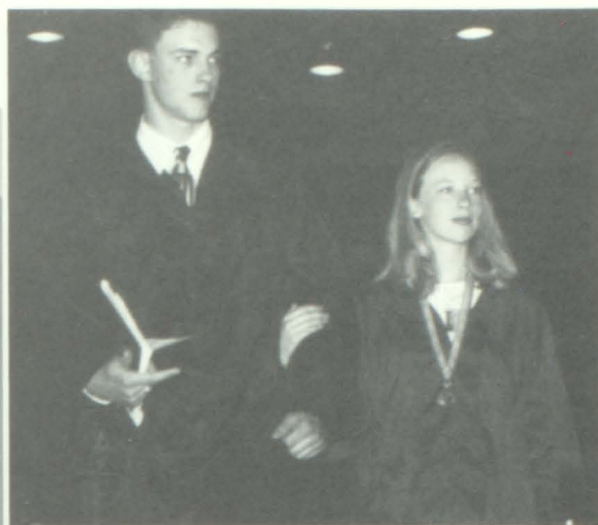
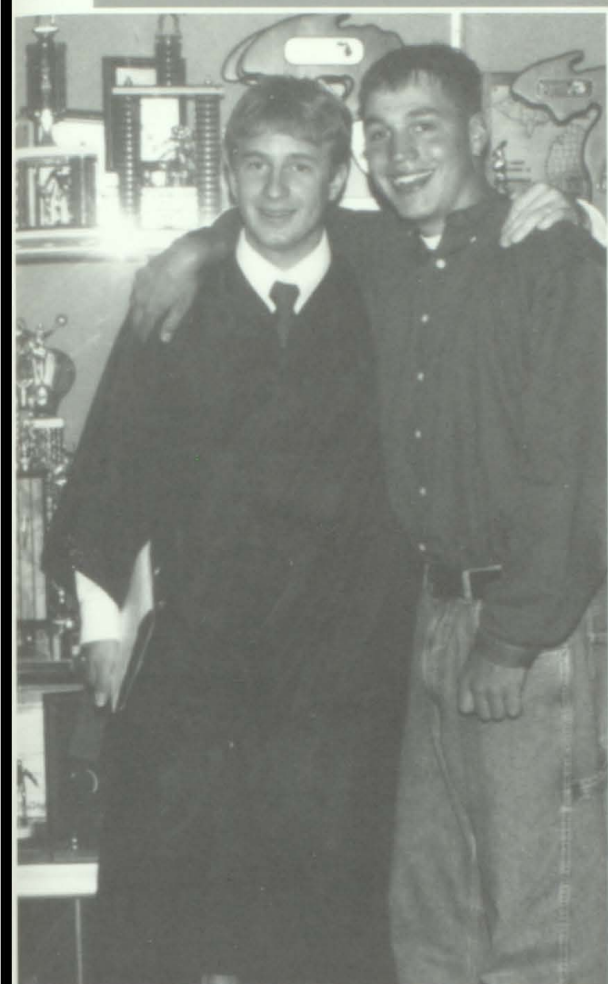
Speakers: Doug Case & Mike Novak



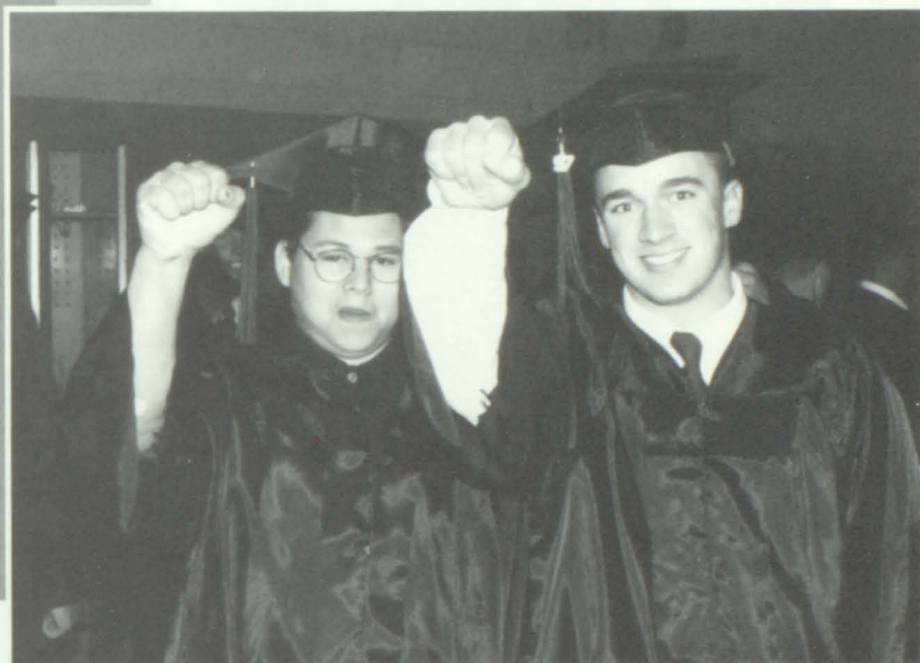
ABOVE LEFT &
RIGHT:
Mark Saxton and
Yoshie Tomoda
receive their diplo-
mas from Don
Neuroth, school
board president.



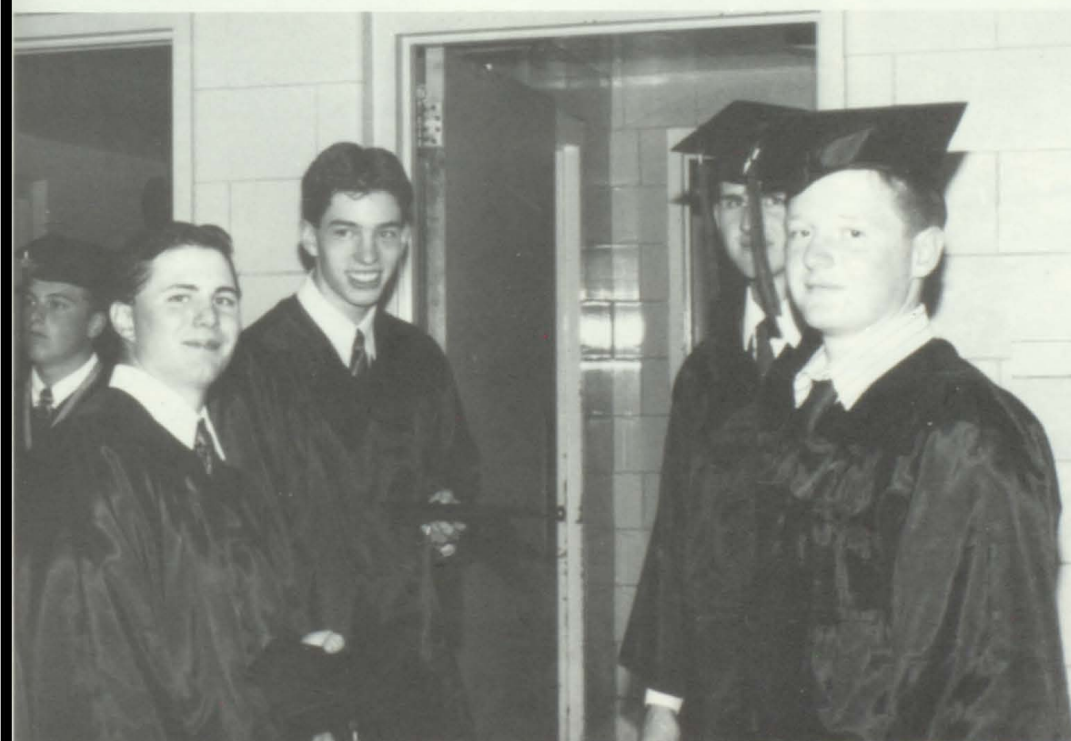
BELOW: Jim Burtle pals up with 1996 graduate Dan Crist for a picture.



LEFT: Jay McCabe and Alison Prielipp were walking partners for the ceremony.



ABOVE: Ronald Navarro and Eric Frederick show that they are proud to be graduating.



LEFT: Sam Pratt, Ben Brenke, David Buehrer, and Don Marcus talk in the locker room for their last time while waiting for the ceremony to begin.

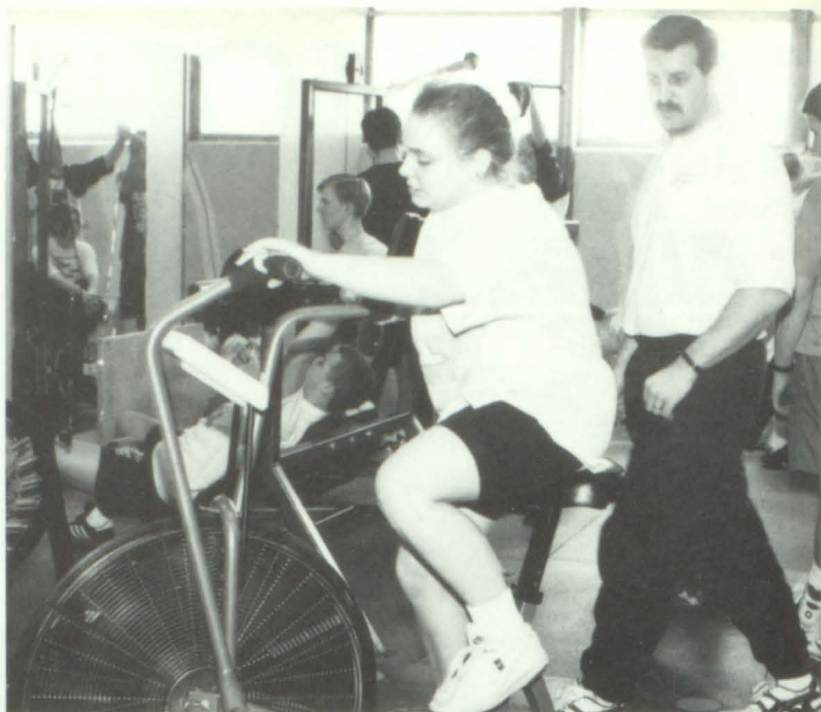
CLASS LIFE



ABOVE:
Stacie Keswick
and Jason Butler
work on a
project in art
class.

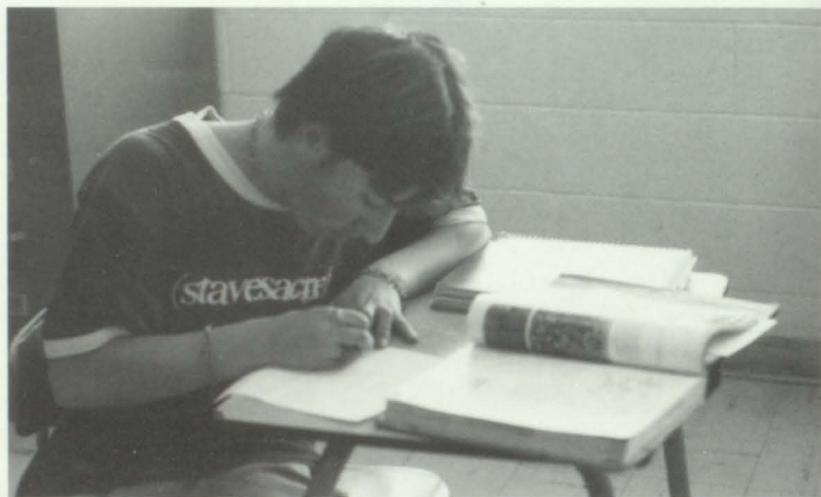


Cyndi Case reads to elementary
students for an assignment in her
public speaking class.



Alisha Patterson rides the newly purchased exercise bike
in gym class. The bike was bought at the beginning of the
school year to better equip the schools weight room.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk



ABOVE:
Ben Flores
works on a paper
for english class.



Jake Jensen and Gerald Marchal examine a sample
in science class.



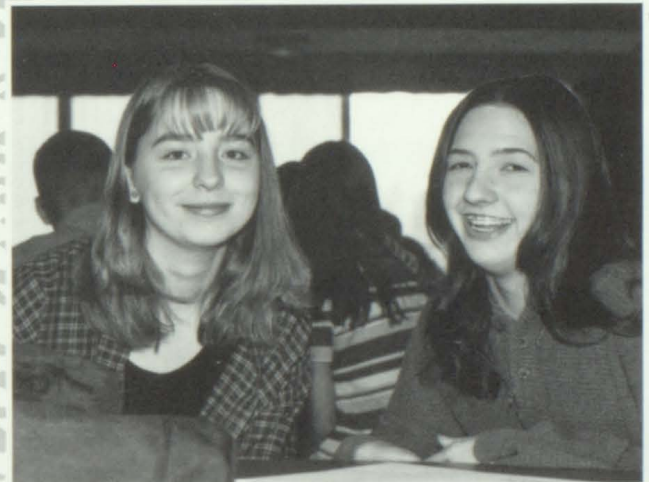
LEFT:
Nicolasa Guterrez
quietly studies in
the library.

Students



Brooke Cranor puts the finishing touches on her work

Leah Stimac, Deatra Fritz, and Marcia Winzeler relax during the break time of semester exams.

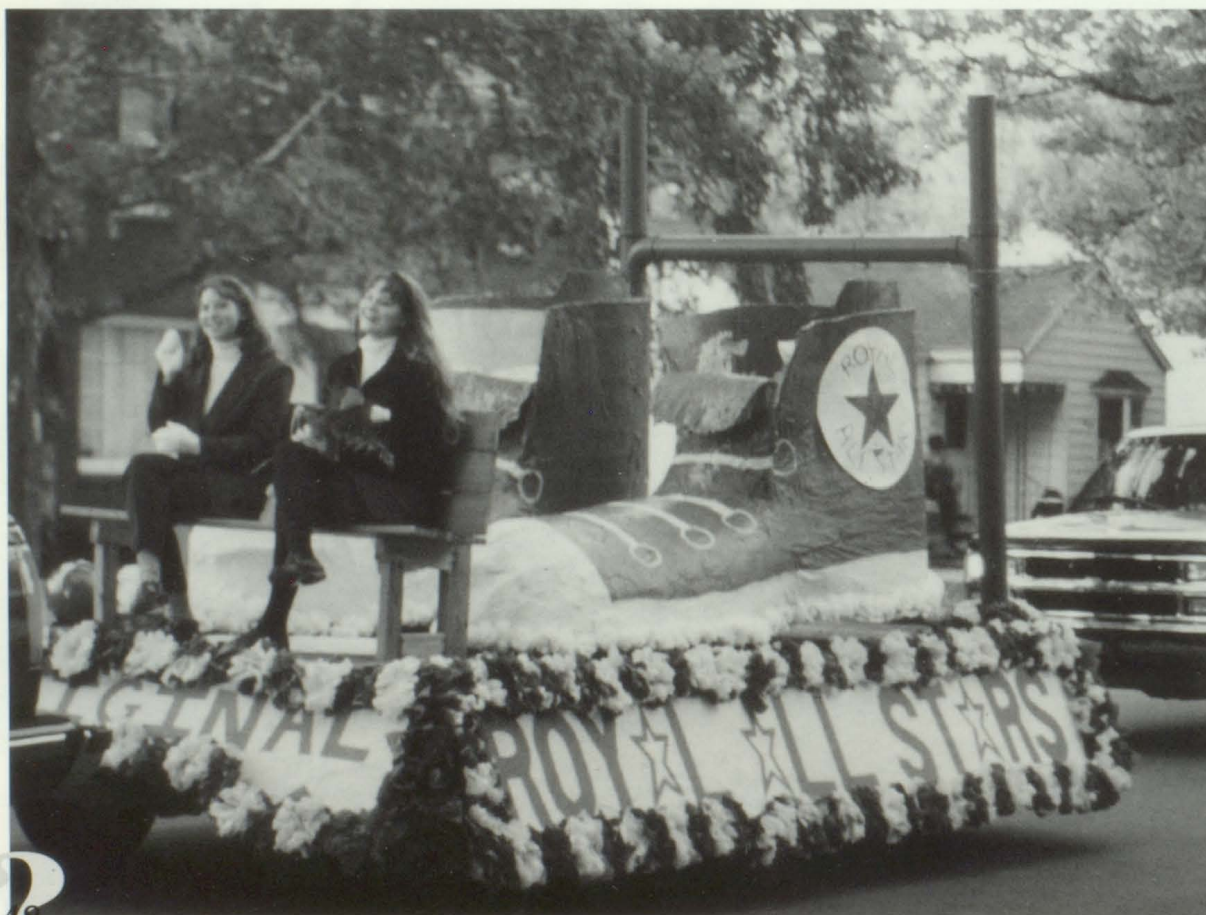


Laura Thompson and Deena Berger take time out during lunch to pose for this candid shot

Students enjoy life in Blissfield. Although open campus may be a thing of the future, as you can see there is always time for friends. Academics are important here, but sometimes you need to sit back and relax with your friends. Lunch and mid-morning break give students a chance to do just that.

Seniors

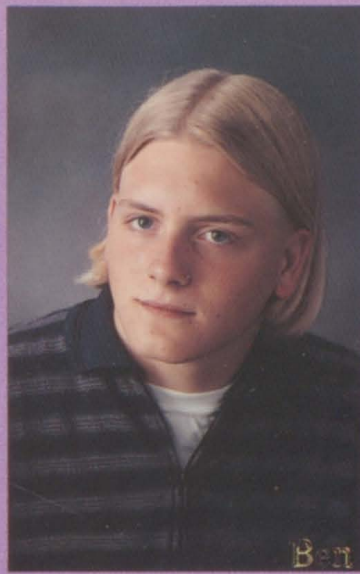
Right: Tina Bergman, Shane Prielipp and Amanda Heiden share their smiles. Left: Melody Sheldon voices her opinion at the school convention. Below: Ron Navarro, Cyndi Case and Liz Cornell support their states at the convention.



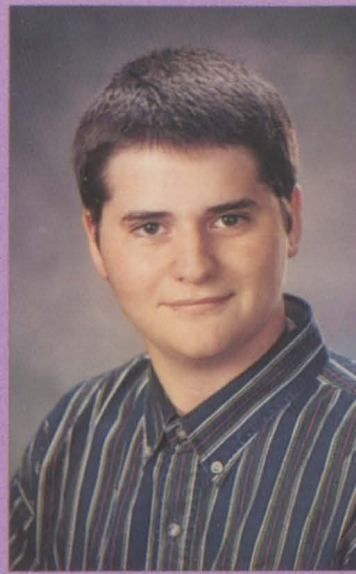
Top: Charlie Jacobson stops to work the hall. Center: Robert Ball shows his spirit for the Royals. Left: Sarah Munoz and Mandi Goetz grace the senior float.



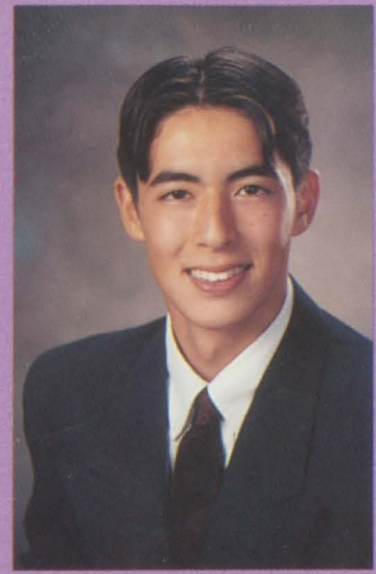
Molly Amstutz



Benjamin Bailey



Martin Balestra



Robert Ball



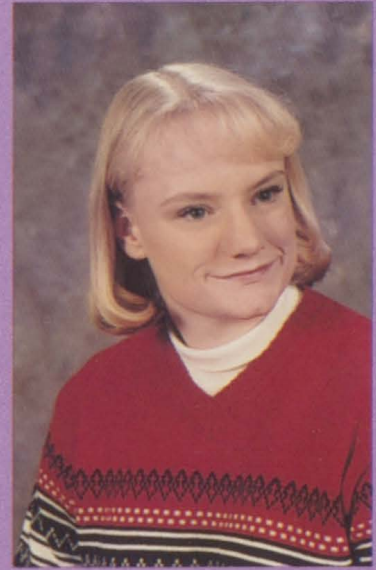
Jeremiah Beagle



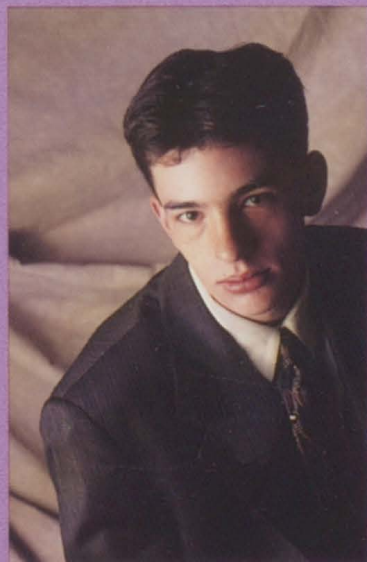
Deena Berger



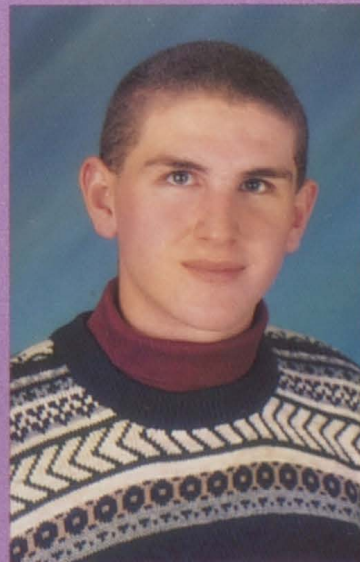
Tina Bergman
Treasurer



Tara Bowman



Benjamin Brenke



David Buehrer



James Burtle



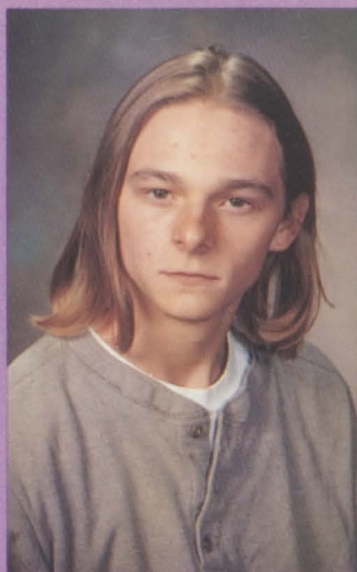
Mike Butler



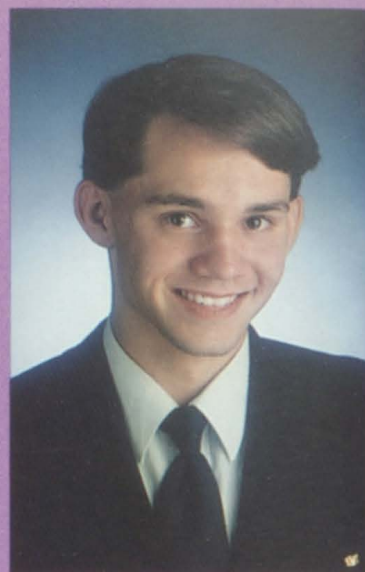
Justin Calhoun



Cynthia Case
Class Secretary



Casey Chandler



Robert Coffelt



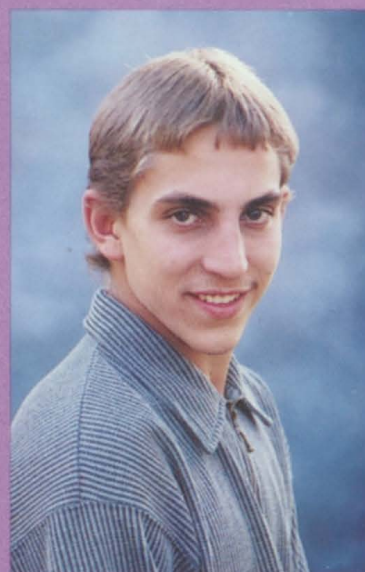
Keri Collins



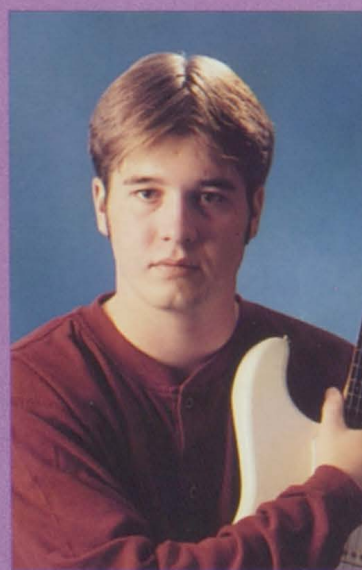
Elizabeth Cornell



Jonathon Courtright



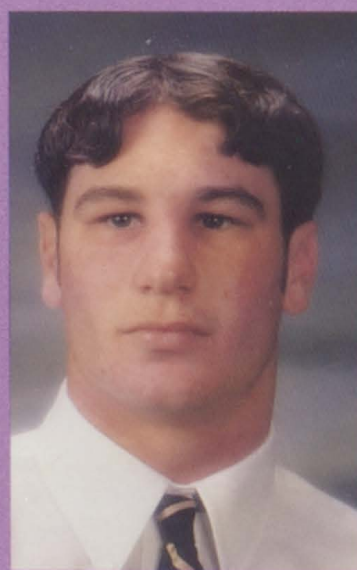
Matthew Dilley



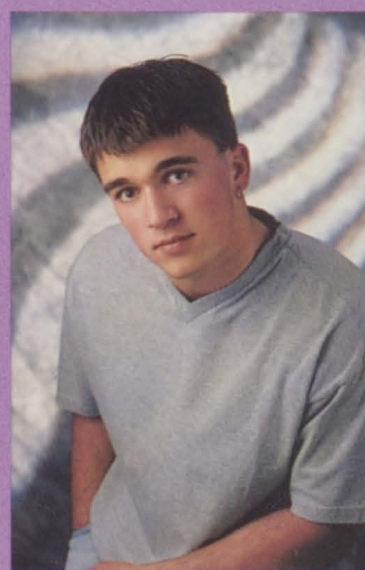
Ian Fay



Angela Fetzer



Chad Fetzer



Eric Frederick



Melonnie Furgason



Rebecca Gallup



Pedro Garza



Mandi Goetz



Jeremy Goodson



Nicole Gould



Jennifer Gregg



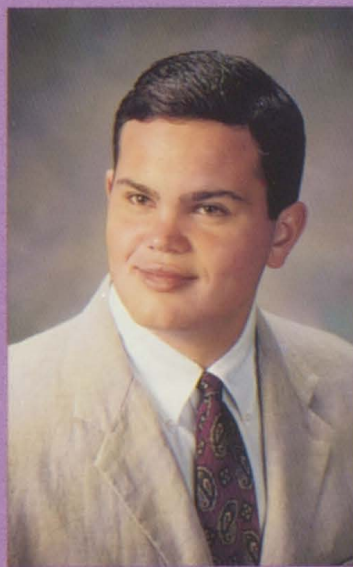
Lucas Gritzmaker



Amanda Heiden



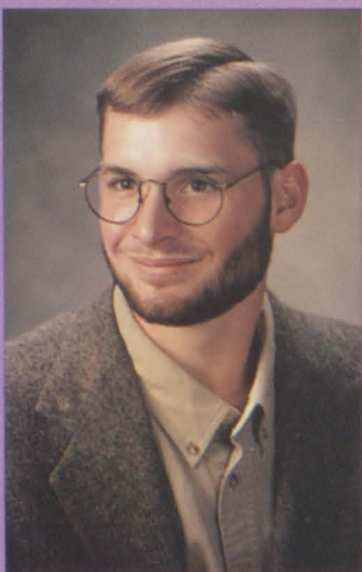
Racheal Herman



Micah Hinde



Ryan Horky



Chet Hudson



Tiffany Isley



Charles Jacobson
Class Vice President



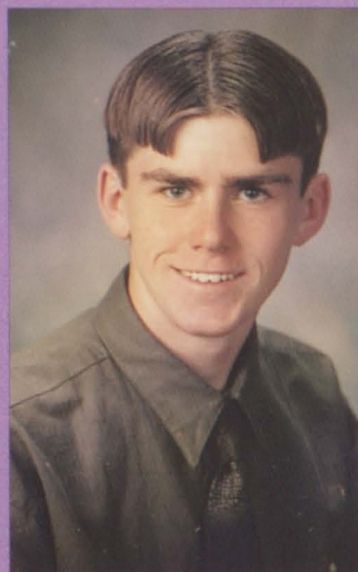
Amanda Jensen
Class President



Shannon Karl



Lori Kastel



Scott Kastel



Kurt Keller



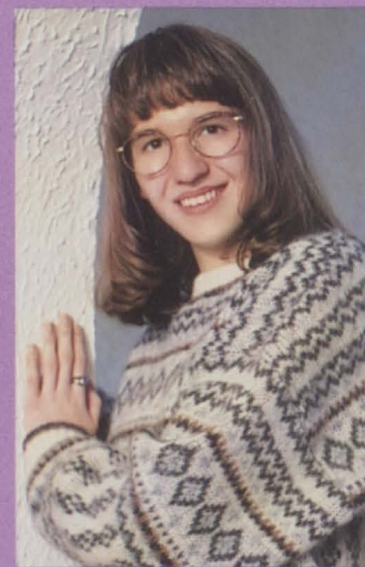
Stacey Keswick



Stacey Krueck



Nathan Lajiness



Michaela Laviolette



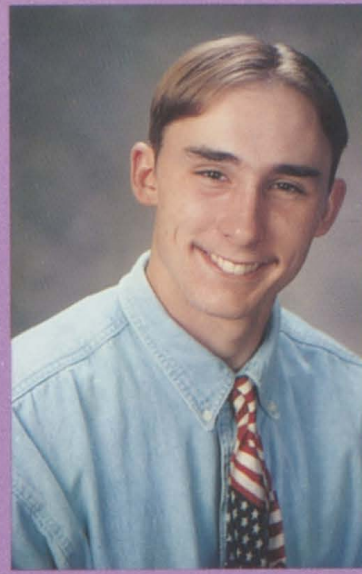
Kirk LaVoy



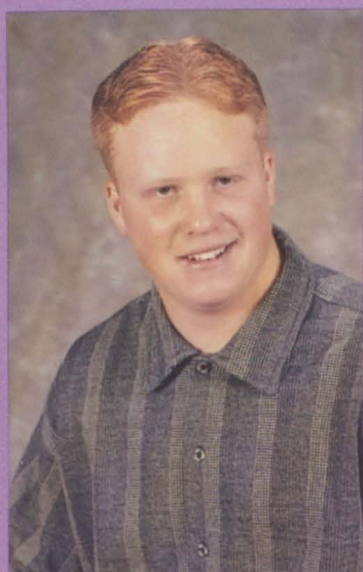
Lisa Lewis



Edward Loar



Anthony Lubinski



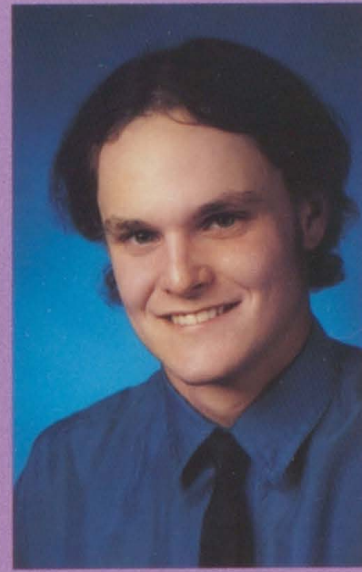
Ryan Mallory



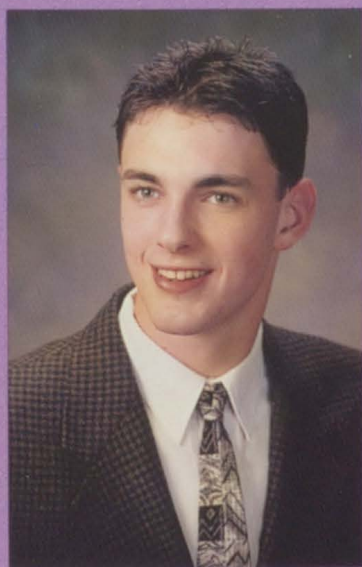
Donald Marcus



Tammy Martinez



Luke Mazur



Jay McCabe



Melanie McGovern



Alicia Meyers



Meran Miles



Brian Mitchell



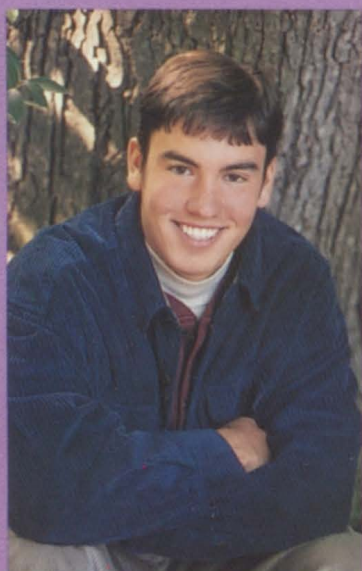
Sarah Munoz



Tina Murphy



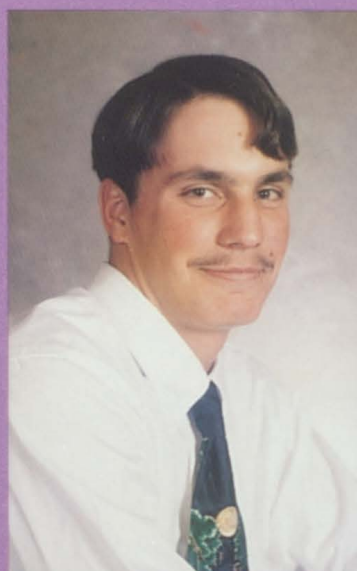
Catherine Navarro
Representative



Michael Newsted



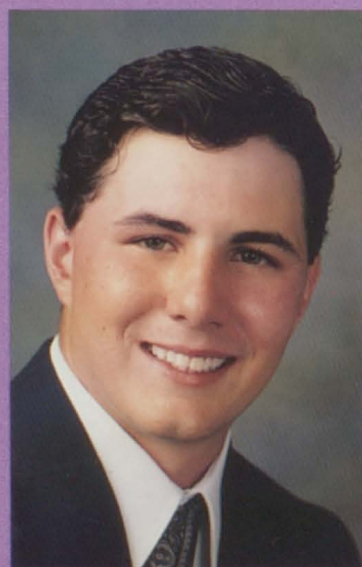
Michelle Pence



David Pixley



Melissa Porter
Vice-President



Samuel Pratt



Alison Prielipp



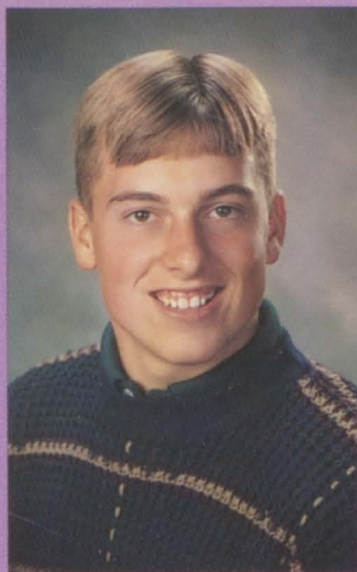
Shane Prielipp
Secretary



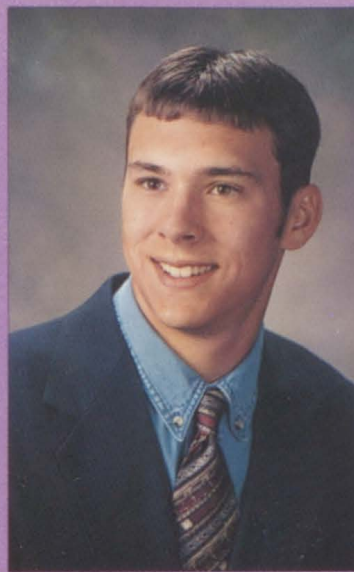
Melissa Rehklau



Amy Roop



Cris Rupp
President



Marc Saxton



Wendy Sayers



Amanda Saylor



Melody Sheldon



Jason Steih



Angela Stimac



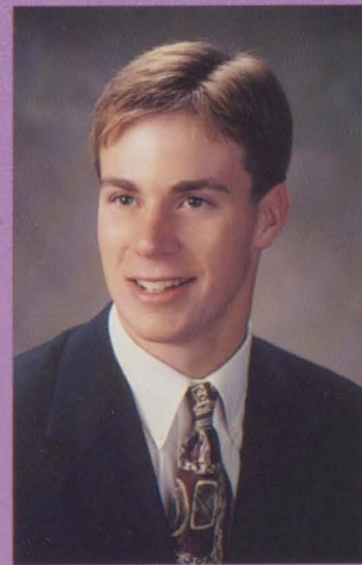
Nathan Stull



Melissa Swartz



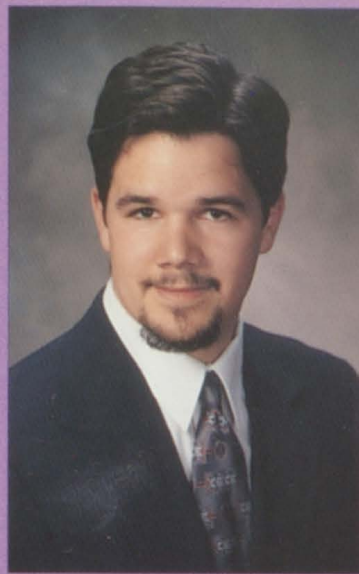
Misty Taylor



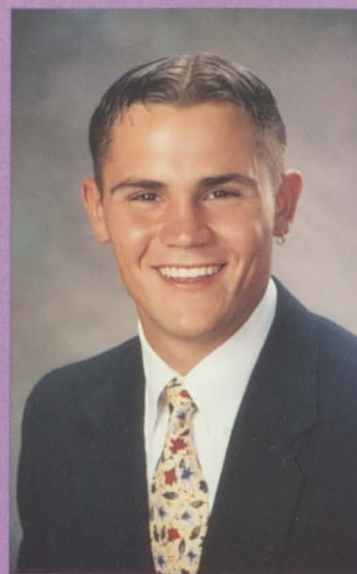
Neil Terry



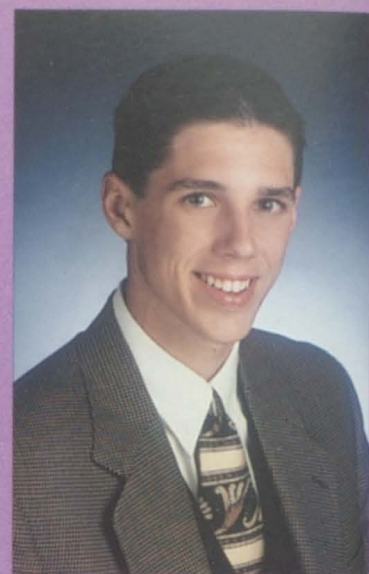
Laura Thompson



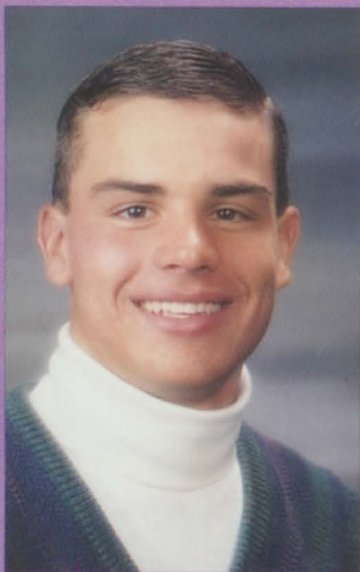
Joshua Van Camp



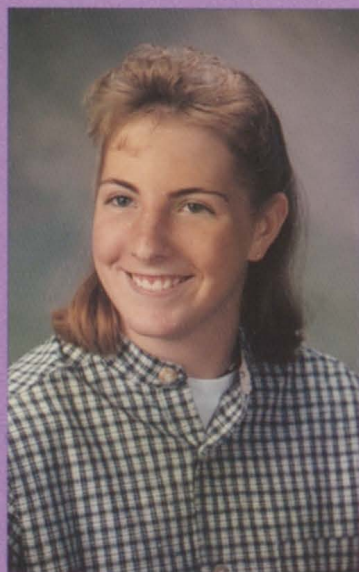
Ryan VanLooke



Kyle Van Shoyck



Stephen Viers



Techia Vore



Jill Weirich
Class Treasurer



Rene Welling



Gary Wells

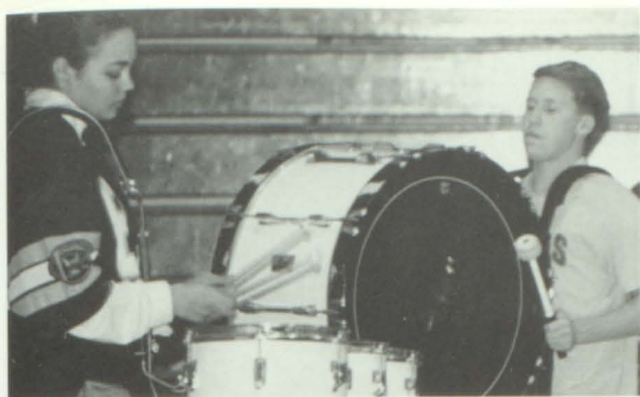


LeeAnn Winkler
Representative



Matthew Wittscheck

Not Pictured: Jason Baird, Charlene Briggs, Jason Butler, Stephen Cook, Jenie Duciaume, Barry Fisher, Rachel Fuller, Theodore Goetz, Jacob Hartman, Karen Maloney, Ronald Navarro, Craig Patteuw, Bradley Rose, Raymond Shepard, Jason Stites, Robert Taylor,



Left: Melissa Swartz and Nathan Stull show their skills on the drums. Lower Left: Stacey Keswick and Rene Welling take a break during spirit week. Right: Jim Burtle enjoys his meal in Anatomy. Lower Right: Nikki Gould and Amy Roop try to stay warm at a football game.



Above: Jennie Gregg shows off her beautiful smile. Left: A group of entergetic seniors participate in the "wall sit" during the Coming Home pep assembly.

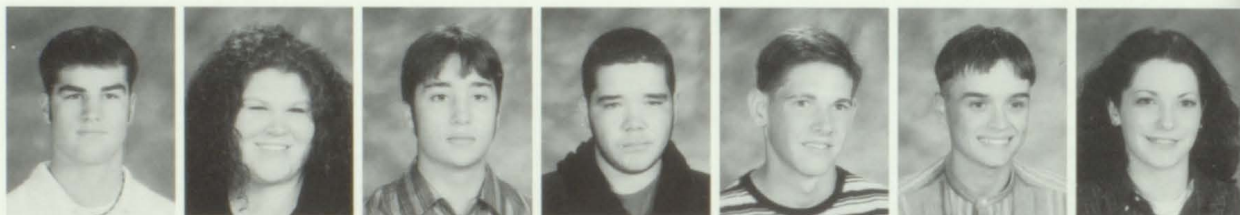
JUNIORS

96-97 Junior Class Council

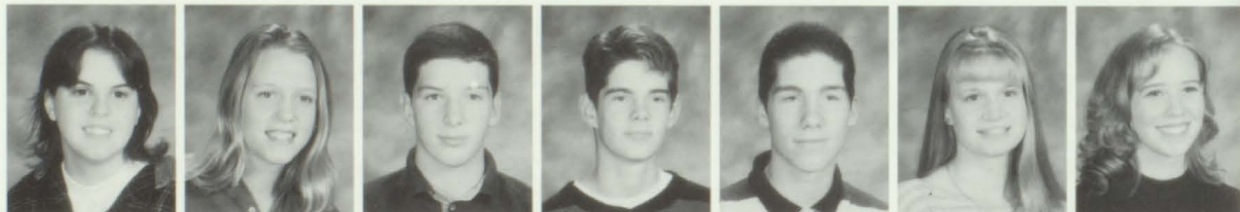
The Class of '98 was led by representatives, Ryan Andrews and Brian Stutzman; vice president, Holly Bowen; secretary, Alaina Phillips; treasurer, Emily Sell and president, Kayla Brown.



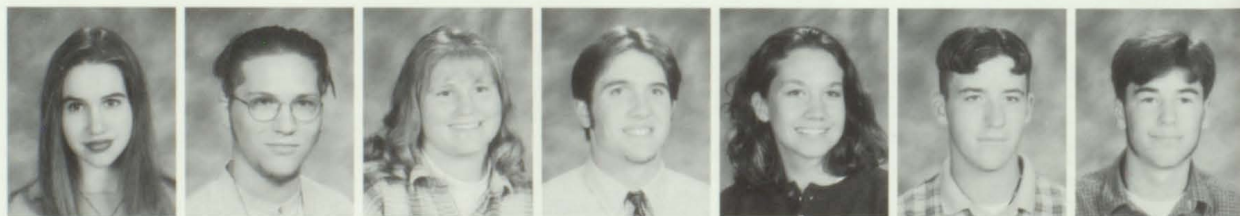
Ryan Andrews
Billie Jo Austin
Collin Ayers
Raymond Bair
Nicholas Bates
Brad Berry
Holly Bowen



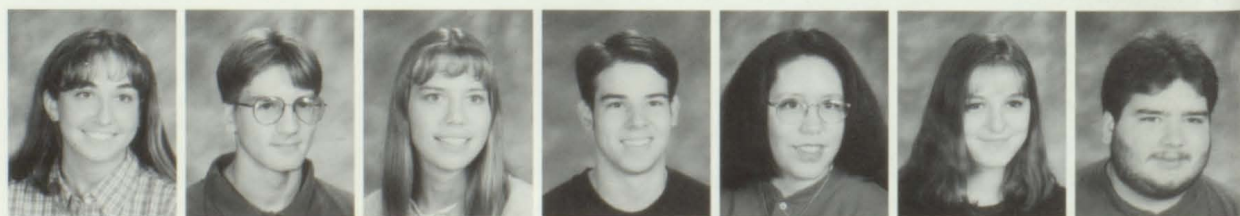
Abigail Brown
Kayla Brown
Timothy Cook
Matt Cremean
Joseph Cubeta
Jill Dickerson
Laura Diebel



Jenny Dilley
Barrett Dvorsky
Amanda Emerson
Andrew Fay
Janine Filipek
Nicholas Fisher
Samuel Forche



Melanie Fritz
Nicholas Furgason
Kelly Gill
Toby Goetz
Nicolas Gutierrez
Alanna Hephner
Steve Hershberger





Howard Ickler
Nichole Jean
Jennnifer Jerew
Michael Karg
Sarah Kerekgyarto
Steven Koester
Bo Koppelman



Adam LaTour
Nicholas Loader
Dustin Loar
Nathan Loar
Carrie Lott
Christina Luckhardt
Ben Marks



Stephen Marks
Leann Mason
Joshua Mattek
Beth Miller
Justin Miller
Sarah Miller
Shonda Mitchell



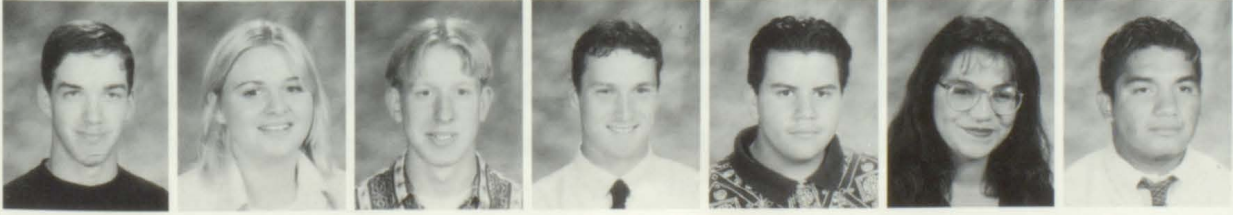
Junior class council discovers that a game of Twister can turn Bottoms Up.



Billie Jo Austin, Carrie Lott, and Jill Dickerson show their enthusiasm during spirit week.



Heather Nevins
Molly Nieman
Cory Niles
Gretchen Pagel
Alaina Phillips
Brad Phillips
Christopher Piros



Bryan Reed
Jamie Reed
Samuel Risher
Reggie Robinson
B-Jay Rodriguez
Kristy Rodriguez
Justin Rosas

Greathen Sauter
James Seiser
Emily Sell
Jenny Sell
Julie Sell
Nicholas Sheldon
Nicholas Shrader



Consuelo Silva
David Jr. Smith
Jared Snyder
Jessica Streby
Brent Stutzman
Brian Stutzman
Nicholas Sullivan



Justin Thompson
Yoshie Tomada
Anne Veres
Jennifer Visingardi
Jennifer White
Neil Wilson
Thomas Young



Not Pictured: Jennifer Fuhrman
Lucas Hartman
Jacob Heine
Melissa Shopshire
Rochelle Welling
Bryce Wilson

Class of 1998



Jennie Visingardi and Alaina Phillips pose for a quick picture at the football game.



Kelly Gill and Melanie Fritz show school spirit by selling programs.



52 Nicolasa Gutierrez hits the books in the library.



Greathen Sauter sizes up the cominghome float.

Sophomores

Sophomore Class Council

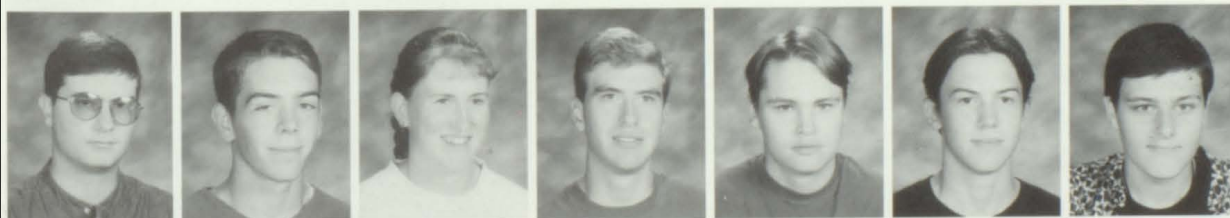
The class of '99 officers are Justin Casterline, Alan Langmeyer, Molly Force, Renee Porter, Shana Kitson and Lindsey Ruhl.



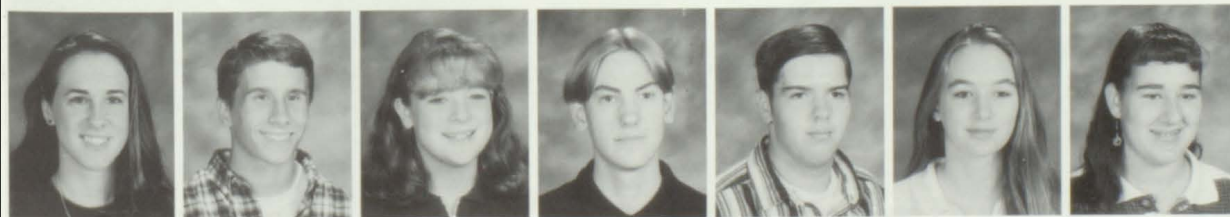
Joshua Allshouse
Tanisha Ayers
Patricia Bair
Stacy Barrett
Melissa Benko
Scott Bergman
Bethany Berry



Jason Berry
Ryan Betz
Jason Bradshaw
Hillary Brockway
Jordan Brusseau
Valerie Bryan
Heather Burgermeister



Christopher Butler
Justin Caserline
Sarah Clark
Todd Clark
Bradley Collins
Michael Cory
Andrew Cotttrill



Brooke Cranor
Nicholas Darn
Amanda Davis
Kim Derousie
Charles Desloover
Michelle Dewey
Jamie Dominique

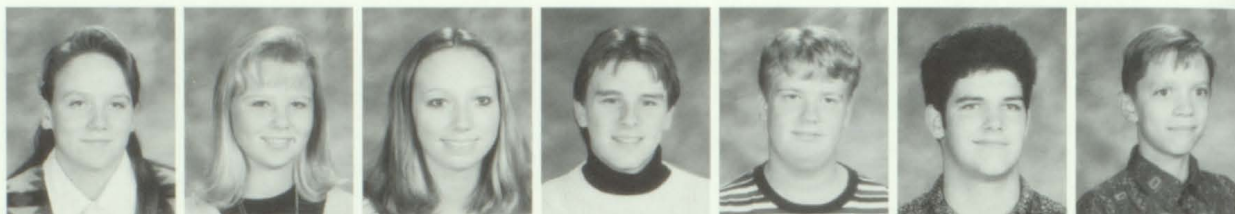
Christina Ebright
Eric Eisenmann
Misty Erheart
Amanda Escobedo
Kristen Fick
Jacob Fink
Molly Force



Kelly Forgas
Rocco Freer
Bradley Fritz
Lana Frye
Jami Gallatin
Katarina Garza
Jennah Gentz



Brandi Goetz
Corianne Goetz
Kilee Goetz
Brian Goodfriend
Christopher Gorski
Jared Goulart
Matthew Gritzmaker



Jeremiah Hackathorn
Arthur Hallock
Rachael Hartzell
William Herman
Crystal Hershburger
Sarah Heydinger
Adam Hinde



Amy Hood
Craig Horky
Jennifer Jean
Jacob Jewell
Andy Jones
Temira Kafer
Melinda Kendall



Sheana Kitson
Timothy Kudlac
Matt Kwiatkowski
Brandy LaTour



Lindsey Lake
Alan Langmeyer
Jennifer Leking
Alicia Loar



Leslie Lockwood
Ben Mainka
Erin Marchal
Aaron Martin



Stacy Barrett picks a winner
at the Blissfield Convention.



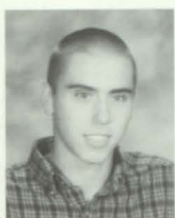
Jeremy Martis
Kathryn Mc Gabe



Justin Merillat
Jessica Miles

Renee Porter, Katie McCabe, Laura Mitchell, and Lindsey Ruhl are just waiting for the action to happen.

Class of 1999



Dawn Miller
Brandon Milosh
Laura Mitchell
Kristin Moore
Juanita Navarro
Brandon Noe
Jennifer Overhulse



Teri Patterson
Shelby Piotter-Anderson
Gary Pixley
Laura Pixley
Rachel Pixley
Joshua Porter
Renee Porter



Sharina Prock
Samuel Pyle
Gabriel Rehklau
Eleasa Risher
Dickey Robinson
Lindsey Ruhl
David Ruhlig



Michelle Rumsey
Jacob Rye
Laura Saxton
Kendra Scobie
Korry Scott
Trevor Seeger
Jeff Smith



Amber Soss
Kenneth Staup
Levi Stoker
Matthew Stutzman
Kathryn Taylor
Laura VanCamp
Bradley Van Stavern



Mike Cory, Hillary Brockway, Kilee Goetz, Rocco Freer and Laura Mitchell enjoying the snowball.



Renee Porter poses for a picture at the Blissfield convention.

Mickey Vance
Michelle Wahl
Jennifer Wells
Nathan Wilson
Amber Wyse



Left: Sophomores take a seat at the Cominghome pep assembly. **Below:** Al Langmeyer concentrates on his art work. **Lower Left:** Sheana Kitson and Rachael Hartzell exchange a word during play rehearsal.



Freshmen

Freshmen Class Council

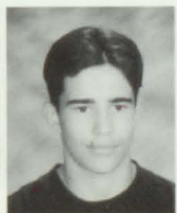
The Class of 2000 began its BHS experience led by Todd Rupp, Amy Marine, Zack Friess, Zeb Waterbury, Kim Sander, and Debbie Aldrich.



Debra Aldrich
Benjamin Allion
Nicholas Aneed
Erik Ashford
Nicholas Austin
Jeff Bartenslager
Julia Barton



Sarah Betz
Wayne Bierman
Jason Bourdette
Anne Bradshaw
Jason Brown
Angel Bryan
John Burtle



Tony Bush
Cazzie Casanova
Steven Clark
Carrie Cole
Jessica Cooner
Dawn Cox
Bradley Decatur



Alycia Demey
Celeste Dixon
Miriam Douge
Matthew Dunbar
Brandon Elliott
Jenny Evers
Ann Fisher

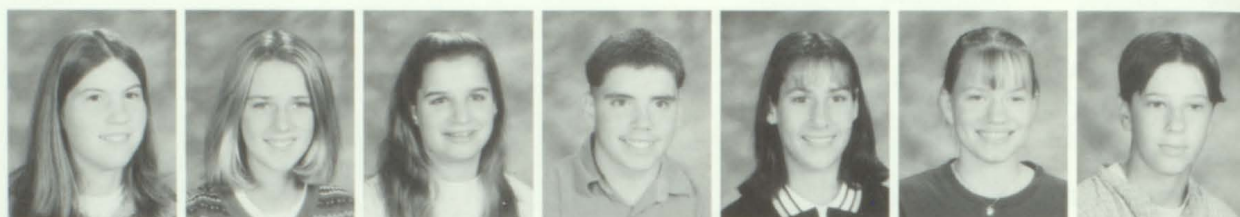
Ginnie Fleenor
Benjamin Flores
Adria Foote
Nichole Fowler
Carrie Francoeur
Heather Francoeur
Zack Friess



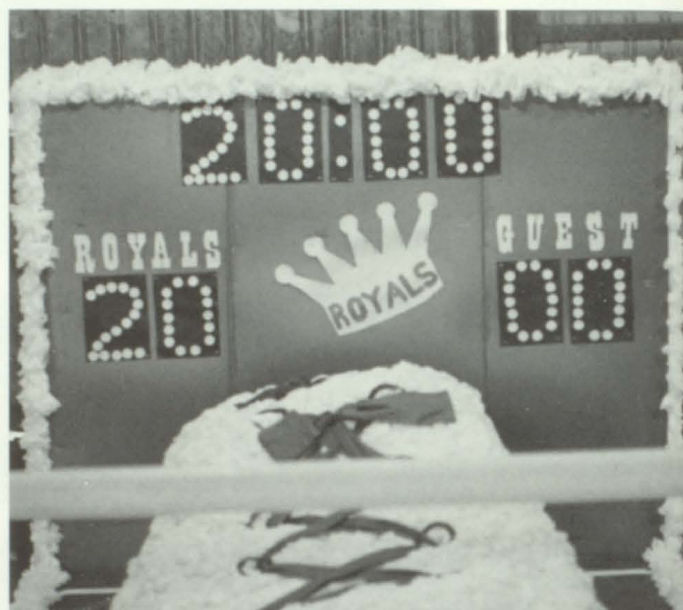
Deatra Fritz
Justin Fuhrman
Randy Gallup
Jennifer Gates
Seth Goetz
Trisha Goetz
Elizabeth Gritzmaker



Heather Hagenbuch
Kari Hallett
Bethany Harpst
Thomas Hilyard
Nicole Hoagland
Erin Hufford
Jacob Jensen



Jacob Jensen and John Burtle are caught wandering the halls.



The class of 2000 knows how to build the winning float.

Diane Jones
Stuart Killian
Ryan Klump
Heather Knight
Kyle Knoblauch
Robert Lamere
Lorelei Laviolette



Janine Lavoy
Denise Libstaff
Jeffery Lietzke
Scott Loar
Derek Locker
Justin Love
Jessica Loveland





The freshmen show class spirit at the pep assembly.



Gerald Marchal
Amy Marine
Janessa Martolock
Paul Mercer
Gwynne Mock
Jonathan Mowery
Tracy Munoz



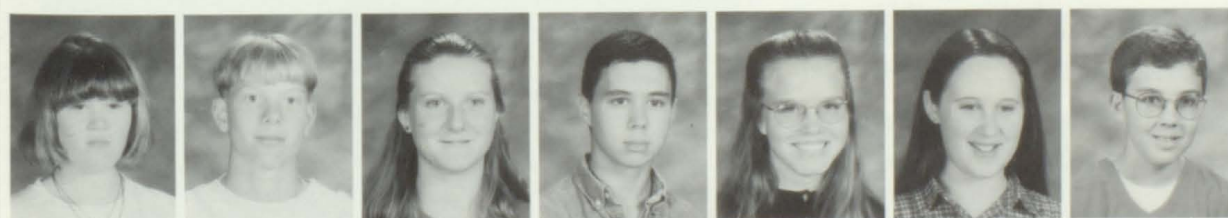
Marc Navarro
Angela Nowak
Alisha Patterson
Kyle Phillips
Shaunna Phillips
Andrew Pooley
Gary Portillo



Sarah Pyle
Jacob Retter
Sarah Retter
Meagan Ricker
Suzanne Ries
Todd Rupp
Tommy Russell



Kimberly Sander
Nicole Sauter
Casey Schaedler
Chad Segur
Victoria Sell
Jay Sheldon
David Shepard



Sarah Shopshire
Scott Siefert
Brandi Snyder
James Snyder
Leah Stimac
Kimberly Sutherland
Matthew Swartz

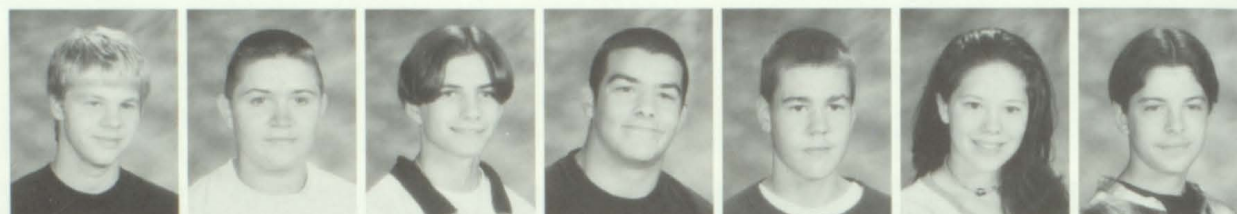
Sydney Thanasiu
Jacob Thompson
Dustin Tipping
Jenny Torres
Jessica Torres
John Townes
Randy Tussing



Tyler Vansteenikste
Jacob Visingardi
Dennis Vore
Kellie Wahl
Rachel Walters
Renee Walters
Miranda Warner



Zeb Waterbury
Jeffery Wells
Ken Wells
Ben Wilson
Cody Wilson
Marcia Winzeler
Tyson Winzeler



Not Pictured: Jeffery Boss
Tabatha Gonzales
Jason Wallace



Vicki Sell and Shaunna Phillips strolling the halls during class.



Kellie Wahl, Marcia Winzeler and Alisha Demey (front) are freezing, yet still having fun at the home football game.

Amanda Wittscheck
Luke Wold
Leigha Woodward
Karen Yockey
Justin Yovanov
Katie Zimmerman



Arts & Organizations



Matt Cremean, Jared Goulart, and Nick Sullivan prepare for opening night of this year's play.

The Blissfield band entertains fans during halftime of a football game.



Charlie DeSlover and Steve Cook talk about future FFA events.

At Blissfield High School, there is something for everyone. Between plays, musicals, Key Club, French Club or any of the numerous organizations, there is never a dull moment after school. Being involved in an organization takes time and lots of hard work, but Blissfield students are always up to the challenge..



Kendra Scobie prepares to play her flute at the Mock Convention



Ian Fay and Jim Seiser take a break from playing their instruments in the chilly football season weather.



Celeste Dixon plays her clarinet with the band during the Homecoming pep rally.



BAND



The BHS band, directed by Mr. Harris, had an extremely busy, and event-filled year. The band supported the Royals and showed off their school spirit at every home basketball and football game. BHS students were revved up at the Homecoming, Coming Home, and mock Convention pep rally's, where the band also performed. The band's talent was showed off to the community in thier Christmas and Spring concerts, as well as the Homecoming and Memorial Day parades.



John Townes shows his enthusiasm for the band at one of the season's home football games.

Band Members

Jason Berry	Gwynne Mock
Bradley Decatur	Jonathon Mowery
Charlie Desloover	Tina Murphy
Celeste Dixon	Melissa Porter
Chris Ebright	Melissa Rehlau
Ian Fay	Michelle Rumsey
Kristen Fick	Tommy Russel
Ginni Fleenor	Kendra Scobie
Jacob Heine	James Seiser
Racheal Herman	Nathan Stull
Erin Hufford	John Townes
Amanda Jensen	Laura VanCamp
Shannon Karl	Rochelle Welling
Stuart Killion	Jennifer Wells
Heather Knight	Ken Wells
Brandy LaTour	Amber Wyse
Ryan Mallory	Justin Yovanov
Melanie McGovern	



Members of the Blissfield High School Band dressed and ready to go before their winter concert.



Members of the band pep up the crowd at the Mock Convention.



The brass ensemble plays a Christmas piece at the winter band concert.

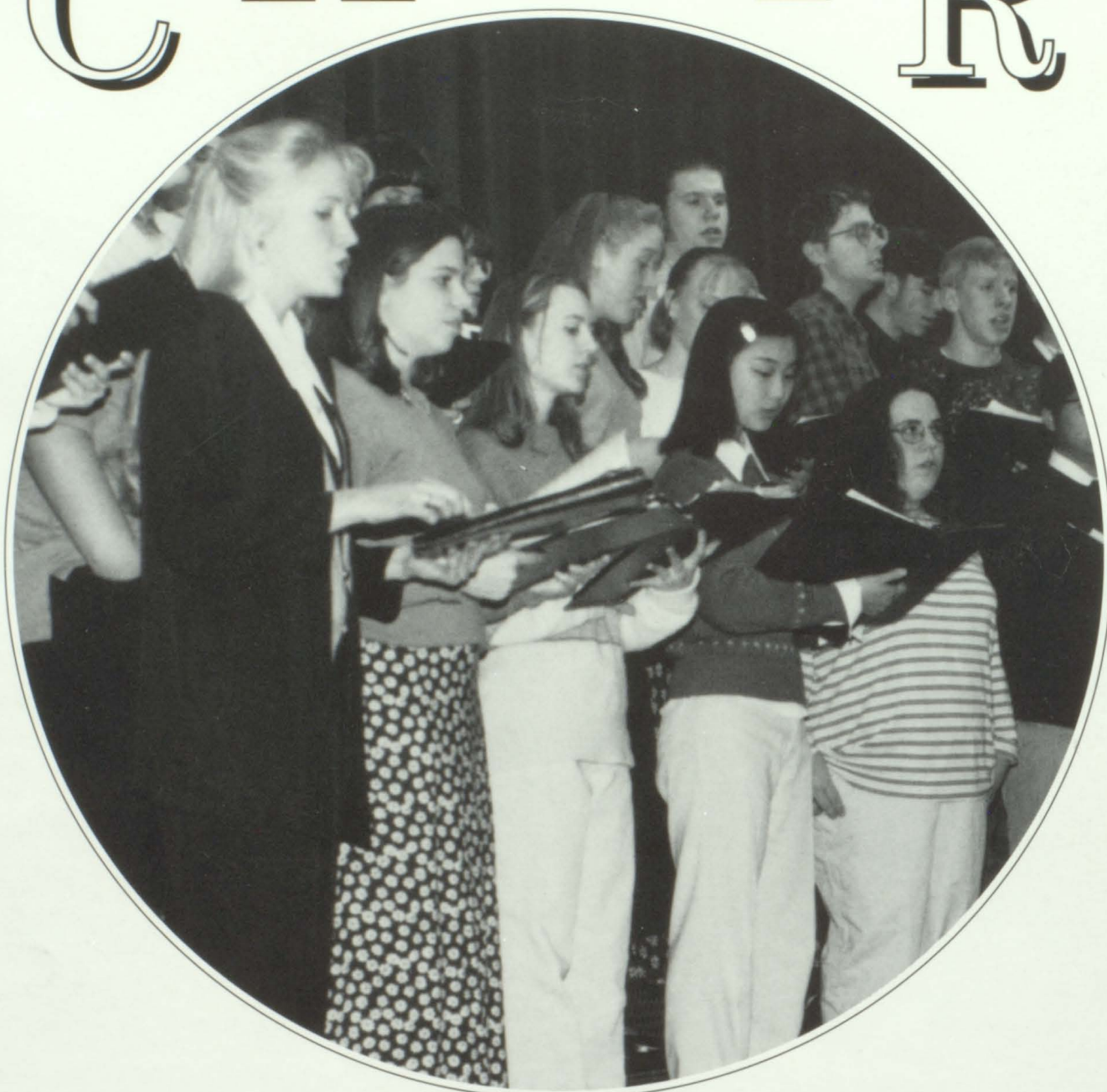


Erin Hufford rates highest at Solo and Ensemble

Erin Hufford, a freshman, competed in January at MSBOA's (Michigan School's Band and Orchestra Association) Solo and Ensemble festival. Erin competed with a piece played on her trumpet.

She received a "1," which is the highest a contestant can receive. That rating also qualified Erin to go on to compete at the state level.

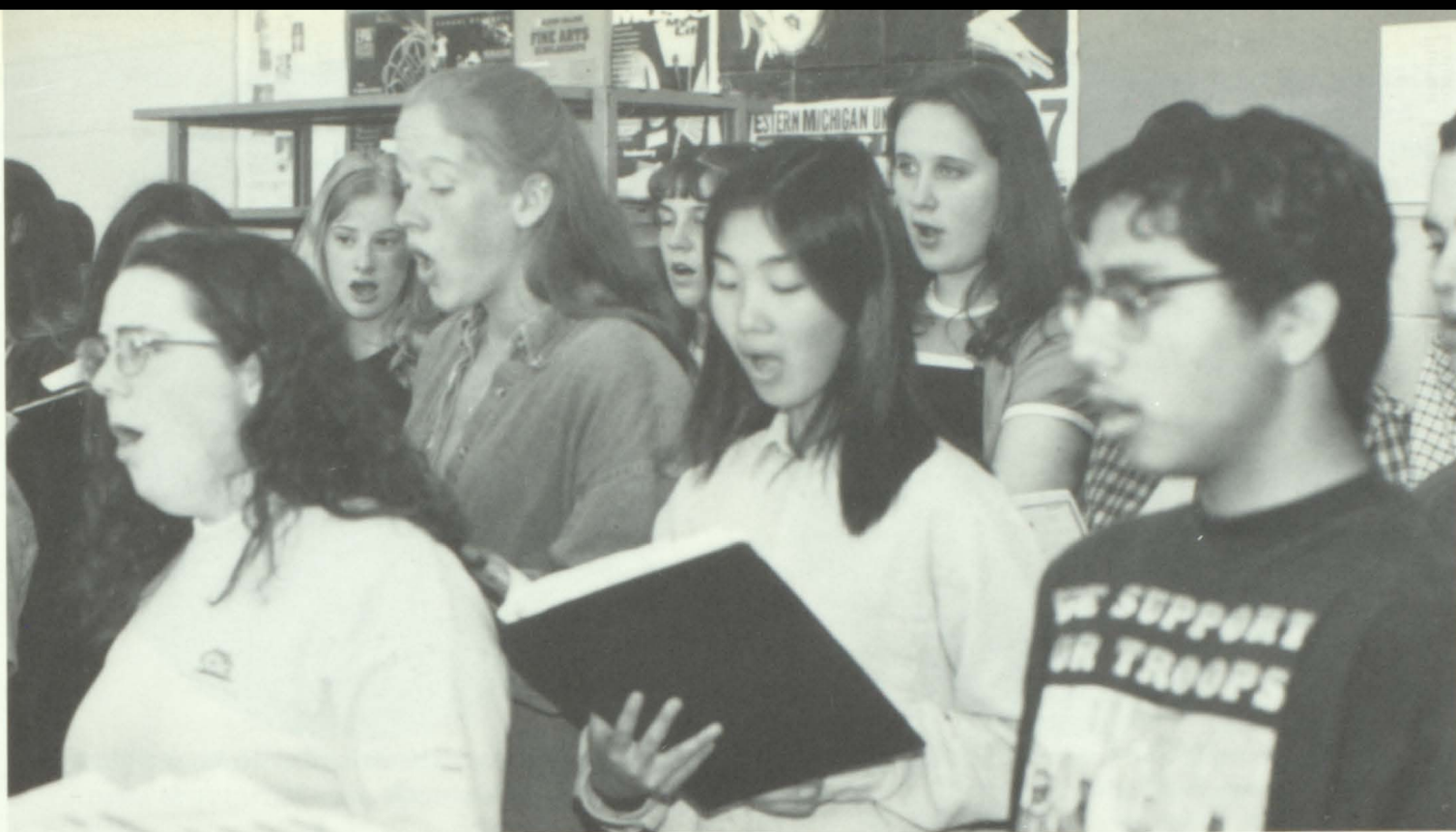
CHOIR



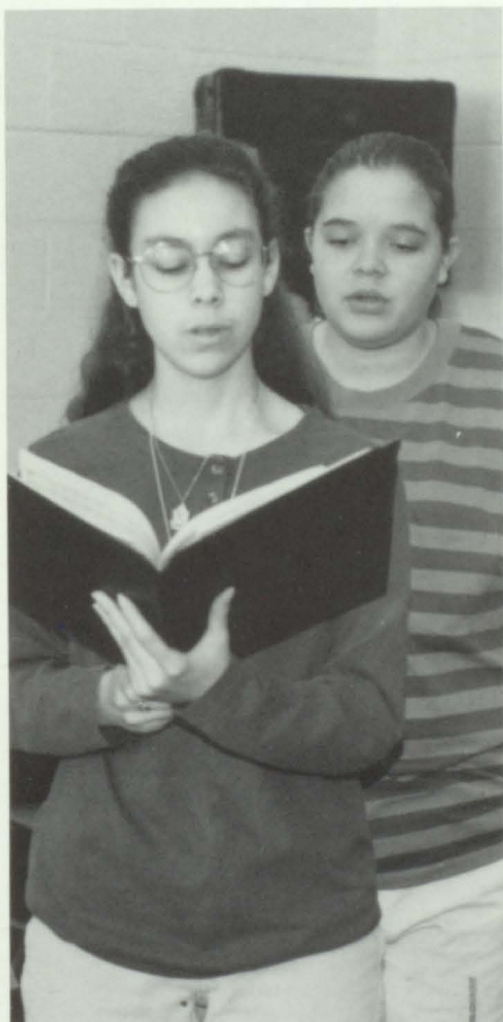
"It's a marshmallow world in the winter..." Choir students sing old and new Christmas favorites at the winter concert.

The choir, along with director Mrs. Sell, kept up a busy schedule this school year. Class periods were spent learning new songs, rehearsing for concerts, and pepping each other up for competitions.

Choir goes beyond class work, though. This year the choir was involved in a new event at BHS--the Variety Show which turned out to be a great success. They also performed at their winter concert and a spring recital highlighting only a few of the choir members. And as they do every year, the Royal Singers once again performed at the graduating class' Baccalaureate program. In January, members of the choir participated in the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Ellie Risher and Shauna Phillips both went on to compete at the state level after scoring "1's" at the Solo and Ensemble District competition.



Choir members rehearse for an upcoming concert. *Left to right:* Molly Nieman, Miranda Warner, Ellie Risher, Meagan Ricker, Yoshie Tomoda, Kim Sutherland, Marc Navarro.



Patty Blair looks on with Jessica Miles as they rehearse together.



Mike Butler stretches his vocal chords to sound his best.



Dawn Miller intently follows her music as she learns a new song.



Ron Navarro sings a holiday jingle at the Christmas choir concert.



Yoshie Tomoda and Jimmy Seiser take their turn dancing with each other at the ball.



"I could almost be in love..." Rose and Douglas take a dance break.

Meet Me In St. Louis



"Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, Meet me at the fair..." The cast sings along with Grandpa (Jimmy Seiser) as he visualizes the fairgrounds. Joining the cast were two actresses new to the challenge of high school performance: Kristin Howard (Agnes), a seventh grader, and Emily Zimmerman (Tootie), a third grader.



The Cast Party

66 Ellie Risher, LeeAnn Winkler, Greathen Sauter, and Cyndi Case take a break after the final performance.



Members of the cast hang out together at the party.

All- School Musical

Mrs. Sell (*director*) and the cast and crew of "Meet Me in St. Louis" really pulled together to make the show a success. Whether it was helping someone run through lines back stage, lacing up someone's corset before their big scene, or working together to quickly get the extravagant set up during performances, **everyone** played an important part.

Grandpa- Jimmy Seiser
Tootie- Emily Zimmerman
Agnes- Kristin Howard
Katie- Cyndi Case
Mr. Smith- Nick Sullivan
Mrs. Smith- Jenny White
Lon- Zeb Waterbury
Rose- Ellie Risher
Esther- LeeAnn Winkler
Douglas Moore- Ian Fay
Lucille - Shauna Phillips
John Truitt- Ron Navarro
Frank- Marc Navarro
Chet- Nick Aneed
Stage Crew- Mike Butler,
 Billy Herman, Pat Fillipi,
 Molly Nieman

PeeWee- Craig Horky
Three Classmates- Mandy
 Jensen, Sheana Kitson,
 Rachael Hartzell
Miss Rockwell- Greathen
 Sauter
Dr. Bond- Mike Butler
Chorus- Jessica Miles,
 Meagan Ricker, Kim
 Sutherland, Yoshie
 Tomada, Miranda Warner,
 Jermiah Beagle, Martin
 Balestra
Make-up- Amber Wyse,
 Laura Van Camp, Kristen
 Fick



Tootie and Lon listen carefully as Esther questions Tootie about what song she wants to sing at the party.



Lucille, Esther, and Rose chat at the ball.



"Skip to my Lou my darlin'..." Lon and his little sis, Tootie, dance as the other party-goers watch.



Mr. and Mrs. Smith on their front porch discuss her thoughts on the move to New York.

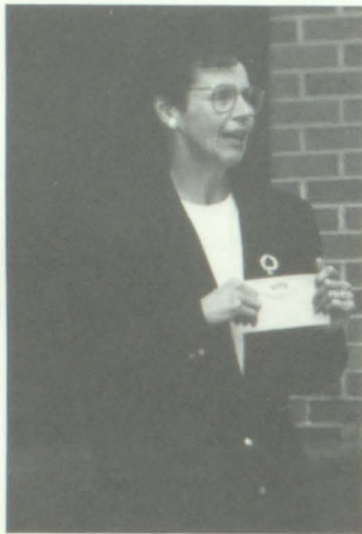


John Truitt listens as Esther sings a sweet goodnight to him after the evening's party.

THIRTEEN PAST MIDNIGHT

Right: The cast listens intently as Durwood (Jared Goulart) introduces the detective, Pete (Jacob Heine.)

Below: The director, Mrs. Mershon.



LeeAnn Winkler
"Lila"



Rachael Hartzell
"Zara"



Kathryn Taylor
Understudy



Jacob Heine
"Pete"



Sheana Kitson



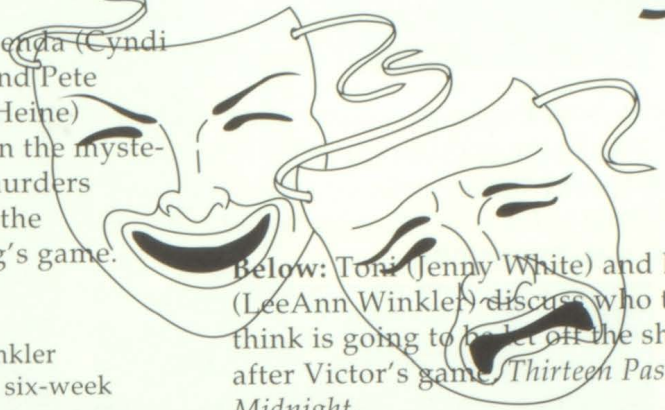
Leann Mason

A last minute run-through on lines before the Big Show.

All-School Play

Left: Brenda (Cyndi Case) and Pete (Jacob Heine) question the mysterious murders during the evening's game.

Below: Toni (Jenny White) and Lila (LeeAnn Winkler) discuss who they think is going to be let off the show after Victor's game *Thirteen Past Midnight*.



Below: Sheana Kitson, Luke Wold, Nick Sullivan, and LeeAnn Winkler demonstrate what a close bond the cast members make during the six-week rehearsals.



The Cast

Girls:

Alanna Hephner
Rachael Hartzell
Sheana Kitson
Leann Mason
Cyndi Case
LeeAnn Winkler
Jenny White
Ellie Risher
Amy Hood
Assistant Director: Bill Herman
Stage Manager: Molly Nieman

Boys:

Ron Navarro
Luke Wold
Mike Butler
Jacob Heine
Matt Cremean
Jared Goulart
Nick Sullivan

Prompters: Craig Horky
Martin Balestra
Kathryn Taylor



Nick Sullivan and Ellie Risher show off their Hollywood smiles during rehearsal.



Matt Cremean and Alanna Hephner make their big entrance after touring the grounds.

A R T

Below Nick Furgason concentrating hard on his art. To the middle right Mr. Tarrant watches the class. To the far right Jake Retter listening to Mr. Tarrant as he explains the basics of countouring..



Steve Cook

Steve Cook in the middle of the page and Barrett Dvorsky to the right show their artistic skill that they have learned in painting class.



Barrett Dvorsky





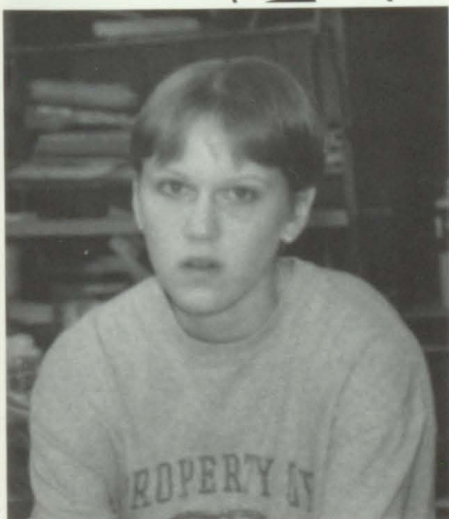
Bob Taylor as you see to the left has a very outstanding skill in painting. Bob will go on to college to study fine arts, but not painting. The art of musical jazz is yet to be conquered by Bob Taylor.

Below in the middle of the page is Bob sitting beside one of his fine finished paintings of two African American ladies working in the field.



Robert Taylor

ART



To the fare left Tina Bergman shows the excitement that jewelry offers. Middle left is a snap of Brad VanStaveren, below is Alicia Loar expressing her excitment.



FFA

The 1996-97 FFA consisted of seven officers and seventeen members. They participated in numerous events such as the 1996 Region Leadership Camp, Third and Fourth Grade Presentations, and District and Regional Leadership Contests. The highlight of this year's FFA was the District II Leadership Contests that Blissfield hosted.

FFA won many awards this year. Select members were also invited to attend different conferences. Erin Marchal, Laura Pixley, and Anne Veres attended the Washington Leadership Conference. The officers attended the National FFA Convention that was held in Kansas City and hosted over 485,000 members. At the Regional Discussion Meet Laura Pixley won a gold. At the Michigan State Convention Laura Pixley won a silver in Public Speaking. Brian Berry and Dave Pixley participated in the State Farmers, and Anne Veres and Casey Schaedler participated in the Delegates portions of the convention.



David Pixley, Erin Marchal, and Casey Schaedler listen as Mrs. Isley reviews the minutes from the last meeting.



Bo Koppelman listens intently as Mrs. Isley goes of the agenda for the day.



1996-1997 FFA Members

Officers:

President:	David Pixley
Vice-President:	Ryan Mallory
Secretary:	Laura Pixley
Treasurer:	Anne Veres
Reporter:	Erin Marchal
Sentinel:	Jamie Dominique
Student Rep.:	Steve Cook

Members:

Brandi Goetz, Scott Bergman, Charles Desloover, Jessica Cooner, Sarah Heydinger, Casey Schaedler, Corianne Goetz, Garry Gentz, Sheana Kitson, Jennifer Overhulse, Laura Saxton, Bo Koppelman, Rachel Hartzell, John Veres, Amber Soss, Brian Berry, Brian Karg



David Pixley, Cori Goetz, Ryan Mallory, and Garry Gentz pose for a yearbook picture.



Cori Goetz argues her point at the the District II Leadership Contest that Blissfield hosted.

FRENCH CLUB

1996-1997 Blissfield French Club

Officers:

President:	Kyle VanSchoyck
Vice-President:	Jim Seiser
Secretary:	Jenny Visingardi
Treasurer:	Janine Filipek

Members:

Billie Jo Austin, Jason Bourdette, Jason Bradshaw, Abbie Brown, Carrie Cole, Brooke Cranor, Amanda Davis, Laura Diebel, Celeste Dixon, Elizabeth Gritzmaker, Amanda Heiden, Tiffany Isley, Amanda Jensen, Jennifer Jerew, Diane Jones, Melinda Kendall, Matthew Kwiatkowski, Lindsey Lake, Janine LaVoy, Nicholas Loader, Jeremy Martis, Gwynne Mock, Jennifer Overhulse, Alaina Phillips, Shaunna Phillips, Sharina Prock, Amber Soss, Angela Stimac, Lea Stimac, Jenny Torres, Jacob Visingardi, LeeAnn Winkler, Amanda Wittscheck, Leigha Woodward, Karen Yockey

This year the French Club consisted of 39 members. The French Club participated in many different activities including the traditional candy sale. This sale was a great success and the French Club earned a great amount of money. This money was used for other events that the French Club sponsored. One of these events was a French Meal. Year long members were invited to this spectacular event that the treasury department sponsored. The meal had everything a French meal could have and the members enjoyed it immensely.

The French Club also hosted a Christmas Fondue Party at Lucas Gritzmaker's house. There they exchanged gifts with each other in the Christmas tradition and played games.

The French Club also went to see the production of Phantom at the Opera. This year the musical was shown in Detroit. Many of the French Club members attended this Saturday event.

Next year's French Club officers include: President: Jim Seiser; Vice-President: Nick Loader; Secretary: Laura Diebel; Treasurer: Janine Filipek; Public Relations Representative: Jenny Overhulse.

Nick Loader dishes up some food at the French Christmas

(Below) Mrs. Hawley describes the meal that the French students will be given.

(Right) Janine Filipek listens as Mrs. Hawley describes how the elections for next year will be run.

Laura Diebel smiles as Mrs. Hawley tells a joke.

Beth Gritzmaker helps herself to some bread and sauce at the French Christmas Party.



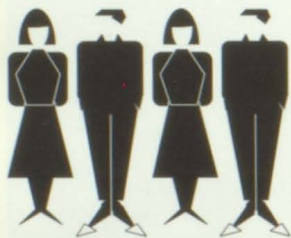
KEY CLUB

When the beginning of the year swings around and clubs start to recruit new members, most students ask "What is Key Club?" The answer is simple. Key Club is the high school branch of Kiwanis. It is a service organization that works to better the community.

This year the Key Club worked very hard to contribute to the world around them. They started with a children's game tent at the River Raisin Festival to raise money for iodine deficiency. Next came all of the help they gave to the Kiwanis at the Ghost Train. During the Christmas season, they went into the trailer park and carolled to some of the residents.

During the spring they participated in the 30 Hour Famine to raise money for third world countries. They also helped the Kiwanis at their annual fundraiser, a pancake dinner.

This year's Key Club consisted of twenty-five students and was led by President, Kayla Brown; Vice President, Greathen Sauter; Secretary, Jenny White; and Treasurer, LeeAnn Winkler. Mr. Mark Willson was their advisor. Next year's officers are President, Greathen Sauter; Vice President, Jennifer Visingardi; Secretary, Alanna Hephner; and Treasurer, Jared Goulart.



1996-1997 Key Club Members

Officers:

President: Kayla Brown
Vice-President: Greathen Sauter
Secretary: Jenny White
Treasurer: LeeAnn Winkler

Members:

Carrie Cole, Jared Goulart, Mandy Jensen, Shane Pri-elipp, Cyndi Case, Gabriel Rehklau, Ryan Horky, Craig Horky, Jacob Fink, Jennifer Visingardi, Kimberly Sutherland, Meagan Ricker, Benjamin Flores, Nicolasa Gutierrez, Shaunna Phillips, Victoria Sell, Amanda Wittscheck, Erin Hufford, Denise Libstaff, Alanna Hephner, Leann Mason, Alaina Phillips, Shelby Piotter-Anderson, Tanisha Ayers



Vicki Sell and Denise Libstaff vote for Secretary.



1996-1997 Key Club officers: Kayla Brown-President, Greathen Sauter-Vice-President, Jenny White-Secretary, LeeAnn Winkler-Treasurer



Greathen Sauter takes volunteers for the pancake supper which was Kiwanis sponsored.

DEBATE

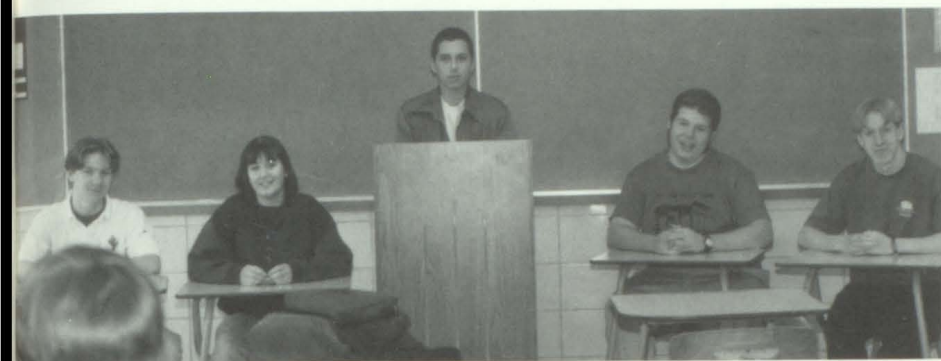
The 1996-1997 Blissfield Debate Team consisted of six members. They traveled to three scrimmages at the LISD in Adrian. These scrimmages took place on November 22 and December 16, 1996 and on January 7, 1997. This year's topic was if the federal government should establish a program to substantially reduce juvenile crime in the United States.

In the January debate Mike Butler and Sam Risher were on the affirmative team as were Dave Ruhlig and Scott Bergman. Both affirmative teams won one round each. Racheal Herman and Jacob Heine were on the negative team and they also won one round in the January debate. Dave Ruhlig and Racheal Herman won extra honors for being the best speakers.

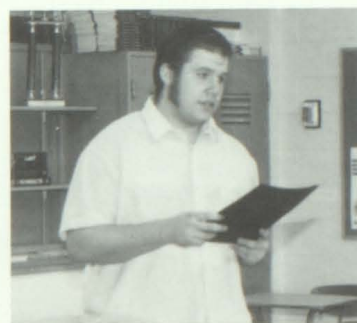
The debate team also went to the February 22, 1997 final debate competition. Hudson, Sand Creek, Lenawee Christian, and Clinton were included in the debate. Rachael Herman won the fourth best speaker of the day award there.

1996-1997 Debate Members

Mike Butler, Sam Risher, Dave Ruhlig, Scott Bergman, Racheal Herman, Jacob Heine



Members of the 1996-1997 Debate Team.



Racheal Herman was one of Blissfield's top debaters during the 1996-97 season.

SPEECH



1996-1997 Speech Members

Martin Balestra, Jason Butler, Mike Butler, Matt Cremean, Laura Diebel, Ben Flores, Jacob Heine, Alanna Hephner, Racheal Herman, Craig Horky, Ryan Horky, Lorelei Laviolette, Michaela Laviolette, Leann Mason, Beth Miller, Ronald Navarro, Molly Nieman, Sam Risher, David Ruhlig, Tommy Russel, Julie Sell, Nick Sullivan, Kathryn Taylor, Leigha Woodward

(Left) The 1996-1997 Blissfield Speech Team

The 1996-1997 Blissfield Speech Team consisted of 24 members. At the March 4th match, the Blissfield Speech Team did very well. First place winners included Racheal Herman in humorous interpretation and Nick Sullivan, Alanna Hephner, Leann Mason, Beth Miller, Matt Cremean, and Laura Diebel in multiple interpretation.

Earning first place at the final speech competition held on May 8th, were David Ruhlig in impromptu speaking, Molly Nieman and Julie Sell in dramatic duo, and Michaela and Lorelei Laviolette in humorous duo. Placing second were Nick Sullivan in impromptu speaking, and Racheal Herman in humorous interpretation. The speech team did great this year, good job.



Mike Butler practices for a competition

PEERLISTENING

1996-1997 Peerlistening Members

Stacy Barrett, Jeremiah Beagle, Holly Bowen, Kayla Brown, Cyndi Case, Brook Cranor, Amanda Davis, Ben Flores, Kelly Forgacs, Molly Force, Lana Frye, Jennah Gentz, Rachael Hartzell, Jacob Heine, Alanna Hephner, Craig Horky, Ryan Horky, Tiffany Isley, Temira Kafer, Jennifer Leking, Leann Mason, Alicia Meyers, Sarah Miller, Kristin Moore, Catherine Navarro, Heather Nevins, Molly Nieman, Jenny Overhulse, Gretchen Pagel, Teri Patterson, Alaina Phillips, Shaunna Phillips, Gabe Rehklau, Eleaser Risher, Sam Risher, Lindsey Ruhl, Laura Saxton, Greathen Sauter, Julie Sell, Laura Thompson, Brad VanStaveren, Steve Viers, Jennifer Visingardi, Techia Vore, Jill Weirich, Jenny White, LeeAnn Winkler, Luke Wold

"You talk, we listen." Peer Listeners once again followed that motto. All 48 of the Blissfield High School listeners attended the two day training period in the fall, and put their skills of empathy, paraphrasing, and open-ended questions to work listening to their peers throughout the year.

Listeners were also required to attend seven monthly inservices during VIP.. Some of the topics discussed included recognizing signs of eating disorders, dealing with sexual harassment, and also recognizing signs of physical and emotional abuse.

Wrapping up the year for Peer Listeners was Peer Day, held at Camp Michindo. Laura Thompson was highlighted at the event as Blissfield's Peer of the Year Nominee.



Laura Thompson and Molly Rose Pose for a yearbook picture at the May 2, 1997 Peerlistening Day.



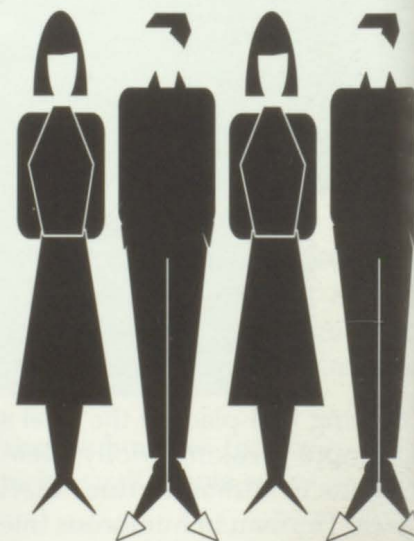
(Above) Peerlisteners wait for the presentation to begin.



Barb VanHouten talks about peerlistening training and gives some helpful hints.



Julie Sell, Sarah Miller, Molly Force, and Lana Frye watch a movie about sexual harassment at a meeting.



SKI CLUB

1996-1997 Ski Club Members

Advisors:

Gene Winzeler

Terry Horky

Members:

Debra Aldrich, Ryan Andrews, Nicholas Aneed, Collin Ayres, Martin Balestera, Robert Ball, Stacy Barrett, Holly Bowen, Jim Burtle, Mike Butler, Cyndi Case, Brooke Cranor, Alycia Demey, Kim DeRousie, Jamie Dominique, Brandon Elliott, Angie Fetzer, Kristen Fick, Janine Filipek, Jacob Fink, Ben Flores, Molly Force, Sam Forche, Zac Friess, Brad Fritz, Deatra Fritz, Melanie Fritz, Lana Frye, Jennah Gentz, Chris Gorski, Jared Goulart, Heather Hagenbuch, Alanna Hephner, Craig Horky, Ryan Horky, Chet Hudson, Scott Kastel, Ryan Klump, Rob LaMere, Alan Langmeyer, Jennifer Leking, Gerald Marchal, Amy Marine, Beth Miller, Juanita Navarro, Mike Newsted, Alison Prielipp, Shane Prielipp, Renee Porter, Sam Pyle, Sarah Pyle, Sam Risher, Cris Rupp, Trevor Seeger, Vicki Sell, Scott Siefert, James Seiser, Jason Stites, Brent Stutzman, Brian Stutzman, Matt Stutzman, Yoshie Tomoda, Laura VanCamp, Neil Wilson, Marcia Winzeler, Amber Wyse,

This year the Ski Club consisted of 66 members. 31 of those members traveled to and spent the night at Treetops Sylvan Resort in Gaylord, Michigan on January 17, 18, and 19. They were accompanied there by eight adults. Other trips this year include the Saturday trips to Bittersweet Ski Resort.



Members of the Ski Club are geared up and ready to hit the slopes.

PEER MENTORING

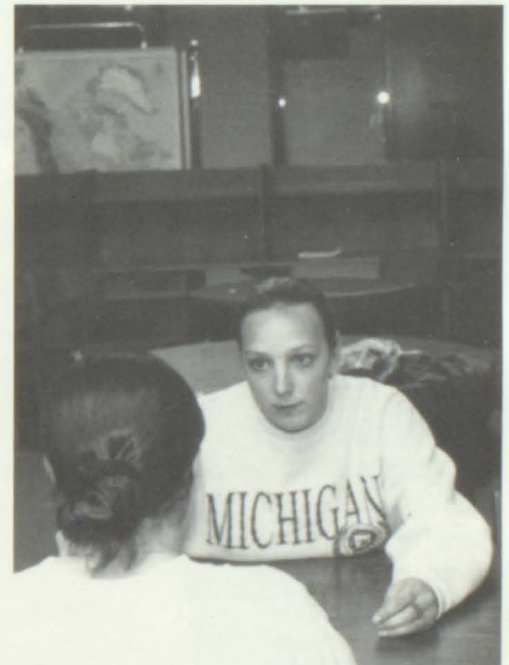
1996-1997 Peer Mentoring Members

Jeremiah Beagle, Kalya Brown, Kelly Forgacs, Rachael Harzell, Jacob Heine, Heather Nevins, Jennifer Overhulse, Alaina Phillips, Julie Sell, Jennifer White



The Peer Mentoring team consisted of ten members. Peer Mentoring is a type of service organization that volunteers to help elementary and middle school students with their homework and in class work. For one class period each day the peer mentor travels to either school and talks with a student. While there he or she finds out what the student needs to work on and what the student has gotten done while he or she has been at school. If the student has homework or late assignments the peer mentor helps the student finish this work so that it is handed in on time.

Each peer mentor is trained to help a student deal with school life and any problems in it. If a student has a problem he or she can tell the peer mentor without fear of the problem being made public. Each peer mentor has to keep the problems of a student private. Peer mentoring is a hard job, but is also satisfying when a student is helped.



Julie Sell talks with a junior high student about her school work.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council Has A Ball!

...a Snow Ball that is. The student council tried something new this year by holding a winter dinner and formal dance. The Snow Ball was a great success thanks to the thorough planning and hard work of chairpersons, Holly Bowen, Alaina Phillips, and other council members.

Student Council also put on Homecoming and Cominghome activities including spirit days and pep assemblies. Members of the council say that these events are difficult to accomplish due to a lack of school spirit among students and



Members of the 1996-97 Student Council

1996-1997 Student Council Members

Officers:

President:	Cris Rupp
Vice President:	Melissa Porter
Treasurer:	Tina Bergman
Secretary:	Shane Prielipp

Members:

Charlie Jacobson, LeeAnn Winkler, Catherine Navarro, Holly Bowen, Brian Stutzman, Ryan Andrews, Alaina Phillips, Renee Porter, Justin Casterline, Sheana Kitson, Zeb Waterbury, Debbie Aldrich, and Amy Marine.

teachers. Despite these difficulties, student council persevered to reach their goals and had fun in the process.

Another new addition to the student council was first year advisor Mr. Herman. Mr. Herman allowed the group to be very self-directed but was always nearby to provide ideas and assistance. One suggestion that Mr. Herman brought to the group was the Penny Raffle. Although the raffle didn't bring in a large sum of money, it was an interesting experience for the group.

The student council of 1996-97 paved the way for years to come by breaking away from old traditions and starting new ones.



Mr. Herman gives student council a thumbs up.



The 1996-97 Student Council Officers pose for a picture

WINNER'S CIRCLE



(Left) Cris Rupp signs his Winner's Circle Contract.



(Above) Jenny White listens to the guest speaker at the Winner's Circle banquet

(Right) Janine LaVoy and Jeffrey Lietzke pick up their shirts.



(Right) Mr. Babbitt introduces the speaker for the night's banquet.



1996-1997 Winner's Circle Members:

Representatives

9th Grade: Katie Zimmerman

10th Grade: Erin Marchal

11th Grade: Mike Karg and Jenny White

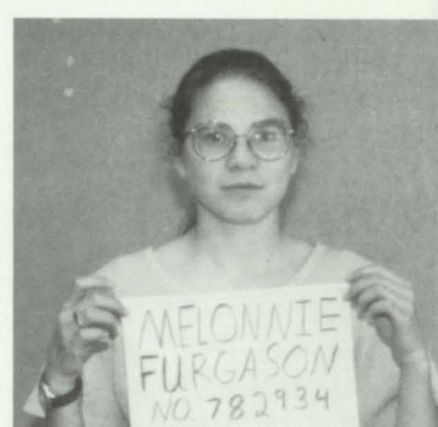
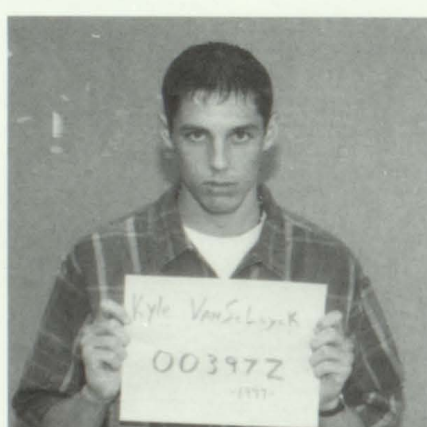
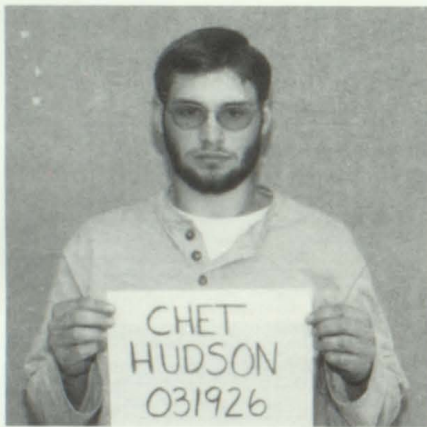
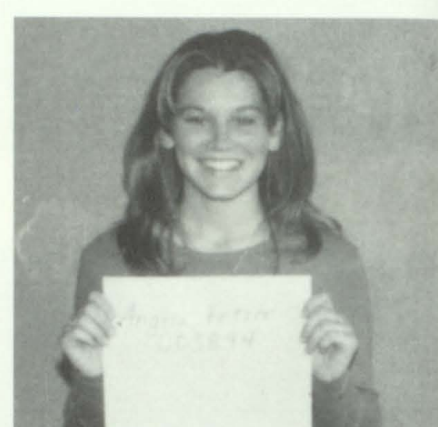
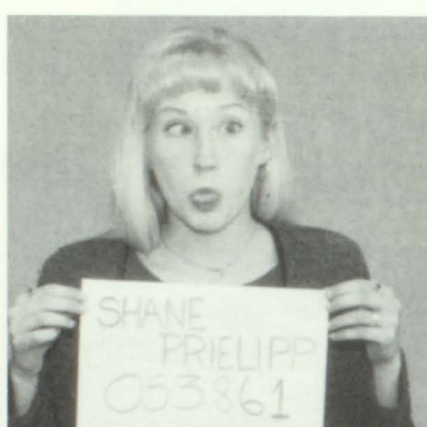
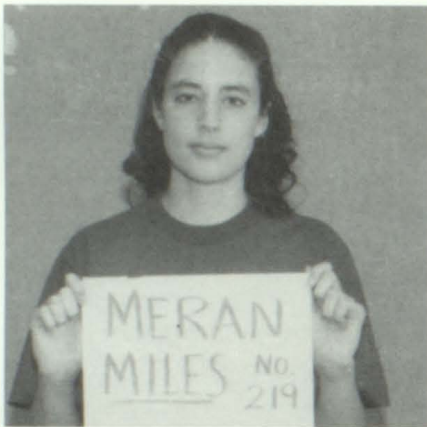
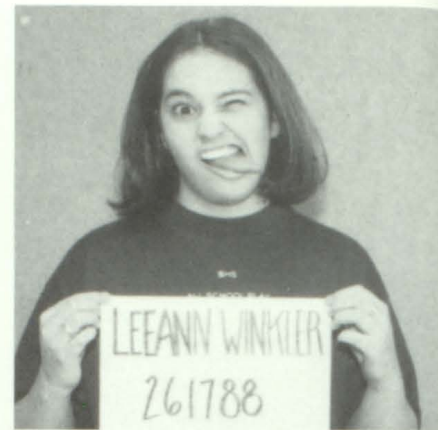
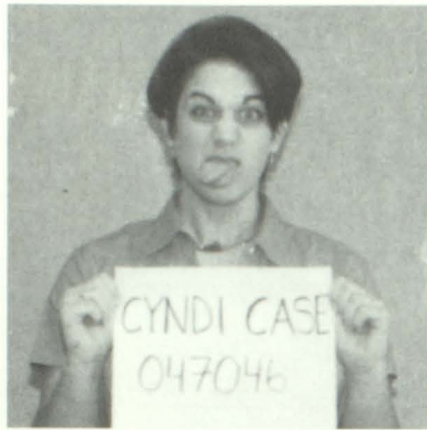
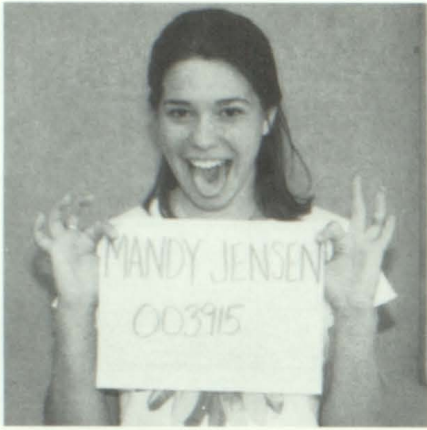
12th Grade: Melissa Porter and Cris Rupp

Members:

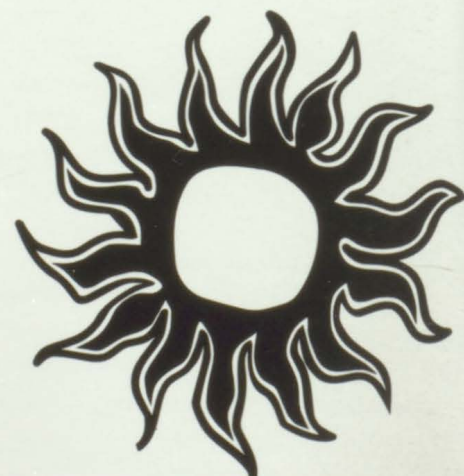
Jason Bourdette, Steven Clark, Dawn Cox, Heather Hagenbuch, Erin Hufford, Diane Jones, Ryan Klump, Janine LaVoy, Denise Libstaff, Jeffrey Lietzke, Gerald Marchal, Gwynne Mock, Alisha Patterson, Shaunna Phillips, Sarah Pyle, Meagan Ricker, Suzanne Ries, Todd Rupp, Victoria Sell, Kimberly Sutherland, Rachel Walters, Renee Walters, Jeffrey Wells, Ben Wilson, Amanda Wittscheck, Luke Wold, Leigha Woodward, Karen Yockey, Tanisha Ayers, Ryan Betz, Heather Burgermeister, Justin Casterline, Brooke Cranor, Amanda Davis, Nicholas Darm, Eric Eisenmann, Molly Force, Sarah Heydinger, Craig Horky, Jennah Gentz, Brandi Goetz, Chris Gorski, Temira Kafer, Lindsey Lake, Jennifer Leking, Jessica Miles, Laura Mitchell, Kristin Moore, Shelby Piotter-Anderson, Renee Porter, Dickey Robinson, Lindsey Ruhl, Michelle Rumsey, Laura Saxton, Kendra Scobie, Levi Stoker, Jennifer Wells, Amber Wyse, Ryan Andrews, Nick Bates, Holly Bowen, Abbie Brown, Kayla Brown, Laura Diebel, Amanda Emerson, Janine Filipek, Melanie Fritz, Nicolasa Gutierrez, Alanna Hephner, Sarah Kerekgyarto, Steve Marks, Leann Mason, Justin Miller, Sarah Miller, Alaina Phillips, Reggie Robinson, Greathan Sauter, Emily Sell, Jenny Sell, Julie Sell, James Seiser, Nicholas Sheldon, Jessica Streby, Brent Stutzman, Brian Stutzman, Jenny White, Neil Wilson, Martin Balestra, Robert Ball, Steve Cook, Eric Frederick, Ryan Horky, Tiffany Isley, Charles Jacobson, Amanda Jensen, Nathan Lajiness, Michaela LaViolette, Anthony Lubinski, Ryan Mallory, Meran Miles, Brian Mitchell, Shane Priellipp, Marc Saxton, Misty Taylor, Neil Terry, Kyle VanSchoyck, Steve Viers, Techia Vore, Gary Wells

This year Winner's Circle consisted of 114 members including six representatives. Winner's Circle is an organization whose members have taken a pledge to stay substance free. It is also a service organization that volunteers its time to help others. This year the members participated in numerous events such as the JC's Christmas Party. This party was for elementary children whose parents were less fortunate. These children might not have received presents so the Winner's Circle members chose presents to give to them. The families also drew for a Christmas tree. McDonalds also participated in this event by donating food for the party. The highlight of the party was when Santa Clause came to visit with the kids and when they played games together. Winner's Circle also participated in the Lion's Club blind bowling. This event was to raise money for the blind. While raising money the members also had fun.

YEARBOOK STAFF



The 1996-1997 Elysium staff was led by advisor, Pete Durbin (left) and editor, Mandy Jensen.



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The businesses of Blissfield provide us with millions of services everyday. We probably don't realize how much we get from area businesses by way of contributions for our school. Here is a look at all the establishments that contributed to our yearbook this year.

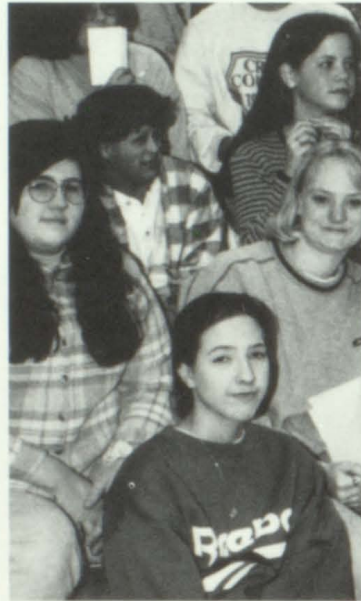


Jennifer,
 You're all grown
 up now and what a
 wonderful person
 you've become.
 We're very proud
 of you and wish
 you the best for the
 future.
 - Your loving
 family

Steve,

You have given me
 and our family many
 hours of joy. I am very
 proud of you and feel
 you have become a
 very good man. May
 you always follow God
 and do what is in your
 heart.

Love,
 Mom



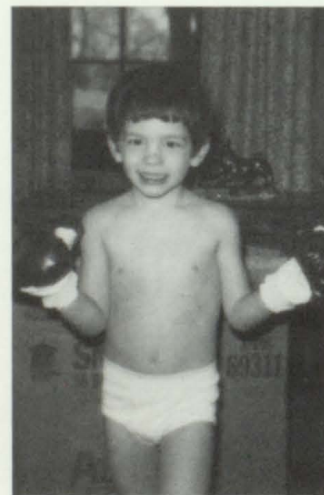
Rene Merideth
 Welling,

You are wonderfully
 fun and interesting,
 enjoying life, never
 boasting about what
 you have. You keep
 me open-minded
 enough to remind me
 things are different than when I grew up. I
 wish you the best in life.

With respect and great love,
 Mom



Congratulations
 Gary,
 You are finally
 halfway to your
 dream. We know
 you will do it.
 Love,
 Mom, Dad &
 Kenny

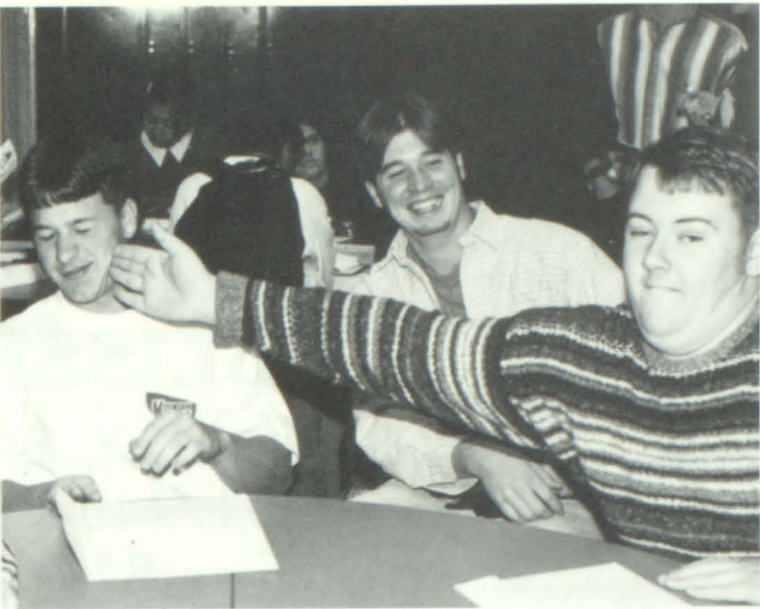


Benjamin,
 We want you
 to know wher-
 ever you go,
 whatever you
 do, your family
 will always
 love you.
 Love,
 Your
 Family

Techia,

We are very proud of you. You have worked hard in school and sports. You are a strong person with high standards. Good Luck as you go on to college. We love you very much.

- Mom, Chuck, Dennis, & Shaun



Chet,

We hope your plans for the future come true. Remember to be patient and know that all good things in life will come in time.

- Dad & Mom



Josh,

50 words are not enough to describe the joy you've given us. Your yearning to learn and eagerness to absorb knowledge has been with you since infancy and I'm sure will continue through college and life. Reach for the stars!

-Mom & Dad



And the stomper got stuck! But not you - you are on your way. Remember:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

We love you,
Mom, Dad & Cory

Kyle,

We hope the rest of your life is smooth sailing.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Kelly



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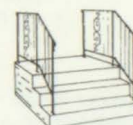
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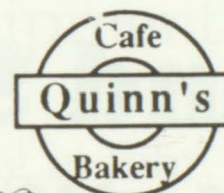
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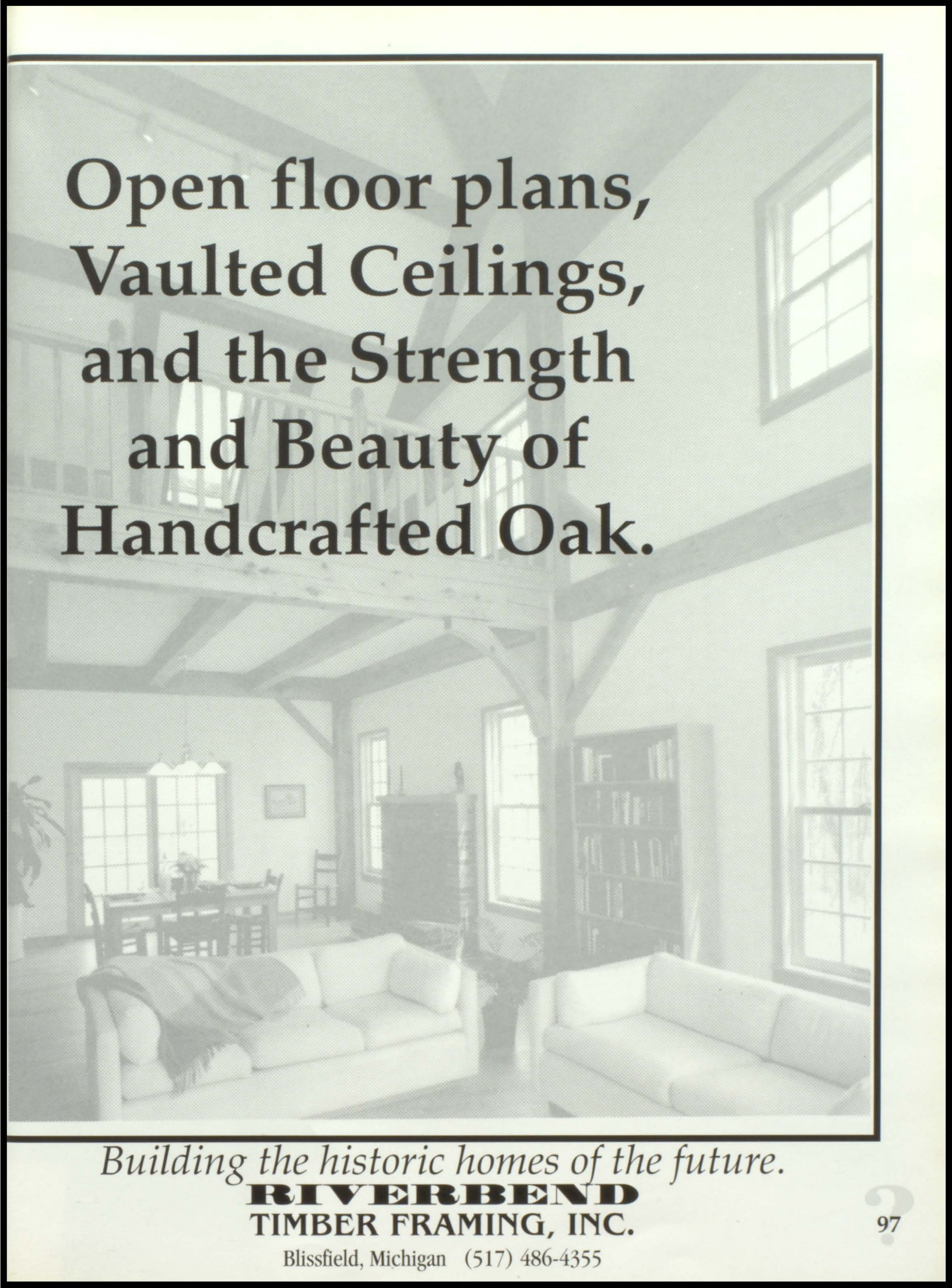
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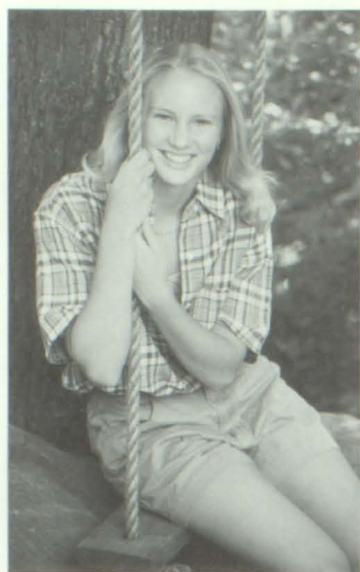


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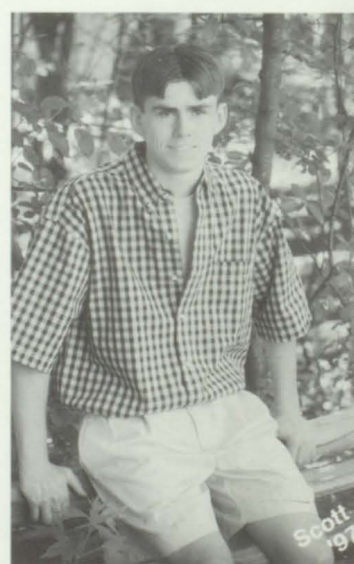
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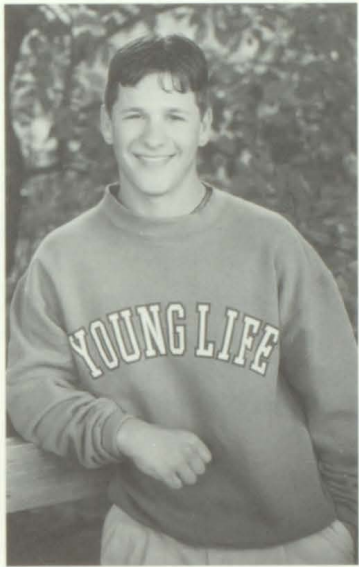
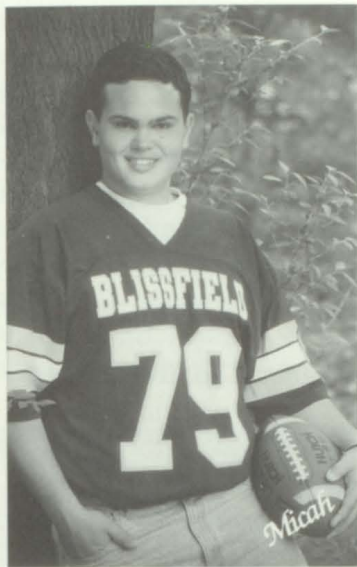
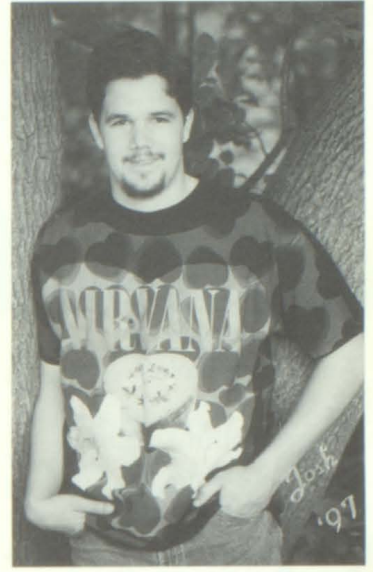
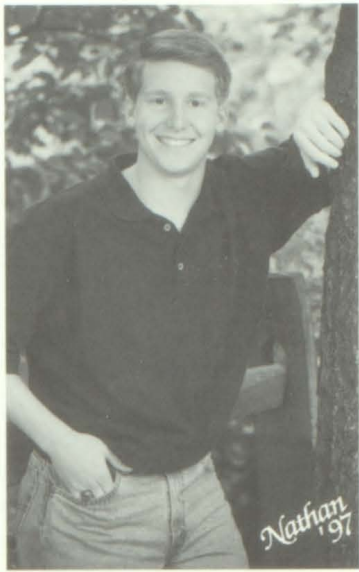


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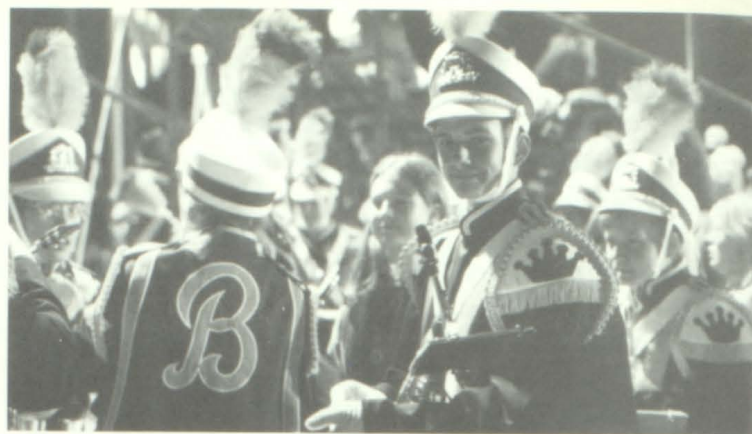
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