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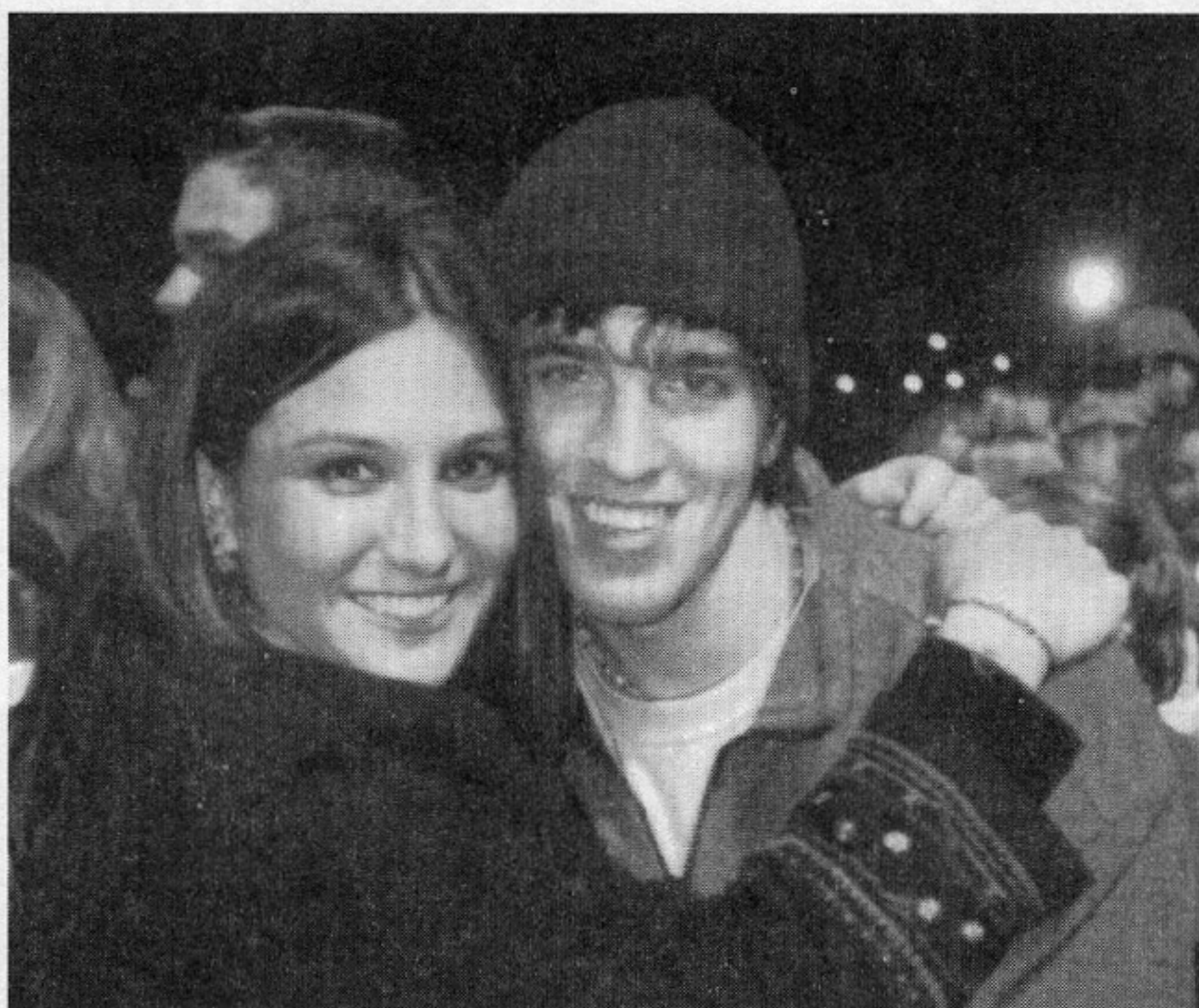
# Our Hearts are Broken

By **THE LANCE STAFF**

Valentine's Day is usually an especially happy celebration of love and friendship, but February 14, 2002 became a day of grieving hearts for the Marian Community when senior Eric Henry was killed in a tragic automobile accident. News of Eric's death shocked the students and staff who attended a prayer service the next morning and met with counselors as they struggled with the reality of the terrible event.

Tears and memories were poured out as Eric's classmates signed posters and banners, trying to express their boundless sadness. The following Sunday, a special Rosary was conducted at Marian in the Bishop Crowley Athletic Center to allow the students and teachers the opportunity to console Eric's family and each other. School was dismissed Monday, February 18 in order for members of the Marian Community to attend Eric's funeral mass, celebrated by our

own Father Dan Scheidt whose moving homily gave much needed comfort to everyone. (Father Dan has graciously consented to the publication of his



Katie Haizlip with Eric Henry at Homecoming, fall, 2001

homily in the senior issue of *The Lance* as a special keepsake for the senior class.) Following the funeral mass, a luncheon was served in the Marian cafeteria.

A special memorial stand was placed next to Eric's locker in senior hall. A book placed there is constantly being filled with memories and special

messages from Eric's classmates. Because Eric had been collecting his old clothes as a Lenten offering just prior to his death, the students designated a day to bring gently used clothes to donate to St. Vincent DePaul in fulfillment of Eric's plan. In this small charitable act, students were able to honor their friend's commitment.

Eric Henry would have been eighteen years old on April 13, 2002. His infectious good humor and loving nature will remain in our hearts. Meanwhile, flowers,

angels, pictures, notes, and mementos to honor Eric have appeared at the tree where the accident occurred and at Eric's gravesite as friends and loved ones try to accept his loss, knowing that Valentine's Day will never be the same.