

He 'is really missed'

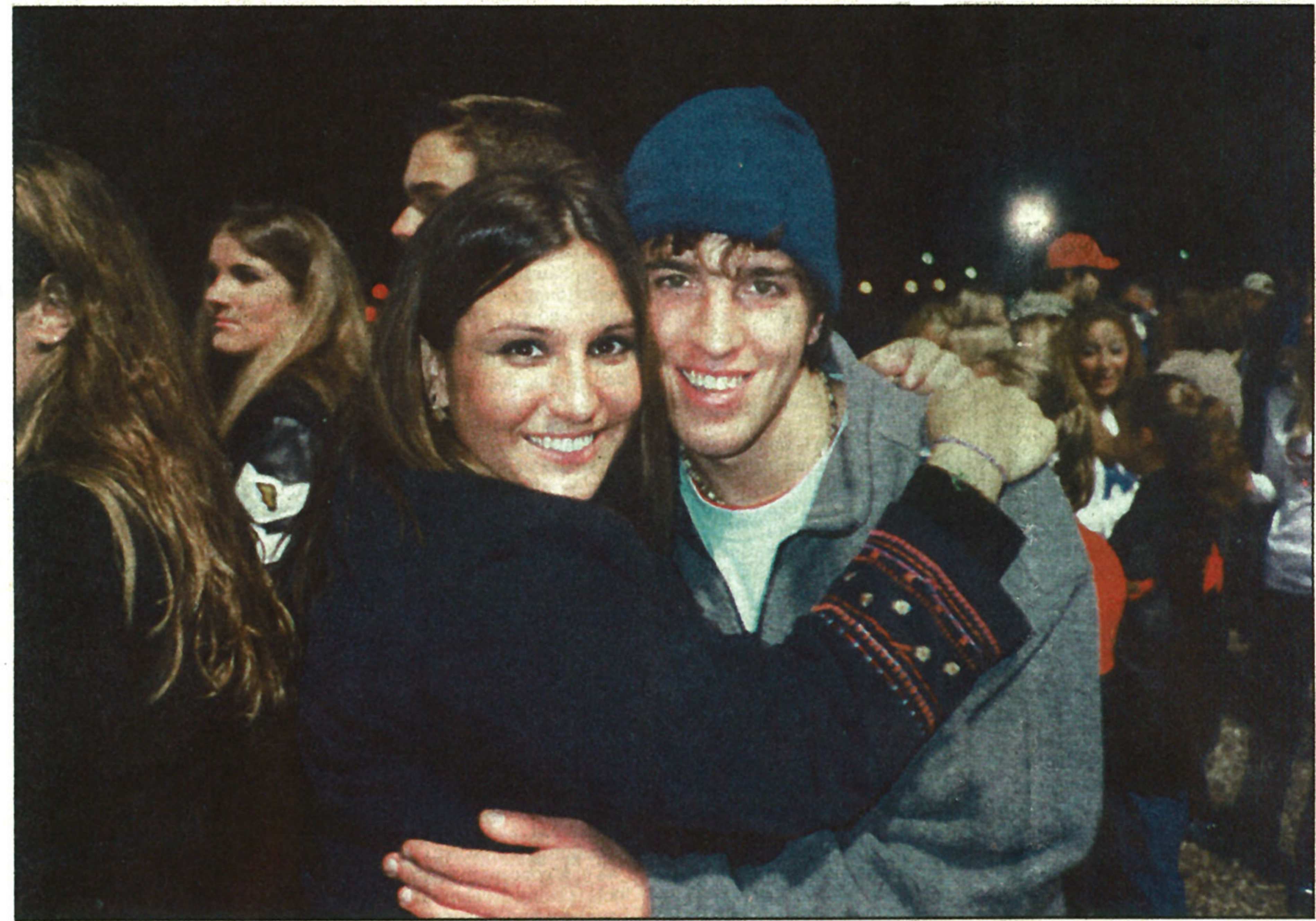


Photo provided

Marian High seniors Katie Haizlip, left, and Eric Henry celebrated together at the school's homecoming celebrations last fall. Eric, 17, was killed in a single-vehicle accident Feb. 14 in the 62700 block of Turkey Trail. Several in Marian's senior class say they have grown closer as a result of the tragedy.

As graduation nears, the Marian High community remembers a popular second-semester senior

Marian High Lance Staff Report

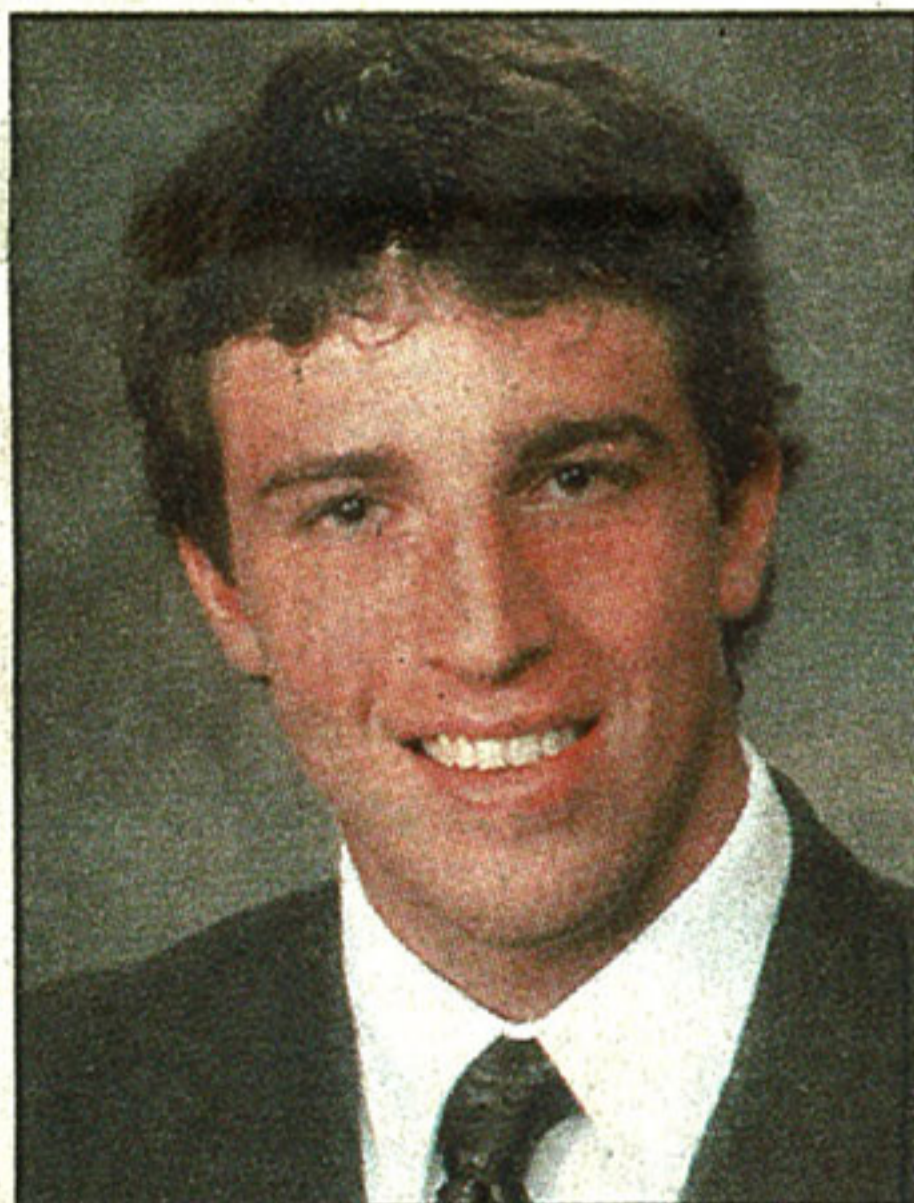
Walking down Marian High School's senior hallway, one cannot help but notice the former locker of Eric Henry and not feel a small pain in the heart.

A memorial, which still remains, was constructed in front of this locker back on Feb. 15 in memory of Eric, who was killed the day before.

Valentine's Day is supposed to be an especially happy celebration of love and friendship, but Feb. 14 became a day of grieving hearts for the Marian community when Eric, a 17-year-old senior, was killed in a tragic, single-automobile accident late that afternoon.

As the months pass, and graduation grows ever closer, students continue to reflect on Eric and pay him tribute.

"Eric is really missed. He had a



Eric Henry

lot of really close friends because he was such a fun, honest and positive person," said Marian student Quinn Eide. "It is really hard not having him around."

Many others share Quinn's feelings, including Marian senior Melissa Bauters.

"It has been extremely hard to heal from Eric's death, but it has been made much easier with the help of my friends and Marian community," she said. "Eric was a great guy who touched many lives, and because of him, we have all become better people and have grown closer as a class."

News of Eric's death shocked Marian's students and staff who attended a prayer service the day after his death 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.

A special memorial stand was placed next to Eric's locker in senior hall. A book placed there still is 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, Marian students designated a day to bring gently used clothes to donate to the St. Vincent DePaul Society in fulfillment of Eric's plan. In this small charitable act, many students said they were able to honor their friend's commitment.

Eric would have been 18 years old on April 13. His infectious good humor and loving nature will remain in the hearts of countless Marian students.

Meanwhile, flowers, angels, pictures, notes and mementos to honor Eric have appeared at the tree where the accident occurred in the 62700 block of Turkey Trail and at Eric's grave site as friends and loved ones try to accept his loss, knowing that Valentine's Day will never be the same.