



Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- www.montezuma-schools.org/SchoolNewspaper.aspx

Gulibility check: The story of April Fools'

From Rome to France to England,
how the holiday transformed to today.

By Chase Talbert

April 1st is not just the beginning of the first full month of spring, but it is also April Fools' Day. We all know that April Fools' is about playing pranks on each other and attempting to discover just how gullible you and your friends are. Gullibility aside, the question is, "How did this rather ridiculous holiday come about?"

The history of April Fools' is a very blurry one, with estimates of the holiday's start being a few hundred years apart, but the spirit of it remains the same regardless of where it originated.

The first possible place of origin is in Ancient Rome, where they celebrated the Hilaria Festival, an event that celebrated the vernal equinox, this was seen as the beginning of the Julian calendar. This new year's of sort happened on March 25, not April 1st, but it

was still celebrated with jokes and people playing pranks on one another.

This Roman holiday celebrating the gods and the beginning of a new year is not the only educated guess historian have made though. While the Hilaria festival was held over a thousand years ago in Rome, there is another potential place of origin is in the 1500s in France.

As Christianity became more prevalent so did their way of doing things, along with their culture, the way they tell dates did too. The French's calendar switched from the Julian to the Gregorian, which made the new year begin on January 1st, instead of March 25.

The changes to the calendar also caused March 25 to fall on April 1st of the new calendar. Those who were not aware of the change and still celebrated the vernal equinox were then labeled gullible by

their more informed peers and made fun of for it.

The origins may be blurry, but it is known when April Fools' Day began to become popular during the 1700s in Scotland, the only difference was instead of one day of laughs, there were two. The two days were called, "hunting the gowk," and "Tallie Day." The first day involved sending others on false errands, the "gowk," meaning cuckoo is a often a symbol for fools.

Then the second day, "Tallie Day," was all about more physical pranks with people often placing "kick me," signs on others as is one of the stereotypical actions performed on April Fools' Day.

Historians may not be able to agree on where it all came from, but the spirit of lighthearted fun still remains prevalent as the holiday has endured throughout the years.



THE APRIL FOOL: An artist's rendering of "The Follie of the Night," a 1786 farce. England has a rich comedic tradition, and the play was a nod as such.

Photo: Getty Images

Missed an issue? No problem!

The Blue & White is now online.

Go to www.montezuma-schools.org/SchoolNewspaper.aspx to see our previous issues!

Congratulations to all students who performed in the Variety Show. It was a big hit, and we are very proud of your performances!

-The Blue and White Staff

Students, Staff call for school shooting readiness

By Carrie Jennings

It is undeniable that school shootings seem to be an unfortunately common occurrence here in the United States. In fact, according to the Washington Post article "Scarred by School Shootings," there have been eleven school shootings in this year alone.

It seems that every year, the number grows higher and higher; it has only been three months since 2018 started, and we are on a fast track to a new record of school shootings occurring in a single year.

As such, anxiety is high in most of the larger schools in areas where school shootings are statistically more likely to happen. The consensus here at small-town Montezuma High School, though, is that something like that could never happen here.

"We live in rural Iowa where everybody knows everybody," one student states, "[so] I don't really have anyone who I distrust."

However, some students do feel anxious returning to school after hearing about another school shooting on the news. "If it can happen in small schools... it could happen anywhere, including here," another student says.

Whether people believe a school shooting could ever happen here, there are plans in place for such emergencies. Alice training was designed specifically to address what to do if there were intruders in the school.

During this training, one or more people will run about the school as intruders while each classroom creates a plan to either stay and fight or to escape the school.

Alice training, however, has its downfalls. The last time students went through this training was two years ago and was not taken seriously by most students.

"Alice training does work," one teacher states, "but it should be

more often, as often as fire drills, [because] we need more practice."

Something else that was pointed out as less than effective was that the drill was announced long before it happened, so everyone knew the exact time it would occur.

Most students believe that this made the intruder simulation less believable as in real situation, no one knows when a school shooting will happen. School shootings are never a fun topic to discuss, especially not with young, impressionable students.

However, the facts clearly show that school shootings do happen quite often, and we should have plans in place to both handle and prevent them at every single school, no matter how large or small.

It is a frightening thing to think about, but it is important to know what to do in those situations that we hope we never have to experience.

By Brayden Stockman

It's no question that movies are one of the most popular forms of media in the modern age, and this extends to the students at Montezuma High School. With technology such as computers and phones, and apps like Netflix, students are more likely to watch movies than ever before.

Across three randomly selected classrooms, 33 students were randomly asked about what their favorite movie genres. Of the 32 students asked, twelve stated that they preferred action and adventure movies, five like romance movies, four enjoy horror movies, two prefer to watch mystery movies, two would most like to watch historical films, one said they just like fictional movies, one stated they enjoy movies about sports, one student prefers westerns, one likes coming of age films, one student loves to watch comedies and two students don't like to watch movies in general.

By far the most popular genre of film was the action movie, with a third of the students asked preferring to watch an action film over any other. Senior Cassidy Watts stated that action films 'keep her on her toes' and many

other students stated that they enjoy action movies because they keep them awake easier than other film genres.

The next most popular genre was the romance film, with five (exclusively female) students answering that they prefer romance movies. Sophomore Carrissa Van Zee says that she prefers this genre because she 'likes happy endings and sometimes you just need a good day'. The rest all mentioned the words 'cute' and 'emotions' in their reasoning as to why romance was their favorite genre.

Coming right behind the horror genre, with one-eighth of the students asked answering that they preferred horror movies. However, only two of the students actually like the movies because they are inter-

esting, such as freshman Katie Probasco, who says, "I can handle them." The other two students state that horror movies are fun to make fun of and laugh at.

The rest of the movies preferred by the selected students were a sort of mixing pot of opinions, with two students even stating that they don't like to watch movies at all. Sophomore Mariah Seaton stated, "I don't like movies because they are boring and movie endings are so predictable." On the other hand, sophomore Parker Johnson, who participates in football, basketball, and track and field stated that he loved sports films because, as he states, "I can learn a lot from them."

While these students may not agree about everything, most can sure agree that movies are fun to watch.

The Blue and White Staff



Calendar of Events

Thursday
Varsity Boys Track @ Belle Plaine - 4:30 pm

Friday
No School - Spring Break

Monday
No School - Spring Break
Varsity Golf @ Lynnville-Sully - 4:15 pm

Tuesday
V Boys Track @ L-S - 4:30 pm
V Girls Track @ PCM - 5:00 pm

Wednesday
No Activities

Thursday
Varsity Golf: Here - 4:15 pm
V Boys/Girls Track @ North Mahaska - 4:15 pm