

# Spread the tide of Red Rage

By Lauren Debes for the Play editorial board

**T**ension spreads across the crowd as the teams gather themselves for the final play. Eager eyes focus on the star player, following each articulate movement. The coach thinks back to each hour in practice, all the sweat and tears leading to this moment.

Suddenly, silence strikes and the room freezes over.

“Dwight D. Eisenhower.”

The spectators hold their breath.

“Correct.”

The crowd completely erupts and swarms the tables, lifting the team members high into the air. Tears ring out, and chants fill the entire school.

Scholars bowl wins again.

This kind of spirit seems unrealistic, but activities other than varsity sports deserve more support.

Maize students have proven time and time again over the past year their capability of amazing school spirit. This year alone, nearly 600 students have joined Red Rage and help fill The Nest for every football game. Pride follows Maize like it hasn't in years. Splatters of red cover the hallways on game days, creating a culture of spirit recognizable to all who see it.

This begs the question: Where is the support for other activities?

If we are a school claiming to prioritize pride, it needs to be spread across the board.

Attendance at band and orchestra concerts rides on a sharp decline. The number of fans who attend sporting events other than football and basketball is paltry at best. Our theatre and choir departments blindly grasp toward any audience they can get.

This is an issue easily remedied.

Attending just one or two events a month outside student's usual routine would benefit the culture of spirit at Maize even more.

The entire student body will gain a deeper understanding of their peers and a stronger sense of community through further involvement. Students who participate in less recognized activities would feel better appreciated for their hard work and more inclined to reciprocate the efforts.

In addition, all students should take advantage of the eye-opening and fun experiences emerging from the participation.

The student body should pay attention to announcements, talk to their peers and schedule some time to attend new events.

Breaking outside the shell can make our school become closer than ever. ■



Kalee Betzen