

# Royal flushed? Rumors debunked

Short, Schmidt, and Corona talk break ups, performances, and the next step.

By: Rhys Regan, @King\_Rhys\_

Royal Flush, and no, I'm not talking about the poker hand. Royal Flush is a local punk rock band looking to make its mark in Marion's musical history. The band has been together for a little over a year and doesn't plan on disbanding anytime soon.

Royal Flush came to a start when Dawson Schmidt, junior, and Trevor Short, senior, realized they had similar musical interests and both knew how to play instruments from that genre. Schmidt and Short were pretty excited about starting a band but needed a drummer. "We sort of acted like we had a lost dog," said Schmidt, "We put up posters looking for a drummer and it kind of worked out."

That drummer is Marion junior, Luis Corona. Corona has been playing the drums since around the age of eight and is very ambitious when it comes to drumming. With all this drumming experience it helps a lot.

Everyone in the band does different things but is of equal importance. Schmidt sings and plays bass guitar, Short sings and plays guitar, and Corona drums. "We're all pretty equal to the band, we are a team and we work like one," said Short.

Earlier this year, there were rumors about Royal Flush being flushed. These rumors were not the case when asked about the break up. "We've always been a

band," said Short, "I don't know where those rumors came from but they aren't true."

Royal Flush isn't just a band. They are also a group of friends. "We usually hang out before or after practices," said Corona. For the band there are only three rules. Practice on Wednesday nights, no girlfriends at band practice, and of course, keep it royal.

The band has spent a lot of time and money on keeping up, running, and improving. "I'd say we've spent around \$6,000 if you include my drum set," said Corona, "The hardest thing isn't spending the money. It's putting in work to get better."

The band does get gigs when they attempt to. "We've had four gigs," said Short, "We've played at a graduation party, a birthday party, at Follies, and at a wedding." Follies is a volunteering event so the band didn't get paid, but on all other occasions they did.

When asked why they continue to spend money and put in work on the band there were a few different answers. "It's cool to have ideas and see them flourish and blossom into songs," said Schmidt. "People know us," added Corona. After those two responded, Short had his turn, saying, "We used to practice in Luis's garage and every Wednesday the same old man walked



Trevor Short, '16, Luis Corona, and Dawson Schmidt, both '17, practice their songs during a band practice at Corona's house.

by and would stop for a minute or two but never said anything. One day we were taking a break and sitting in lawn chairs when the old man was walking by. He stopped and looked at us. He proceeded to ask 'Are you the guys that sing and play instruments?' We of course said yes when the man said 'You guys rock' and walked away.

Royal Flush has a lot of reasons to keep playing and those are just a few of them.

"The next plan of action is to get more gigs and start recording our music," said Short. And there's no reason they shouldn't do just that.

# Concert experience for cash

By: Alex Coleman, @It's\_YoPalAI

There's a buzz in the air all around. Men and women of all different ages chatter as they wait for the act to come out on stage. The lights dim, and everyone's on their feet. The thrum of bass fills the venue, and two friends cheer for the performers. Such is the life of Erin Thomason and Isabelle Webber, seniors.

Erin and Isabelle frequent concerts, sometimes with each other, sometimes with other friends or family. "With friends I feel like I can loosen up more than when I'm with my family," said Thomason. Separately, each girl has seen too many shows to name. Together, the girls have seen two concerts, Summerfest in Milwaukee and Newbo Fest in Cedar Rapids, and plan on attending two more for sure next year. "I definitely think it's worth the money. I love the atmosphere and getting to hear the music live," stated Webber.

Besides the loud atmosphere and flashing lights, there are many enjoyable things about a concert. "My favorite part is getting the chance to listen to music with a group of people that love it as much as I do [...] I can just lose myself in the music and no one will care," said Thomason. When a live performance happens, many

people tend to feel very intimate with the people around them. Webber agrees with this, stating "I think the best part is the connection that I feel to the musician and the crowd when we're all enjoying the same music."

Although nine times out of ten the concert experience is an enjoyable one, there are some strange things that can happen. "When we saw Robert DeLong at Summerfest, there were two couples side by side in front of us awkwardly grinding the entire time," Thomason said. Aside from wacky concert goers or overzealous performers, the experience tends to be a good one. "It's a whole new great experience that I think everyone should enjoy," stated Webber.

In the end, the lights will dim, the crowd will disperse, and post concert depression will emerge. But these two friends will be waiting for their next opportunity to see a show. "I would recommend keeping an eye out for shows that interest you, or even just go to local shows," said Thomason. Whether or not people choose to spend their money on a concert experience, there will be others like Thomason and Webber who enjoy immersing themselves in the feeling of live music.

# Quarters going later

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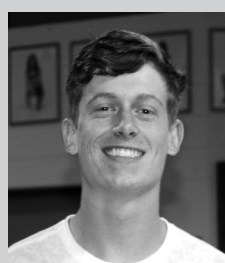
"I don't like the quarters going longer, they are long enough already."  
-Kelsey Morris, '16



"I don't like it because we have to come back and take tests and it won't be a fresh start."  
-Bayley Fuller, '16



"I don't like it because I can't even remember one night of math."  
-Kaleb Lochner, '17



"I don't like it because I will forget all the stuff for Finals."  
-Bobby Vanderlind, '16



"It doesn't bother me, as long as we get the curriculum done, I would prefer it to end before Christmas break though."  
-Sherryl Paige



"It's decent, classes are a little bit harder, but I'm living life."  
-Seth Tuetken, '17



"It sucks because we have a whole week of forgetting about school."  
-Hannah Faley



"You can't come to school with your fresh kicks, fresh outfits and not have fresh classes."  
-Mason Daubs



"It sucks because you have to remember stuff after Christmas break."  
-Myles Bach, '18

# ATTEND ALL

Who they've seen:

- Robert DeLong
- Cage the Elephant
- Guster
- AWOLNATION
- Black Keys
- Imagine Dragons
- Green Day
- Big Data
- Young the Giant
- Fallout Boy

Going to:  
Mumford and Sons  
Twenty One Pilots

Been to:  
Summerfest  
Newbo Fest

Who they've seen (cont.):

- FUN
- Kings of Leon
- Andy Frasco
- U.N.
- CHON
- HRVRD
- Edward Sharpe
- Magnetic Zeros
- Brandy Carlile
- Ingrid Michaelson
- Shakey Graves
- Matt & Kim
- The Kooks

