



From France to Hopkinton: Meet Sonia

by Ashley Kramer

Surely by now, most of you have seen several new faces throughout the school. Amidst those faces is Sonia Vidal, a foreign exchange student from Boulogne surmer in France. Sonia is staying with the Dircks family from Hopkinton for the next three months.

When asked why she chose to come to eastern Iowa, Sonia said that it was her family who chose it. However, Sonia stated, "I'm happy to be here!"

Among the classes Sonia is taking here at Maquoketa Valley are Band, English II, Fashion Design, U.S. History, Advanced Algebra and Physics. Sonia's favorite classes are Advanced Algebra and Physics. She likes the math class because she has "always liked math and this class is easier for me here because I did what we are doing now one or two years ago." Sonia enjoys Physics because of the "good



Sonia Vidal is our new foreign exchange student. She's from France and is staying with the Dircks family.

school and there aren't any extracurricular activities such as sports, band, or cheer-leading.

Just as Sonia's two schools are very different, her hometown is very different from Hopkinton. It is much bigger, with more people and more activities. Sonia can go to the beach, cinema, theatre, swimming pool, and the shopping center, which is in the street. Much different from Hopkinton or Delhi! On the flip side, in Hopkinton the people are nicer, the houses are prettier, and the outdoors is wonderful.

During the next 3 months, you may see Sonia in the band or playing volleyball. Sonia has been working very hard on learning a new musical instrument (the marimba), which has been a good experience. Volleyball is also new to Sonia, but she loves it and plans to continue it in France.

Say hello to Sonia when you see her in the halls. She is a friendly person who really likes our school so far, so do your best to welcome her!

Roling Voted Student Council President

by Jessica Krogmann



Student Body President Shawn Roling

The past few weeks have been hectic for everyone, but they were drawn out and nerve-wrecking for a few others. The Government classes had been busy choosing candidates for student council president and class representatives. There were four parties in the running this year.

The "Hawaiian Breeze" party consisted of Greg Bonert for Freshman Rep, Brian Wegmann for Sophomore Rep, Nathan Burger for Junior Rep, Melissa Thompson for Senior Rep, and Sara Wentholt for student council president.

Running under the "Smoothies" party were Melissa Wegmann for Freshman Rep, Donny Nordmann for Sophomore Rep, Jodi Hendricks for Junior Rep, Mike Sibel for Senior Rep, and Krystal Johnson for president.

The next party was a house full of good candidates, "The Suits." This group was made up of Randy Murray for Freshman Rep, Michelle Tumey for Sophomore Rep, Tristan Miles for Junior Rep, Angie Dircks for Senior Rep, and Shawn Roling for student council president.

continued on next page

"I'm happy to be here!"

—Sonia Vidal, foreign exchange student

teacher" and "good atmosphere" of the class.

According to Sonia, there are lots of differences between MV and her school in France. Over there, there are over 1000 students, ranging from ages 15-24. In her school there are 300 rooms, which are divided into 3 different buildings. During study hall the students can leave. The school day begins at 8:00 some days and 9:00 on others, with 35 school hours per week. The students don't have the same classes each day and they aren't allowed to pick their own classes. Lastly, over in France, smoking is allowed at Sonia's