



Bearin' Down

Vol. III, No. 4

Berlin American High School

December 14, 1979



N.H.S. HITS THE ROAD

By Steve Slifer

This year's National Honor Society, having just received the volunteer sponsorship of Mr. and Mrs. Payne, has finally convened for an organizational meeting.

In the meeting Mr. and Mrs. Payne expressed their understanding of their role as sponsors. Also, the bylaws of the society were briefly discussed, and it was suggested that a committee evaluate and bring forth any possible amendments for the constitution and/or bylaws.

Among some of the specifics discussed at the meeting were: whether or not present members would be re-evaluated on their qualifications for membership, when the next induction ceremony will be held, and what the qualifications should be for membership. Also, during the meeting, yearbook pictures were taken.

This year's officers were introduced as Mark Workman, President; Hobe Davies, Vice President; and Robert Wieland, Secretary-Treasurer.

Periodic updates on this organization may be obtained in future issues of Bearin' Down.

VARSITY CLUB SCORES VICTORY

By Steve Slifer

The Fall Sports Awards Banquet was recently held at the Berlin American High School cafeteria under the auspices of the Varsity Club. This November 18th banquet commenced at 1830 hours.

The bill of fare was pot luck, with the Booster Club catering the entree, and the Varsity Club, the beverages. Each of the individual teams contributed additional dishes.

Following dinner the host, Varsity Club President Troy Mason addressed those in attendance by introducing the separate coaches.

Each coach called forth the individual athletes of his/her team and presented each with a sports letter or certificate of participation. The coaches also expressed their gratitude to each of their volunteer assistant coaches.

The sports teams attendant at the banquet were both varsity and junior varsity: football, volleyball, crosscountry, and golf.

This ceremony was a major victory for the newly established Berlin American High School Varsity Club, and showed the leadership and potential of this organization.

ETC SELECTS DELEGATES

By Steve Slifer

On Wednesday, November 28, the Educational Trip Club held its annual board for the Presidential Classroom.

In a previous meeting the Educational Trip Club decided on sending four members to the Presidential Classroom in Washington, D.C. The first two will be completely funded for the registration fee and transportation. The second two must pay for their own transportation, however, the three hundred dollar registration fee will be covered by the club.

In order to qualify, the applicant must be an active participating member of the club. A resume was to be written along with a minimum

of two letters of recommendation, and to be turned in to Ms. Okura. Having completed these prerequisites the applicant was then allowed to present him/herself before the selection board.

The board was composed of members of the various supporting organizations, representative faculty members and students.

Having successfully completed all the previous requirements, the selection board evaluated each candidate. Those selected to represent Berlin American High School are Richard Clarke, Steve Slifer, April Coffin, and Mark Workman.

At the Model United Nations in the Hague, Holland, the Educational Trip Club will be representing the countries of South Africa and Granada.

The selection process for this trip was a board, rating each of the club's candidates on their performance in a debate. This debate was held on November 29, during sixth period.

The delegates to represent South Africa (Listed alphabetically) will be Richard Clarke, April Coffin, Irvin Hicks, Steve Slifer, and Mark Workman. To represent Granada will be Jeff Alexander, Connie Phillips, Peter Stein, Don Stovall, and Ted Wugofski.

BERLIN HARMONIZES WITH FRANKFURT

By Steve Slifer

The Berlin American High School chorus joined with the Frankfurt High School chorus, who call themselves the "Meloteens."

This ensemble presentation began sixth period, November 19, with Frankfurt leading things off.

The Meloteens, conducted by their director, Mrs. Johnson, presented their program consisting of the songs: "While the Bright", "Once Upon a Dream", "Sledge Bells", and excerpts from the Broadway musical, "Annie."

The Berlin chorus, under the direction of Miss Risner, sang the following songs: "Feelings", "Time in a Bottle", and "Memories."

Following their separate performances the two groups combined under the direction of Mrs. Doty Poulus. They sang: "I Hear a Voice a Praying", "In the Mood", and "Madam Janette."

SCA AIDS ACS

By Steve Slifer

Student Council has organized a charity project for our school to help the needy families of the community.

The project is to collect non-perishable canned goods to help the less fortunate to have a more enjoyable Christmas. These canned goods will be given to the American Community Services branch to be distributed.

This project is a competition between each of the classes. A minimum of 250 canned goods from each class is requested. These canned goods are to be turned in to class sponsors.

The class collecting the most canned goods will receive a prize.

FBLA FORMS

By Steve Slifer

The Future Business Leaders of America is a national organization that aids in guiding and encouraging students interested in the business field. It has over 8,000 chapters and is in all 50 states.

The Berlin American High School has formed a chapter for those prospective business-career-interested students.

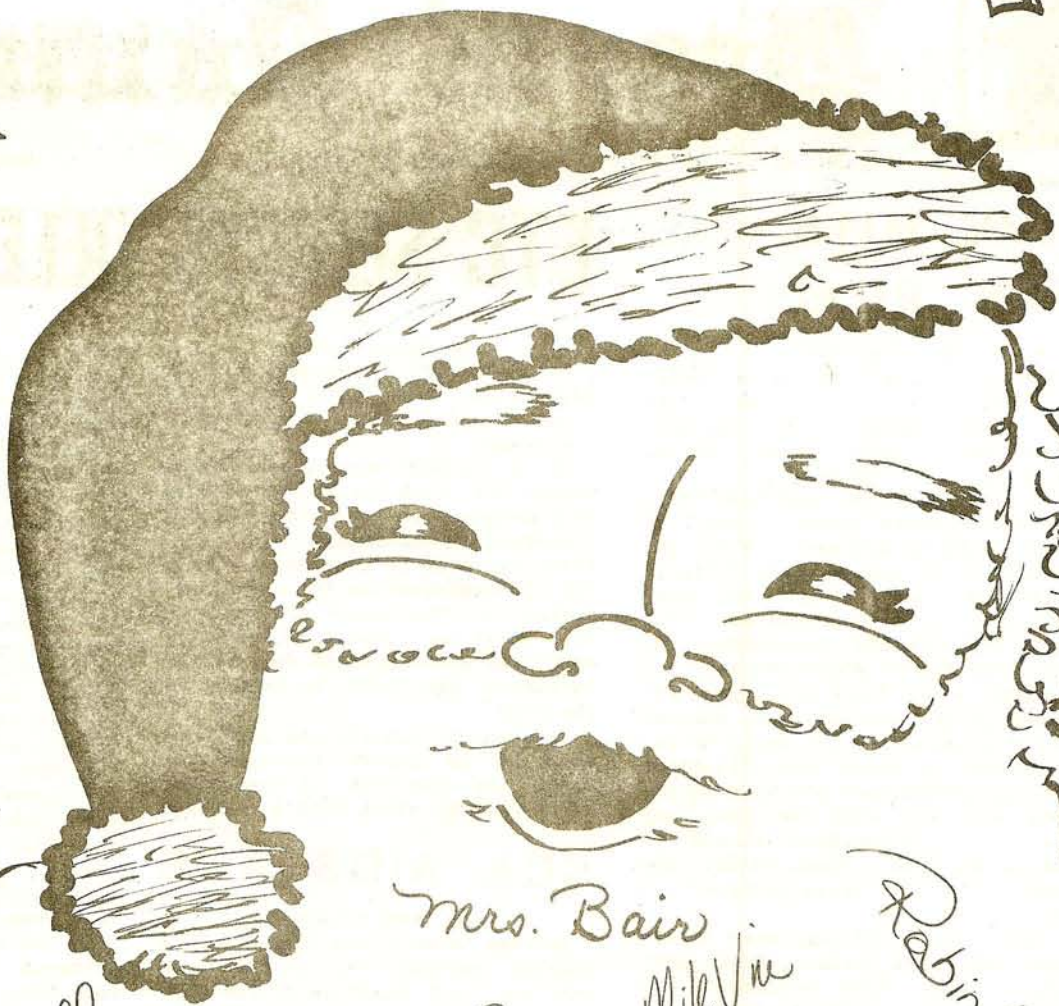
The officers of the Berlin chapter of the FBLA are: Veronica Kosevich, President; Tracy Groover, Vice President; Michele Conover, Secretary; Lynne Schenkelberger, Treasurer; and Nancy Chartier, Historian.

Membership is still open; for more information attend the meetings announced in the School Bulletin.

SEASONS

GREETINGS

FROM
PUBLICATIONS



Joni Hassell

Ronald Watt

Joyce O. Warren

Suzanne Duncan

Milvin
Celtis Smith

Petra Drisley
Cathy Jones

Robin McDonald

Carla Sutcliffe

Joan Chartier

Michelle Schuetz

Karen Kelly

Valerie Jackson

Steve Styer

Joanne Buron

Mark Workman

Larry L. Lerner

Bryan

Goss Bennett

Julia Hall

Lynnie Solbert

David Paulson



Horizon



A CHRISTMAS IN BERLIN

Toni Hassell

Grade 12

Tw'as the night before Christmas and all through Berlin,
The people were joyful and happy within.
The trees were all lit with white, shining lights,
Waiting for Santa to come by that night.
The children were excited, the grownups were worn out,
From shopping and scuffling and bustling about.
There were last minute sales at C & A,
And last minute gifts from Ka De We.
The Ku-damm lights, the crowded streets,
Was a place where everyone seemed to meet.
I on the 11 bus headed for home,
Wondering who called me on the phone.
As I reached my house with bags in my hands,
I could hear the sound of the live rock bands.
It was only 10 and getting late,
And Santa Claus was on his way.
My mom was baking pies and cakes,
Trying very hard to stay awake.
The children were anxious to go to sleep,
To wake up to their Christmas treats.
They all were nestled in their beds,
While creamy cupcakes danced in their heads.
They dreamed of candy canes ten feet high,
And chocolate-covered butterflies.
I wandered to the kitchen to cook some more,
When I heard a knock upon the door.
I answered the door, and who did I see?
A big white Santa Claus looking at me.
He held his belly and twinkled his nose,
And held his fingers, frosty and cold.
I invited him in and gave him a seat.
And brought him something to eat,
I gave him a bockwurst and a plate of pommes frites,
And gave him a cigar that I had lit.
He asked if I'd heard of the Riverboat,
And I replied with a funny joke,
'Have you ever heard of Santa Claus,
With elephant ears and flabby jaws?'
And he just laughed with his hand on his belly,
That shook like a bowl of strawberry jelly.
He walked to the door and opened it wide,
And stood with his head held up high.
He brought in a bag, very large in size,
As I stood there wondering what he had inside.
He asked, "How come you're not in bed?"
He shook his finger and nodded his head.
'Oh Santa Claus,' I replied,
'Someone had to sit with Clyde.'
He said, 'Okay, I'll let you slide,
But don't think you're taking me for a ride.'
And I asked, "Okay, now what's for me,
Among the gifts below the tree?"
And he said, "All right, just settle down,
And I'll tell you before I make my rounds.
I bought you a gift of love and peace,
Which you may spread among the streets.
And I will leave this gift with you,
To do with it what pleases you.

I gave him a kiss and a great big hug,
As he squeezed me tight, my shoulders shrugged.
He got his belongings off the floor,
And slowly headed for the door.
He walked down the steps in the very cold night,
And stepped in a cab, yellow and bright.
He went to Sundgauer and Goerzallee,
To place the gifts below the trees.
He went to Dahlem and Clayallee,
Buchsweller Strasse, and Thielallee.
He went to Dueppel to finish his job,
And worked his way to Teltowerdamm.
He stopped by Schlangenbader, TCA,
Pueckler Housing Area, and Schuetzallee.
He went by Andrews, McNair and BB,
And left new radios and color TVs.
His last stop was at the Harnack House,
Where he met a new friend, Ben, the mouse.
He finished his chore and fled down the stairs,
And ran to find out his taxi fare.
He looked at the driver who bluntly said,
'Einhundert Deutsche Mark ist Seiner fare.'
So he got in the cab on his way to Tegel,
To return to his home, the North Meneagle.
I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night."

AND THEN COMES WINTER

Thomas Warren

Grade 12

She smiles, fighting to hold back tears. Two children cling playfully to his pantleg, oblivious to the emotions above. The Chihuahua is comfortably imbedded in his arm. No goodbyes are spoken for fear of what they might bring. He hands the struggling Chihuahua to his wife, peels the two children off his leg, and throws the duffel bag over his shoulder. Slowly he walks toward the plane, not daring to look back for fear of what he might see. No longer able to control the tears, she cries softly. The children look on and wonder what has happened. They wave. The Chihuahua whimpers silently as if it knows what others reject. Autumn begins.

Late fall: the last leaf clings to the branch for life. The children play outside, running and yelling as children often do. Their mother, inside is busily making dinner. The Chihuahua stretches lazily on the sofa awaiting supper. There comes a knock upon the door. The wife quiets the viciously attacking Chihuahua as she rushes to open the door. Into her hand is placed a telegram. Mrs. Smith, we regret to inform you

A widow curses God as the last leaf falls to the ground. The children continue to play.



Features



PROMISES MADE TO BREAK

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Dave Fox:

"Do all things this year that I didn't do last year."

Dave Paulson:

"Same as Dave Fox plus, get out of this insane city."

Robin McDonald:

"To be nice to weird people."

Miss Gygax:

"To live through the rest of the school year."

Ms. Risner:

"To keep track of my pencil."

Mark Workman:

"No longer make New Year's Resolutions."

DON'T HEAT IT-EAT IT

We at Berlin American High School should be honored, for, two weeks ago our school was host to twelve kitchen geniuses, who for several hours after school, each made a gingerbread house from scratch. Using M&M's, cookies, coconut, ice cream cones, other delicious candies, and something called "Royal Icing" to hold it all together, twelve houses were made and taken home to be Christmas Centerpieces. Although there were conflicting reports as to the success of the project, a fun time was had by all. And the crafty people behind these culinary creations were: April Nadworny, Chris Ureigas, Daniella Stevens, Allen Evans, Mike Brady, Somsok Somcheen, Carol Hackett, Sherry Ford, Joy Peltz, Angela Byron, Leah Anderson, Glen Howell, and of course Mrs. Boddie, the Home Economics teacher.

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

On Sunday, Dec 2, ten students from the music department played at the Christmas Bazaar being given by the "Kirchengemeinde" on Bismarckallee. Ms. Risner, the music teacher, was asked if our school would like to be represented in this event for charity. She was also asked if she could arrange for them to play American Christmas carols. So, at 11:30 the ten students who had volunteered met at the school, and from there went to the church on Bismarckallee.

LETTERS # # to the # # EDITOR

Dear Editor,

At our school dances our music is always disco, never punk or country or rock or even pop! WHY IS THAT SO?

Can't we at least take a poll to find out if everyone wants the kind of music they always play? Is it fair to the rest of us to have this music shoved down our throats?

ROCK-N-ROLL

Dear Rock-n-Roll,

The people who organize our dances here at the school usually select the person who plays the music, the D.J. The D.J. usually is a professional person, and to help encourage crowds he must play the contemporary music of today's discos. You may contact me on your ideas for the poll.

Student Council President,
Richard Clarke

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter about the bells in this school. Not only does it seem that the 5 minute warning bell has been quieted, but also that the clocks in this school are at least five minutes fast. I leave my house in the morning roughly at 8:20. I could always get to school before the first bell rang at 8:25. Lately, however, I have been arriving anywhere from 8:29 to 8:35 school time. This is neither correct nor convenient, since it has resulted in my being late to class every day this week. When will the clocks in this school be fixed?

-PEEVED PUPIL

Dear Peeved Pupil,

Clocks, like everything else, age, and our clocks are now over 15 years old and have developed many problems. Until now, our clocks have been repaired (set to correct time) by Siemens Co. who has the repair contract. Because of the many problems with the clock/bell system, Siemens has now cancelled this contract stating that the clock system is beyond repair. A new system is now on order. Army engineering personnel will do their best to keep our system operating until the new one arrives.

-Mr. Stowell

Dear Editor,

It has come to my attention that despite the fact that there are trash cans in every hall for our use, people continually misuse them.

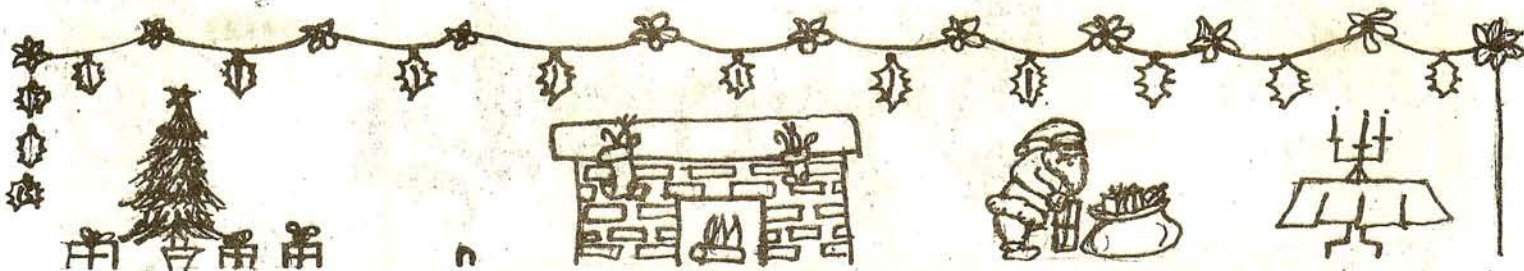
These trash cans were designed for trash, not to contain bodies or as basketball hoops. I would like to thank everyone who has been considerate enough to appreciate public property.

ANONYMOUS

Dear Students,

This column is entitled "Letters to the Editor". Therefore it should contain letters to the Editor. But the Editor is not receiving any letters. If you have a complaint, statement or plea, feel free to put it into writing and send it to the Editor. All you need to do is drop the letter off in room 103 and the Editor will try to get an answer for you and have your letter published in the next issue of Bearin' Down.

THANK YOU



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...

Santa has visited the Publications class and left the following:

- TO: Felicity Lee-
A pen that works so she can write to her friends.
- TO: Mr. Sullivan-
A genuine set of imitation Wogofski Emeralds.
- TO: Cletis and Toni-
A matching wardrobe.
- TO: Carolyn Lindsay-
A muzzle
- TO: Mr. Lazenby-
A stepladder to add a little height to his stature
- TO: Laura Kempton-
A butterfly net to catch all the late students who try to sneak in.
- TO: Ms. Rekucki-
A well deserved 1st prize for the Rosemarie Clooney look alike contest.
- TO: Connie, Bama, Charlotte, and Sharon, Scott, and Evan-
A golden cast.
- TO: Mr Chavis-
A suit that matches.
- TO: Newspaper Staff-
A new editor-in-chief.
- TO: Mrs Payne-
Big Ben.
- TO: Dave Paulson-
Basketball skills.
- TO: Mrs. Bair
A gallon-bottle of Tipp-Ex and a bottle of Maalox.

UP IN SMOKE

Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong (better known as Cheech and Chong) are perhaps to the seventies what Laurel and Hardy were to the twenties. Cheech is the father of a poor Mexican family living in Los Angeles. Chong, on the other hand, comes from a wealthy upper class family. He leaves his parents after an argument concerning his inability to get a job and moves in with Cheech. Between trying to organize a band, and getting high, the two cultural drop-outs manage to smuggle the largest shipment of marijuana out of Mexico in history, much to the dismay of Sgt. Sedenko and his "Keystone Undercover-Cops"!

Good News! The first thirty-two pages of the '79-'80 yearbook have been sent to Walsworth Publishing Company in Marceline, Missouri. The theme of this year's annual is "Turning Point". The sections which were sent to Walsworth were the seventh and eighth grade sections, the cover and end-sheets, and a few pages of sports. The last pages of the yearbook will be sent out on February 15, and the completed yearbooks are expected to arrive about the end of May.

Merry Christmas



R AND R

We went around the school and asked various students and teachers what they are going to do during Christmas vacation.

Karen Reilly:
Visit with her brother.

Julia Howell:
Combination of work, relaxation, visiting, and partying. Hopefully not at the same time.

Richard Clarke:
Going skiing in Garmisch.

Dave Fox:
Not doing homework.

Miss Gygas:
Skiing in Bad Tolz.

Ms. Risner:
Going to Kentucky.

CHRISTMAS AT HOME

Home being where you hang your hat, the Bearin' Down Staff decided to run an article on a typically German Christmas.

In Germany, the holiday season starts on December 5, when the children watch for the good Saint Nicholas. On the evening of the 5th, the children polish their best shoes and set them out on the door step. If the child has been bad the past year, he will find switches in his shoes. If the child has been good, his shoes will be filled with small presents, candy and fruit. Quite often they find a little of both in their shoes.

The next occasion in December is December 24th, Christmas Eve. The German family eats Christmas dinner and waits for the Christkind (Christ Child) to come and bring them presents. After supper they all listen for the tinkling of a little bell announcing that the tree is decorated and the presents are under the tree. Before the gifts are opened, the family sings Stille Nacht (Silent Night) and other favorite carols.

Another Christmas tradition is the Adventskranz (Advent's Wreath). It is a wreath made of pine branches holding four candles. Every Sunday in December the family gathers around the wreath and one candle is lit, the final candle to be burned on the last Sunday.

Along with the Adventskranz there is the tradition of the Advent Calendar. This is the first present given to a child in the holiday season. It is a calendar of the month of December up to Christmas Eve. It has a picture on the front with small doors worked into the design. There is a door for every day. Behind these doors are small pictures applying to the holiday season. These days the Advent Calendars are fancier and some of them have candies or even small presents behind the doors.

BEARIN' DOWN STAFF

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.....Cathy Jones
.....Tracey Turner
.....Mark Workman
.....Carla Sutcliffe
.....Brian Reiff
.....Joyce Warren
GRAPHICS.....Karin Turner
ADVISOR.....Mrs. D. Jane Bair



BEAR-A-CUDAS STROKE AUGSBURG

The Berlin Bear-a-cudas hosted the Augsburg Otters in a European Forces Swim League swim meet recently at Andrews Pool. There were several outstanding swims as the Bear-a-cudas won the meet, 279-115.

The Bear-a-cudas took 33 of the 48 events in the meet, 10 of which were 1-2-3 sweeps. In another 10, the Bear-a-cudas finished 1-2 and also won seven out of the eight relay.

Four Berlin swimmers had three wins apiece. Colleen Pierce won the 10-and-under 100-meter individual medley, 50-meter backstroke, and 50-meter butterfly. Katharine Keough, had wins in the 11-12 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter individual medley and 50-meter butterfly. For the second time in three tries, Katharine's times in each event were all within one second of the EFSL records. Veronique Alderson won the 15-18 girls' 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter individual medley, and 100-meter butterfly. Veronique's times in the freestyle and butterfly races were also within a few ticks of the EFSL records. Skip Sherrell continued to be unbeaten this year by winning the 15-18 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter individual medley, and 100-meter butterfly. Like his teammates, Skip also had near-record times in the freestyle and individual medley. He holds the EFSL freestyle record and missed the individual medley record by three one-hundredths of a second.

Berlin's 15-18 relay quartet of Skip Sherrell, Katherine Keough, Veronique Alderson and Mitch Mosler finished just four-tenths of a second away from a new EFSL record.

The brothers Wugofski of Berlin, Ted and Tim, each placed first in the 100-meter breaststroke, and third in the 100-meter freestyle. Tim did it in the 13-14 age group, and Ted in the 15-18 age group.

WRESTLING SCHEDULE

19 January	away	Baumholder
26 January	home	Berlin
2 February	away	Zweibruecken
19 February	away	Osterholz
16 February	away	Wuerzburg
23 February	home	Berlin

28-29 February
1 March Championships

SPORTS EXTRAS...



The Girl's Intramurals Program has begun. The girls are practicing frequently and are planning on playing in the Intramural Women's League. Many of the girls participating are future prospects for the high school team.

The second-half cheerleaders tryouts are underway. There are many new girls trying out as well as some of the former cheerleaders from the first half.

Men's Varsity and Junior Varsity tryouts will begin on January 2. Crane Biberstein will be the head-coach this year. Mr Biberstein was formerly a winning basketball coach here at the Berlin American High School, two years ago. That year he led the Bears to a 17-3 record and a second-place Silver Division finish.

On Sunday, December 16, the Berlin American High School Swim Team will meet Mannheim at the Andrews Swimming pool here in Berlin. The team has several outstanding swimmers and the meet is sure to be a good one.

There are many DYA activities taking place during the month of December. For all those interested in any of these events, stop by the DYA, or call them at 6293.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

25-26 January	away	Karlsruhe
1-2 February	home	Zweibrucken
8-9 February	away	Baumholder
15-16 February	home	Karlsruhe
22-23 February	away	Zweibrucken
1 March	home	Baumholder

BASKETBALL CLINIC HELD AT SPORTS CENTER

On November 28 and 29, a basketball clinic was held for all boys interested in playing basketball. On November 28, the clinic was held for sophmores and freshmen, in which sixteen boys participated. On November 29, the clinic was held for juniors and seniors, in which ten boys participated. The clinic was set up by Major Eric Marshall and Mr. Cobb.

Mr. Cobb and Mr. Rodriguez ran the clinic and tested the participants on ball handling skills, shooting skills, passing skills, and knowledge of the game. First, they had the boys shoot lay-ups using both the right hand and the left hand. Then they had the boys do some jump shots from different areas on the court. After the jump shots, the participants dribbled through a maze of cones, testing their ball handling skills. Next, they ran a three on two drill, in which two men on defense played against three men on offense. The last drill was a game of four on four in which teams were made, and one team would be on defense and the other on offense. Varsity Coach, Crane Biberstine, was present at the clinic. He chose the players he thought had a chance to make the highschool team. From the freshmen and sophomore group: Brian Frazier, Ronald Watt, Greg Routin, Tyrone Parks, Henry Sensley, and Mark Louis were chosen. From the junior and senior group: Andre Harley, Charles Henry, David Paulson, David Fox, and Jim Batchelder.

This list doesn't mean that those not chosen cannot go out for the highschool team. The list just means that those people on the list, in Mr. Biberstine's eyes, have a very good chance of making the Varsity team.

