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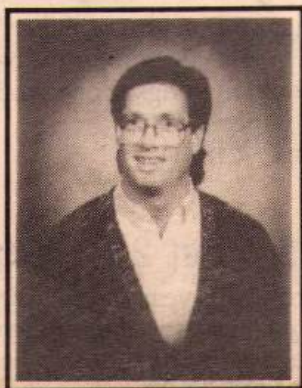
A DEDICATION TO RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM...

The Vox

VOLUME XLII NO. 2
DECEMBER 21, 1989

What MHS Students Want For Christmas

During the season when visions of sugar plums are supposed to be dancing in good little girls' and boys' heads, the students here at MHS are dreaming of much bigger and more expensive gifts. When asked the question, "What do you want for Christmas?" students' answers varied from teddy bears to compact disc players. Here are some of the responses.



Mr. Tesar : "The elimination of all mental illnesses throughout the world."

Jennifer Prosser : "A big barrel of fudge."



Tracy Fields : "To give all guys brain transplants."

Jenny Livingston : "Lots of money"

Uyen Nguyen : "A date with Mel Gibson."

Scott McDonald : "Money."

Gigi Gann : "A dog."



Andrea Ebaugh : "An FM stereo for my car."

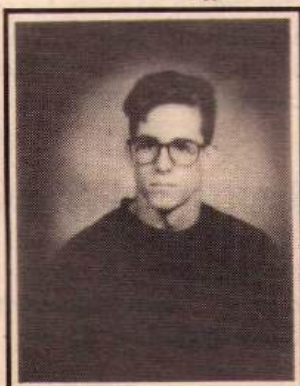
Matt Andrew : "A new guitar."



Wendy Vick : "For my family to be together."



Carrie Holstad : "A stereo and a leather coat."



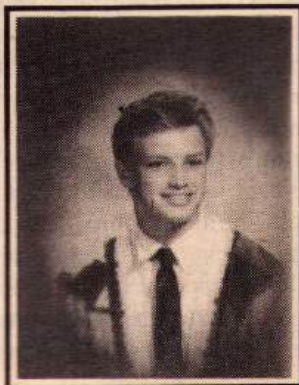
Merrill Miller and Dan Knight : "World peace."



Candy Gongwer : "A ring."

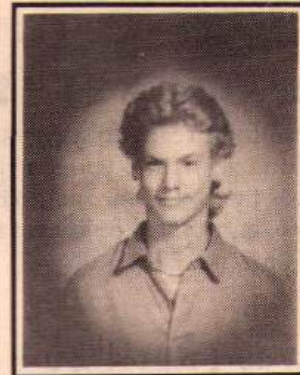
Alex Mejia : "A Marion jacket."

Darren Reid : "My two front stereo speakers."



Candy Mather : "Craig"

Jason Northway : "A C.D. player for my car."



Bryson Janey : "A new political leader and a '59 sunburst Strat."

Venus Horton : "A big teddy bear."

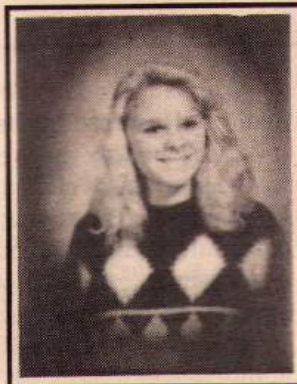


Dawn Willson : "A new car."

Jacque Hammes : "A new boyfriend."

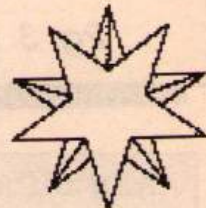
Stephanie Robertson : "An all expense paid vacation to Steamboat, Colorado."

Jim Gregory : "An Irish Wolfhound dog."



Jenny Stammeyer : "A Mercedes-Benz convertible."

Mr. Bates : "Cheryl Tiegs."



Looking to the Stars

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

This month be ready to broaden your horizons. Try to get away from the same old routine and try something different. A new job could be just what you need. Make sure to take time for that special person in your life.

Lucky days: 7, 11, 19, 24

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Watch your back this month! A friend you may have previously been close too may be talking behind your back! Don't let this get you down, your true friends will stand by your side. And, by the way Aquarius, try to stick to your New Year's resolution this year.

Lucky days: 4, 8, 18, 22

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

This month will begin a new and prosperous year for you! Don't worry yourself with money matters. Money should start flowing in around the middle of the month and should continue to flow until, although it may be sporadically, until this time next year.

Lucky days: 6, 16, 22, 25

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

This month be ready to spend some quality time at home. You may feel a little down and you may just feel like being a hermit for awhile. Towards the end of the month be ready to come out of the shell, a romantic encounter could heat things up.

Lucky days: 14, 20, 21, 28

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

A love relationship may have you a little down in the dumps lately. Cheer up! Your loved one will see the error in their ways. Then it will be smooth sailing for the rest of the month. Spend a good portion of your time with family members.

Lucky days: 1, 12, 16, 24

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Use the beginning of the new year to resolve that you will devote time to an old friendship. This old friend could be feeling hurt and rejected over your lack of attention. Be more sensitive to others needs.

Lucky days: 3, 12, 22, 28

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

A family problem may have you walking on nails lately. Don't let this bother you. With a little communication the whole situation will resolve itself. Try to pay more attention to your school work, it could also help the situation at home.

Lucky days: 5, 7, 19, 20

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

This month is your month to shine. The holiday break is just what you'll need to rest yourself for the big month that is to come. Be ready to juggle a million things at once and don't worry if you don't succeed, no one will notice.

Lucky days: 4, 7, 18, 22

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Be most careful this year Virgo. All your plans will start taking shape. They may not always go the way you plan, but they will all work out in the end. Keep a love relationship healthy with patience.

Lucky days: 7, 17, 27, 29

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Try to let the creative side of you try to show a bit more this month. People will be attracted to you because of your special talents. Keep your goals in sight and remember not to bite off more that you can chew.

Lucky days: 14, 24, 25, 29

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

This month be ready for some unhappy seas in the love relationship department. They will all be resolved if both parties remember that patience is a virtue. All will be well in the end.

Lucky days: 1, 12, 16, 22

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 19)

This month surprises will be coming at you from all directions. Don't let this bother you. Some surprise will be good and others may not be so great. Learn to deal with them as they come and all will work out.

Lucky days: 4, 6, 7, 18

The Vox

Published since 1934

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The Vox is a student newspaper dedicated to informing its readers. It is published six times each year by the journalism class at Marion High School. The staff will report accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities and events pertaining to the school will be covered to the best of the staff's abilities.

Staff Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the staff of *The Vox* and will appear on page 2 of *The Vox* in each issue. Space for letters to the editor will be provided on the opinion page.

All letters must be signed and will not be published anonymously. Letters must be limited to 200 words in length, and not all letters will be published in their entirety. The staff will not edit letters for usage, punctuation, or spelling errors. No letter will be published which contains libel, obscenities, is an invasion of privacy, or which would cause a physical disruption to the school. The authorship of all letters will be checked by the staff of *The Vox*. Suggestions for inclusion in "John Vox Says..." may be submitted by any student or staff member.

The decision on whether to include them rests solely with the staff. Suggestions may be given to any staff member or handed in to the office.

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Grades: Are Advanced Students Being Hurt?

An "AP" class is designed to prepare students for a college level test that, depending on the achievement on the test, will determine the number of college course credits received. The level of instruction in the class is therefore typically higher than a normal high school class of a similar nature and the demands on the students' skills are proportionally increased.

Students are only able to take these courses at Marion upon recommendation and demonstration of ability to succeed in a class that pushes their abilities. The students take the classes realizing the level of difficulty is greater than in a typical classroom situation and usually do so to learn in a manner more attuned to that of a college class. A surprise arises just as in college for most students, however, when they see that they aren't receiving the same level of grades that they are used to. Instead of receiving grade percentages in the mid to upper nineties they seem to be dropping five to ten percentage points, for example. In any case, the result is students used to seeing an A or B on report card time viewing a piece of paper with a B or C. This doesn't mean that the person isn't working up to their potential, but the class is just that much more

difficult.

The students have taken this accelerated class to learn more and prepare for college but at the same time they are being punished for doing so. Letter grades lower than those that would normally be acquired lower the grade point and could potentially take a person out of the positions for scholarships and the like because their grade point or class rank dropped. Colleges do consider "AP" courses taken when considering an applicant, realizing the classes are more difficult, but scholarships which make judgments based upon class rank and grade point don't and in such cases taking the advanced class and receiving a lower than usual grade could disqualify someone.

Why is the system at Marion set up so that students are often punished for pushing their abilities? Many of the other schools in the area reward their students for doing so by grading such classes on a five point scale to balance grading in the "AP" classes with that of other high school courses. With an "AP" English class already instituted and plans for an advanced chemistry course next year why hasn't the school made provisions to reward students for their efforts?

A CALM BEGINNING LEADS TO THOUGHTS OF: BOREDOM

In some ways a sense of boredom is good for MHS, signaling the, so far, smooth passage of the majority of the first semester. The lack of excitement is in fact a sign of a lack of problems and unusual situations that appeared in the past couple of years. But, as the winter months befall Marion High School, a state of boredom has once again begun to overtake the school. There is a difference in the way it happened this year, however. This restless, tired, irritable state seemed to come early in the year not just with the change in season and activities.

Mr. Twachtman describes this year not as boring, but smooth. He thinks exciting the developments in rewarding academics and other achievement. He also notes that the football season was anything but boring and looks forward to exciting

winter sports.

Three years ago a newspaper was reintroduced into MHS, and the school was preparing all year for an upcoming NCA evaluation, dismissing students early at least once a month for faculty meetings. Two years ago when the evaluation took place faculty and students were visited in classrooms by members of the evaluation team. Last year various curriculum changes were made, VTR was working on a video year book, and the English department went through a change in faculty.

Senior Brian Boland refers to this year as "a little more stable" a good summary for a year in which the big changes, faculty cuts and rearranging of classrooms, took place before the school year was under way.

John Vox Says...

Thumbs down to people who think they are much better than everyone else.

Thumbs down to people who don't bring deodorant to gym and mooch off everyone else for it.

Thumbs down to short lunch cycles.

Thumbs down to non-participating PE students.

Thumbs up to Thanksgiving vacation.

Thumbs down to over pumped-bubbles who walk around hitting people just for the fun of it.

Thumbs up to Job Service dexterity tests for Sophomore Job Shadowing.

Thumbs down to no participation in food drive.

Thumbs up to letting everyone having a chance at contributing to "thumbs up."

Thumbs up to Mr. Bailey's Job Shadowing group.

Thumbs up to the school choir.

Thumbs down to people who park too close to your car.

Thumbs up to Christmas vacation.

Thumbs down to massive flirts.

Thumbs down to higher lunch prices.

Thumbs down to running out of lunch food in cycle C.

Thumbs up to the year going fast.

Thumbs up to the student council food drive.

Thumbs down to tucking in your shirt to show off your Guess jeans.

Thumbs up to the cast of "Greater Tuna."

Thumbs down to wrestlers having to cut weight and being grumpy because of it.

Thumbs up to S.A.D.D.

Thumbs down to not enough Thumbs up.

Thumbs down to goofing off and talking during the announcements.

Thumbs down to parents arriving too early for parent/teacher conferences.

WHY DIDN'T I DO IT WHEN I WAS SUPPOSED TO?

Brrrring! The bell rings just as Bob slips through the door to algebra and sneaks past the teacher to his seat. While the teacher takes attendance Bob realizes his assignment isn't done, his English research paper needs to be in ink copy by next hour, and due to his haste at home, he forgot his lunch money and gym clothes. While this might sound quite typical of anyone in high school, there is one word that explains why all of these problems occurred; procrastination.

By dictionary definition, procrastination is the act or habit of putting things off till later. With Bob's classic case, things got off to a poor start the night before. Although he had been working on his paper for three weeks, Bob watched T.V. instead of copying it over, thinking that he would just do it later, right after he did his algebra assignment, which he had already put off earlier that day. When crawling into bed that night, Bob remembered that he needed gym clothes and lunch money for the next day. However, taking action to do anything about

this situation was put off as Bob fell asleep, without making any plans to get up early the next morning to put everything together. So as one could probably guess, Bob's morning was total chaos.

A procrastinator is someone fairly easy to spot; they don't have things done on time, they are croniclly late for appointments and meetings, they are good excuse makers and are always ready to put the blame on others, and they're usually in a hurry. Because of these traits, others are not willing to put their trust and confidence in these type of people due to the possibility of failure, disappointment, and in general, lack of reliability.

The act of procrastination is an easy habit to fall into and an extremely hard one to break. Trying to kick this habit involves much preplanning, list making, goal setting, and commitment. But it's also worth it, for the burden of procrastination is not an enjoyable one to carry throughout life.

When is fun going too far?

CRIME...an act that is a danger to the peace and order of mankind, and continues to be a quiet plague spreading throughout our society. In your lifetime you will all be affected by it in some way, whether you are the actual criminal or the subject for crime. Even here in the little town of Marion there are crimes committed everyday that are unnecessary and often go unnoticed by the community. The problem facing us now is how are we going to put an end to this destruction and how can the people of this community help in this neverending battle?

property without the express permission of the owner) also. There is a common belief that if one was caught tee-peeing by the law, one would be fined \$100 per roll. According to James Teahen of the Marion Police Department, this is not true. "To be charged with a criminal offense, the owner of the property

about toilet paper, but when kids start turning to things like eggs, spray paint, and shaving cream, we must take action." When crime such as this occurs, and if the criminals are caught, they may be charged with fourth or fifth degree criminal mischief. Fourth degree is charged if the cost of replacing damaged property exceeds one hundred dollars

simple misdemeanor. The vandal in any case will be responsible for his/her actions. This goes to prove that a crime may be merely the breaking of a rule that has little or no moral significance.

But this sort of crime is just the beginning of this destructive trauma, a drop in the bucket you might say. Continually there are thefts of things such as bicycles, merchandise, and money. There is damage done to property of people- spray painting, slashing, egging. There are arrests for burglary and trespassing

VANDALISM

Almost all of us at one time or another have gone out with our friends and decided to spend our evening tee-peeing someone whether it be for fun or for revenge. No matter what the case, it could be considered criminal mischief (any damage, defacing, alteration, or destruction of tangible property done intentionally by one who has no right to act so) in the fourth or fifth degree or it could be considered trespassing (entering upon or in

must first file a complaint, then you may be charged with trespassing and if there happens to be any damage done, you will be responsible for it." "Owners normally don't get too discouraged

but does not exceed two hundred dollars. This mischief is considered a serious misdemeanor. You would be charged with fifth degree if the damage done is less than \$100. This mischief in turn is considered a

as well. It seems everyday the law is challenged by the people of our society to keep peace and order. According to the experts, crime in this day of time has become a major social problem, and they say that before this situation gets any more out of hand, the young generation must take a stand to help in the further prevention of crime. If today people are stealing BBQ grills and slashing convertible tops, what are we to expect for tomorrow?

When Vandalism Hurts

Being a high school student, one will most likely be tee-peed at least once during their high school years. When tee-peeing is done for fun, it can be a positive experience if there is no damage done. For many high school students, it is an indirect way of showing friendship and it is fun to leave a mess that they know their friend will have to pick up the next day. But what happens when you get the other end of the stick?

A while ago Marion High

School student Laura Brandt was tee-peed both for fun and for revenge. According to Laura, a group of girls decided one night to tee-pee her, but some of the girls had destruction on their mind instead. Her car and house were both vandalized with eggs, an object that stains and strips paint on most any object. Her real friends just toilet-papered her house. "When I found the mess the next morning, I was discouraged about the destruction

they had done. It was not cool when they took out their revenge out on property that is not only mine, but my parents' as well," commented Laura. Laura found out who did this and has not yet pressed any sort of charges. "I am still considering pressing charges in order to take care of damage done both to the house and my car, but the decision has been hard because I don't want to get my real friends that were there involved in the dispute."

Job Shadowing: PREPARING MHS STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

High school for many is the greatest time of one's life. It is a time when young people can experience a great amount of independence but still have the security of being under the care of their parents. There are many opportunities, but not an enormous amount of responsibility to go along with them. A common problem during high school is that students are only concerned with enjoying the present, not worrying about their futures. This is the problem that the administrators at Marion High School tried to begin to solve in 1982 with the initiation of the job shadowing program.

Mr. Bailey and Mrs. Foley have been involved in job shadowing along with the sophomore English department. The goal as Mr. Bailey explained it is to provide students with the opportunity to explore a wide variety of occupations, not to focus their attention on one exclusive field.

The entire process of job shadowing involves an interest inventory completed by each of the students and extensive research into various fields before each sophomore finally chooses one occupation which they would like to examine first hand.

One of the sophomore English teachers involved in job shadowing, Mr. Bates, explained why

the tenth grade year was the one chosen to include job shadowing. "We thought the freshmen wouldn't take it seriously because a career still seems too far down the road to them. By the junior year, many students would have already taken the wrong courses, and at that point it's hard to adjust their schedules to suit their career interests. But the sophomore year seemed just right because the students are just beginning to question what they want to do for a living and are at a good point to begin scheduling their classes according to their career goals."

According to guidance counselor Mr. Bailey, the success of the program depends on the students' attitudes toward it. "They have to develop a type of ownership of the activity. It must be looked at as something which will help them in the future, not as something they are being forced to do."

Trevor Cook is a sophomore involved in job shadowing this year who will be learning more about the responsibilities of a police officer through his experience. He described how job shadowing has been beneficial to him. "It has given me a better perspective of the world that awaits us and has enlightened me toward what it will take to compete in that world."



Sean Clark works on the large-object pegboards during Job Shadowing dexterity tests. The tests were administered through Job Service of Iowa.

Wendy Peterson: Setting Goals

Wendy Peterson, a senior here at Marion, was involved in a tragic accident in November of '87.

Wendy and two of her friends, fifteen years of age, were traveling back from a fun-filled day in Iowa City and decided to stop at a nearby convenience store where they purchased some alcohol. As their journey home continued with one of the fifteen year olds driving, their day soon ended when the car attempted a 90 degree turn going approximately 90 m/p/h. The driver was immediately thrown from the car while Wendy and her other friend were trapped in the car, unable to move. As they were all rushed to the hospital, Wendy was in critical condition and was in a coma for four and a half days. Peterson's parents were told that it didn't look too promising that Wendy was going to come through, as she was suffering from a skull fracture, broken arm, torn ligaments in her chest, and a broken knee-cap which had to be replaced. After four and a half days, Wendy finally came out of a coma, but remained in the hospital for another two weeks.

Although a very difficult phase was past, more difficulties began. Wendy's memory was injured and she still needed lots of physical

therapy. With all circumstances combining, she was unable to graduate with her class. Upset over this turn of events, she decided not to return to school. She moved to this area, got a job and apartment, and started working. But what Wendy soon found out was that life in the real world is more difficult than she imagined. She had five jobs, finding that without a diploma, the best jobs were closed to her.

Wendy knew that her options were to either get her GED or return to school for her diploma. Although it wasn't easy, Wendy decided to register at MHS and graduate.

In order to complete her classwork in one semester, Wendy is taking six academic classes during the school day and taking second semester American History with Mrs. Dolinaj. "It's hard to be the new kid and older than everyone else, but this was something I wanted to do," says Wendy.

"She still has memory problems as a result of the accident, but works very hard to get everything done," says Mrs. Dolinaj, who has known Wendy since grade school.

As well as finishing school, Wendy also works at Mr. Movies. After finishing in January, Wendy will move to Colorado and follow a career in either law or law enforcement.



John Vox's Top Ten List of Things to Write on School Pictures

FROM THE HOME OFFICE
IN ROOM 24

10. Good luck with the guys/girls.
9. I'm here if you ever need someone to talk to.
8. You've got a great personality.
7. I hope we get to know each other better in the coming years.
6. I'll never forget that one time we stayed out late and you got grounded for a month and my folks didn't even care.
5. It's been great having you in my Foods class.
4. Stay as sweet as you've always been.
3. Friends forever. F/F/E
2. I know we'll always stay as close as we are now.
1. Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

Activities Update

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MHS

ACTIVITIES

BAND

On January 13, the band will compete in the state jazz band competition in Lone Tree. Nine honor band students will go to Wartburg January 20-21 for Meistersinger Honor Band. The band recently performed their winter concert.

SADD

Students Against Drunk Driving are having a busy winter. They recently had a meeting with Marion Police officers and are now preparing for a Toga Dance party on January 20. Also, after the holiday season SADD is planning an "Ugly Man Contest". SADD adviser, Mr. Wikert, would not disclose details of the contest, but did say that each class will have one contestant.

VTR

The students in VTR can be spotted in the halls and in the classrooms with their cameras finishing various training projects. Advisor, Mrs. Drilling, says that VTR will not be doing a video yearbook this year.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The student council is proceeding with plans for "letters on the lawn." Large stone letters spelling out MHS will be placed on the hill on the west side of the building. The juniors won the food drive prize and the food was donated to the Marion pantry.

QUILL

This year the Quill is doing something different with the yearbook. They are selling personal ads to seniors from parents and friends containing one or two pictures with a message. The ads will appear in a special section of the yearbook and cost \$15 for an 1/8 page, \$27.50-1/4, \$50-1/2, and \$75 for a full page ad. Contact the Quill staff in room 24 for more information.

KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Knowledge Bowl participants are working each Thursday morning at 7:10 a.m. to prepare for competition. Students prepare their own current events questions and also answer "Jeopardy" type questions from Mrs. Bennett. Jeremy Bushlack assists Mrs. Bennett.

FBLA

The Future Business Leaders of America are having a Christmas party for their December meeting. They are expecting a guest speaker in January and are preparing for a fund raiser. Mrs. Sell, FBLA sponsor, said that the group is also getting ready for the state conference in March.

VOCAL MUSIC

Vocal music has been busy this holiday season. December 9 they were part of a concert at the Paramount and on the 11th the choir put on their annual Christmas concert. They also went caroling at the elementary schools. Mr. Heim, vocal music director, said he is now preparing for the spring musical.

Art Happenings

Four Marion High School students have recently won recognition for their accomplishments in art. Kathy Paine and Matt Hampson have had work accepted into a statewide juried drawing competition for seniors at the University of Iowa. Their work will be on display in the Iowa Memorial Union until December 4. Nghia Nguyen has won second place in a poster design contest sponsored by the state of Iowa. Besides a cash prize, Nghia has been invited to a luncheon in Des Moines and his poster design will be reproduced for use all over the state. Oanh Nguyen entered two of her drawings in a Scholastic art contest, she entered her pastel drawing and her perspective drawing. Oanh's pastel drawing was chosen for display at The

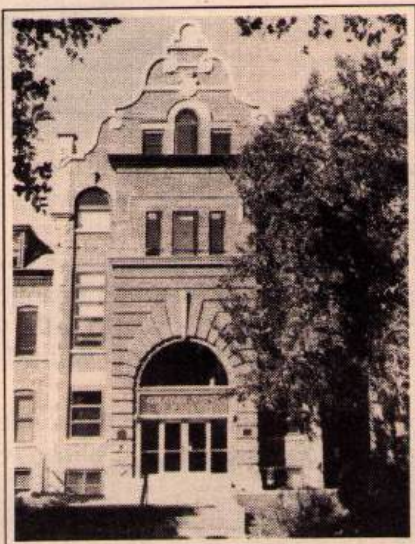
University of Iowa. She has plans to enter other art contests in the spring.

Another big event in the art spotlight is the Art Club's recent trip to Chicago. The Art Institute hosted a "Portfolio Day" as an opportunity for high school students to meet with representatives from art schools all over the nation. The museum of the Art Institute proved to be extremely interesting for the sixteen MHS students who participated. Some of the main highlights of the trip were the displays and exhibits at the Field Museum and Shedd Aquarium. Along with the Marion students, Linn-Mar students and community members as well were apart of this group. Another trip is tentatively planned for May when a Monet exhibit comes to Chicago.



Knowledge Bowl members meet in Room 28 Tuesday mornings. They are Brennan Buckley, Heather Hay, Michael Wright, David Kerslake, Jay Vavra, Kyle Carter. Not pictured are Jim Gregory and Phil Hutchinson.

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Fresh/Soph Cagers Show Strong Start

It is that time of year when the weather turns frigid and snow begins to fall, and Santa comes dropping into town. It is also the time of year for BASKETBALL!! This year the Indian sophomore girls' have three returning from last year. Sophomores, Jackie Hansen, Tracy MacNamara, and Karen Daugherty. This year they are joined by sophomore Nancy Hatch, and a load of freshman: Kristin Wilson, Stacey Jirouch, Jenny Janssen, Jenny Trout, Stacy Winnistorfer, Danni Ebaugh, and Julie Jorgensen.

The Freshman are seeing quite a lot of game time, with having to play a partial frosh schedule, and a full time soph schedule. So far the frosh have played two games, against Benton and Independence, losing both. The sophomores are a bit more successful, with a one and three record, playing LaSalle, Regis, Linn Mar, losing to them, and with a come from behind, deserving win over West Delaware, 42-41. According to Mr. Ross the new head coach of the squad, "They are a scrappin' kind of group, but it has been quite an adjustment remembering that they are a group of fresh soph girls' and not Varsity boys. But I enjoy it a lot." The Indians are managed by Cammy Coleman, Melissa DeWald, and Susan Barron. The assistant coach is Sam Kielty.

The fresh-soph boy's basketball is off to a good start. They were disappointed to lose to Anamosa, 63 to 57, but were cheered by a close win over Linn-Mar, 29 to 25. The team had another loss to Regis, 47 to 41. The team coached by Mr. Effting, is doing well and plans to keep doing so. "I think we have a good chance of winning the Wamac. We have a lot of talent and height, so we should win a lot of games this year," says Rob Hammill.

YOUNG GRAPPLERS

The Marion Indians wrestling team is 25 members strong this year, with Loyd Shaffer acting as head coach and Jim Bates and Dave Messerli as assistant coaches.

With the majority of the team being underclassmen Schaeffer feels that the boys have a bright future. He also senses that the kids have a real high potential, if they would just "buckle down" and strive to do their best and to reach their goal. Always kept in sight, this years main goal is to just improve by the end of the season.

On December 5, the Indians lost to the Washington Warriors, putting their dual meet record at 0-1. However on December 9, Varsity wrestlers placed 7th out of 10 teams in a tournament. The grapplers' strongest showing this year was at Vinton, where they won 20-50.

New Faces on the Court

Winter days are quickly approaching with changing temperatures of warm one day to cold the next. Along with these changes, the coaching staff of boy's and girl's athletics have also taken a turn.

On the girls' coaching staff, Mr. Wikert returns for his fifth year as the Varsity head coach. "We're going to be a lot better this year, we've changed our whole style of playing, we're going to press all the way", remarked Wikert about the upcoming season. Helping him out on the side-lines is assistant coach, Mr. Greg Semler, the sophomore coach from the '88-'89 season. Also new to the roster for the girls' teams are Mr. Ross for sophomore guidance, and Mr. Kielty for the energetic freshmen. Mr. Semler is currently teaching at Springville, and Mr. Kielty is also a teacher, but at North Linn High School.

As for the young team of players on the Varsity boys' squad, they are headed by first year coach, Mr. Steve Ottoson, hailing from Amana High School, where he is currently the athletic director. He will be sure to have his hands full with this team of primarily juniors. "He's a rugged disciplinarian, and that's what the team needs," replied Jamie Tharp, "he also set good guidelines and goals that won't let us get away with anything!" Ryan Fowler also had a few words about the coach, "He knows what he wants to do, and how to do it, I think that's his best quality." Handling the sophomore boys' is Mr. Jim Effting.

This is coach Effting's fourth year with the Marion basketball program, and he is a sixth grade teacher at Saint Pius X Catholic School. Returning this year as the boys' freshman coach is Scott Jackson who comes to us from Lincoln Stanwood.

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WINTER WINNERS

MHS GIRLS OFF TO STRONG START

YOUNG BOYS TEAM HOLDS THEIR OWN

Yes, sports fans, it's time once again for the basketball season to take to the court, and what better way to start it off, ... by going to watch the Varsity girls compete.

Coach Wikert returns for his fifth season of guidance and encouragement for the twelve girl team. New to the aid of coach Wikert is assistant Greg Semler with a helpful attitude. "We're trying a little different game plan, we're going to press all the way!" remarked Wikert of the upcoming roster. Although the team is small in numbers, it makes up for it in determination and the will to succeed against their opponents.

The first team in which the Indians faced was in the Metro tournament against the Warriors of C.R. Washington. With a couple weeks of practice under their belts they were sure to get the experience quicker than they expected. After thirty-two hard fought minutes of ball, the Indians came up on the short end of the stick. Their next opponents in the bracket were the Linn-Mar Lions. Once again the girls took to the floor with a feeling of determination that wouldn't quit until the buzz of the horn ended the game. It was after this disappointing defeat that coach Wikert decided to change the game plan a bit. The final games of the tournament were to be held at the Five Seasons Center, where you could see the Indians going up against the Prairie Hawks. It was here where the girls got the true feeling of the game with their first victory. Although they placed seventh in the tournament, they were anxious to put it aside and begin regular season play.

With LaSalle as the first of several victims and their home court advantage, it was going to be a game of quickness. Before the Lancers knew it, the Indians had taken an increasingly large lead. At the sound of the horn, the Indians had their first conference win under wraps, and would begin preparation for the big match-up against the Regis Royals in the boys/girls double-header. It was in this game that Wikert would begin the strategy of pressing the entire game. Although the girls would enforce the press, it didn't seem to slow the Royals' down

that much. That feeling of losing against the rivals, in which every athlete

experiences spread through the team in the last final minutes and the team was given its first defeat in the WAMAC. After this big loss, junior Kim Lochner was quoted as saying, "We're starting to come along as a team after having a years experience of playing together." This seemed to be the common feeling among the other player's as well. With the next two games against West Delaware and Independence, the spirits among the twelve had elevated once again. West Delaware was a chance to increase their record to 2-1, and this was accomplished after four short periods. This seemed to lift the players to another victory, in which the Independence Mustangs were the victims. With some exchanged messages from the Indee coach about the team, the will to beat the Mustangs became more of an inevitable task than the members of the team could resist. At the sound of the horn the Indians defeated them by ten, a score that seemed to satisfy the feelings of the players.

The schedule which the Indians have holds several different matches, ones to test the strengths of the MHS girls team.

New Indian boys head coach Steve Ottoson thinks that the Wamac basketball race looks

dominate this year.

Ottoson believes that this year the home floor advantage will play a large part in the eventual standings. The young team already has one road victory at Regis, and he hopes this success will continue.

Coach Ottoson's strategy this year with only one senior, Scott Brauer, and five junior starters - Bryan Seedorf, Travis Fuller, Todd Lewis, Brent Conway and Tim Frake is to keep it simple. "We don't want to overcoach but just let their natural ability show through."

The MHS boys began the season with the Metro Jamboree, then went on to two OT victories in one week against Anamosa and Regis. The Regis game was won on Brent Conway's three-point shot with five seconds left in overtime. However, the team next lost to Waverly-Shell Rock.

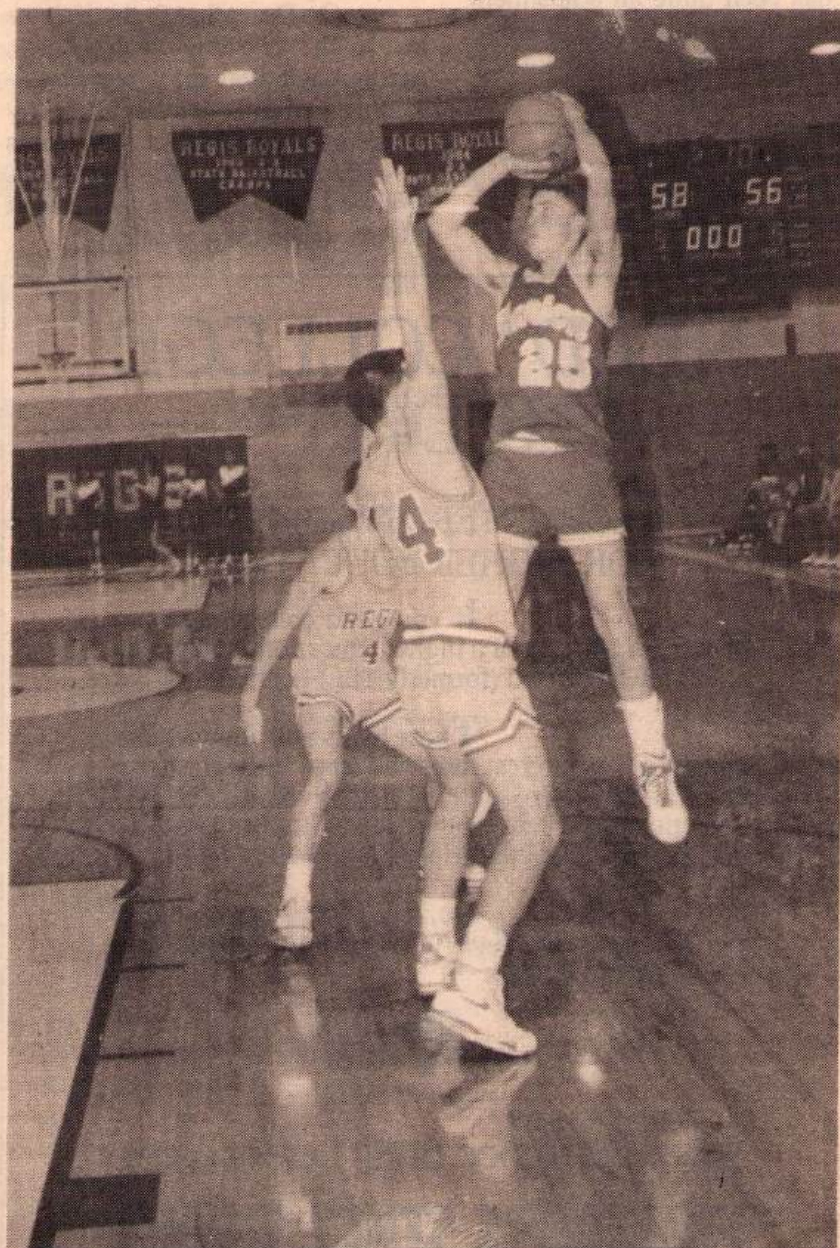
"We were never really into the game," says Ottoson. "We were giddy over how we beat Regis and it was 1 1/2 hours away on a Saturday night. I'm sure we'd all like to do it over again."

The boys Wamac schedule goes into full swing beginning January 2.



very interesting with early returns showing several

strong teams, including Independence, LaSalle, and Vinton. West Delaware was expected to lead the pack, but already has one loss as does Regis, breaking a 19-game Wamac winning streak. The Regis-West Delaware game this week may indicate who will



With two minutes left in regulation, Bryan Seedorf attempts to tie the score against Regis. Marion went on to win the game in overtime.

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