

# The Tower

John Adams High School

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South Bend, IN 46615

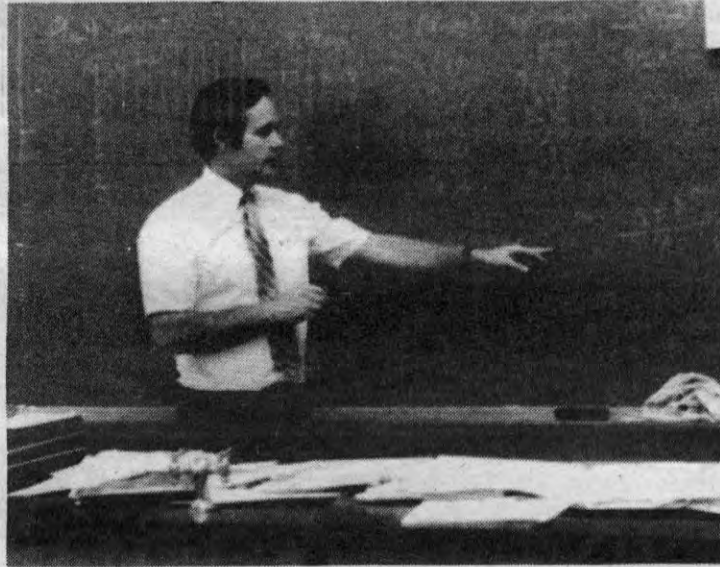
## Longenecker first

Mr. Nevin Longenecker, biology teacher at John Adams, has recently been selected as a recipient of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics teaching.

This prestigious award carries with it an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where Mr. Longenecker will be honored at a White House ceremony. He will also have the opportunity to share his experiences and learn about other teachers' experiences.

The National Science Foundation awards a grant of \$5,000 to John Adams, which will be used under the direction of Mr. Longenecker to "supplement but not replace other resources for use in improving...science or mathematics programs."

Mr. Longenecker teaches biology, honors biology, and research biology. He has taught at Adams for the past 17 years. Due to his achievements, the biology program is known to be one



Mr. Longenecker teaches the fundamentals of Biology.

of the best throughout this area. Mr. Longenecker is the author of a booklet called "A Guide To High School Biological Research," which has been requested by more than 75 teachers from different high schools in the United States!

Some other honors won by Mr. Longenecker include: Outstanding Biology Teacher of Indiana, 1980,

Outstanding Science Teacher of Indiana Science Education Fund, 1981-1983, and presentations at conventions for science teachers in Detroit and Indianapolis.

We are fortunate to have such a talented and intelligent person in our school. Congratulations to Mr. Longenecker, and good luck to him in all future endeavors!

## Why not a homecoming?

by Liz Panzica

During the St. Joe, Clay and Washington football games, Adams students watched an event they have never had a chance to participate in at their school, a "homecoming." Soon dozens of students were asking the question "Why can't we also have a homecoming?" When the Tower put this question to Mr. Przybysz, his response was "Nobody ever said we could not have a homecoming."

Although Mr. Przybysz sees no reason for not having a homecoming celebration, the decision lies almost solely on the shoulders of the student government. When student government official Colleen Lennon was asked the reason for lack of a homecoming, her response was "There was never any

interest expressed to me." She claims that student government can not function without input from the student body.

Adams does hold a "Spirit Week" and a "Pride Week" which closely resemble a homecoming. Also, during the final home football and basketball games the senior ball players, band members, and cheerleaders are recognized for their achievements in a pre-game or halftime ceremony.

Student apathy has been much of the reason behind Adams' lack of any type of homecoming festivities. In years past, Adams had a homecoming parade and a "Little 500" bike race along with a homecoming queen and her court. Some of the reasons for the decline of the homecoming celebration were the lack of student interest and differ-

ent groups claiming that they did not get equal representation on the homecoming court. School administrators seemed to feel that the homecoming court system served no real purpose.

Colleen Lennon claims, "Pride Week" could be just like a homecoming, but with the poor support shown during last year's "Pride Week" there seems no reason to press the issue of a homecoming."

Mr. Przybysz would most likely support a well planned homecoming if it had the backing of the student government and the student body. So it seems the next step is up to the students. As Mr. Przybysz so eloquently stated, "You've got to do something; you've got to commit to it."

Related article on pg. 4

## What's news

### College visits

The following college visits will take place next week.

Monday, 9:30 Manchester College

Tuesday, 9:00 Aquinas College, 1:00 Indiana Central

Wednesday, 9:30 Dayton, 11:30 University of Pennsylvania, 1:00 Albion College

If you are interested in attending any of these, see Mr. Rensberger in Rm. 101.

### Congratulations

Debbie Ann Smith, an Adams senior, has been named a 1984 United States National Award Service winner in Leadership Service, presented by the United States Achievement Academy. She was judged on such personal qualities as motivation, dependability, and attitude. Congratulations.

### Drug abuse program

Madison Center will conduct a drug-abuse referral program (ADSAP) at all South Bend High Schools this year. Brian Meyers will be the referral counselor at John Adams. Brian will be here, in the Nurse's Office, every Tuesday from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Please see Mrs. Ellison for more details.

### R.O.T.C.

If you are a high school junior or senior looking for future college opportunities, then the Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) may be the place! Students with good academic records may qualify for one or more than one thousand four year scholarships offered by ROTC. These scholarships are based on SAT or ACT scores, class rank, extracurricular activities, and a personal interview. Scholarship students repay the Army by serving on active duty for four years, or by serving in the National Guard or the Army Reserve for eight years. Please see Mr. Rensberger in Room 101 if interested.

### Officers elected

The John Adams O.E.A. (Office Education Association) recently held their election of officers. Janice McEndarfer, who is a state officer, was elected to be the president of the John Adams chapter. Vice-president is Beth Jagmin, Secretary is Stacey Eggers, Treasurer is Dorothy Johnson, Historian is Carolyn Thibault, Parliamentarian is Kathy Hanley, and Reporter is Nancy Nieter. This year the group is very enthusiastic and hopes to accomplish many civic and service projects.

### Named to All-state

Congratulations to seniors Kathy Ross, Paul Loughridge, and Martha Lorber. They have been selected to participate in the Indiana All-State Orchestra. Kathy has been chosen as concertmistress, or first chair in the first violin section. Martha has been chosen as principal flutist. They will be going to Indianapolis on October 25 and 26, and the performance is on the evening of the 26th. Good luck to them.

# Research students receive grants

by Marc Conklin

Three seniors, Sima Medow, Michele Mengel, and Jerome Naylor, spent last year conducting preliminary research on individual experiments in research biology under the direction of Mr. Nevin Longenecker. Once their work was concluded, each student still had some unanswered questions. Now, with the help of a research grant, the students will be able to pursue the answers to those questions.

The title of Sima Medow's experiment is "Investigating the Effects of Prenatal and Postnatal Audiogenic Stress on Behavioral and Morphological Changes in Lab Mice." Translated into English, this means "The effects of noise from a sound chamber on mice before and after they are born."

For the experiment, Sima divided 12 pregnant female mice into four groups. One group was put in the sound chamber the entire time -- one group was in until the offspring were born-- another group was out and

then put in when the offspring were born-- and the control mice were never in the sound chamber at all.

In the testing of the offspring conducted after the subjection to the sound chamber (learning, memory, nesting habits, aggression), it appeared that the normal nesting patterns for males and females were reversed. Sima is planning further research on the subject.

Michele Mengel's experiment, "Investigating the Possible Effects of Anabolic Steroids on Physiological and Morphological Changes in Lab Mice," is an interesting experiment due to the controversy surrounding the use of steroids.

Michele used 32 lab mice divided into four groups of eight. The groups were divided into "steroids and exercise," "steroids, no exercise," "exercise, no steroids," and "no steroids, no exercise."

Michele discovered that the mice using steroids were better swimmers. Surprisingly, there seems to be nothing unhealthy about mice using steroids.

"The Possible Effects of



Michele Mengel, Sima Medow, and Wally Naylor observe mice in action.

Sunscreens on an Ultraviolet Induced Photochemical Reaction and Planaria Flatworms" is the subject dealt with in Jerome Naylor's experiment.

For this investigation, Jerome exposed a chemical and alcohol to ultraviolet light. Under normal circumstances, this reaction would produce a specific product in a given time.

What Jerome recorded was the effect of using a sunscreen to block the ultraviolet light.

The other portion of the experiment dealt with how ultraviolet radiation affects the regeneration of planaria flatworms. The conclusion was that radiation has no significant effect.

The organization responsible for the grants these

students received is the Indiana Academy of Science. The academy is composed of professional scientists who evaluate the students based on the proposal and research paper completed by each participant in their Junior year. Adams can continue to be proud of its science teachers and outstanding students.

## Taking on new look

by Holly Hedman

This year our business room underwent some drastic changes from new carpeting to seven Zenith 320K computers. All in all, the room cost about one hundred thousand dollars. Amazingly so, there were "insufficient funds" as stated by Mr. Leatherman. Most of this money came

from vocational funds from the city, whereas, some other schools got their money from federal funds.

Included in this new room are word processors, filing cabinets, a copier, a printer, which prints 540 words per minute (the older printers only about 150 wpm), office style desks and furniture, and computer desks. Other new things are rewiring done for each

desk with computers and typewriter, the new paint on the walls and an office built in the corner of the room for breaks, private discussions and a storing place for some materials. Looking ahead, there will be miniblinds for the windows, two telephones, a round conference desk and last but definitely not least air-conditioning!

The business room has an unmistakably clean, formal, business-like atmosphere today. The students even have the actual paper work from businesses such as Bendix. They are graded on their job performance and attendance which prepares them for the future job world. It's a great opportunity for testing as well as practicing the fundamentals of a business. So, if you're looking for such an opportunity, now's the chance. This could be the best training you'll ever get!



## H.E.R.O.'s of the working world

by Gini Petersen

Many seniors at Adams are involved in the Home Economics Related Occasions program (H.E.R.O.) This is a vocational program set up to prepare students for an occupation related to home economics. The program involves classroom instruction as well as on-the-job training. The jobs are related to home economics. They range anywhere from working at day care centers to fast food places.

The students work at their jobs for half the day, earning two credits per semester. The other half is spent in school where they

must take one home economics course as well as one job related course.

The H.E.R.O. program has many benefits. While the student is learning and gaining experience, he is also earning money. He is learning how to deal with his employer and other people in the business world. And hopefully, the student will find an occupation he enjoys and will pursue.

But most importantly, it exposes the student to different careers. Mrs. Wallace, the H.E.R.O. coordinator at Adams, explains, "It (H.E.R.O.) helps students decide if this career is what they want to pursue."

## Powderpuff: girls can do it too!

by P.H. Mullen

This October, as in years past, the girls switch places with the guys, and take to the football field for the annual powder puff game. This year the tournament will be held on October 30th, and the format will be, for the most part, the same as it was last year.

The first game will feature the freshmen versus the juniors, while the second will pit the sophomores against the

seniors. The winners of those two games will then square off in the championship.

But, there is one big change. Because of construction going on at School Field, the tournament will be held on the football field behind Adams.

This seems to have an influence on some of the players. Junior Sara Miller explains, "It will have a lot of affect. Just the atmos-

phere has changed. At School Field the crowds are above you, and the lights are just great. But at Adams there's none of that."

Almost everyone has a reason for playing powder puff or coaching it. Senior coach Michael Rouse sees coaching as a new experience. "After playing football, I just wanted to see what it was like on the other side of the field."

"I really play only

because it's fun and I wanted to learn how to play football," claims Sophomore Rhys Sevier.

For the most part though, having fun includes a lot of hard work from both the coaches and their players.

Many demanding hours are spent out on the field and for Freshmen Coach Brian Max, it's not all fun and games. "It's kinda

hard to get all the girls accustomed to a new sport,

and it's tough to teach them how to block and throw."

But even with all the hardships of coaching, and the hassles of School Field, powder puff will still be successful just as it has been in the past.

The key to the whole tournament is class spirit and, as everyone knows, Adams' has the most spirit around.

So good luck to the girls and their classes. And may the best team win!

## Balancing her life

by Diana Grundy

Margaret "Meg" Sweeney, a five-foot junior at John Adams High School, has a great deal of talent wrapped up in a small package.

She has been athletically and academically inclined since her fourth grade at Jefferson. The coach informed her that she was too young to play on the basketball team, but with a strong will and determination, she found a way to get on the team.

Meg has carried her determination to succeed

with her into high school. She finds a way to play volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and softball in the spring.

Also, Meg is the president of the Junior class, and she extraordinarily manages to maintain a 3.8 grade point average. Meg is presently enrolled in all advanced classes.

When Meg is asked if it is difficult to maintain a 3.8 g.p.a. and participate in a sport each season, she replies, "It's harder than it would be if I didn't participate in sports, but

it's not impossible."

Meg tries to make time for her social life and spend time with her friends, but practice and homework interfere. "Some, but not all, social activities have to be sacrificed in order for me to continue to succeed in academics and extra curricular activities." She continues with a look of hope, "But it's not that bad, because my investment in my future, which is my grades and athletics, is worth all the time and effort that is needed to accomplish the goals that I have set."

Meg makes it a habit to use as much time as need to complete homework. She also says, "It becomes routine once I put my priorities in order. That definitely places academics on the top of the list!"

Meg's advice to the students who have difficulties budgeting their time between school work and extra curricular activities is, "You have to decide for yourself to the fullest extent, in order to do your best at whatever you have chosen as your top priority."



Junior Meg Sweeney shows off her volleyball serve.

## In the fast lane

### X-men take sectionals

The John Adams Cross Country team captured the South Bend sectional last Friday by beating a strong field of eight other teams, including a state-ranked Penn squad. The victory was lead by a third-place finish by Junior Jason Yazel and a seventh-place finish for Sophomore Tomie Taylor. Other high finishes were turned in by Carl Stopper, Neil Lannuier, Brad Cleveland, and Jason Ehlert.

The team started the season slowly but ever since then has been gaining momentum with its goal set to go down to Indy. Junior Neil Lannuier says about the team's spirit, "We are really starting to feel like nothing can stop us now."

The team continues its quest for the state title by competing in Regionals at Erskine Golf Course. The team would really appreciate a lot of support to reach the pinnacle of their cross country season: A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

### Cluster slips away

The title hopes of John Adams Football have gone by the wayside for another season. Like the previous year, the deciding blow was struck by the mighty St. Joe Indians, who conquered our Eagles, 27-6.

The team's record is a disappointing 3-5, but it still has two contests remaining to bring that up to a .500 percentage clip. Those contests are against LaSalle this evening at Jackson and against a tough Mishawaka team which came within a whisker of beating No. 1 ranked Penn. The Mishawaka game is also Senior Recognition Night for the players, so come out and show your appreciation for the efforts that our senior players have turned in during their four years at John Adams.

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## Quarterback or cheerleader?

by Richard Primus

In less than three weeks, Americans will elect a new President. By now, all Americans are familiar with the current president, Ronald Reagan, and with Walter Mondale, his opponent. Most voters have already decided who they will choose. In nationwide polls last week, Reagan had a substantial lead over Mondale.

Most students here at Adams are not eligible to vote, but many have a preference anyway. In a survey of sixty-eight Adams students, 47% favor Reagan and 44% Mondale, with the rest undecided.

The rest of the poll, however, has very interesting results.

88% are against cutting money from federal programs such as welfare, social security, and school lunch programs. Reagan has already made drastic cuts, while Mondale is opposed to such reductions.

84% favor passing the Equal Rights Amendment, or ERA, which would give women equality under the law. Mondale favored this amendment, but Reagan opposed it.

78% favor a nuclear freeze. Mondale supports the freeze, while Reagan is a strong advocate of a

powerful military. He was pushing the MX missile plan through Congress.

President Reagan, who has outspent all Presidents from Washington through Carter combined, has pledged to reduce the federal deficit if he is re-elected. At the same time, he has promised not to raise taxes. Only 28% of those surveyed think he can.

Finally, the President claims he has made the world a safer place to live. Only 17% agree.

On every one of these five major issues, a large majority agreed with Mondale. Why, then, did more

students say they would vote for Reagan than for Mondale?

One possible explanation is that they didn't know Reagan's stands on the issues. Many of those surveyed, when told of Reagan's positions, were very surprised. They thought he favored a nuclear freeze and the ERA, although both are far from the truth.

But if people don't know the issues, what makes them decide to vote for Reagan?

"I like Reagan's personality," says senior Beth Krege. The opposite is also true. Colleen Lennon says

that "Mondale has no personality."

Personality. How well can they smile? How good do they look on camera? These appear to be many people's criteria for choosing a President. But should they be? Should one really vote for Reagan because he is more exciting, even if he agrees with Mondale on the issues?

If Americans vote for someone for waving the flag and singing patriotic songs and saying how wonderful America is, then something is wrong. As Mondale said in the first debate, "This country needs a quarterback, not a cheerleader."

## Where has it gone?

by Paula Makris

Homecoming, the colorful parade, classic game, and smiling queen have vanished from John Adams. This mysterious disappearance has been all but forgotten by students.

They are reminded every fall, however, when local high schools like Penn or Mishawaka celebrate theirs. A survey taken to determine students' opinions of homecoming produced basically uniform results.

When asked if they know why Adams no longer has a homecoming, some students looked blank and asked, "What exactly is homecoming, anyway?"

To enlighten these poor souls who, understandably, have had no exposure to such an event, homecoming is a time set aside to honor alumni and welcome them back to the school. Unlike colleges, high schools do not usually have former students return, but homecoming has endured in high

schools because of a strong sense of tradition.

This might just be what Adams is missing in the eyes of junior Brandon Hudson. "Adams is losing all its traditions. Nobody seems to care anymore." He was one of the few students to have anything to say on the subject. Seventy percent of students surveyed had no idea why Adams had forsaken homecoming. Even so, Mark Navarre, a freshman, offered this simple explanation. "The gym's not big enough."

According to the survey, these confused students are in favor of restoring homecoming 100%. Many see it as an alternative to pep rallies. Sophomore Sharron Horvath explains that it would boost school spirit.

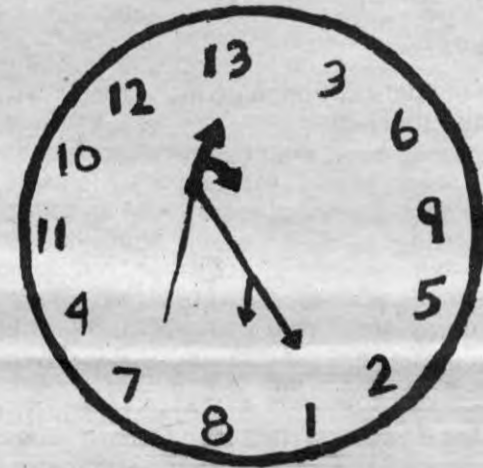
Students also claim they would participate, if not organize activities. They would at least come to the game and the dance. This fact could be very important to homecoming's fu-

ture. A chief reason for the discontinuation of homecoming was supposedly a lack of participation on the students' part.

Although students are delighted with the idea of homecoming, their ideas on what it should include contrast strongly. Senior Tom Gillis feels that a homecoming queen is not a good idea. Marcy Smurr, a sophomore, agrees. "We should have a homecoming without picking a queen. We should just have a game, a dance, and a parade."

Other students feel just as strongly about preserving the old tradition. Sophomore Tris Perkins says, "It just wouldn't be the same without a queen."

How do you feel about the absence of homecoming? If you think Adams students are as deserving of a homecoming as Penn or Mishawaka, do something. Talk to a student council member, or write a letter to The Tower. Make your opinion heard.



## Out of whack

by Marc Conklin

"Hey, how do I find out what time it is if the front of that clock is off?"

"Simple. You take the number of springs sticking out of it and divide it by the radius of the clock!"

A major problem at Adams is...timing. Something simply has to be done about the school's clock system.

Malfunctioning clocks are more of a problem to teachers than working clocks because they are even more distracting to their classes. The following are some typical quotes from confused students:

"I can't believe how slow this class is! The minute hand hasn't even moved!"

"O.K. I've got it figured out. You take the time on the clock, subtract the number of lines on a piece of your notebook paper, add the number of days until Christmas vacation, and divide by the square root of the Cubs' magic number three weeks ago."

"Maybe we should have Mr. Przybysz get on the PA system once in a while and say, '1:00 and all is well.'"

So remember, happiness is being synchronized. If the clock is "out of hand" then so are the students.

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