

Biology grant

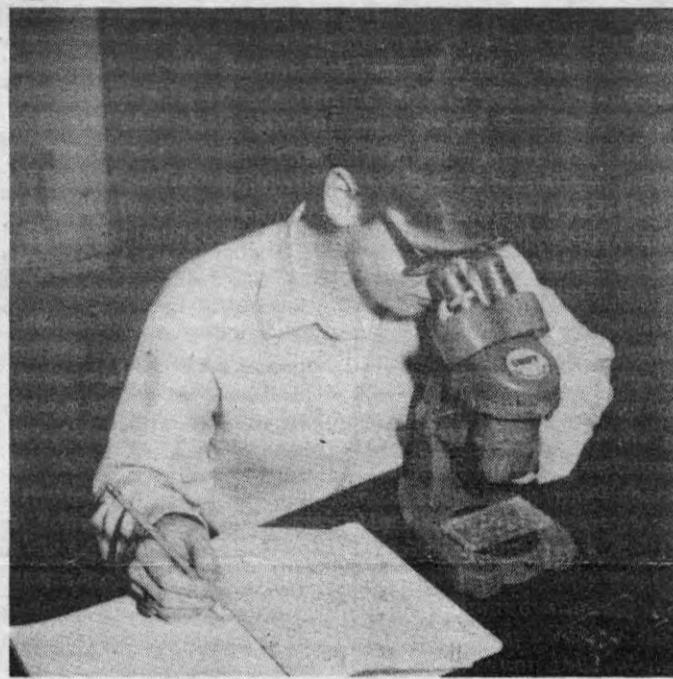
by Marc Conklin

Senior research student Kevin Warstler has received a grant from both the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association. Kevin was the only high school student in Northern Indiana whose proposal met the standards for this high honor.

The translated title of Kevin's experiment is "The Effects of Cigarette Smoke and Drug-Resistant Bacteria on the Immunity System in the Lungs of Lab Mice." He tested both the separate and combined effects of smoke and bacteria.

For that experiment, the mice were divided into four groups: smoke and non-resistant bacteria, no smoke and resistant bacteria, one group of both smoke and resistant bacteria, and the last containing neither.

The mice subjected to smoke, specifically carbon monoxide, were given smoke from six cigarettes a day for five days a week; and all of the mice received a single



Kevin works diligently on his biology project. Photo by Gardner Marvin

injection of either the resistant or the non-resistant bacteria on the same five days.

After three months, the testing was complete, but not the research. Kevin already knows from experimentation last year that drug-resistant bacteria weaken the immune

system, but he is still researching the effects of resistant bacteria and carbon monoxide combined.

Adams can once again add to its long list of research grants, thanks to the dedication of Mr. Longnecker and his researchers.

Resolutions broken

by Liz Panzica

It's a tradition to resolve to do better and improve oneself at the beginning of a new year. It gives one the chance to start fresh and put mistakes behind them. The practice of new year's resolutions allows a renewal of the values and goals in life.

Yet, when students were asked what promises they had made for 1985, most answered with blank stares and said, "I didn't make one." It seems that a very small percentage of the John Adams population even bothered to make any resolutions for self-improvement as customary to bring in the new year.

Those few brave souls who

did make such a vow claim they had been quickly forgotten.

The major reason why so few feel the need to make resolutions could be summed up in the words of an eloquent sophomore, "They're just made to be broken."

Such thinking could be interpreted in three ways. A pessimist would say that it is due to lack of interest in self-improvement in the American high school student. An optimist would say students don't feel the need to make a fresh start. They try every day to improve and better themselves. A realist would say a teenager's main

thought on new years eve is "Where's the party?" The realist has the strongest case.

Whatever the case may be resolutions are scarce around Adams. Their future is even more shaky. When asked if she made any promises for 1985 Julie Devetski stated, "No, I didn't and I never plan to."

Resolutions might be a thing of the past. Even Mr. Aronson had his opinion of them, "I never make 'em, I'm almost perfect as it is."

It seems dramatic character changes will not take place at Adams due to new years resolutions. Better luck in 1986?

Exams not a joke

by Kara Kelly

Last week, just two days after returning from the holiday break, someone called and asked me to write this article for the Tower. "It doesn't have to be much....," said the unwelcome voice on the phone, "...just something funny about exams."

Just something funny about exams. Yeah, right. Here I was, trying hard for myself to find something slightly amusing (or even non-depressing) about the fact that I was back in school, and now, in addition, I had to think up exam humor. Great.

Well, let's see. Exams start in five days. Is that funny? I don't think so. Maybe in a sad sort of way, though, I don't know. I suppose it all depends upon just how you look at the week ahead. I figure that exam attitudes fall into about three categories.

The first is the "I don't-care-I'll-just-blow-them-off" attitude. This attitude is most common among seniors who will stick to it until they realize that their first semester grades will be the last ones that their prospective colleges will see. At this time they will panic and begin to pray anxiously for a blizzard on Tuesday night.

The second attitude, I'll call the "Oh-my-God-my-parents-are-going-to-kill-me-if-I-don't-get-straight-A's-on-my-finals" attitude. People with this attitude are easy to spot by the permanent circles under their eyes from long-term studying. They also look as if they are about to have a nervous breakdown on the morning of the first test because of the enormous pressure they have put on themselves.

A note on people with this attitude, however: they are rare. If you are this way, chances are that you are an underclassman and things will change. I know; I've been there.

The last attitude is the "Well-I'll-just-have-to-do-my-best" attitude. The people who have this attitude just do the best they can and probably end up doing the best on the tests. Difficult to achieve but very commendable.

So much for my thoughts on the matter right now. I'd rather not think about it anymore. Personally, I don't find a whole lot about exams to be very funny. With the possible exception of my grades to be. Check with me when report cards come out; you may have something to laugh at then.

Honor . . . continued from Pg. 1

great number of awards they have won, both locally and nationally. But he believes our schools greatest asset is our student body. Students from Adams have won awards in science, math, English, dramatics, music, business, art, and in almost every area imaginable. Our athletic teams are usually among the top in the state. And as a whole, we have more pride and spirit than all the other schools combined.

Another of John Adams' assets is the parents. Individual parents and parent booster groups are all willing to help out when there is a problem. Mr. Przybysz praisers the excellent cooperation between teachers, students and parents. We can all congratulate ourselves for being nominated by the SBCSC. We have a good chance of winning in Indianapolis and in Washington D.C. But even if we don't, we have something to be proud of. We have a tremendous school with a long history of excellence. And we'll always know that we're number one.

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Roemer becomes All-American



Kurt Roemer

by P.H. Mullen

Among the great athletes at John Adams, few have attained as high a status as Kurt Roemer.

Kurt, a senior, has been named to the 1984 All-American soccer team which was selected by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. It is the highest award that he has received, but it certainly won't be the last.

Last weekend he flew to Washington D.C. where he was recognized for his achievements along with the other All-Americans from high school and colleges throughout the nation.

But the multi-talented star also has time for another sport in which he excels. For the

past four years he has played tennis at Adams, and for three of those years he was named to the 1st team N.I.C.

As this season's captain and MVP, he led the team to a 15-1 record. In each of the years that Kurt played, the tennis team has been consistently ranked in the top ten in the state.

Although Roemer stars in tennis, he still has an undying love for soccer, and practices as much as possible. "During the summer I go to a soccer camp where I usually practice about two or three hours a day," explained Roemer.

"Last winter Coach Farrell (one of the assistant coaches at Adams) spent a lot of his time helping me. Every night I went over to Bethel College at

9:30 and he would help work on my skills until about 11:00," he added.

That's the type of dedication it took to produce Michiana's first All-American. In fact, Roemer is the only All-American from Indiana this year, and only the second ever. Simply put, he is the best high school soccer player in the state this year, and maybe the best ever.

Roemer also applies hard work at school. He is Vice President of the senior class, and he also is involved in the yearbook, in the National Quill and Scroll Society, in the Monogram Society, and an active member of student government.

Academically, his strong point is English and he hopes

to major in it while he is in college. "I really like writing, and I think I might follow my dad and become a counseling lawyer," Kurt says.

At the moment his top choice for college is Notre Dame, because Roemer believes it will soon become a soccer powerhouse. "I'm looking seriously at Notre Dame since I would like to be part of a building soccer program. They have a new coach, Dennis Grace and he has been bringing in some good recruits," said Roemer. "But if I'm able to get a scholarship at Duke, I think I might go there."

Wherever Roemer goes, he will contribute instantly on both the soccer field and in the classroom.

Gearing up for sectionals

by Martin McNamey

The Adams Girl's Basketball team had a disappointing setback at the hands of the Riley Wildcats by the score of 40-34, later in the week they beat Marian. Coming into the Riley game, the Eagles had won three out of their last four games. Their record is now 6-6 overall and 3-2 in the Northern Indiana Conference.

The Eagles, coached by Tim Nemeth, are learning from each game and are looking to be a contender in the Mishawaka Sectional. The sectional will take place at Mishawaka High School on February 2, 1985. The girls

learn and improve on their skills each week of the season.

Commenting on their improvement, Coach Nemeth said, "I think without a question by the end of January, the Eagles will have to be considered a legitimate threat in the Mishawaka Sectional." Powerhouses, Mishawaka and St. Joe are the favorites in the Sectional

The Adams team is led by Terri Landen, who is top scorer and rebounder. She averages 15.5 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. Other leading players are Diana Grundy and Colleen Lennon. They are averaging 9.1 and

8.6 points per game and 8 and 7.3 rebounds respectively.

Coach Nemeth also has two assistants who play an important role in the success of the Eagles. They are Ms. Mary Beth Borkowski and Mr. Bob Nemeth. Without their help, the Eagles may not be where they are now.

Look for the Eagles to be strong next year also. Colleen Lennon is the only graduating senior on the team. The Eagles need your support. Make an effort to come and see one of their games and wish them luck for the rest of the season!

Hockey producing wins

by Guy Hamilton

The 1984 hockey season has started in fine fashion for the Eagles. Coming off a 2-21 rebuilding season, the Eagles have soared to an impressive 10-4-1 start.

The hockey team is a mixture of players, consisting of three members from Niles and one from LaSalle, and the remaining members from Adams.

The Eagles are led by senior captains, John Rohan, Steve Gruenig, and Brian Bartlett. First year coach Pat Max, who moved up from assistant coaching job last year, has installed the winning attitude.

The season began with three strong wins and a tie. The Eagles first disappoint-

ment of the season came in a bitter loss to Clay. The Eagles at first to be in a slump, when they lost their second straight event to Lake Central, but they quickly came back with a big win over Culver.

Coach Max said, "This was our best game. Even though we only won 3-1, we dominated throughout."

The Culver win was followed by a loss to Riley then four wins, two against Homewood Flossmore and two against St. Joe. The Eagles next suffered a tough loss to Penn. Last Sunday, they had another bitter defeat to Clay.

Coach Max stated, "There has been a great improvement from last years squad and this is basically due to the fact that we have a lot of freshmen and

sophomores playing that weren't last year." This year's freshmen included Chad Rosencrantz, Kevin Cocquyt, and Brian Max. The sophomores are Kevin Max and Ken Grill.

"The nucleus of this year's team is leading scorer John Rohan and his frontline teammate Steve Gruenig. The defense is anchored by Brendon Max who is also the leading assist man," said coach Max.

Though the Eagles are much improved over last year, coach Max thinks his team can play even better than they are right now. In the next few days the Icercs face Penn Jan 20; Culver, Jan 22; and Clay, Jan 24. Let's get out and support the hockey team.

In the fast lane

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr. Scuzs, John Adams Athletic Director. He was recently chosen to be inducted into the Indiana Wrestling Hall of Fame. Mr. Scuzs has been a major contributor to the growth and development of wrestling in the area. He will receive his award at a ceremony on February 17 at the Indianapolis Sheraton Hotel.

Back to back wins

Over the past few years, wrestling has not been a popular sport at Adams. It has been overshadowed by other winter sports.

Coach Roland Lichnerowicz has been teaching his wrestlers well the new techniques. The results include back-to-back victories over Elkhart Central and Washington, the first win in two years.

The team is led by juniors Percy Bell, Mike Quimby, and Troy Lentz. Reggie DeArmond has also inspired the wrestlers with great performances in the Niles and Northwood Invitationals.

The team closes out its season with sectionals on January 26. After sectionals, many wrestlers plan to participate in summer tournaments to gain much needed experience for what looks to a promising future.

Back on track

Boys' basketball has finally won both games over a weekend. They beat Mishawaka and 16th ranked Gary Roosevelt at home. The record for the year stands at 8-6.

Tonight the Eagles take to the road for the first of four away games. They play Michigan City Elston tonight. On January 25 they play at Elkhart Central. Washington will be the opponent on February 1, and St. Joe will play Adams on the 5th of February.



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Weighted grades

An advantage ...OR... a disadvantage?

by Paula Makris

Although no longer in use, weighted grades are still a subject of contention in schools today. Adams was the last public high school in the South Bend area to continue to use the weighted grade system until, according to an Adams counselor, parent complaints forced the school to discontinue its use.

Many of these parents must have felt it couldn't be fair to all students if those in basic and regular courses, working to the best of their abilities, were not allowed to make the high grades students in accelerated courses could achieve. Adams counselor, Mr. Rensberger, agrees. He says that students not enrolled in honors programs, "could not be in the top percent of the state and would be at a disadvantage when it came to applying to colleges."

The supporters of weighted grades often argue that students taking difficult courses should be rewarded with higher grades.

With the weighted grade system, basic students getting top marks in their classes could at best achieve a 3.0 G.P.A., and an A.P. student, doing only what is necessary could have a 4.0 easily. At this level, the weighted grade system hardly seems fair. Adams counselor, Mr. Fox says, "It only benefits people at the top; it does nothing to benefit the basic student who may need more help."

Students taking basic and regular courses are definitely

against the idea of weighted grades. While putting them at a disadvantage, it gives honor students an edge they don't really need. Sophomore Marcie Smurr said that kids in A.P. courses can handle the work; that's why they're in there. People should not expect privileges concerning grades just because they are more intelligent.

Another argument for weighted grades is that students may avoid taking accelerated courses because of the absence of weighted grades. Although this may be true in some cases, "the sharper students won't," according to Mr. Rensberger. "The kids and their parents know that they will just be cheating themselves in the long run." Too much emphasis is often put on grades. "Learning should be self-motivation," says English teacher Mrs. Maza, "not grades."

Even though the controversy rages on, the battle for weighted grades is over. It has been quite a while since weighted grades were in effect, and students have functioned perfectly well without them.

Editor's note: Weighted grades are those which reflect the difficulty of a course. With this system an "A", which is worth four points, would be worth six points in an advanced placement class, five points in a honors class, four in a regular class, and three points in a basic class.

by Gini Peterson.

In our society today, it is extremely important to get high grades. Students are constantly reminded that their future depends on it. They are told that grades dictate one's college education, scholarships, and in the long run, a good job. With all this pressure to earn high marks, it is easy to see why many honors and advanced placement students want the school system to have weighted grades.

Many students claim that weighted grades are more accurate and fair. They feel that they work harder to cover more material, and should, therefore, get a better grade than students who take regular classes. It is not fair to have to risk a grade in order to be challenged in a more difficult class. Sharon Bain, an A.P. student, expresses this frustration, "Teachers expect excellence from A.P. students, and it doesn't show up in grades."

This injustice is evident when examining class rank

and awards such as valedictorian. These awards are considered to be a measure of one's intelligence and ability. But often the people who rank high are those who take the less difficult courses. It seems very unfair to a person who has taken all A.P. classes and graduates with a 3.5, while a person who takes all regular classes graduates as valedictorian.

"Not having weighted grades," said Richard Primus, "makes kids who are qualified to take A.P. classes take lower classes to get A's." The fact that they may ruin their grade point average scares them away. They would rather do less work and get an easy A.

This defeats the purpose of grades. Rather than striving to do their best, students take the easy way out to receive good grades. Therefore, they are not challenged and do not learn to their full capacity.

In a society where much emphasis is placed on grades, it is only fair to use the most accurate grading system.



Clubs lack enthusiasm

by David Slabaugh

Like many other schools, John Adams offers its students quite a variety of clubs to join. Practically every student joins one of these clubs, but I'm not exactly sure why. In order to find the reasons for which all of these clubs get a good membership count, I posed a few questions to 85 honors students.

Surprisingly, I discovered that not all of the students who become a member of clubs are actually in the club for its purpose; to better educate students in that area of study. Most students join clubs for reasons other than interest in

it. "I joined because so many of my friends are in that club," replied one jovial sophomore.

Another student answered, "From the way that the members talk about that club, I concluded that it must be a lot of fun."

One conscientious senior commented, "Membership in a club makes you look popular and it also looks great on your college manuscript."

In addition to these comments were those of the students who take these clubs seriously. These are the

"true" members, those who do the planning and governing during the meetings. They are the people who deserve a pat on the back for their positive intentions.

"I am doing my best to provide leadership and to share my knowledge and experience with the younger students," replied a prominent senior and active club member.

I have but one positive input to this crucial matter and it is that each and every one of the clubs continue to exist for its members, whether they are loyal participants or not.

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