

The Tower

John Adams High School

808 S. Twyckenham Drive

South Bend, IN 46615

NASA honors students

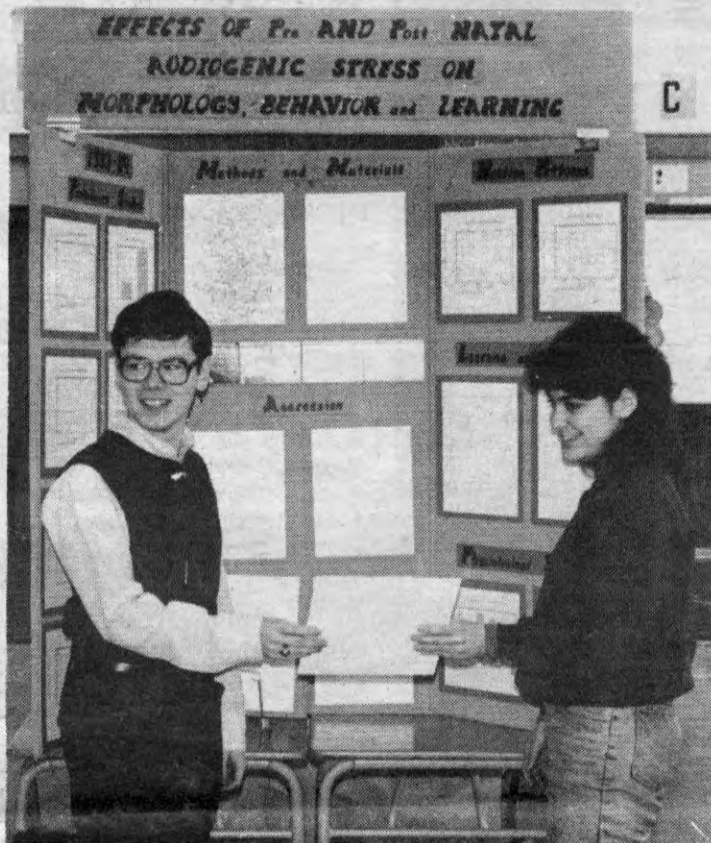
by Marc Conklin

Sima Medow and Kevin Warstler, two of Mr. Longenecker's research biology students, have once again been recognized for their outstanding achievements in the science world. The Indiana Academy of Science ranks them as two of the top high school research students in the state, and NASA has given them the opportunity to display their experiments at the Space Shuttle Symposium.

Both Kevin's and Sima's experiments are space-related. Sima's experiment deals with the effects of microgravity on the absorption rate and effectiveness of anti-stress drugs used by astronauts in space. Kevin's experiment tested the possible effects of increased G-forces and drug resistant bacteria on fagocytosis -- the process in which the immune system attacks and destroys bacteria.

Kevin and Sima were awarded the opportunity to attend the Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama, on March 24-26. Each will give a short presentation of his/her proposal to NASA scientists, teacher advisors (including Mr. Longenecker), and other regional winners. After revisions are made, their proposals will be submitted on the national level.

Sima and Kevin have also been recognized by the Indiana Academy of Science as two of the top thirteen high school researchers in the



Kevin Warstler and Sima Medow display their projects.

Photo by Dan Carter

state. The subject of Sima's experiment for this honor concerned the effects of audiogenic stress, better known, as noise, on the learning, memory, and behavior of young and pre-natal mice. Kevin's experiment tested the effects of carbon monoxide and drug-resistant bacteria on mice's immune systems.

Sima and Kevin were first chosen as two of the top twenty-five researchers in the

state. They then went to Indianapolis where they were interviewed by judges, who also criticized the displays of the experiments. Of the twenty-five students who attended, the Academy chose thirteen winners, including Kevin and Sima.

There seems no end in sight for the awards granted to Mr. Longenecker's research students. Congratulations are in order to the entire Adams science department.

What's news

Comments welcomed

The Tower welcomes opinions, comments, letters, and articles from any student. All material should be directed to Mrs. Maza in room 216 or to any Tower staff member. Everything must be signed although names may be withheld from print upon request. The Tower staff would like to encourage students to express their criticisms about the newspaper.

Uniroyal Scholarship

The Tower would like to congratulate Gregory J. Ch'niel, a senior, on the occasion of his winning the Uniroyal Scholarship. This scholarship, which can contribute to up to four years of college study is awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Greg became eligible for the scholarship on the basis of the high PSAT/NMSQT scores. Good luck Greg!

SBCSC donates blood

The Central Blood Bank of the South Bend Medical Foundation recently recognized the South Bend Community School Corporation for being significant blood donors. The employee contribution totalled 28 units for 1984. Mr. Fox gave two gallons of blood and was singled out as one of the outstanding donors. The Central Blood Bank and the SBCSC urge people to help save lives by giving blood.

Junior Rotarian

John Patton has been selected as Junior Rotarian from Adams, and will represent Adams at Rotary functions for the duration of this term. Rotary is an organization made up of local businessmen, and high school students participate on a temporary basis. John, a senior, was Editor-in-Chief of The Tower last year, and senior section editor of the yearbook.

Lugar Scholarship

John Adams senior Michael Rouse was recently selected as a winner of a Senator Richard G. Lugar scholarship for minority students. The announcement was made at a recent banquet honoring ten winners in Indianapolis. Michael will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend a college or university within Indiana. The Tower congratulates Michael and wishes him the best of luck.

Upward bound

Upward Bound is a nonprofit organization making possible the opportunity for low income high school students to expand their educational goals. Upward Bound consists of two parts: a preliminary six weeks on the Notre Dame campus during the summer, and a twenty-four week follow-up session during the school year. Anyone interested should see Mrs. Ellison in the guidance office.

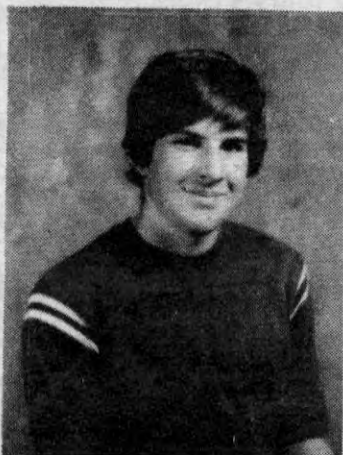
Spring break

Students will be dismissed at noon on April 5th in observance of Good Friday. No classes will be held from April 8th through April 12th because of spring break.

Report cards

The first nine week grading period ends today. All report cards will be distributed Friday, April 5th. Any questions about the grades you received should be directed toward that specific teacher.

In Memoriam



When death strikes down the innocent and young . . . a hundred virtues rise, in shapes of mercy, charity, and love, to walk the world, and bless it.

— Charles Dickens

John Engstrom
1968 - 1985

Karen excels

by Liz Panzica

Karen Huffer happens to be a very special person, student and musician. The Adams senior's entertainment enthralled audiences during the annual John Adams Cabaret with her upbeat organ melodies. Many fine musicians were involved in the production but something sets Karen apart. She has overcome great odds to play her songs; Karen is legally blind.

Her interest began when she was five years old on her grandparent's organ. She started lessons at twelve and has been playing for the eight years since. Most of her influences come from professional musicians like Billy Preston, Eddie Van Halen and David Lee Roth. When asked what she preferred to play, she replied, "I play any kind of music."

Music has a very special meaning for Karen. She explains, "It makes me feel comfortable." Playing seems to lift cares and worries from her shoulders. But, like most other performers she suffers from pre-performance jitters. Luckily, she claims that "when I start to play the butterflies go away and I feel fine."

Last June, Karen was chosen by her teacher Betty



Karen Huffer - a girl whose talent and hard work have inspired many.

Photo by Martin Loy

Van Camp as student of the year, an accomplishment of which Karen is naturally proud. As Mr. Nemeth put it, "She has a gift for music."

Karen attends a special program at Adams which makes available the special resources she needs to complete her education. This year Karen has accumulated all the credit a regular student would need to graduate with the senior class. Her teacher

Mr. Nemeth explains that "she has overcome quite a burden." He also states that "she works harder than the average student because some books aren't printed in the large print Karen needs."

Karen and her music have a lot ahead of them. She plans to continue her education in some vocational training or maybe a junior college. Don't look for Karen to stop learning or making music!

Perfection attained

By Panina Medow

Many people think their older siblings are perfect. In my case, my sister is. Meet Sima Medow. Sima has had many accomplishments over her four years here, both with academics and extra-curriculars, which have left a distinct mark on Adams. For several reasons, she will not soon be forgotten.

When Sima does things, she doesn't do them half way. Freshman year, she tried out for drum major. She got it, and did a rare thing. When she came back from drum major camp that summer she was no longer just Sima Medow, Drum Major; she was Sima Medow, Drum Major First Class. This means she is the best she can be, and few people attain this, especially their first year. Another example of the enthusiasm she has for her activities is the list of musical instruments she plays. Tuba, baritone, electric bass, and piano are at the top.

Sima is also well known for her scholastic achievements.

Her research project, "The Effects of Audiogenic Stress on Learning, Memory, and Behavior of Young and Pre-natal Mice" has won her a grant from the Indiana Academy of Science and Sima was very recently an Indiana

Talent Search and Scholarship Winner. She was the first person from South Bend ever to be a Scholarship Winner. After graduation she will attend either Purdue or Cornell and hopes to be a large animal vet.

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Beating the blues

by Marc Conklin

It's that time of year -- the time when students slouch in the same hard seat in the same dreary classroom and wonder, "When will it all end?" To the student, it is an indistinct time: it is not the beginning of school; it is not the Christmas break; it is not yet spring break; and, worst of all, it is not summer. School is merely a boring ritual which, when thought of in general terms, seems incredibly meaningless.

The student would lose all hope if he/she did not find methods to cope with this intense boredom. One of the most common devices is counting tiles on floors and ceilings and, possibly, calculating each tile's mass relative to one's shoe size.

Another favorite is finding a desk-top pen pal. The student does this by writing something controversial on his/her desk top, such as, "Def Leopard is better than RUSH," or "I believe in post-natal abortion." Statements of this variety are sure to spark the

interest of another student who has the same desk at a different hour.

Other anti-boredom methods are more challenging. One rarely attempted, rarely accomplished feat is watching the clock and counting the revolutions of the second hand, making sure that the class, in fact, only seems longer than it actually is.

But, if the student realizes that no more tiles are being added, that the people who share his desk also share his opinions, and that counting second-hand revolutions is merely a second-hand revolution, he can resort to watching the other students in his class.

This tactic is entertaining as well as educational. One may observe the common nail biter, the quiet abstract doodler, the obnoxious pencil drummer, or perhaps the infamous perpetrator of taped-to-the-back signs.

Whatever method students use as an outlet, they all share the common disease called boredom--a disease which quickly develops immunity and whose only cure is time.

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Whatever happened to No. 1?

by Jay Cutter

Last Tuesday night, the John Adams basketball team was finally put out of its misery. The Eagles died a long, painful death and must be relieved to finally be buried. Placed in the casket is the meaningless number one state ranking it never deserved. The Eagles died a bitter death, too. People hate nothing more than to see great talent go to waste. No team can argue that they had more talent than the Eagles, only more heart. People will question the 1985 team more than ever and for each of these

questions there is no sure answer. The main question is "How can a team with the overall talent that Adams had lose so many ballgames?" The Eagles had all the elements: powerful offense, ferocious defense, speed, height, experience, quality coaching, and much more. Another question that will be put before the '85 team is why did they always blow a lead in the fourth quarter? The Eagles led in every contest they were involved in and were leading in the fourth quarter in all but one (Warsaw), and most of the fourth quarter leads were commanding. The LaSalle

sectional game was the epitome of the entire season. The Eagles held an eight point lead with less than two minutes on the clock, only to blow it in overtime.

Only two bright spots came from the season. The first was the tremendous fan support.

"Nothing will be expected now until they can prove themselves true contenders."

The support was greatly appreciated by the team and has to be applauded. No other school had the outstanding following of the Eagles, home or away. I, and I'm sure I speak for the entire team

when I say that I wish there was some way to repay you, the fans. The second bright spot is next year.

The pressure from the press is off now. Nothing will be expected now from the Eagles until they can prove themselves true contenders. I feel

and not for a sports writer or coach.

The Eagles' quest for glory was fruitless. They didn't win the Hall of Fame Classic. They didn't win the Holiday Tournament. They tied for the conference which is almost as bad as not winning it at all. Clay, who tied us for the NIC title, beat Adams twice during the season. And finally, they didn't win the Sectional Championship. The failure is obvious. The Eagles were given chance after chance only to blow each one. Failure given that many chances is definitely not a sign of a winner.

The future looks bright

by Martin McNarney

The John Adams' baseball team hopes to rebound from a disappointing 9-17-1 season. Last year was the worst season in Coach Len Buczkowski's twenty-one years of coaching. Coach Buczkowski summed up last year's season with the comment, "The worst thing that could have happened, happened."

The team's hopes rest on returning lettermen Paul McNarney, Tom Molnar, Mike Halterman, Robbie Cass, Dan Demien, and Mike Gillespie. The Eagles, at this writing, consist of five seniors, seven juniors, and four sophomores.

The Eagles do not figure to be spectacular, but feel they can finish in the top third of the NIC. The teams to be favored for the crown, Washington, Elkhart Central and LaSalle, all have a majority of their players returning. The strengths of the Eagles this year are the



Tom Molnar prepares for the upcoming baseball season.
Photo by Greg Golba

positive attitudes, the middle infield and the proven catchers. The team looks for stability at its weakest position, pitcher.

The baseball team plays twenty-nine games this season, and its schedule is one of

the toughest in the area. Adams will again host an invitational tournament with Washington, Niles, and St. Joe participating. The Eagles open their season on Saturday, March 30, at noon on the John Adams' diamond

In the fast lane

Tough track team

The boy's track team had a disappointing season last year, but with 32 people trying out, this season appears more optimistic. Rodney Hetterson and Kevin Otolski, two outstanding members of last year's team, graduated, but Glenn Watson and Jason Yazel return to lead the team. Neil Lannuier and Ron Walls are also key people for the Eagles. The team's first meet is on April 4 at Elkhart Central.

Hoping for the best

This year's girl's track team is looking to improve their 2-7 record of last year. Leading the way for the Eagles are juniors Diana Grundy and Margie Verduin. Julie Stevens and Dawn Sivak are also vital team members. With many new talented underclassmen on the team, the chances of a winning season are good for Coach Reed and his squad.

Softball preview

With several key people returning from last year's city championship team, the girls' softball team should again be strong this season. Juniors Rae Hetterson, Tammy Brittain, and Meg Sweeney are probable starters as are sophomores Patty Dennin and Kathy McMahon. Colleen Lennon, one of the few seniors on the young team, will add much needed experience to the team.

Returning strong

by Neil Lannuier

The 1985 spring soccer campaign of the John Adams Eagles looks to be one full of hope and firmly founded expectations. The Eagles come back from a strong 1984 season with the loss of only three seniors. Returning is a strong combination of seniors, juniors and sophomores with a lot of talent as well as experience. Co-captains Kurt Roemer and Jason Ugland lead a large squad of returning lettermen; Roemer, an All-American, will be playing halfback and Ugland will be leading the defense.

The Eagles are looking for

an undefeated season and a possible repeat state championship. Enthusiasm reigns on this tough squad. As junior Anthony Johnson put it, "With a little hard work, we have the potential to be the

best in the state."

As always, there will be a tough challenge from cross-town rival St. Joe, but Coach Tallman's squad feels that this year they can play with anyone.

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"The Breakfast Club": unusual qualities

by Sharon Bain

Most everyone has managed to see this popular flick at least once by now. Of course, you'll find some at Adams High School who are able to recite the lines after seeing it with their girlfriends, and then with their boyfriends, and then with their relatives, and even with slight acquaintances. Withdrawing your entire savings account to see this movie is a necessity however, as seen from the overwhelming turn out at the theatres. "The Breakfast Club" does have some unusual qualities to offer and some important lessons to be observed. Therefore, the creators' goal to capture as many teenage moviegoers as possible has obviously and justifiably been attained. The picture collaborates five

high school students who must spend a full Saturday in detention to prove one main point - although they are different, deep down they are really the same. The differences are immediately obvious, while the similarities demand a larger period of time to be exposed. Here, the

identifiable skipping class to go shopping to showing up with "nothing better to do."

While the characters never quite fully understand each other, certain bonds begin to develop when they are able to accept their differences. These bonds, ranging from friendship to infatuation,

able to touch the audience is by portraying characters with which all students can identify or at least recognize. Most everyone has skipped or wanted to just as Clair (Molly Ringwald) does. The movie remains unpredictable and exciting, however, by the addition of exaggerated circumstances such as the traditional changing of the ugly duckling to the swan (Ally Sheedy the neurotic) towards the end of the movie. Clair, the sophisticated, self-assured beauty physically transforms the dandruff plagued weirdo.

The most powerful observation of this change in Ally Sheedy's character is that while her appearance is totally altered, her inner characteristics never change.

While the detention officer's character is poorly

developed and almost ignored toward the end, he too illustrates that all people are similar in that no one is perfect. Consequently, there exists a small message that even adults have their problems too! Unfortunately, as an adult, he is really not able to benefit from the "Breakfast Club's" lessons and therefore the development of his personality is excluded.

Finally, the education gained from the Saturday morning experience of these five students is passed on to the audience through a touching sharing session accompanied by fun and laughter. In the end the individuals' problems still exist, but they are easier to bear when shared with others who are ultimately forced into exactly the same position.

Too often, labels are pasted on individuals that proclaim them as one of a stereotyped group.

time is conveniently supplied for these five by chance.

Emilio Estevez portrays the typical jock, Anthony Michael Hall, a timid "brain," Molly Ringwald, the class beauty, Judd Nelson, an aggressive punk, and Ally Sheedy, a withdrawn neurotic. Each have been called to this interminably boring session as a result of a different offense. These range from the

bloom fully after the realization that all students obtain important similar qualities.

Too often in high school, labels are pasted on individuals that proclaim them as one of a stereotyped group. Regardless of whether or not this label has a positive or negative connotation, a restriction is forced on that individual.

One way this message is

John Adams spirit lacking

by Liz Panzica

Spirit Week is a week full of activities and festivities designed to unite the student body and increase enthusiasm. During Adams' most recent Spirit Week, themes such as beach day, dress-up day and the traditional red and blue day were part of the week's plans. Yet, with all these plans and ideas, this year Spirit Week seemed doomed from the start. Hampered by state legislation, school administration and student body apathy, the festivities arranged never had a fighting chance.

The state's ruling that pep assemblies had no place in the school day robbed many students of the feeling of school unity and pride. Nothing gets more people involved in activities than a

pep session, but when these were banned, John Adams lost a great deal.

The lack of pep assemblies was not the fault of the administration; they did their best to hold on to the tradition but they were overruled. The administration, however, seemed a little less than enthusiastic and helpful when it came to the student plans for Spirit Week. The junior class plans for a Pajama Day were stopped because of what seemed to be a lack of trust on the school officiate part. They failed to realize that most students would use good and sound reasoning.

The students sometimes proved themselves as less than worthy of many of the privileges of Spirit Week. When school officials did not allow Pajama Day many students disregarded the

orders and held it anyway. Such an act only revealed a childish attitude of defiance. If they had discussed their proposal more deeply with the administration, maybe a solution for the situation could have been found.

Many students were indifferent to the ideas of Spirit Week. They participated and cheered half-heartedly. When the basketball team was defeated all the spirit drained from the student body, as if they supported only winners. The loser in the situation was the student body. It was sad when the student body couldn't gather up enough pride in their school to carry out Spirit Week's plans to the fullest. Adams should be proud of everything the school stands for and show their feelings, especially during Spirit Week.

Spirit Week



1985

Art by Matt Beem

The Tower

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