

New staff

Beginning with the next issue of the TOWER, the 1986-87 newspaper staff will take over. Leading the staff will be co-editors Paula Makris and Gini Petersen.

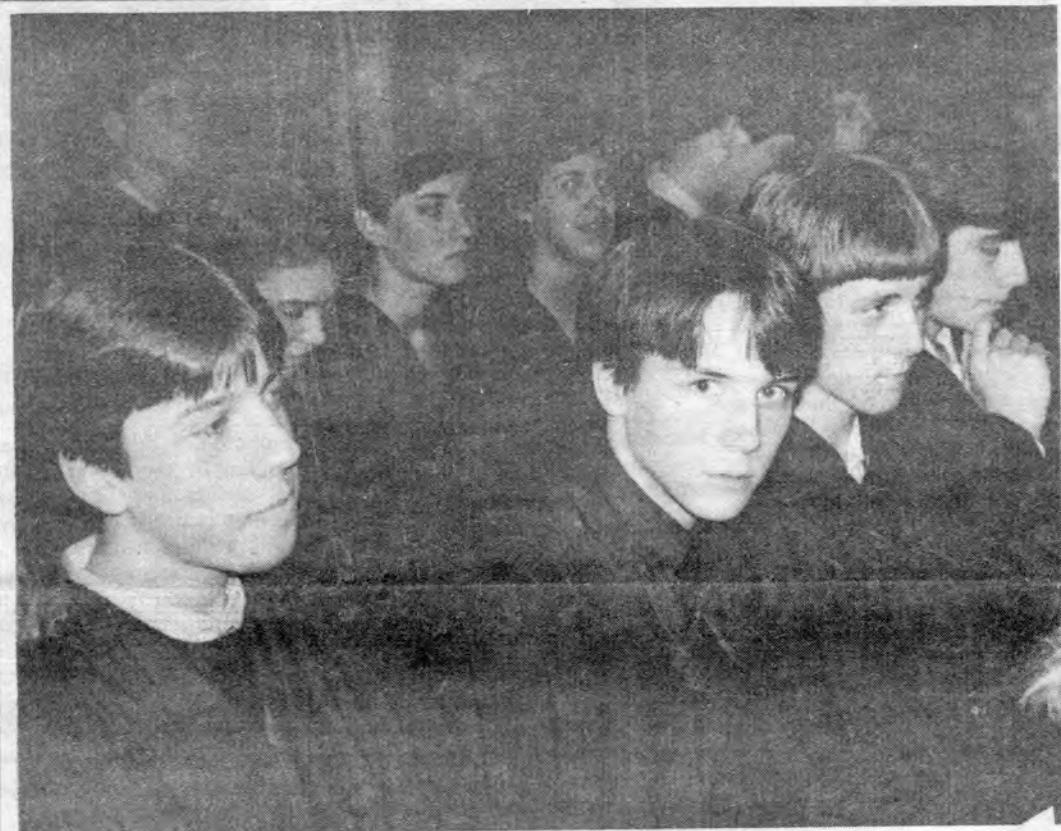
Sectionals

Basketball sectionals will be held beginning March 4th at the Notre Dame ACC. Adams will meet Washington at 8:00 on Tuesday. Complete sectional pairings appear on the Sports page.

Z.G.P.

Zero Gravity Productions continues to enthrall English classes with satirical videos. The Opinion page contains a review of their brief but illustrious career.

The Tower

John Adams High School**808 S. Twyckenham Drive****South Bend, IN 46615**

New National Honor Society inductees prepare to take the NHS pledge.

Michele Ault/Tower

What's News

National Merit Finalists

Stephen Chen and Donald Marti were selected as National Merit Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship foundation for their outstanding scores on the 1984 PSAT. Stephen and Donald will now be eligible for numerous college and corporate scholarships.

Girls' varsity soccer

Beginning next fall, girls' soccer will become a varsity sport. Previously, the sport has had club status. As a varsity sport the girls are eligible to receive letters and the team will get financial assistance from the school.

Office Education contest

Carlatina Hampton recently won first place in the job interview contest of the Office Education Association contest at Warsaw High School. Carlatina will compete in the state competition in Indianapolis next month.

Basketball Sectional

The Basketball sectionals are scheduled for March 4, 5, and 7 with the finals on Saturday, March 8 at the Notre Dame ACC. Tickets will be available at school until noon on Monday. All tickets cost \$8.00 and are reserved.

William J. Richardson Scholarship

Ryan Roth and Karie Horvath have been named recipients of the William J. Richardson Scholarship from the St. Joseph Valley Chapter of the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers. The students were selected on the basis of academic standing, participation in extracurricular activities and leadership.

Freshman basketball

The John Adams freshman boys' basketball season was very successful this year. The Eagles has sixteen wins and three losses, two of which were only by one point. They finished the year by defeating Schmucker, LaSalle, and Marian to win the St. Joe Valley Freshman Tournament.

Joseph Karwowski Memorial Award

The Joseph Karwowski Memorial Award was established to honor a former Adams' teacher who gave many hours of his time to others. He taught in the Social Studies Department and assisted in many extra-curricular activities. He was also an area umpire and referee for many years.

This award is presented each year by the Student Government to the graduating senior whose outstanding volunteer efforts have benefited others, the school, and school activities. The award is presented yearly at the Senior Honors Assembly.

Nominations for this award will be taken in the senior social studies classes within the next few weeks. Candidates nominated by fellow classmates will be reviewed by a committee composed of Student Government members and Faculty members.

Drivers Ed. class offered

By See-Eng Phan

It's the time of year to plan for the coming summer. To early? No, it's never too early. If you are going to be at least fifteen by this summer and have nothing to do, go out for a drive. This time your parents aren't driving, you are. The South Bend Community Schools are once again offering their summer Driver Education program.

There are two sessions, one of which will be held from June 9 through July 4 and the other July 7 through August 1. Driving may be in the morning from 7:30 am to 10:00 am or afternoon 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. The fee will be \$126, and you may pay in installments. A meeting is scheduled for March 11 during activity period in the cafeteria.

gas, driving under bad weather, and much more. You will learn not only in the car but also in the classroom where instruction is given daily from 10:30 am to 12 pm.

During this class time, the

ity of a new car. A policeman may come in to discuss the penalties for careless or hazardous driving. The whole course offers a view from a wide range of driving topics and a good training for better driving habits.

Summer Drivers Education classes begin on June 9 and July 1. Registration begins March 11 in the cafeteria.

instructor goes through the procedures for something as simple as turning right to the technique of parallel parking so you will be more confident and prepared when you drive the car for the first time. There will be, in each case, four students and the instructor. You and three other students will share the pleasure of experience of driving down the streets of downtown. Two of the driving days will be devoted to the highway.

Speakers may come in to discuss insurance or the possibil-

This program also includes a waiver to those driver education students who demonstrate their superiority in both the classroom and in the car. A waiver permits a student to get his operator's license without taking a driving test. He must, however, take a written test.

So for those who haven't already, get off your feet and go into the car. This summer spend your time in Driver Education. Any interested students should see Mr. McNarney in room 124 for more information.

Out of ordinary classes spice up routine

By Holly Lindberg and
Melanie Masin

Don't you just hate walking into a class on an ordinary day, opening your notebook, sharpening your pencil, and taking notes on lectures for an entire hour? And then, you find yourself turning around and looking at the clock expecting that a half an hour has passed, but instead the minute hand hasn't budged. After all, "time will pass, but will you?" Hopefully, yes, even though most days are long and uneventful. This is when students appreciate those out of the ordinary and sometimes even fun class periods.

Instead of taking notes everyday, day after day after day, Mr. Longenecker's Biology I is greeted by the smell of formaldehyde. This means it is a day for dissecting the frog. Students spice up the class even more when they fondly refer to their "green princes" as Ernest, Banjo, Murky, Nevin, Cleo, and Rowena. One freshman student says, "The class is really interesting, but when I look at Kermit's green liver and fatty

bodies, I just feel like puking."

Well, freshman, you think the frogs are disgusting, wait until second year when you dissect the cats. "Well, what I thought was disgusting was that our cat had mammary tissue which looked like ham salad. Looks like I won't be eating ham for quite awhile," replies sophomore Courtney Hosier. On the other hand, a prospective pathologist claims, "This hands-on experience excites me to no end as I pursue my future excursions." So, when Mr. Shanley claps his hands and says, "Say yes to the lab today," most students enjoy being "cat surgeons" for the hour.

The ninth grade science classes had the privilege on February 12 to see the NBC weatherman, Dick Addis. He showed the students how to present an accurate detailed forecast with an added touch of humor and a flair of individuality. He taught them how to use the blue screen mapping technique. He also spoke about everything that you wanted to know about weather, but were afraid to ask.

On to English! Recently some seniors, "Zero Gravity Productions", in Mrs. Germano's A.P.

class presented a VCR comedy take-off on *Crime and Punishment*. On the serious side, though, they have a grammar assignment every week along with reading "The Stranger." Junior A.P. and Honors English are reading or have read *The Great Gatsby* and *Death of a Salesman*.

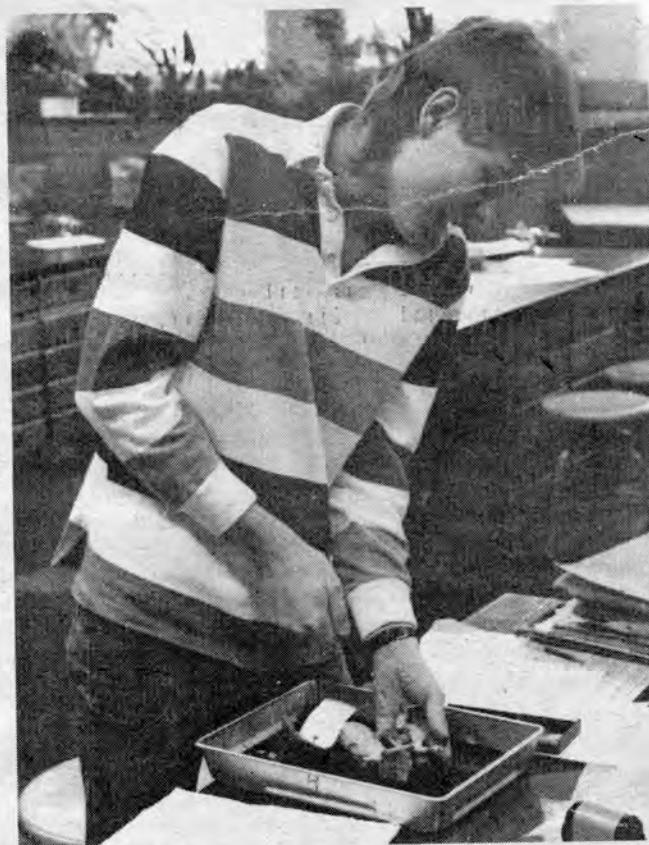
Sophomore Honors are struggling through speeches, debates, character analysis and underlying idea essays. Mrs. Hoffman's sophomore A.P. class is studying the classics of Shakespeare starting with *Julius Caesar*. Martin McNarney says, "Everyone should become familiar with the works of Shakespeare, but for mine own part, it was Greek to me."

Mrs. Maza's freshman A.P. class, recently completing their unit on mythology, handed in allusion notebooks. For the past few weeks students have been searching for these references to mythology. According to Scott Scheel, "At first the project was fun, but now I'm so sick of it—trusting the Midas touch isn't so inviting." The students also presented their ideas about mythology and *The Odyssey* when they performed their own skits. First, they enacted a scene from *The Odyssey* by Homer, another from *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton, and a third which was a modernized version of one of the former mentioned.

In sociology, law students lecture four days a week on the basic components of street law. At the end of the week the class is quizzed on the material that was presented to them. Junior Jane Burke says, "I like this new routine because it's laid back and more fun listening to the law students than reading from the text."

On May 15 the orchestra, band and choir are going to Chicago to attend a performance of the Chicago Symphony. "It's a great way to get out of class, but it's also great to see how professionals perform live on stage," says sophomore, Jocelyn Kapsa. Getting out of the old routine is a rewarding experience for these students interested in music.

Have hard floors and barren rooms got you down? Here's another way to get out of the ordinary routine: sign up for Mr. Leatherman's intensive office



Sophomore Chris Weaver seems to enjoy dissecting the frog in Mr. Armstrong's first year biology.

Mike Szymanowski / Tower



NBC Weatherman Dick Addis entertains students interested in meteorology.

Diane Ricker / Tower

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laboratory class. This class offers students experience in office employment in a "beautiful environment." Some of the inviting features include secretary's desks, computers, photocopiers, electric typewriters, and a variety of office supplies. Other more exciting features to look out for are air conditioning, carpeting, and real hanging plants. All of these provide a professional atmosphere for those interested in enrolling in co-op programs for school credits and future jobs. The course is two hours long and students acquire two credits.

As felt by some students, you don't have to get out of class to get out of the norm. Make the most of those few and far between fun class periods where you can really have a blast. Well, it's back to the ordinary routine now!

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Team and School Wholesaler

Frosh girls team established

By Sarah Friend

In the past, girls basketball hasn't received due credit. John Adams has begun a program that is sure to eventually change that. For the first time in the school's history, a freshmen girl's basketball team has been established. In the past years, freshmen were forced to compete against mainly sophomores and juniors, but now all the freshmen have a chance to excel on their own team.

This edition is going to help the young players develop the basics in a more gradual process without as much pressure on winning and losing. The team began by concentrating on the fundamental

"They not only enjoy the challenge but are also developing."

als and are now beginning to understand the concepts of basketball better.

This year's team, coached by Mary Beth Borkowski, has gotten off to a slow start with an 0-3 record. But with excellent coaching and team dedication that mark is sure to improve. Coach Borkowski said, "the record does not reflect the amount of improvement and enthusiasm the team has demonstrated."

She added, "16 girls tried out and I was very impressed by the girls interested in basketball."

The players all agree that the team is hard work, but they still feel it is fun. Kim Ross feels that "Although the team is going through a rough time, with more practice the team will reach their potential."

They have played and improved as a team in the first few games and eventually earned their wings as true Eagles. So far this trial program has proven most effective. The players not only enjoy the challenge but are also developing their skills toward the varsity level. It won't be long until these girls are rolling past competitors and taking their place on top—where the Eagles belong!

Basketball Sectional Tournament

[All games will be played at the ACC.]



Cheerleaders Roseanne Puzzello and Whitney Wilson urge the Eagles on to victory during the Elkhart Central game.

Michele Ault/Tower

Cheerleading

Special talent needed

By Roseanne Puzzello

Cheerleading. What does a person think of when cheerleading is brought to mind? A flighty girl jumping around hysterically in a skirt that is too short for her? Cheerleading has changed tremendously over the years. Cheerleaders are finally showing the talent they need to be called athletes.

If a cheerleader from 1950 would come back and try out for a squad now, she wouldn't make first cuts. The requirements have changed a great deal. As said by a 1959 high school graduate (wishing to remain anonymous) "The cheerleaders were mostly popular and 'cute'. They weren't too skilled as far as gymnastics and technique went as compared to now."

With only one swimmer not returning next year, the Seagulls will be just as strong in the '86 season. Shane Bennet, Jeff Gramza and Paul Ford just failed to qualify for finals by placing 13th (12th made it to finals,) and will be important factors next year.

Tonight Piser and Mullen are competing in the state finals at the Indianapolis Natatorium.

varsity cheerleader. A cute smile and pretty face are definitely not the only ingredients.

Competition has become popular between schools. Squads of sometimes ten or more practice all year round to go to competitions held all over the country. The varsity from J.A. was one of the squads attending the midwest regional competition. Since the girls had never been to anything like it, they were quite awed at the talent they saw. The squads not only performed unreal mounts and gymnastic stunts but they danced up a storm and did partner stunts that would wow any college cheerleading coach. "These guys were great. They represented a gymnast, a dancer and a weight-lifter all rolled up in one," says Darla Austin.

Cheerleaders finally have a way to earn their athletic status and compete with other schools. Some high schools are well known for their excellent record of cheerleading championships.

The cheerleading squads of J.A. have taken in all the changes their sport has gone through. They are always ready with something new and creative to cheer our team on to victory.

Season ends in a splash

Last weekend the boys swim team finished the season on a high note by placing fourth in Sectionals out of ten teams. The only teams to beat the Seagulls were Riley, Penn, and Culver. Led by Larry Piser and P.H. Mullen, the team avenged earlier losses by blowing away Mishawaka and LaSalle.

Mullen, a co-captain, said "We all knew that we could beat some of the teams that we had lost to earlier in the season. In the dual meets they had more depth than us, but our individual talent pulled us through this weekend."

The individual talent included Piser, Mullen, Pat Brothers and Jeff Terlep. Mullen, who is first team N.I.C. in the 500 free and second team N.I.C. in the 200 free, paced the team with runner-up in the 200 and third in the 500. He achieved the state cut-off time in the 200, and possibly qualified in the 500 as well.

He said, "I was really disappointed with the 500. I took it out too fast and just died at the end. The 500 is supposed to be a good event for me and I'll hopefully be able to turn things around at state."

The big surprise of the meet was junior Larry Piser. Plagued by illness and a bad back for much of the year, he placed third in the diving and qualified for state. His score of 400.35 was well ahead of the fourth place finisher who scored 369.65. Unlike swimming where times qualify a swimmer for state, divers must

place in the top three to be able to make the trip down to Indianapolis. "I was so nervous about making it to state. If I hadn't, I would've killed myself," exclaimed the relieved diver. "Now I'm ready to celebrate!"

Senior co-captain Pat Brothers also did well in the last meet of his high school career. He placed 8th in the 100 fly and ninth in the 200

I.M. In the 400 free relay he swam the third leg and was able to pass two other teams who had a five yard lead on him. His graduation will leave a tremendous hole in the team.

Jeff Terlep helped the team with his sixth place in the 100 free. Less than an hour later he was in the water again, this time for the 100 back. In this event he placed 11th.

Freshman Rusty Cobb did well in the diving, and placed ninth over-all. The 400 free relay team of Mullen, Terlep, Brothers, and Gramza placed fourth.

With only one swimmer not returning next year, the Seagulls will be just as strong in the '86 season. Shane Bennet, Jeff Gramza and Paul Ford just failed to qualify for finals by placing 13th (12th made it to finals,) and will be important factors next year.

Tonight Piser and Mullen are competing in the state finals at the Indianapolis Natatorium.

Zero Gravity Productions is next MGM

By Zev Winicur

In the fall of 1985, when Mrs. Germano's senior AP English class was struggling to comprehend all the symbolism, Christ figures, metaphors, and digressions of Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*, Don Marti, a student in the class, wrote a satirical skit called "Billy Budd Lite". Don, with the help of eight other male students made this skit into a video and showed it to the rest of the English class. The group was named Zero Gravity Productions. The actors in "Billy Budd Lite" were Don Marti, Jeff North, Steve Chen, Mike Quimby, Tatsumi Nozoe, Tim Ehlers, Pete Dahlstrom, and Zev Winicur. When our English class read *Hamlet*, we produced our own version called "Spamlet, Prince of New Jersey" and we've just finished our take-off of *Crime and Punishment* called "The Great Cheeze Contest" or "Crimesky Andovitch Punishmentikov."

Having produced three videos so far makes one wonder if dressing up as a girl and singing "Spit Glistens on the Sidewalk" in a falsetto, singing a sea chanty while rolling up the windows on a Honda Civic, or jumping up and constantly running into the wall as actors in our ZGP videos have done was really worthwhile. Mike Quimby, the video coordinator said that "The videos have taught me a lot about making



Those "incrediburgable" members of Zero Gravity Productions are "raffling" off an evening of rapture as first prize.

Michele Ault/Tower

videos from the beginning ideas through the formation of the script, the production phase, and the editing phase." Don Marti had great plans for Zero Gravity Productions and said, "Some things that will make it more worthwhile are the Zero Gravity

Productions merchandising such as Zero Gravity Productions T-shirts, hats, buttons, stickers, sound track cassettes, license plate frames, and maroon bowling shirts and designer briefs." The videos were met with anticipation in the class-

room. Corrie Wolosin, a new ZGP member, said that they, "broke up the monotony and made the reading more interesting."

The only problem with the Zero Gravity Productions videos is that they are geared toward the students in Mrs. Germano's AP

class. Aside from the fact that you need to read the books to understand the videos, many ideas in the videos came from class discussions. Watching something in the middle of "Billy Budd Lite" that had nothing to do with the plot, such as a French Horn player playing the school song, or the infamous Mr. Science show, is not nearly as funny if you haven't been confused by all the digressions in *Billy Budd*.

The idea of producing videos and skits should be used in other English classes. "The videos give the students an opportunity to express their own creative talents," says Mrs. Germano. Producing the videos are a learning experience because the students making the videos have no choice but to read the assigned literature if they want to understand what they're doing. They also are a good exercise in responsibility in that a lot of work must go into the planning and implementation of the videos. Who am I kidding? The videos are a lot of fun to make. How else can students act like idiots and make fun of teachers and still be considered "Expressing their own creative talents"? Although there is a lot of work involved, the fruits of the labor are rewarding. All the ZGP staff members share a great feeling of accomplishment and pride when they finally get to see their names in the credits.

A world of ceaseless preparation

By Marc Conklin

Here's another pseudo-sounding philosophy about the human race:

"We've become a world of ceaseless preparation."

Society is always preparing for life, but it never seems to be living it. People of high school age are viewed incessantly as future adults, rather than young people, and that view is spreading to younger and younger age groups as well.

For instance, how many times have you asked a friend why he/she is involved in some activity and gotten the answer, "Well, it'll look good on my college application."?

There are at least two ways to interpret this mentality—in a practical way or in a philosophical and psychological way.

When thought of in practical terms, it seems to make a lot of sense. All of those horror stories about it "Being a jungle out there" aren't far from the truth.

But think of it from a psychological standpoint. Imagine this preparatory cycle for

success in reverse. Start with your death. Hopefully, you died rich and are now spreading that wealth evenly throughout your family. Unless you got rich by winning Lotto, you probably got there by having a powerful and influential job.

You got that job by graduating from a well-known college with a reputation for academic excellence. You got into that college by fulfilling their requirements from high school: X number of science courses, four years of a foreign language, and so forth. And you managed all that by planning your high school schedule according to that career, which you had already decided-on after eighth grade.

Lucky for you, your parents taught you how to read and write before you even had teeth. And it's a good thing they gave you that subscription of the *Wall Street Journal*; "the diary of the American Dream," when most other kids are wasting their time with Transformers and Rambo dolls.

The cycle is psychologically discouraging. It makes life seem

simply a preparation for death, and it gives one the feeling that you can never live in the present. It is also very selfish, as everything done is for the benefit of that person. No one else gets

help, because he is a fellow competitor, and, as many coaches will tell you, "There are no friends on the other team."

But it's best just to accept it—live around it if possible—

than to analyze it and become a chronic pessimist.

Say, if a five-year old can learn organic chemistry, can he also learn to drive?.....

Dealing with teenage suicide

By Ida Primus

When Living Hurts by Sol Gordon is a book about life. It is mostly about suicide and related problems among teen-agers. The book stresses that suicide is a cry for help. The main object of the book is to teach kids how to answer that cry.

In the first sections of *When Living Hurts*, Sol Gordon explains what suicide is and what causes it in plain, simple terms. He presents some basic facts and myths about suicide along with a list of signals which could mean that someone is suicidal. However, spotting suicidal tendencies is just the first step in helping a friend who is considering suicide.

Helping a suicidal friend is a great responsibility. It is a great commitment, and it forces a person to make decisions which most teen-agers consider beyond them. Sol Gordon explains how and when to get help from the friend's parents, a professional, or another adult. He gives suggestions of things to do to help a friend pull out of his depression. He even gives ideas of what to say to a friend who is about to kill himself, but Gordon stresses that the most important thing to do is to listen and to show that you care.

When Living Hurts also deals with other common problems among teen-agers. It discusses depression and ways of pulling out of it. The book also has a

section on parents which includes a reading for kids and one for them to give to their parents. Gordon also deals with loneliness, what it is and what to do about it.

When Living Hurts is a book which all teen-agers should read. It offers clear, practical advice about small problems which we think about every day and larger problems which we might not even realize we are dealing with. This is not just a book for people who are planning to commit suicide. It is a book for anyone who has ever considered suicide, anyone who has ever been depressed, and anyone who has ever watched a friend who is in trouble without knowing how to help.

The Tower

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