

# THE TOWER

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

Get your Album and  
Tower today for  
**\$23.00**  
or pay in  
**\$8.00**  
installments

## Asbestos no longer poses danger in school

By Ida Primus

Asbestos in the second-floor ceilings of the 1956 addition of John Adams High School were removed this summer. The only asbestos now in the building is on the first floor of this addition, the wing containing the language, math, and business departments. This asbestos will be removed next summer.

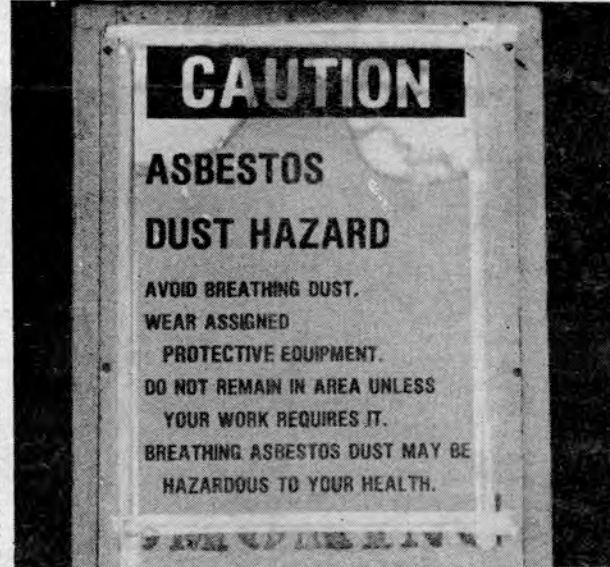
Asbestos is a fire-resistant, fibrous mineral obtained from rocks. Until recently, asbestos was commonly used for fireproofing and insulation. Asbestos insulation comes in several forms. Asbestos felt can be filled with asphalt or coal-tar pitch and used for roofing material. Fire-proof panels used in building walls and roofs are made by combining cement and small asbestos fibers under pressure. Asbestos is commonly made into paper for insulating buildings as well as household appliances. Often, basic carbonate of magnesia is mixed with asbestos to form yet another insulating material.

Recently, certain health hazards have been tied to asbestos. Often, asbestos insulation deteriorates, and grains of asbestos mix with the air. Breathing asbestos often leads to asbestosis, a lung disease, or to cancer of the lungs. When combined with smoking cigarettes, breathing asbestos is especially dangerous. Cement pipes made with asbestos present a hazard when particles of asbestos mix with drinking water.

The use of asbestos is now regulated by law. Public buildings insulated with asbestos must be inspected to determine whether or not the insulation constitutes an immediate health hazard. Friable, or crumbling asbestos, must be removed immediately. Non-friable asbestos must be removed within a certain time period.

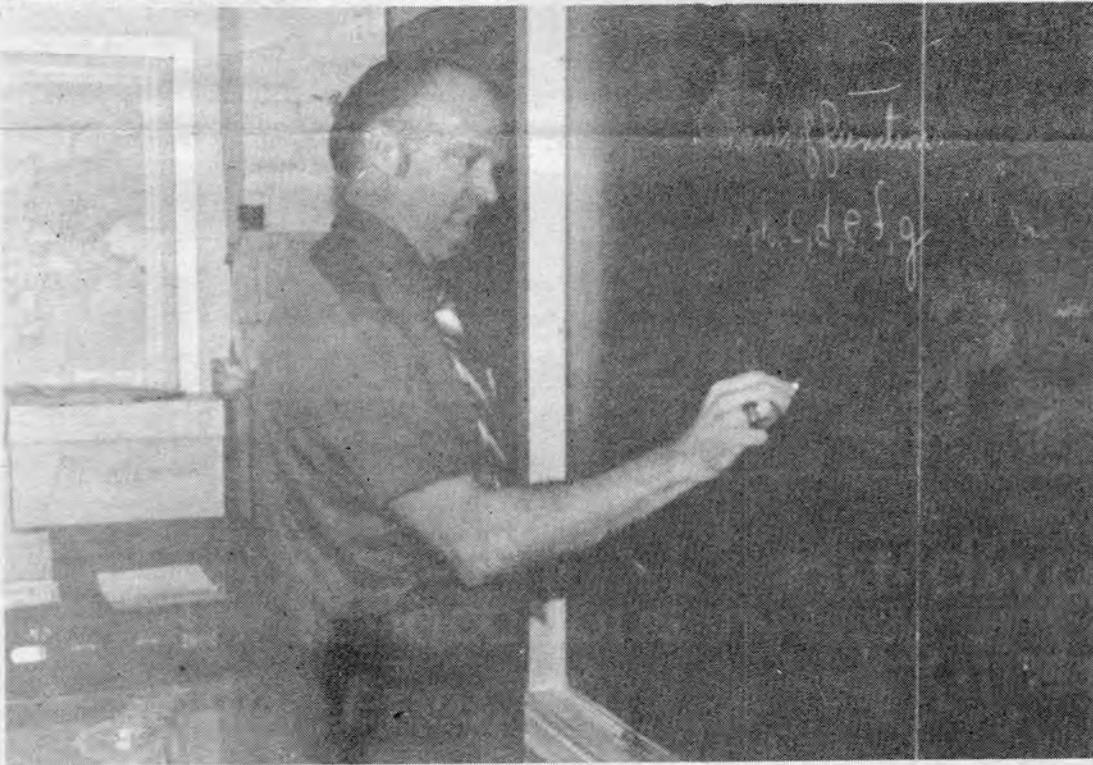
The asbestos removed over the summer and the asbestos still in John Adams is non-friable. The school has brought in an architectural firm as well as a special committee to inspect the insulation. According to Mr. Przybysz, any areas which are even remotely dangerous have been sealed to prevent crumbling. Mr. Przybysz also explained that there is no danger of asbestos from the insulation removed this summer remaining in the air. The entire area where the work took place was specially wrapped in plastic to catch any particles of asbestos.

The construction work took three weeks and was completed a short time before school started. After the ceiling in the hall was stripped of asbestos, it was coated with an accoustical spray. The classrooms were given drop ceilings to improve the accoustics and to provide insulation. New lighting fixtures are due to arrive this week and should be installed over the weekend. Next year, the downstairs hall will be sprayed and the classrooms will receive similar drop ceilings and lights. These changes should be completed before the '87-'88 school year starts.



Steve Hartman/Tower

This sign warned summer visitors at Adams of asbestos dust.



Steve Hartman/Tower

Mr. Niemier teaches A.P. Calculus class the fundamental ideas behind functions.

## Niemier awarded honor of SBCSC Teacher of the Year

During this past summer, a great distinction was awarded to one of Adams' dedicated teachers. The honor of Teacher of the Year for the South Bend Community School Corporation was named as Al Niemier. Mr. Niemier is involved in much more than just the basic classroom instruction.

Mr. Niemier has served as city coordinator for Quiz Bowl. Before that he was the Quiz Bowl sponsor for the John Adams Quiz Bowl team. Under his leadership,

the South Bend Community Quiz Bowl program has reached national proportions.

Several years ago, Mr. Niemier developed and implemented a Probability and Statistics course designed for those students interested in pursuing careers involving such information. The course that he developed is now being taught in several corporation schools.

Mr. Niemier's favorite part of teaching is "seeing the students everyday. I enjoy passing on

knowledge to students to help them with their future careers and experiences."

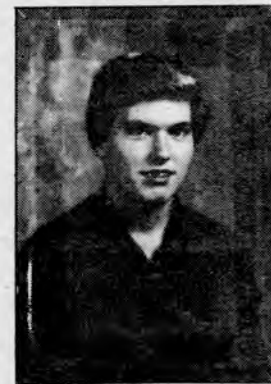
Mr. Przybysz stated that the type of teacher that is named Teacher of the Year is "innovative, has a deep concern for students, and goes above and beyond the basic daily preparations."

Now that he has won South Bend Community School Corporation's Teacher of the Year, he will go on to Regional and finally State Teacher of the Year competitions.

## Club Day set

Club Day has been set for Wednesday, September 17. Instead of activity period during the school day, clubs will be meeting after school in their respective rooms. Club meetings will last about 45 minutes. Buses will be running after the club

meetings to take home those who stay after needing bus transportation. Students are urged to take part in these activities as clubs are exciting and a good addition for college applications. For more information, contact your club sponsor.



Bryan Thomas Mason

May 22, 1968 -  
July 3, 1986

IN MEMORIAM



# Complaints reveal another side to cruising

By Sharna Chapman

Cruising. Driving a car up and down the McKinley Strip for three or four hours looking for gorgeous specimens of the opposite sex. Hundreds of teens do this every year, and hundreds will continue this tradition.

So why would hostile policemen from Mishawaka patrol the area cautiously, looking for the slightest violation in order to pull the car over and slap the passengers with a hefty fine? After all, they're just a bunch of teens driving up and down the Strip, perhaps stopping at McDonalds or Burger King for a while and having a good time. Perfectly harmless, right? Wrong.

According to a Public Information Officer things aren't always as calm and harmless as they seem. People and businesses report vandalism in the form of beer cans thrown about yards and parking lots, and people urinating on lawns. More seriously are the rapes. No rapes were reported this year, but last year four occurred - two on the Strip; the other two occurred further down, but the victims met their rapists on the Strip.

Even the cruisers favorite restaurants had a few complaints. Burger King's manager seemed to have nothing positive to say about the cruisers.

"They're bad for business," he said. They vandalize the bathrooms - smashing the light bulbs, ripping off urinals and toilet paper-holders, ripping out sinks; they steal flowers from the

flower beds and change the Marquee signs to suit their own perverted sense of humor. But don't they order food, which, in turn, creates more business? "It's all Pepsi, fries, Pepsi, fries." It hardly pays for the cost of a new bathroom sink. "It just isn't worth the hassle," he explained.

McDonald's manager doesn't seem to harbor the same ill feelings. "It doesn't bother us when they (the cruisers) sit and are quiet, it's when they yell at cars passing by that I'll tell them to leave." The general idea is if you don't make trouble, and don't loiter, you're welcomed. Some people, however, can't seem to cooperate quietly. The pet-peeves are people who enjoy setting off the drive-thru intercom, people who order a coke and stay for an hour or two, and vandals. Light bulbs have been smashed, toilet paper-holders have been ripped from the walls, trees have been knocked down, recently, a car ran over a curb and ended up smashing a portion of the fence. Despite this, he still maintains the cruisers are good for business. The only problem is that the cruisers place small orders and hinder the arrival of people who want to place big orders because of traffic back-up.

What about the curfew? "IT'S NOT WORKING!" they all say. "A curfew cannot be enforced," the Public Information Officer explained. "We don't know how old some of these teenagers are; and besides, what's the difference between a seventeen-year old and an eighteen-year old?"



Cars backed up on yet another Friday night of joy-riding on the McKinley strip. Tris Perkins/Tower

His advice? "Patrol yourself, so we don't have to." If a person isn't making trouble, there's no reason to pull him over. Be aware, however, that a violation can always be found.

This year, the Mishawaka Police Department did a good job of cracking down. At times, some streets were closed off, and at others, cruisers were ticketed for

any imaginable reason. Why did this have to be done? "Cruising's not the problem. The problem is the ten percent of troublemakers that drink and litter and pull over. If you cruise, we (the police) don't mind - it's when you stop that we crack down."

So what's a teen to do on a week-end? If cruising is still your thing - go ahead! Cruise! But

leave the bathrooms alone, don't loiter in parking lots, and don't carelessly toss beer cans in private yards." If a teenager can't handle that, perhaps he should examine his views on life and stay home on the weekends until he grows up. Those of us who can handle the privileges of driving don't need that person to give us a bad name.

## Common sense keeps the fun on the McKinley strip

By Jerry Manier

Now that the summer months of vacation are past and the school year is yet again upon students here at Adams and everywhere in the S.B.C.S.C., the minds of young ones all across this city are gradually turning inescapably to the rigours of scholastic endeavour. Maybe. The fact remains and will undoubtedly become clearer to all these students as the year progresses that the weekends are still there. And now, as during the summer, the Mishawaka McKinley strip will probably remain a popular "cruising" and just general place to be for many of us. There is no reason for this time-honored pastime not to continue, but it is necessary to keep in mind the laws, city ordinances, and simple rules of common sense to keep a fun night on the strip just there and not with the police.

The Tower, in inquiring the Mishawaka police department regarding the subject of cruising, was kindly assisted by Assistant Chief James Whitfield. Officer Whitfield informed us that the best way to stay out of trouble on the strip is to obey the law. There is nothing illegal in hundreds of area youths driving down a section of McKinley, but the police are understandably acutely on the lookout for any wrongdoing. Traffic violations, littering, and drinking, most especially from minors, are offenses committed regularly on the strip, and those which the

The best way to stay out of trouble on the strip is to obey the law.

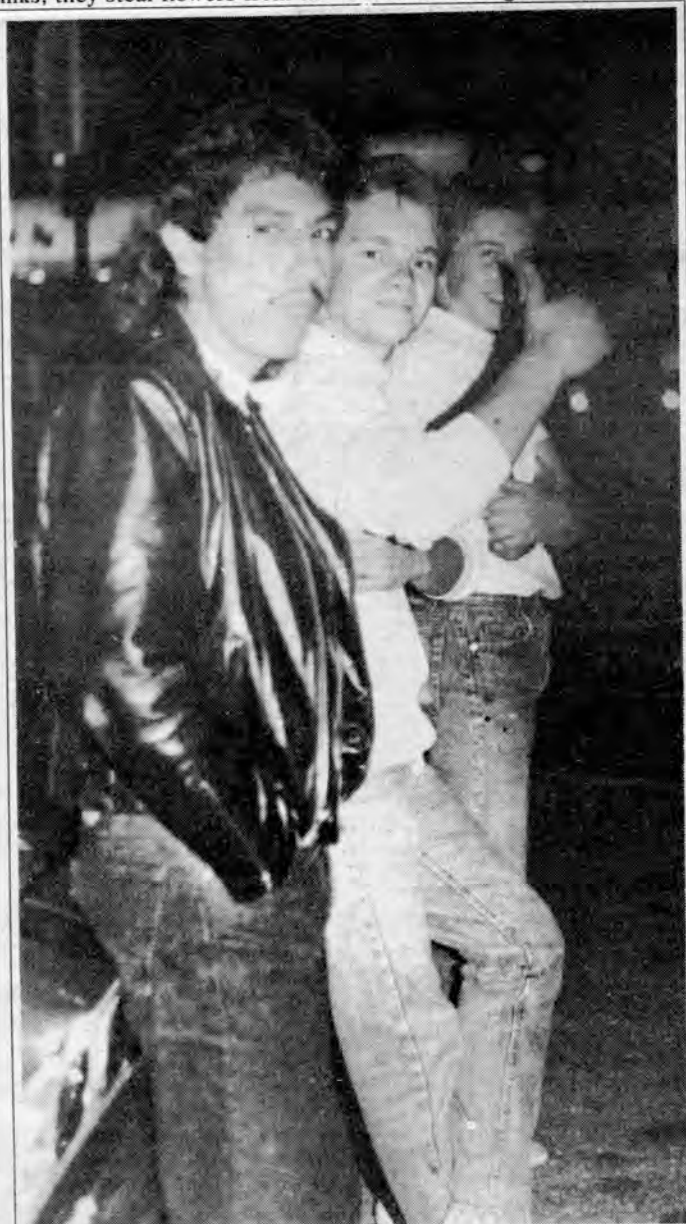
police are most regularly alert for. As long as primarily these and other laws are recognized, the average cruiser is normally on safe ground.

Extending a night's festivities into the residential areas around the strip, however, is a problem which can be enforced by the police, but is best prevented by the use of common sense. On any given Friday or Saturday night, the Mishawaka police are deluged by dozens of calls from these frustrated residents with as many various complaints. Many shops and restaurants on the strip are equipped with adequate facilities, but, nevertheless, nearby residents are regularly presented with laden cruisers urinating or otherwise relieving themselves in or around their yards and streets. This, littering, cars peeling out with squealing tires and other nuisances are problems that many residents must face at least weekly. The police take such measures as they can to lessen the risks of such incidents, such as patrolling the area and regulating traffic away from the residential zones, but many living there have or plan to leave the area due to the carelessness of a number of cruisers.

Here and elsewhere, measures have been taken or are under consideration in an attempt to alleviate the stress regularly put

on authorities and otherwise limit the destructive aspects of cruising. Until recently, the Goshen strip had serious problems of congestion every week as a result of cruisers. An ordinance recently passed, however, makes it unlawful on certain days of the week after certain hours, to use the middle two lanes of the street except for emergency vehicles. While jams on that strip are still a weekly occurrence, they at least no longer represent a serious hazard. Many, if not most restaurants on the McKinley strip employ private security guards against the chance of vandalism, fights, or other risks posed by large numbers of youths in their places of business. In addition, the Mishawaka Police Department assigns additional patrols for the strip every Friday and Saturday.

Cruising, then can be a benign way to spent time with friends or just hang around, if it's approached with the right state of mind as dictated by law. If the laws are observed, the police have no reason to prevent the cruiser from doing that which is in his blood. Probably no-one wants to spend every weekend night cruising the strip, but for the times when you may find yourself doing it, the law and your own conscience are the two most important factors to recognize.



Local high school students give a thumbs up to having fun while still abiding the law. Tris Perkins/Tower



# Football team builds tradition

By Jeff Pethick

Adams football teams in recent seasons can be summarized in one word—successful. Since his arrival five years ago at the Eagles' nest, the enthusiastic Mr. Farrell, a man blessed with the gift of coaching, has steadily elevated the quality of the sport played on the gridiron. The devastating Eagles last year compiled a 9-2 record, losing a one-point heartbreaker to Elkhart Central and losing the sectional finals to a tough Hobart team. The 1986 team, however, faces a new challenge, rebuilding.

Casting aside last year's lingering, pleasant memories of the talented "Bruise Brothers" and the prestigious NIC championship trophy, the young Eagles hope to accomplish what Coach Farrell labels as this year's goal, "to defend the NIC championship and win the sectional." Farrell has an experienced coaching staff consisting of Coaches Ward, Fulce, Lea and Kominkiewicz, the latter two being John Adams High School's answers to Arnold Schwarzenegger. The coaches work well together, and they have the respect of the participant.

Although battered by graduation, there are some bright spots on the horizon. The squad returns 11 lettermen, Tony Wilson, Joe Brock, Jeff Varga, Mark Davis, Kahlil Easton, Joey Sergio, Mike Komasinski, Jeff Terlep, Jim Thompson, Jason Harroff and Mike Trott. A spirited offensive and defensive tackle, Jim Thompson, guides both the offensive and defensive lines. Since standout running back Kahlil Easton is sidelined with a ligament injury, Joe Brock and Joey Sergio provide key performances as running backs. Mike Trott adds consistency to the

kicking game.

Practices on Farrell's turf are demanding, and the team is well prepared at gametime. Practices commence with passing drills and an injury-preventive stretching. The coaches employ a set of sprints to get the blood flowing and later progress into group instruction or a team scrimmage. After the bulk of the practice has been completed, the athletes proceed to the "highlight" of practice, most commonly known as sprints and stations. To put this in perspective, sprints and stations are comparable to falling being kicked by him five times for

off a bucking horse ten times and good measure. Practices always end with a set of Eagles, a way to boost team spirit. Jeff Terlep, a topnotch center says, "Practices help us come together as a team."

Although practices are time-consuming, they are necessary for a successful football program. The 1986 Eagles have already shown promise in the Jamboree and in the 28-6 victory against LaSalle. Coach Farrell always says, "Friday is payday," so at every Friday game the Eagles will be ready to pick up their paycheck at the expense of the opponent.



Tris Perkins/Tower

Lenny Kalber, Junior, leaves the Field at halftime when the 10th ranked Eagles fell to Riley 23-16.

## Adams' newest team is rolling

By Martin McNarney

After spending three years at the club level, the girls soccer team is starting their first varsity season. This long awaited inaugural season was made possible by a ruling passed by the school board last spring.

Although many transitions have taken place, one constant has remained the same: Coach Ed Kelly. He enters his fourth season and feels confident about his team. The team will be led by senior co-captains Anna Mullet and Tricia Troester. The lightning quick Troester was the team's leading scorer last year and plans to add some excitement to the season this fall. Juniors Terese Martinov and Molly Lennon plan to contribute heavily during this season. Marta Roemer, Sarah Friend, talented freshmen Mary Kate Kelly, and a pack of other underclassmen will see playing time. The team, consisting of over 30 players, should be good and will win using a team effort. Evidence of this was proved in an impressive 6-1 victory over Niles. The six goals were scored by five different girls.

That victory was the first of 14 games that the varsity will play plus a tournament at the end of the season. A JV team will also be part of the program (although unfunded). They will play about 9

be played in our own backyard, School Field. Therefore, we will have home field advantage.

Because girls soccer was changed to a varsity sport, many athletes who ran cross-country, played volleyball or swam now have decided to play soccer. With this new injection of talent, this season will boast the strongest teams yet. St. Joe again will be the team to beat. Clay and Riley will also have strong teams. But by tournament time Adams should be as good or better than those teams.

Since being changed to a varsity sport, many things have changed. The season for the girls was budgeted at over \$1,000.00 including balls, uniforms, and referees. Before this year, the girls paid for this themselves by fundraisers and other moneymakers. Also agreed upon was the requirements to make varsity. In order to be considered a varsity member, every girl had to run a mile in under seven minutes and juggle a soccer ball off of her feet, knees, thighs, or head for 25 touches.

Coach Kelly also hopes that since girls soccer has turned into a varsity sport more interest will generate in the school and community. School spirit at JA should extend itself to be supportive of this new varsity sport at Adams

## Cross country teams hit ground running

By Scott Scheel

The boys and girls cross-country teams got off to a great start to what looks to be a promising season with an impressive show at the South Bend Stampede on Saturday. The boys came in first out of a seven team field, while the girls finished fourth out of eight.

The boys were led by senior Tommy Taylor who finished fourth overall. He was followed closely by Lance Harris in seventh, Dale Jacquey in ninth, and Adam Bauer in eleventh. Chris Nowacki rounded off Adam's top five runners in seventeenth.

The girls fourth place finish does not show nearly how good their team is this year. They were running without number one

Adam's boys team hopes to have runner Diane Lamborn who was out with an upper respiratory infection. They were also missing Amy Gaglio another person who should be in this year's top five. Despite this they still were only five points behind the third place team. Casi Bolden finished first for the Eagles followed by Sue Austgen, Sarah Szumski, Christine Yarger, and Angela Davis.

Coach Randy Isaacson is optimistic about this year's season for both teams. "We are much improved and I think by the end of the season we could be a contender" said Isaacson. He also pointed out that staying healthy would be key to this year's success.

After a disappointing 5-7 record last season the young

a good season this year. Adams has a long history of strong cross country teams and right now the future looks bright. The eagles have very strong freshmen and sophomore classes. Even so Isaacson urges anyone to come out now. It is not too late and the more people that come out the better.

The girls are hoping to improve on last year's 5-7 record. Last year they had a good rebuilding year after only one win the year before. This year they hope to be very competitive come sectional time.

Cross-country is a tough sport which tests endurance. Every bit of encouragement which the runners get helps them keep going when their bodies want to stop.

## Athlete of The Issue



P.H. Mullen/Tower

Tom Taylor, a senior runner on the cross-country team, has been selected as the Athlete of the Issue. Taylor is Adams' number one runner. As this year's co-captain, Taylor has emerged as someone to fill the gap left by the graduation of state contender, Jay Yazel. In the area's season premiere, the South Bend Stampede, he placed his team in first place by

placing fourth out of a hundred and twenty runners.

In the team's first meet, against Marian and Northridge, he placed second, and on Tuesday, he came in third against Penn and Riley. The four-year letter winner was all N.I.C. sophomore year and hopes to repeat this season.

The Athlete of Issue is determined by coaches nominating an individual based on his recent performance. The publications staff then determines a winner.



# School day remains the same

By Lisa Primus

The school days at Adams have been changing from year to year for a while now. Two years ago, the school went a whole year without a pep assembly on school time. Last year pep assemblies were brought back, but five minutes were added onto each period, and the lunch hour was shortened to make up for the time spent at the assemblies. The longer periods added an hour onto the time students spend in class each day. This year, activity periods on school time were abolished. Students are spending more and more time in classes, but whether or not this helps their education is not completely clear.

The state sets up standards for the schools. They determine the minimum number of school days, the minimum length of school periods, and what can be done on school time. When South Bend schools lengthened their school days, it was to meet the new requirements, but the requirements were changed because of problems the longer school days created. The South Bend school system was left with a choice. It could return to the old schedule, but only if the schools gave assemblies that were not considered educational. The school board opted to keep the longer day. According to school board member Mr. Lennon, the length of the school day is not

likely to change in the near future.

Why are the sixty-minute periods required now? A few years ago, problems with America's schools became a big national issue. Suddenly, everybody decided that not enough learning was taking place. The easiest way to improve the situation seemed to be to make students spend more time in class in hopes that they would have more of a chance to learn. Some people are trying to increase the number of days students have to spend in school, and at least one person is trying to set up a mandatory summer school, though it is not likely that he will succeed. It is not clear, however, how much a little extra time in class really helps.

Mr. Przybysz is not sure whether or not the longer school day makes a significant difference. "I don't think it (the longer school day) can hurt anyone," he said, but he does not think it is "the answer" to the school system's problems. "Quality is the key," according to Mr. Przybysz. Though he does believe it helps in some classes, such as science labs, he does not expect five more minutes in a low quality class to help. Mr. Lennon agrees with him. He is "more concerned with what happens in classrooms" than how much time is spent there.

In certain classes, the five minutes do make a

difference. They make it easier for some students to finish a lab or an in-class assignment. Five minutes are always helpful during a hard test, but are they worth an extra hour of school a day? In classes in which students do not learn much, they now have five more minutes to do nothing. The longer periods just provide five more minutes to talk at the end of the class or to start on the homework which could just as easily be done at home. The way to improve a bad class is to improve the quality of the teaching, not to give the teacher five more minutes. Even in good classes, five minutes a day does not always help very much.

The longer school day also cuts into the time students have for jobs and other extra-curricular activities. In the long run, the extra-curriculars can sometimes help a student more than the extra time spent in school.

For better or for worse, the sixty-minute periods will probably be around for a while. Supporters of the longer periods can point out that people can learn a lot in five minutes. The students, however, do not always gain from these extra five minutes. Poor classes are still poor classes. They simply take up more time now. Maybe students are better off with sixty-minute periods, but now we have no way of knowing for sure. Only time will tell.

# To cruise or not to cruise?

By Lara Johnson

To cruise or not to cruise, that is the question. For many teenagers, however, there is no question. The procedure of dressing carefully for a fun night of cruising is merely a matter of course, a habit performed every Friday and Saturday night.

How and why did cruising start? Well, hundreds of years ago the Greeks and Romans created a place for recreation, meeting people and for showing off new chariots; they called it the Forum. Today, the name has changed to The Strip and the chariots have been replaced with large blazers, Harley Davidsons and smaller cars; though there have been changes, the main idea behind cruising remains. The strip is a place to meet people.

The reasons that people cruise are many and diversified. Jenny Nash, a junior and her good friends cruise to, "Meet cute guys and find the parties;" while Jim Cowen thinks, "There is no

better feeling than getting into my 4x4 and hittin' the strip. It's awesome!" Even freshmen go down to the strip to enjoy meeting new people, in spite of transportation problems.

Jason Yuresek goes "Cruising with my brother so we can pick up some babes." Most people believe that the strip is a place for one-night friendship that is hardly remembered the next day; this, however, is not true as stated by sophomore Sarah Friend, "My neighbor met a girl on the strip and they're getting married soon."

Even though most opinions about the strip are based on meeting people, there are other ideas about cruising. One senior says that the only time he is seen on the strip is, "When I need someone to buy some alcohol for my parties." This doesn't happen very often because of the many policemen that patrol the area every weekend. Another senior believes that "It's (cruising) stupid and a complete waste of a

weekend." The last opinion probably reflects the opinion of the people who would rather meet with a group of good friends and watch a movie while talking about the ideas that interest them. It seems strange, but cruising is interesting to those who cruise. One cruiser fervently stated when sarcastically asked what she possibly found interesting in cruising, "I go because that's where my friends are and if they (non-cruisers) don't understand, then that's their problem!"

In conclusion, I was asked to give my own opinion of cruising. Well, here it is, "Cruising is an interesting way to go and meet people and show off new cars and stereo systems, but I still believe that for those of us who are not interested in spending gas money for twenty trips up and down the same street every weekend, I suggest football games, a quiet evening with that special person, or a fun-night with your favorite group of friends."



Tris Perkins/Tower

Local teens go out on the town for another night of cruising.

## Clearance Sale

Many items 20% off  
Hand-stitched soccer balls

\$19 - \$25.00 ea.

Indoor soccer shoes

In stock now

**Action Sports**

The Spirit of Sports

Rich Wallace  
(219) 288 4444

1528 MISHAWAKA AVE. • SOUTH BEND • INDIANA 46615

Team and School  
Wholesaler

Three locations  
to serve you  
better

 **travelmore**

**Ask Mr. Foster**  
Travel Service Since 1888

Hardware  
Paints  
**Builders Store  
Inc.**

1319 Mishawaka Ave.

## The Tower

Co-Editors-in-Chief -Paula Makris,  
Gini Petersen

News Editors -Jane Burke,  
Steve Hartman

Feature Editors -Holly Lindberg,  
Melanie Masin

Asst. -Ida Primus  
Matt Trinh

Sports Editors -P.H. Mullen, Liz Panzica,  
Karl Roemer

Opinion Editors -Kristin Bergren,  
See-Eng Phan

Advertising Manager -Jeff Eslinger  
Business Managers -Molly Lennon

Asst. -Kristin Mitchell

Distribution -Sarah Friend, Rivka Meadow,  
Gabrielle Mickels,  
Jenny Wolosin

Circulation -Jennifer Mullett

Managing Photographer -Richard Primus

Advisor -Babette Maza

Principal -William Przybysz

THE TOWER is an independent bi-monthly student newspaper. Views expressed in this publication are those of students and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the TOWER staff of John Adams High School. THE TOWER reserves the right to edit material submitted. Any opinions, comments, or letters to the editors are welcome; they should be directed to Mrs. Maza, room 216. All material must be signed although names may be withheld from print upon request of the author.