

# THE TOWER

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

## McKinley project launched

By Ida Primus

Next semester may bring a new course to John Adams. According to Mr. Przybysz, ten to fifteen students will be given the opportunity to work with handicapped children at McKinley School.

Mr. Przybysz came up with the idea of sending Adams students to teach at McKinley. He says that he was visiting the Special Education Center at McKinley when he realized what a great experience it would be for high school students to work with handicapped children. The Special Education staff at McKinley is sure that the students there will enjoy working with Adams students. "They loved the idea," Mr. Przybysz said.

Though the logistics for the program have not been finalized, Mr. Przybysz is confident that everything can be worked out. A bus will probably take students to and from McKinley, (all of the participants will have to go to McKinley during the same hour for transportation purposes) leaving the class a half-hour to forty minutes at the Special Education Center.

Andy Smith will be co-ordinating the volunteer program. Ms. Smith explained that students will attend three orientation sessions at the beginning of the semester. These sessions will start with an overview of what it means to be handicapped. Then students will learn how to teach handicapped children.

Adams students will learn to work with handicapped children in each of the four areas of instruction offered at McKinley: Communication, socialization, fine motor, and gross motor.

Communication involves any method students use to express themselves.

Some students are capable of speech and must learn to put words together, just like most two-year-olds learn to speak. Teaching children to talk is very difficult though, and many students at McKinley are mentally or physically incapable of speech. These students must be taught to use a special form of sign language, picture boards, or even facial expression to communicate with others.

Socialization includes teaching basic social skills such as eating.

Gross and fine motor covers any physical movement. A student teacher may help a child learn to walk, to grasp, and sometimes, to lift his head.

After orientation, Adams students will spend most of their time working with assigned classes. Hopefully, every Adams student will work one-on-one with each pupil in his class. The student teachers will, or course, be under constant supervision.

A student's grade in the new course will probably rely on an evaluation by the student's supervisor and on the student's semester paper. Mr. Przybysz has requested permission to give full credit for the McKinley course. He hopes to offer the course as an advanced health class.

A tour of McKinley will give students more information about the program. The tour is for any students interested in the program and does not obligate participants to enroll in the course. Anyone interested in the tour should sign up in room 106 or in Mr. Fox's office.

Tired of the Christmas rush?

Turn to page 2 for a better

way to shop.

## What's News

### "Meet Me in St. Louis" Opens

The JA Drama Club will present the comedy "Meet Me in St. Louis" tonight in the Little Theatre. Tickets are \$2.50 at the door.

### Junior Rotarian Named

Julie Stante, a senior, will serve as the Junior Rotarian from Adams from November 12 until December 10. Julie will attend the weekly meetings of the Rotary Club, composed of local businessmen. Julie is treasurer of the senior class and a participant in the research biology program.

### No School

February 20, March 20, and April 27, all Fridays, have been designated as Staff Development days. Classes will not be held on these three days.

### SBPD Cadet Program

The South Bend Police Department is offering membership into the SBPD Cadet Program to young adults between the ages of 16 and 20 who are interested in law enforcement careers. For more information, call Joseph B. Walker at 284-9201 or Paula Bishop at 277-8882.

### College Application Deadlines

All seniors planning to apply to colleges who have not yet given the necessary forms to the guidance office are urged to turn in their forms no later than December 1.

### National Constitution Essay Contest

The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, headed by former Chief Justice Warren Burger, in association with USA TODAY/Gannett Co. and the American Bar Association, is sponsoring a national writing competition open to high school students. Interested students should contact Mr. Schutz.

### Student Government

The Student Government held its first meeting on November 5th, assigning committees for Semi-Formal, Pride Week, Valentine's Day, The Tower, Food Drive, Spirit Week, and other functions. The annual food drive will begin on December 8.

### Basketball Tickets

JA basketball season tickets will be on sale Monday, November 24. The student price of \$9.00 is a \$13.50 savings off the gate price.

### Optimists' Essay

Optimist International is sponsoring an essay contest open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The topic is "Freedom, Our Most Precious Heritage." For more information, contact Mrs. Maza in room 216.

### Critical Skills Testing

Critical skills tests and grade 12 post-assurance tests in Language arts and in math will be administered from December 8 to December 19. Make-up tests will be offered beginning January 5.



Adams teacher Panos and Perley Elementary School teacher, Orla Hayes discuss affirmative action with Oprah Winfrey [right].

Courtesy of Oprah Winfrey Show

## Panos speaks on affirmative action

By Martin McNarney

On October 23, John Panos traveled to Chicago to appear on national television. Panos, an Adams social studies teacher, was asked to appear on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." The topic of the show was affirmative action.

Affirmative action is the idea that if two applicants for a given position are equally qualified, and if one of the applicants is a member of a racial or ethnic minority, the minority applicant would be selected so as to offset discrimination. Two policemen from New York, a fireman from Miami, and another South Bend teacher joined Panos on the hour-long program.

"It was not what I expected," explained Panos. "I was hoping to discuss the problem more. Miss Winfrey asked us questions about our own situations rather than about the problem. In that respect, I was disappointed," he continued, "but all things considered, it was a unique experience."

The setup of the show also fascinated Panos. He said that each of the persons on the stage was seated in a particular position, and so were members of the audience. "It was kind of funny," he stated. "Whenever

one of the guests wanted to interject a remark, he just rudely interrupted. I wasn't ready for that." He mentioned that the audience continued to ask questions during commercial breaks.

Each of the show's guests had had personal experiences involving affirmative action. After eight years of teaching, Panos was laid off for two years because of affirmative action programs in the South Bend school district. Panos reappeared at John Adams during the 1983-84 school year.

"Losing my job obviously disappointed me," Panos stated calmly, "But even more heartbreaking was that I was being replaced by minorities less qualified. I was laid off with a master's degree, and other minorities were being hired with bachelor's degrees."

That brings up the question of "reverse discrimination." "I don't disagree with affirmative action as long as the person is equally qualified," Panos explained.

After the program, the five guests enjoyed breakfast together and accomplished among themselves more than they did on the entire show, according to Panos.

"Overall, I was pleased," concluded Panos with a broad smile.

# Beat the Christmas rush with catalogs

By Jeff Eslinger

"What am I going to get him or her for Christmas?" is a question many people begin to start thinking about this time of year.

Fortunately this scene can be avoided by shopping through mail order. Everything on any Christmas list can be found in one of the thousands of catalogs sent out by companies selling anything from an Israeli Paratrooper briefcase from Banana Republic to L.L. Bean's Blucher Moccasins to Goose Down Robes from Eddie Bauer.

Most of these businesses cater to the discriminating shopper, looking for quality products for themselves or for gifts.

Looking for a gift for the safari enthusiast, Banana Republic is just for you. The catalog contains all the necessary items that are needed to take on a safari, or anywhere else for that matter. The oath of durability and style is the philosophy of Banana Republic. Their commitment to natural fibers is prevalent throughout the catalog, making it a favorite among many "naturalists."

Banana Republic sells many authentic items used by different armies all over the world for their



L.L. Bean and Banana Republic catalogs are waiting to be consumed by those obsessive Christmas shoppers.

Lara Johnson/Tower

expeditions in tropical climates. The French Army undershirt, British D-Day duffel bag, as well as the Israeli Paratrooper briefcase are just a few items available in the catalog.

The ever popular Banana Republic T-shirts are also available in the catalog. They are a mere bargain, at only \$10.00 each. On the front pocket of each shirt is placed their Coat of

Bananas; on the back, a choice of six prints of rare British animal engravings from the days of Victoria, Empress of India.

Outdoor enthusiasts can fill their home with the best hiking

and camping equipment from either Eddie Bauer or L.L. Bean. Both of these companies offer similar selections of winter wear including a large selection of expedition-tested clothing comfortable at -30 degrees F.

L.L. Bean's selection features clothes suitable for a New England evening by the fire, with sweaters, slippers, robes, shirts, and pants made of either cotton or wool.

Bean is the original designer of the Chamois Cloth Shirt. Being made of durable fabric it is a superior shirt for hunting, fishing, and all outdoor wear.

Eddie Bauer also features natural materials in their clothing, but the use of real goose down in winter coats, boots, and ski bibs have made their products the first choice for many explorers. Other items include an everlasting solar charged miniature flashlight for 99 cents and their world famous goose-down filled comforters starting at \$170.00.

There is still plenty of time before Christmas, so why not do your Christmas shopping early and avoid the rush. Mail order shopping is one of the fastest and least time consuming methods of shopping.

# Furniture potatoes provide spudness

By Mike Komasinski

A couch potato? You may ask what kind of fearsome or grotesque creature this is.

But, chances are, you have a couch potato in your own home.

To understand the true meaning of the term couch potato, or "furniture spud," one must first examine its scientific nature. Known as "Couchus slobbus potatas" in scientific circles, a potato is generally a teen-age male who has, during the summer, succumbed to his innermost wish — to do absolutely nothing for three months.

His physical makeup is generally 10 pounds overweight. His clothes, of course, are only the most comfortable variety ... baggy shorts and old ripped t-shirts.

Now, you might wonder how couch potatoes act, so you'll be sure to recognize a specimen when you see one.

To understand the behavior of a furniture spud, try to understand the philosophy of his jelly-filled mind: he

aims to do little that requires exertion and hopes to accomplish nothing!

In simpler terms, a couch potato's life is spent on the pleasures that require no effort: eating, drinking, sleeping and watching the tube.

Consider this documented case of a typical day in the life of a couch potato:

In early June, I awoke one morning and realized what I wanted to do with my summer — NOTHING! I had no job, and I

When I woke up, I thought of taking a shower, but soon realized that it would take too much energy. So I passed on that idea and went to the living room.

I turned on HBO and saw that "Beverly Hills Cop" was on. It didn't matter that I had seen it 15 times before. My mind wanted to be entertained.

Soon I realized I hadn't eaten breakfast, so I headed for the kitchen. I pounced down a poor pop tart, seized a defenseless bag of potato chips, grasped a plate of cold pizza and snapped up a six-pack of Cherry Coke. With breakfast in hand, I headed for the TV room where I

consumed my catch just as "The Price is Right" was starting.

After winning both showcases (\$10,000 and a trip to Libya), I felt exhausted and fell asleep on the couch.

I awoke to the sounds of "Hey, hey, hey!" It was Fat Albert, my role model for the summer. After watching Albert, I went to the kitchen again and ...!

Where do you find such a spud? Couch potatoes are social animals and usually gather in mellow groups of twos and threes. Obviously a prerequisite for a potato domain is a couch, worn by years of dogs, kids, and siblings jumping and fighting on it.

Furniture spuds prefer dark, air-conditioned houses, well-stocked with Ho-Hos, chips, Chiquita Pops and doughnuts.

The best couch potato havens are located in close proximity to a McDonald's, Hardee's or ... best of all ... a Seven-11! If fast food isn't found nearby, transportation via automobile is a must, because using a bicycle requires that life-threatening feat known as

exercise.

You also should be familiar with two related species. First, there's the "couchus surf's up potato," also known as the beach bum. This species is characterized by a beer belly and a dark tan due to excessive suds and sun.

Then there's the "couchus ski burmmus potato," or the ski bum. This is the species that skis for five minutes and then comes in to warm his feet by the fire and claim he has conquered the mountain.

Now you have finished your instructions on how to identify a couch potato, as well as where to find one. With this information, you can cleanse your household, neighborhood or maybe even the world of furniture spuds.

But during your hunt, don't forget to take pity on these slob-like souls, for couch potatoes are just friendly, lovable creatures who enjoy the finer points in life.

Remember, we all could use a little spudness sometimes.

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## B-team athletes persevere despite challenges

By Jim Cowen

In the world of high school athletics, there exists a high standing ladder to success, and for most budding young athletes, being a member of the B-team is the first step.

Although most participants of a junior varsity team receive very little fanfare or attention, the future credibility of that sport rests entirely in their hands. With hard work and determination, the unknown athlete one year can blossom into the star by the next.

When coaching a junior varsity team, the attitude taken is often less demanding than that of the varsity level. Coaches work more on developing skills and fundamentals than coming out of the season with a 20-0 record. However, there is the exception of the B-team coach with the "win or I'll shove your jock down your throat" attitude. Covered with warpaint, he runs onto the field before a game screaming "Banzai!"

Some B-team coaches feel a sense of frustration when coaching. "It's a no-win situation," says B-team baseball coach Jim Kominkiewicz. "When

you do have excellent talent on your team, they get moved up to varsity and you have to start all over."

A varsity team might possess most of the talent, but it lacks an easy-going atmosphere. Varsity coaches, naturally, have more riding on the season. The press, parents, and players can combine to create a great amount of pressure on a coach. On a B-team, much of this publicity is avoided, and the coach can work more on developing his players rather than pleasing the masses. Ursula Emery, a junior B-team soccer player feels, "The experience gained in non-varsity games has helped me develop into a more fundamentally capable athlete."

While some teams are allowed to use the varsity field, others aren't as fortunate. B-team athletes are often cursed with the worst playing conditions. In expressing his feelings towards the Potawatomi tennis courts, otherwise known as "The Zoo," junior tennis player Jim Engeman says, "It's alright as long as somebody mows the courts before a match. Those three-foot weeds can be vicious!"

Not only are some of the playing areas bad, but B-team games don't exactly "pack 'em in." When there are spectators present, they usually consist of mom, dad, grandma, and other assorted relation. "I think I saw somebody in the stands once," says junior baseball player Kevin Mumaw. "I'm not sure though. I was out in left field and my vision was pretty blurry from those wild onions."

Many junior varsity teams are extremely talented, but have received little or no credit for their achievements. The boys B-team tennis squad went undefeated in its '86 season. The '85 boys B-team basketball, football, and soccer teams posed a considerable threat in their leagues also, and the girls basketball, and volleyball B-teams were a success in their past season.

Being a member of a B-team is like being a freshman; you have to start low and work your way up. There are exceptions, of course. Now and then, an athlete will be good enough to start on a varsity squad his freshman year. However, most athletes will come up through the ranks.



Junior B-teamers Jim Engeman and Jay Blandford struggle to see the lines in one of the more "adequate" junior varsity playing facilities at Potawatomi Park. Steve Hartman/Tower

## Boys' basketball promising

By Mike Komasinik

Introducing the '86-'87 John Adams' varsity basketball team: At the point guard, Alphonso Mack, Peter Tulchinsky, Terry Burton, and Orlando Buchannan; at the wing positions, Gary Watkins, Terry Bridgeman, Bernie Smith, Brian Frye, and Adam Friend; and finally at the post positions, Ted and Scott Scheel, Tony Wilson, Gary Geiger, and Lenny Kalber.

Although it is too early to tell who the five starters are coach Hadaway said, "We have a good blend of youth and experience with some excellent senior leadership."

The general feeling of the squad is that they have great potential that they can develop if

they work hard enough. Junior point guard "Fonnie" Mack said, "We have really good talent and if we work hard enough nobody can stop us."

According to Hadaway the key to this year is how their outside shooting develops. The Eagles will miss the long range bombing of Jeff Mitchell and Ron Chrobot, but senior wingman Adam Friend has other ideas about missing them. "With the people we have, everybody can do almost anything, we don't need role players," said Adam.

The forefront this year is "strong" according to Hadaway. The returnees include Wilson, Geiger, Fitzpatrick, Scheel, and Kalber, with four out of five returnees being seniors look out for the Eagles "big men."

When asked about depth, something past teams have lacked, Asst. Coach Mark Ward said, "We have excellent depth on the bench. We will dress twelve kids, all of whom could play in any game at any time."

According to sources Mishawaka, Riley, and LaSalle are expected to be the frontrunners in the conference along with the Eagles. Adam Friend, however, said, "Aw' man we're gonna' kill 'em."

All in all, this year looks bright for Adams. They have great potential, a good work ethic, and the winning tradition to carry on. The future was summed up by Bernie Smith, "We have a good team and with a little work, we could go all the way."

## New coach brings fresh attitude to girls' B-ball

By Karl Roemer

A new coach brings in conflicting, sometimes bewildering attitudes. A few weeks ago, reflecting on Cleo Kilgore, Marilyn Thomas staggered into the room, and sighed, "Man, Kilgore is crazy!" Yet this statement shows only one side of the girls basketball team's attitude. Though dozens of headache drills and suicides take up most of the practices, a stronger, healthier feeling pervades on the squad—confidence. "Well... with a new coach, although a young team, we have a new attitude, and we shall

achieve every goal expected of us," says junior guard Molly Lennon.

Though St. Joe looms on the horizon, practice is the #1 priority. "Our team outlook was pretty dark for awhile, but now I'm beginning to see the light," Kilgore expressed. Guards Thomas and Tricia Troester boast good talent at guards. Sarah Friend, Patty Dennen, and Deleya Johnson make up the forwards, with German exchange student Anke Bartl as center. "I think Anke will be a key because we've never had a true center," said Thomas.

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# Is our constitutional right being abused?

By Richard Primus

Last week, a Federal judge in Tennessee ruled that Christian Fundamentalists who objected to material found in their children's reading textbooks in public schools could remove their children from those classes and teach them to read at home. On the surface, this might appear to be a simple exercise in religious freedom. Closer investigation, however, reveals more troubling possibilities.

The objectionable material in the textbooks did not deal with subjects commonly classified as "offensive," such as sex or drugs. Rather, it contained references to ideas which do not perfectly match the Fundamentalists' own rigid beliefs. For example, L. Frank Baum's book *The Wizard of Oz* was found objectionable because it contains a witch who is good. The Bible speaks of witches as necessarily evil, and the Fundamentalists therefore

refuse to allow their children to read about a different conception.

A list of topics cited as unpalatable for reading by these children included "humanism," "Roman Catholicism," and even "vegetarianism." Keeping in mind that the schools did not advocate belief in or practice of these ideas but merely used references to them in reading selections to expose the students to the broad spectrum which is society, one wonders how much confidence the Fundamentalists have in their children's understanding of their own beliefs.

More frightening was the objection to *The Diary of Anne Frank*. This book deals with the evils of religious persecution, and was objected to precisely because it advocates religious freedom and tolerance. It would seem that the Fundamentalists wish to "protect" their children from thinking that people should have the right to practice the religion of their choice.

Although at least one Adams student described this ruling as "a step toward Fahrenheit 451," it must be remembered that the judge did not ban these books. He merely stated that the Fundamentalists had legitimate religious objections to reading it and must be accommodated.

But does the government have an obligation to allow students in its schools to be "protected" from reading about this country's most important values, including religious freedom? More directly, should the government permit such an arrangement, in which students will grow up believing that tolerance is wrong?

Somewhere is a boundary between the religious rights that the Fundamentalists claim and those which they apparently seek to deny to all others. The American people should not be a party to education toward revocation of their own rights.

## Adrian Belew strikes blow

By Jerry Manler

In these times of pop music superstars who will sell out every inch of their artistic integrity to make millions, and unscrupulous producers who squeeze out any leftover bit of originality in order to cater to the public's taste, any truly monumental stands against the musical status quo are few and far between. The previous sentence is not meant to demean in any way the hundreds of artists who make an honest living from the "techno-pop" variation of modern music, which has become so prevalent in the last couple of years. If recent work from such people as Janette Jackson, Madonna, or Miami Sound Machine is the harbinger of new trends in popular music, anyone wishing to break from the pack will have to contend against widespread electronic rhythm machines and sampling synthesizers capable of "electronic fireworks." Why break from the pack when one can keep his hands clean and make lots of money with universal acceptance?

Such is the road that virtuoso guitarist Adrian Belew could have taken. Belew has been called "The Jimi Hendrix of modern guitar," and with good reason. Belew forged his early reputation mainly through studio work, playing with various bands and, in 1980, joining the newly-revitalized Talking Heads line-up for a year or so, appearing on their albums "Remain in Light" and "The Name of This Band is Talking Heads." Somewhat more recently, Belew has earned recognition as guitarist and lead singer in what might have been the last genesis of the group King Crimson.

Without doubt, Adrian Belew has what it would take to become a Top 40 recording star. Using fretted and fretless guitars and guitar synthesizers, and a voice which, although somewhat straight forward and plain, can be truly scary in its power to evoke images, Belew has forged a formidable reputation in King Crimson. But when Adrian Belew released his solo album October 27, he struck a square blow

against the techno-pop movement.

The uniqueness of "Desire Caught By The Tail" can be explained, in part, by the complete artistic control Belew appears to have had. Unlike performers such as Sting, who said of his first album, "Ever since I started this thing, people have referred to it as my solo album, which is, of course ridiculous..." Naturally, most solo performers are merely the driving force in a group of people who get together and perform and produce an album. Not so with Adrian Belew. "Desire Caught By The Tail" is described as "instrumental music for guitar and percussion." Every song is written, performed, and produced entirely by Belew. It is, perhaps, the first solo album so completely worthy of that title.

By far, the most notable aspect of the album is Belew's guitar playing. On fretted, fretless, synthesized, or acoustic guitars, Adrian Belew is equally amazing. The first and possibly best song on the album, "Tango Zebra" shows as well as any, this master's sheer virtuosity. It is, like most of the album, fairly weird, but Belew does things in it on guitar which no other guitarist could possibly match. Many other

artists make use of the guitar synthesizer, but none with such realistic technique as Belew. The listener is constantly amazed that every sound he is hearing is generated by guitars and percussion alone.

Another of Belew's innovations is the broad departure from melodic structures which necessarily appeal to the Western ear. Aspects of Western and Eastern melodies often intermingle equally in songs such as "Portrait of Margaret" and "Beach Creatures Dancing Like Cranes." "Portrait of Margaret," the most normal-sounding title from the album, is by no means the most normal song. With such a title, a soft, moody, reflective songs might appear to be in order. Belew, who does not capitalize any of his songs, does nothing of the sort with "Portrait of Margaret." The song about Belew's wife has a loud, fast beat and competing Eastern melody.

"Desire Caught By The Tail" will make no Top Ten album charts. No singles from the album will be released. But for avid fans of guitar and those interested in the avant garde music movement, Adrian Belew has much to offer. He makes a welcome alternative to pop, and one which is worth the cash.



This is the cover for Adrian Belew's new album, "Desire Caught By The Tail." Tris Perkins/Tower



Karl Roemer and Jim Cowen display their muscular physiques, with a little help from the leaves on the ground.

Lara Johnson/Tower

### Editor's Column

## The Tower needs more student input

By Gini Petersen

No one seems to realize the potential we, as students have through the press. The student newspaper is a place for us to freely express our views and ideas. It is one of the few places where students have a voice.

Our freedom of the student press is protected by the principles of the First Amendment. The courts have long recognized, "The fact that a public authority provides funds for the establishment and maintenance of a forum does not bestow absolute control over the content of expression taking place therein." Thus the content of the newspaper is not dictated by administrators or teachers; it is in the hands of the students. But having these freedoms only gives us opportunity. It is not until we

begin to really use our freedom that we gain influence.

Because the student body is a very diverse group, it is a difficult task for a paper to truly express the views of the students. Just as the United States is a "melting pot" of different ideas, religions, and cultures, so is Adams. A handful of students working on the paper cannot represent the entire student body.

Therefore, if our paper is to become an influential tool, we must have more input from a wider variety of students.

The Tower invites the students of Adams to take the responsibility and have the courage to be heard. What issues do you see that have an impact on the lives and values of the students? What insights do you have that you would like to spread to others? The tool is in our hands; it is up to us to use it.

### The Tower

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