

The Tower

John Adams High School

South Bend, IN 46615

TEENS AND CRIME:

How far should
the laws go ?

Story, pages 4 - 5.

Teacher wins SBCSC suit

by Chris Scanlan

Decisions made by the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. often seem very distant from the needs of people in South Bend, Indiana. And even when important decisions are made, the immediate impact is often unclear. For John Adams American government teacher Mr. Panos, however, a recent Supreme Court decision is of personal importance. One of more than forty-eight teachers who had filed a suit against the school corporation a few years ago, he's been told that the South Bend Community School Corporation had illegally laid him off in the spring of 1982.

Mr. Panos had eight years of experience when budget cuts in the corporation resulted in massive layoffs throughout the city schools. Because he was not a member of a minority group, and because he had not acquired a certain level of experience, the Corporation felt obligated to give him a pink slip. This was due to a clause in the teachers' contract which said that members of minority groups would not be laid off. The clause was added because both the teachers' union and the

Corporation felt that the significant number of black students in the South Bend schools required a growing number of black teachers.

Panos, along with around fifty other non-black teachers laid off in the spring of '82, filed suit against the corporation, claiming that his equal protection rights under the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution were violated because his seniority did not prevent him from being laid off, while black teachers with fewer years of experience could stay on. This surprised Mr. Panos, who noted that "seniority always seemed to be the rule."

The suit reached its culmination when the Supreme Court refused to hear the Corporation's appeal of a federal court ruling that the Corporation had violated the rights of more than fifty teachers in the South Bend schools under the system it used. Panos now intends to file for damages against the Corporation, and hopes to gain two additional years of seniority for the experience he missed while he was laid off.

Panos, who described himself as being for many aspects of current affirmative action programs, seriously

objected to South Bend's program because it defined only blacks as a minority group. He noted that a Hispanic woman was laid off, although it seemed to him that she should have been considered a member of a minority group. He also questioned the use of affirmative action to help individuals to help people who were not directly affected by discrimination themselves.

When the suit was reaching its final stages, Panos appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show to support his view of the case. During the show, black Reagan staffer Clarence Pendleton, who has been frequently criticized for his support of a Republican president that is generally unpopular with black voters, made an appearance to give his support for the white teachers, stating that affirmative action should not interfere with established seniority systems.

Panos regrets that the suit caused animosity between white teachers and black teachers, saying that "there are no winners or losers—the system) pitted whites against blacks fighting for their jobs." He hopes that the wounds from this dispute will heal soon.

Campaign combats drug abuse

by Jennifer Crosson

In recent years, the South Bend Community School Corporation has attempted to combat the problem of drug and alcohol abuse in the schools through student organizations such as SADD and the "Just Say No" clubs. While the activities of these groups have helped by raising student awareness on the extent of this

made it to high school, and this is the social situation, this is the pressure you'll be under to try drugs.' It has to be a realistic role model up there giving them the message."

On November 7-8, Mrs. Stines took the first step towards her goal when she brought one student from each of the local high schools to a special drug abuse conference in LaPorte. At the conference, attended by

"Although the statistics have claimed that drug and alcohol abuse is down among teenagers, I have yet to see that in my work with these kids."

problem, their influence has been sadly minimized by a lack of support from the adult community.

The '87-'88 school year, however, should be different. Recognizing the value of student support, local substance abuse specialists will be working together with these organizations in attacking what has become a serious problem in the schools.

"Although the statistics have claimed that drug and alcohol abuse is down among teenagers, I have yet to see that in my work with these kids," emphasizes Brian Myers, a substance abuse counselor and coordinator at Madison Center's new Quiet Care program for adolescents. Myers adds that the starting age for experimentation with drugs is also changing for the worse. "It's now down to fifth or sixth grade for the hard drugs—and it's not at all unusual to hear of second or third graders smoking marijuana."

Clearly, a newer, more effective approach is needed. Mounting elaborate "Just Say No" media campaigns is not enough to curb students' inclination to experiment with drugs and other substances. "I really don't consider Nancy Reagan an authority on how to handle myself properly," commented junior Chris Scanlan.

Mrs. Gwen Stines, substance abuse coordinator for the School Corporation, has played a key role in developing new substance abuse programs. On October 30, she and Mr. Myers met with students from all the area high schools to discuss the latest statistics on drug abuse and their new approach to dealing with the problem.

Mrs. Stines' approach involves using high school students to fight the problem at its earliest direct source—the elementary and middle schools. "There's no one younger school kids will look up to more than high school students," she explains. "They need to see someone who can stand before them and say, 'Yeah, I've

high school students from across northern Indiana, the representatives spent an intense workshop session learning and rehearsing the techniques they will use when they go into the feeder schools. In return, these students will be responsible for training other students within their own high schools.

The techniques learned, Mrs. Stines stresses, will be different from those of past campaigns. "Although many of the students involved will probably be members of SADD and the 'Just Say No' clubs, our message will be a more elaborate presentation," she explains. "There will be plays, skits, even some games."

Mrs. Stines' goal for the high schools is to get every student involved in the crusade against drugs—not just through the work in the feeder schools, but also by teaching students to recognize the signs of drug or alcohol abuse in others and take the responsibility of reporting them to a counselor.

"Each school has a trained ACT (Administrator, Counselor and Teacher) team and counselor who will work in complete confidentiality with any student who comes to them," states Mrs. Stines. "Also, anyone who is afraid of having their identity revealed can call me (at 282-4138) and I will report that name to the ACT team myself." She will even wait a few days to do this, so that there will not be any suspicions as to who might have turned a student in.

Is all this effort really worthwhile at a time when the statistics seem to reflect a decline in drug abuse? Brian Myers thinks so. "In an average classroom of, say, 30 students, 3 of those students could still statistically be daily marijuana smokers, 2 of them daily alcohol drinkers, and another 2 daily users of commonly available drugs such as barbiturates and hallucinogens." For dedicated counselors and students alike, that statistic should be quite enough.



Becky Wolfe/Tower

Adams students take time out to enjoy the serenity of Indian summer.

Students fight to save a part of local history



Adams students are fighting to save this downtown theater and the nearby Colfax Theatre, both of which have great historic value. Matt Laherty/Tower

by Jennifer Crosson

For over 10 years, the Colfax and State Theaters of downtown South Bend have stood abandoned, deteriorating and waiting. It is unfortunate that these two grand movie palaces of an earlier age are in such a shape. There could be many uses for them...

Most high school students are familiar with the old Colfax and State Theatres downtown. Their ornate structures stand out so strikingly against the backdrop of skyscrapers and modern office buildings that they could hardly be overlooked. But few, if any, can recall ever having seen the inside of these theaters; both buildings closed their doors to the public in 1978.

The theaters were not the only part of local history which lost their place when South Bend's commercial center shifted to the suburbs. And they certainly aren't the first to become the subject of a proposal for restoration amidst the renewed political interest in the downtown area. But the proposal from which the above excerpt was taken has a unique voice. It was designed and written by a group of Adams students.

The idea for the project was originally developed by junior Jim McDonnell. "I always thought both of the theaters were so beautiful and well-designed," Jim explained, "and I wanted to see those attributes used, not left to deteriorate." He decided to do some research on the history of the buildings and the intentions their owners held for them.

Both theaters have been a part of South Bend for more than 50 years. The older of the two, the State, was opened as the Blackstone Theatre in 1921, in the heyday of the silent movie era, and continued to show motion pictures as its main fare until its closing in 1978. "I saw everything from 'South Pacific' to 'The Abominable Snowman' there, so this was really like a bit of local history to me," noted history teacher Mr. Fiwek, who supported Jim in writing the proposal. "But it was theaters like the State which made movies the social events they used to be."

The Colfax Theatre, built by Paramount in 1929, has a special historical significance. It was the first movie house ever to be designed for sound films.

Unfortunately, this fad failed to hold the public's interest once the competition acquired them. Closed since 1978, the Colfax is now privately owned. It has more than once been threatened with demolition by its owners, Anderson and Associates.

Jim's goal for the theaters is to find a prospective buyer who would be willing to purchase one or both of the buildings. Among the buyers he would most like to see is the South Bend Community School Corporation. "For years, the South Bend schools have used local facilities such as the Century Center and I.U.S.B. theaters for their dramatic and musical productions, because they lack auditoriums with adequate space and acoustics," Jim explained. "If the school corporation were to purchase and renovate one of the theaters, then they would have their own place to present plays and musicals, as well as hold meetings and conferences."

There are other ideas for development. "Originally, my goal was to make one of the theaters into a night club for teenagers. There are certain parties who have approached me about that, and they are still interested," Jim stated. This plan is similar to that of New York's Palladium Corporation, which has been to renovate several old buildings with unusual architecture and transform them into entertainment night spots.

"The list of possibilities," Jim conceded, "depends on the buyer. The buildings could be used for concerts. They could be dinner theaters. They could even be used as cinemas again."

And that will be the deciding issue—the amount of time and money the buyer is willing to give. Both buildings need considerable renovation and repair; the State, which was only recently sealed to halt deterioration, has suffered extensive water damage in some areas, and the Colfax, while generally in better shape, no longer possesses the fixtures and appliances needed to make it accessible for entertainment purposes.

It is unlikely that either the State or the Colfax could ever fulfill any function as prosperously as they once did. Nevertheless, the buildings remain as useful as they are beautiful. "This could be an important opportunity for future generations to recapture the spirit of past generations," concluded Jim.

SATs: Are they accurate?

by Chris Scanlan

The annual SAT results are in, and once again, John Adams has ranked number one among local public schools. A recent bulletin to parents highlighted this accomplishment, and it was brought up at a recent pep assembly, to great cheering. Some analysts, however, debate the importance of the higher SAT scores as an indicator of academic achievement at Adams.

The first problem has to do with the Educational Testing Service's (ETS) claims about the purpose of the SAT. The ETS claims that the purpose of the SAT is to measure "scholastic aptitude," not academic performance. According to this point of view, SAT scores reflect more on the abilities of the students more than they do on the qualities of their individual schools. Of course, most experts agree that the test scores strongly reflect on the academic achievements of students taking the test. For instance, at Adams, students ranked in the top 10% of their class scored a combined score of 1,166 compared to the general Adams average of 924. (Combined scores, which are determined by adding the verbal and math scores, have a total possible

value of 1,600 points.) The large number of prep books, computer programs, and special courses for the SAT also reflect a widely-held belief that SAT scores can be raised by special coaching, regardless of "scholastic aptitude."

Another factor in considering the importance of Adams's SAT scores is the number of students actually taking the test. The guidance office often recommends that some students take the ACT (American College Testing program), which is put out by another standardized testing company, because these students may "drag down" SAT scores. In fact, when smaller numbers of students take the SAT, the scores generally go up. This is because there is a core of college-bound students that always take the SAT, because many top colleges strongly encourage students to take it if they want to be considered for admission. It is usually other students that account for "dragging down" the scores. According to one teacher familiar with the statistics for the past few years, the percentage of students taking the test is the most important factor affecting the scores.

Finally, the significance of these scores can be questioned. Adams did score above the national average, but the national average is 906, compared to Adams's 924—a difference of only 18 points. And Clay School trailed Adams by only 28 points. The *South Bend Tribune* also noted that some of the area's highest scores were scattered around many different schools, and not concentrated in any one school. The highest average in the area was not at Adams, however, but at Trinity, which is privately run. Private schools are generally much more concerned about college preparation, and have the funds to prepare large numbers of their students for important steps in the college preparation process, such as taking the SAT.

Adams's high SAT scores indicate that high ability and talent exists at Adams. But observers should draw conclusions from these scores with great caution. No one is quite sure about what the SAT is supposed to be measuring, and factors such as the number of students taking the test seem to play a large role. Hopefully, though, the scores will continue to rise in the coming years.

What's News

Junior Rotarian

Senior Nick Macri has been named Junior Rotarian for the month of November. He will attend weekly meetings of the Rotary.

NHS Caroling

The National Honor Society will be Christmas caroling on December 17th at St. Joseph Hospital and Meridian/Cardinal Nursing Home. Any senior member who would like to participate, please contact Kristin Bergren, Becky Wolfe, or Paul Radecki (committee chairman).

Senior Caps and Gowns

Seniors will be measured for their caps and gowns today during their American Government classes. Cap and gown fees will be due in May. Seniors graduating in January, and students who will be transferred to senior homerooms in January will also be measured today.

Tower/Album subscriptions

Today is the last day to subscribe to the *Tower/Album* in homeroom. If you have not yet subscribed, you can still take out subscriptions in Room 216.

Students are uncomfortable with new furniture

by Mike Komasinski

Most students spend six hours a day, five days a week in a classroom. While in this classroom the student sits in a desk. These desks come in varying colors and comforts.

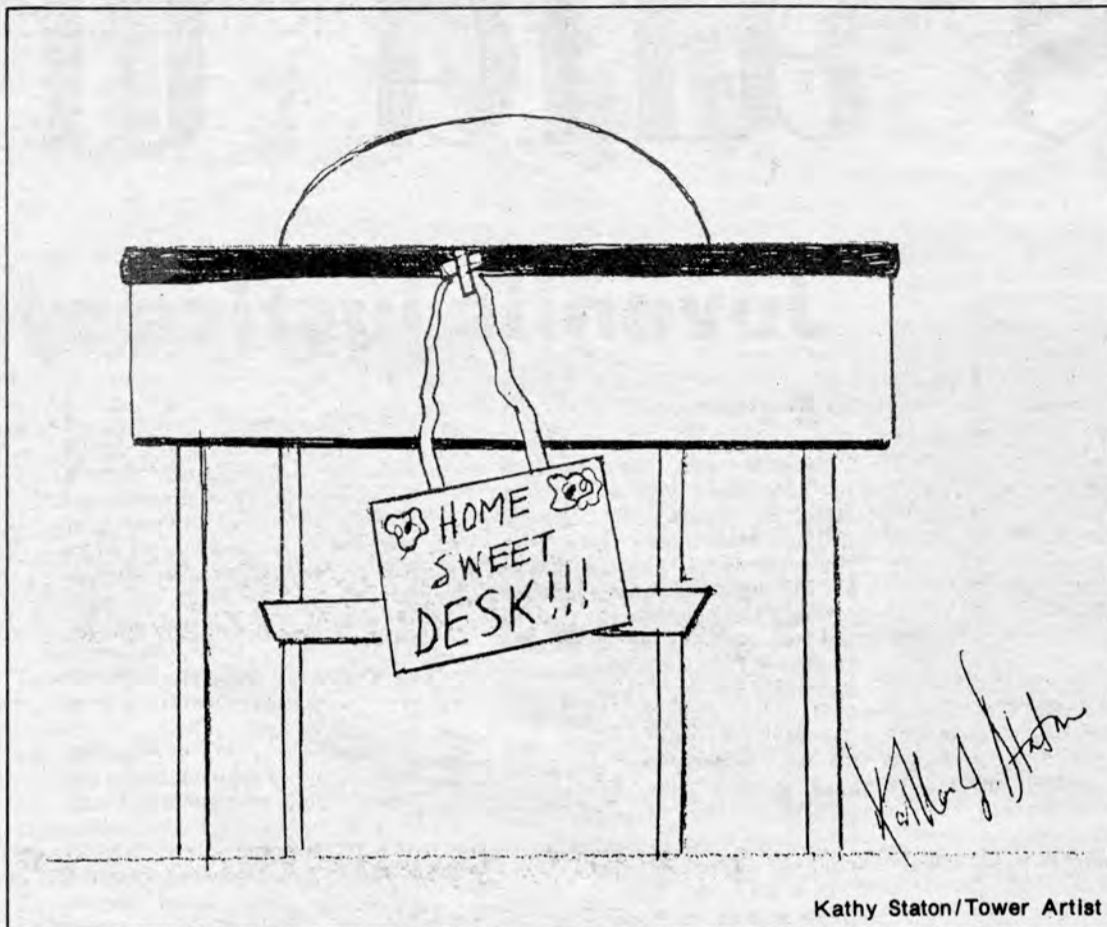
First of all, there are the 'ugly plastic uncomfortable' ones. At Adams these type of desks are predominantly yellow and orange. Special colors, dear to John Adams, especially since the school colors are red and blue. They are extremely uncomfortable, which may serve to keep students awake, yet nevertheless, are literally a pain in the toe. On the other side of the spectrum, however, these desks do have two redeeming qualities. The desk tops are very dark, which allows for answers to tests to be camouflaged by the similarity of colors. This is a great asset to the desk and is its only redeeming quality besides the bookracks by the feet which make for great footrests.

Next are the "big-dorky-combo" ones. These are the worst. They are huge, which spreads a class out, causing less interclass whispers, borrowed answers, and you can't pile up your books to hide behind. They

have white tops which are very hard to write on and they have no bookracks or footrests. Worst of all, it seems past generations must have been quite obese, because the backrests are always bent into a permanent slouch position.

Lastly, there are the "good ole wooden" ones. Unfortunately these desks are on the endangered species list at Adams. These good ole' American made desks are being phased out by cheaper foreign models. Oh for the good days when men were men and desks were desks! Well anyway, these are by popular consensus the most preferred desks for a few reasons. They have all the features that make a good desk. They are wooden, so they heat up very easy in winter, and on warmer spring days they absorb sweat off legs, in order that students don't slide off their chairs. They also have dark tops, footrests, and are fat-proof. Gum also sticks to the underside better because of the wooden texture.

Even as I write this I can't wait to get out of this awful orange plastic thing. Next hour I have a bona-fide "good-ole' wooden" one in the back row of a boring class. ZZZZZZ!!



Kathy Staton/Tower Artist

Hallway etiquette fades

by Ellen McDonald

Miss Manners never wrote about it, and Emily Post has probably never even heard of it, but proper high school hallway etiquette is one of the first lessons taught in high school. Hallway etiquette is a fundamental learned and mastered in the brief, five-minute intervals between classes. Every student is forced to make his way through a dizzying array of people, obstacles, and distractions, but in the process he is also subject to the mistakes of hallway etiquette offenders.

These offenders are easily recognized and dealt with. They are given away by their outward appearance, and their manner of maneuvering through the halls. These delinquents of decorum can be divided into three distinct categories.

The first category of courtesy criminals is basically made up of those new to high school, or those who are just slow to pick up good habits. They most often sport a perplexed, dazed, and confused face, which sets them apart from the rest of the crowd. Along with this bewildered visage comes an equally bewildered gait. These offenders are known to dawdle along, then suddenly stop and reverse their direction after they realize they're heading the wrong way. This action displays two goofs of hallway etiquette,

stopping the flow of movement, and then going against it. Luckily, this first group of offenders does not plague the entire school.

The second group of etiquette offenders consists of the people who are already comfortable with high school, so comfortable in fact that they "camp out" in the middle of the halls. Once positioned there, the group begins to grow as more people stop to join in on the mass' conversation. The only way of dealing with this kind of an obstacle is to go around it as quickly as possible, to avoid being enveloped by the multiplying mass.

The third, and final group is the most frightening of them all, and should be avoided at any cost. This class of offender is an incorrigible force against any of the rules of proper hallway etiquette. This felonious character is an unpredictable individual combining two extremes of improper hallway protocol. At one moment this person may move at a snail's pace, consequently stopping movement for hundreds of feet behind him. Then, at another time, he may zip through the halls leaving a wake of destruction, and bruised bodies. If not stopped and forced to seek professional help, this most serious of offenders could go on to lead the sad life of a roller derby player or become a member of the World Wrestling Federation.



Start Off On The Right Foot With A Financial Independence Account...

...from 1st Source Bank!

If you're between the ages of 16 and 21, it's a great way to get more out of the money you earn! You'll get:

- Checking Account - no service fees, no per-check charges, no minimum balance requirements.
- Savings Account - high interest on low quarterly balance - no minimum balance or service fees.
- Automatic Teller Card - 24-hour banking with the Resource Card.

All for only \$25.00 for four years! So put your money to work today with a Financial Independence Account, it's a great deal!



Member F.D.I.C.

Coupon

Worth

.50¢

ON ANY PURCHASE OF \$1.50 OR MORE

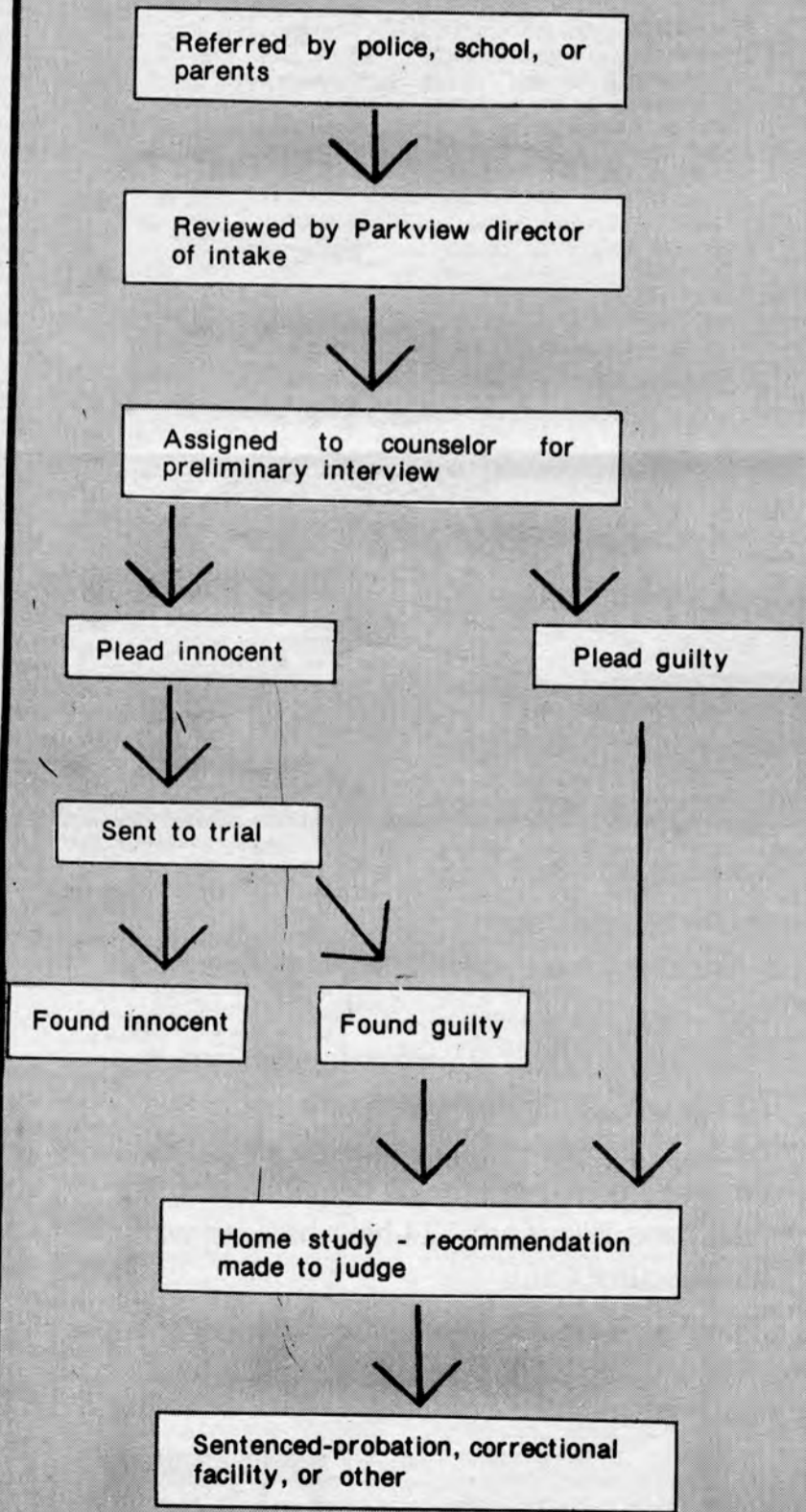
826 West Edison Mishawaka, IN
258-0777

Teens and the

Juvenile justice system

by Ida Primus

What happens after a juvenile gets arrested:



A year ago, two teenage brothers broke into a house in East St. Louis, Illinois. Six children were home alone. The youngest was 4. The oldest was 14, the same age as the younger of the teenage brothers. One of the teenagers slit the throat of a 12-year-old girl when she refused a demand for sex. Then, hoping to eliminate witnesses, they shot the remaining five children, one by one. Both of the assailants have pleaded guilty to "armed violence." The younger, the 14-year-old boy, is beginning a 120-year prison sentence.

In a way, the East St. Louis crime was an exception. All six victims miraculously survived. Assaults, however, are not an exception, and neither are teenagers attempting murder.

Every year one to two million kids aged 10 to 17 are arrested and brought to court. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that the number of people under 18 arrested in 1985 was 1,762,539. In St. Joseph County, Parkview Home admits approximately 2500 youths per year.

The crime rate among teens is especially troubling in light of the overall population trends. Though the number of youth in the United States is declining, the number of arrests among teens remains frighteningly high.

The judicial system, troubled by overcrowded prisons and packed court-hearing schedules, can barely cope with the tremendous problem posed by juvenile criminals. U.S. News and World Report, in a report this August on kids and crime, quoted a criminologist as saying, "Most prosecutors and judges don't want to deal with kids, who end up getting band-aid treatment."

Critics claim that a major flaw of the juvenile justice system is that it is not really one system. Rather, juvenile justice is controlled by a variety of systems. Laws vary from state to state, hindering research and sometimes law enforcement.

The combination of systems which run juvenile justice is grossly inefficient. According to one national study, only 14% of the most serious juvenile offenders are arrested. Only half of them, the study found, ever reach the courtroom.

Cost presents a major problem in prosecuting and punishing juveniles. According to the Criminal Justice Institute, a

non-profit research group based in New York, states spent, on the average, \$15,662 per juvenile under care in 1985. Housing one juvenile delinquent for the year of 1982 was estimated to cost \$22,000, enough to put a student through a year at Harvard University. The federal government lends some support, budgeting \$70 million in 1986, but most of the funds must come from the states.

Though the cost of treating delinquents is phenomenal, the cost of inadequate treatment may be even higher. Parkview Home, which handles the young offenders of St. Joseph County, estimates that, after being released, 60% of its offenders will return to Parkview or another institution. In Jefferson County, KY, a typical juvenile justice system, 3 out of every 5 juvenile arrests are of repeat or chronic offenders.

Rehabilitation programs have met with marginal success. The U.S. News & World Report article described an intense program in South Carolina in which young criminals receive remedial education while working on boat repairs. "We need to teach these kids life skills—how to get and keep a job," explained Harry Davis, state youth-services chief.

South Carolina's boat-repair program demonstrates how much proper treatment can do. Only 7% of the 210 serious youth offenders assigned to the program later returned to an institution.

Kathleen Heide, a criminologist at University of South Florida, interviewed 59 male adolescents convicted of homicide or attempted murder. Heide found that 40% of the victims felt no remorse. Many blamed their victims for not meeting their demands or even for failing to duck.

Many aspects of juvenile delinquency treatment are consistent throughout the country. In most states, a criminal under the age of 18 can be considered a juvenile, and people as young as 16 can be tried as adults. Some states set the minimum age for adult courts as low as seven.

Generally, being tried as a juvenile involves a private hearing without a jury. A juvenile may receive various sentences which are milder than imprisonment, and his/her charges will either not appear on a criminal record or can be cleared from the record after a period of time.

pr
re
in
ju
by
of
re
in
ch
de
ev
to

vo
ar
pa
In
in
on
wh
th
sh
Pa
st
ho
inf
rec
Th
a f
a c
M
rec
pre



Over one
For many a

LAW • A case of life and death

n tries to cope

whole juvenile justice starts when a youth is arrested, or sent, to an institution. In South Bend, juveniles are referred to Parkview Home either by the police, school officials, or parental or personal request. Ed Klunk, the director of Parkview Home, studies each case and makes a recommendation for probable cause. If he determines that there is enough evidence, he assigns a counselor to conduct a preliminary inquiry. After a preliminary inquiry in an interview with the juvenile, the child's parents, and possibly an attorney. In serious cases, the preliminary inquiry may take one to two and a half hours. A juvenile is presumed not to have committed a crime unless he may go to trial. If he or she is found guilty or confesses, the judge puts together a "home plan" based on a report of the person's behavior at school, records and other information along with a recommendation for the judge. Recommendations range from probation to a term in a correctional facility.

labelled. Supporters of the confidentiality hope that it will protect young offenders from prejudice which could foil their efforts to reform.

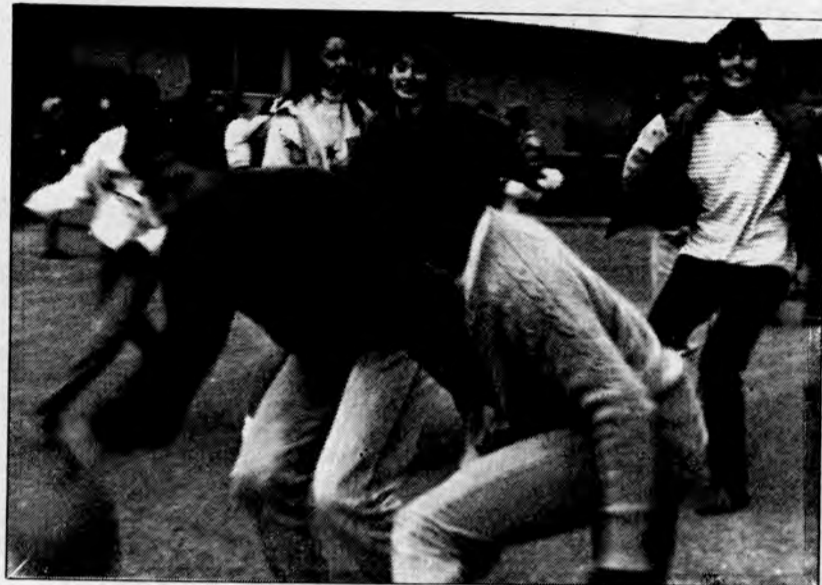
In South Bend, when an ex-offender turns 18, he can fill out a simple form to request that his record be destroyed.

Parkview Home officials do a background check to make certain that the petitioner has had a clean record for a couple of years.

The secrecy surrounding juveniles' criminal records may often hinder law enforcement. Specialists point out that judges, not knowing a criminal's record, may give chronic offenders the same treatment as first-time offenders. Identifying chronic offenders quickly may help them get special rehabilitation and observation.

The government is gradually awakening to the crisis of juvenile delinquency. Innovated reforms have come in the past few years, but the system is far from adequate. With 25% of the violent crimes in the United States committed by people aged 15-19, the state needs to assume dire measures to protect society from an epidemic of violence.

states hold juveniles' records strictly confidential to protect juveniles from being



Becky Wolfe/Tower

Before September 1, everyone in this picture was old enough to receive the death sentence. Today, only those over 16 can be sentenced to death. Where would you draw the line?

Death row teen gets some support but no reversal

by Lisa Primus

Paula Cooper is a black girl from Gary. For now, she is in Indianapolis, and she does not expect to be home soon. Paula is eighteen years old and on death row.

Three years ago, when she was just fifteen, Paula Cooper and a few teenage friends skipped school, drank some wine, smoked some marijuana, and headed out to the home of an elderly Bible teacher. After the teacher, 78-year-old Ruth Pelke, let them in, Paula Cooper took out a butcher knife and stabbed the elderly lady 33 times for no apparent reason.

Cooper was only fifteen, but she was old enough to commit murder and, in Indiana, she was old enough to receive the death sentence.

Today, criminals must be sixteen at the time of their crime to receive the death sentence, but the law was different when Paula Cooper committed her crime. Before Sept. 1 of this year, anyone tried in an Indiana adult

court could get the death sentence.

In this state everyone over 18 is tried as an adult. 16-year-olds can be waived to adult court for a few crimes such as murder, rape, and robbery resulting in injury. "Heinous" crimes, such as this case, can send a fourteen-year-old to adult court, and for murdering someone, just ten-year-olds can be tried in adult court.

The case has not received that much attention in the U.S.; most people from Gary, where the murder was committed, seem to agree with the sentence, but in Europe the story is very different.

Support groups have formed in Italy, Germany, France, and Spain, trying to make Paula into a sort of martyr. Italians have held rallies and sent petitions with two million names to Governor Orr asking him to change the sentence. Paula Cooper has been in the Italian newspapers, and has received visitors from Italy. Her lawyer even appeared on Italian television.

It is doubtful, however, that

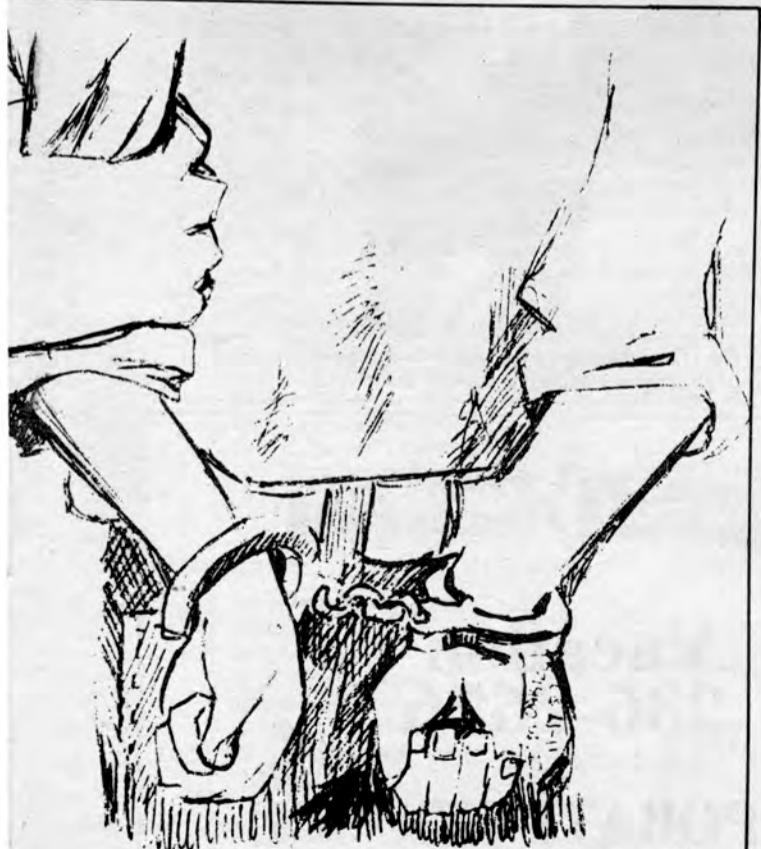
these pleas will have any effect. If anything, Europeans are annoying Hoosier politicians by trying to interfere with something that they may not even understand.

Gary itself has a murder rate ten times higher than West Germany. It does not seem difficult for West Germans to oppose an attempt to prevent a problem that they do not even have.

Death sentences are rare throughout the country. Over two hundred youths have been sentenced to death in U.S. history, but almost none this year. This, however, was "a brutal killing. It wasn't just a simple one," according to prosecutor Brian Steinke.

As many as 50% of all death sentences are reversed, and the rate among juveniles is probably higher. It is not unlikely that Paula Cooper may soon find herself off death row and, eventually, on the streets again.

Whether this would be a victory for life or a victory for murder is anyone's guess.



...a half million juveniles are arrested each year, about 4,000 a day. ...prison is a very real possibility. Tim Oakley/Tower Artist

Students speak

Should the death sentence ever be used?

Yes	72%
No	14%
Unsure	14%

How old should someone be before he can receive the death sentence?

Any age	12%
12	2%
14	9%
16	10%
18	32%
21	35%

6 November 20, 1987

Boys' swim team relying on team work

by Scott Scheel

The boy's team is putting in a lot of hard hours of practice to prepare for their season, which officially began last Tuesday. In that meet, which was very important, they tried to avenge last year's extremely close defeat.

Coach Mike Debrovik is trying to lead the Eagles to their second straight winning season after nine consecutive losing ones. In fact, improving last year's record seems to be a major goal of the team. "Hopefully we can repeat our winning season," said junior Pete Johnson when asked about the goals. "It won't be easy though. We lost a lot of talent." He was referring to Larry Piser, Jeff Terlep, and P.H. Mullen who sparked the Eagle's team last year.

One of the most impressive things this team has going for it is the amount of team work they use. The team comes across as being a family. As assistant coach Bill Carpenter put it, "Even though each person swims individually, it takes everyone to



Senior co-captain, Jeff Gramza, chokes as he tries to say, "cheese" for our cameraman.

win." Working as a team is something that is hard to do because it cannot be taught. Fortunately, it appears as if this team does this automatically. The captains, senior Jeff Pat Carpenter, Paul Ford, and Gramza and junior diver Rusty Joe Roman. The seniors will also get a lot of support from a small, Cobb, will lead the team this year

but very talented junior class consisting of Shane Bennett and Pete Johnson.

Perhaps one of the reasons that this team comes across as a family is the three pairs of brothers on the team. Wess and Joe Brookshire, Matt and Steve Jones, and Brian and Kevin Payne who should all help this year's team. Other key contributors to the team will be sophomores Jason Mueller, Andy Lammers, and Derrick Walley, and freshman Alonzo Medina.

The team has an excellent chance of repeating their winning season and hopefully sending a few people down state. "We'd like to send a relay team down state," says Rusty Cobb. "I'd like to go too, but that's still four months away."

A lot can happen in four months. Illness and injury could easily destroy these hopes. If they don't, then it seems likely that the hours of hard practice will pay off and the team can achieve their goals.

Roemer recognized for outstanding performance

by Martin McNarney

Over the past four years, the tennis team has been one of the most dominating teams at Adams. They have racked up an impressive 64 wins against just 17 losses. Their conference record is an even more astounding 32-4.

One constant throughout those four years is the play of Karl Roemer. His career record is an amazing 70 wins and 24 losses; the most astounding feat, however, is Roemer's conference play. He rises to unbelievable heights during conference matches. Proof? Freshman year: 1st team all-conference doubles. Sophomore year: 1st team all-conference singles. Junior year: 1st team all-conference singles. Senior year: 1st team all-conference singles. During his four years, the Adams tennis team has won 2 sectionals, 2 regionals, a semi-state, and an NIC crown.

Roemer is a prime example of what high school athletes are meant to be. "He is totally competitive with a positive attitude at all times," noted athletic director Mike DeVault. "He respects all but fears none." In playing Rick Witsken, Roemer battled through a 6-1, 6-1 loss. He never gave up though. Witsken went on to defeat his next opponent 6-1, 6-0 in claiming the state title.

On his journey down state, Roemer fought two grueling 3-set matches. These matches themselves will attest to his composure. "Roemer is a rah-rah type of player. His leadership and play raises the level of his teammates' play," said DeVault.

Roemer attributes much of his success to the coaching he has received. "When I was young, my coaches built a strong foundation," Roemer explained. His family also contributed vital support. Roemer said, "Without the security of my

family, I don't know if I would be as successful as I am."

Roemer's dedication is another major factor in his success. "He is a hard-working individual. He has the ability to be good naturally, but he worked hard all summer to make himself better," DeVault commented.

Academics are definitely the first priority for Roemer. He is in the top 3% of his class and is taking rigorous college preparatory classes. Roemer said he was considering attending Notre Dame or Dartmouth.

"I have had a lot of great experience in sports. I have had great coaches, been part of great teams, and had a great family," Roemer stated.

Obviously, tennis has been a major part of Roemer's life. "I've learned a lot about myself and developed such qualities as intensity, toughness, and desire. It has been a lot of work, but all the satisfaction and recognition has been worth it."



Karl Roemer takes time out between points to think over his game strategy during sectionals.

ANTONIETTA'S PIZZA

Come in for lunch!

Just ask for the "Eagle Special"

2 slices with small drink for \$1⁰⁰!

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. **234-5100**
Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-12 p.m.



2301 Mishawaka Ave.
(One Block East of Ironwood)

Vacation
236-2656

CORPORATE SERVICE
232-3061

212 WEST COLFAX AVENUE SOUTH BEND, IN 46601

High school sports form lasting memories

by Jim Cowen



Senior Jeff Varga looks at some old trophies and team pictures of famous alumni.

The motto "school is for learning" will always hold true. However, most people will admit that when looking back on their high school careers, doing trigonometry homework and writing term papers brings the fewest pleasurable memories. Get a group of alumni together and you're more likely to hear them talk about the time "Lefty" Johnson stole the biology teacher's toupee or how Billy "Bubba" Malone got caught spying on the girls' locker room than their difficulty in learning quadratic equations. But probably the most common topic among high school graduates is athletics. The businessman who still wears his lettersweater to bed, the doctor who has a life-size poster of himself in his football uniform hanging in his office, and the bus driver whose horn plays "Go Big Red" will never forget the memories of the days of their high school athletic careers.

Out of all the activities a school has to offer, what makes sports the most impressionable? "The excitement," states a graduate of the Adams class of 1953. "Back then nothing was more exciting than to watch a basketball or football game on a Friday night and cheer your team on. We had parties but not like you do today. Everyone went to the

game." Many of these people still attend the games, either cheering on their son or daughter or simply seeing if the team is as good as it was when they used to play. But then again, many come for the same reason that attracted them in the first place, the excitement. Mrs. Peggy Todd a graduate of the class of 1954 states, "There's never enough good said about today's kids and sports is just one activity where you can get a first hand look at all of their thrilling endeavors."

As the fall sports season comes to a close some seniors are hit with the cold fact that they will no longer compete in that sport on a high school level. The bad memories of how you wanted to puke during conditioning or sitting on the bench in 20 degrees below zero weather are forgotten when remembering things like the bus rides to the games, towel fights in the locker room, or most importantly the excitement of playing in front of a crowd of people. Senior Karl Roemer states, "As you get older the competition gets tougher and tougher and succeeding becomes more difficult. There's no doubt I'll always savor the thrill of playing on a high school team."

Classes teach math, English, and science. Sports teach responsibility and teamwork. As a tandem, one is no good without the other.

Girls' soccer return home third in state

by John Anella and Doug Naylor

This fall the John Adams girl's soccer team showed Indiana it had the desire and determination to be state champs. The girls had to settle for a hard earned third place, but proved they were one of the best soccer teams in the state. The girls deserved the title more than any other team. The girls finished with an impressive 16-3-1 record in its second year as a varsity sport. The Eagles battled all season to reach the finals. They defeated Clay, and the former state champs, St. Joe to reach the state finals at Indianapolis' Pam Am soccer complex.

The girls met Carmel in their first game on Friday night (October 30). The girls from Carmel had the Adams defense to the wall in the opening 20 minutes of the first half. The girls rallied late in the first half, and played an outstanding game. The second half was tight as the girls went into overtime scoreless. In the fifth minute of the first overtime, Carmel's Ellie Ayres punched in a goal to put up Carmel 1-0. The Eagles fought back in the second overtime, but to no avail as the girls went down 1-0.

Saturday afternoon brought better fortunes than the previous evening. The girls easily defeated Indianapolis North Central by handing them a 3-1 setback to capture third place in the state finals. Sarah Friend powered the Eagles past North Central with two goals, with assists from Marta Roemer and Julie Short. Freshman, Meredith Knepp pushed in an unassisted goal to round out the Eagle's scoring. "This was a difficult game to play. We came down here for state championship. I'm proud of the way we played against Carmel. We didn't play a great game today (against North Central), but we played hard and we won," explained Coach Kelly.

Third in the state is something to be proud of. The team is looking to go back down state next year, but without the help of seniors Gill Kruse, Molly Lennon, M.C. Patton, Terese Martinov, and the goalkeeping talents of Laurie Sager.

"It has been a great season," said Coach Kelly. "It was an emotional experience in the lockerroom. It's hard to see all of the seniors play in their last game. I wanted to end it on a high note."



Sophomore Julie Short prepares to attack the ball at the North Central defense in the Eagles' last game of the season. Coley Cook/Tower

Sports schedule

Boys' Varsity Basketball

11/25	Gary Andean	H	6:15
12/4	Gary Mann	T	6:30
12/5	Ft. Wayne Northrup	H	6:15
12/11	Elkhart Memorial	T	6:15
12/12	Warsaw	H	6:15
12/18	Riley (var. only)	T	6:15

Girls' Varsity Basketball

11/30	LaPorte	T	6:30
12/2	LaSalle	H	6:15
12/8	Goshen	H	6:15
12/9	M.C. Elston	H	6:15
12/12	Warsaw	T	12:30
12/16	Elkhart Memorial	T	6:15
12/18	Riley (var. only)	T	6:00

Girls' Freshman Basketball

1st game	1/28 Elkhart Memorial	H	6:30
----------	-----------------------	---	------

Wrestling

1st meet	11/21 CMA (3-Way)	T	12:30
----------	-------------------	---	-------

Boys' Swimming

11/17	Warsaw	H	6:30
11/19	M.C. Elston	T	7:00

Boys' Freshman Basketball

11/23	Concord	H	6:30
11/24	Mishawaka	T	6:30
12/1	Washington	H	6:30
12/3	Elkhart Central	T	4:15
12/8	LaSalle	T	7:00
12/10	Schmucker	T	4:30
12/15	St. Joseph	H	6:30
12/17	Riley	H	6:30
12/19	Warsaw Tourney	T	9:00

NOW, FOR A LIMITED TIME!

FREE
TANNING SESSIONS
WITH EVERY
PACKAGE PURCHASE!
call us today!



Politicians of the eighties lack dignity

by Kathy Strieder

In America today the word "politics" implies much more than a list of party nominees or results of caucus elections. The modern social climate has lended sensationalism to this word, crafting it to provoke emotional fervor similar to that of the early twentieth century and to manipulate the numb minds of citizens in possession of the ballot. To become involved in politics is a business of distinction, but also a business of chance, a jump on the jubilant, frenzied bandwagon, a risqué dance with the public eye. The field more often resembles an arena of fame and fashion than a serious facility for designing governmental policy.

The campaigns of the current presidential candidates exemplify this temperament. George Bush's positions on education and federal-state relations remain unmasked while major magazines cover stories on his battle with the "wimp factor," stating that "his image poses problems for his candidacy."

Personal character has gotten even

more of a spotlight in the Democratic portion of the race. Gary Hart's entire campaign was destroyed on the pretense that he had committed adultery while separated from his wife without telling the press. Once candidates's sex lives were open for discussion, Pat Robertson had to apologize for conceiving his first child out of wedlock. "I think the American people want to know that they will have a president who...understands forgiveness." It is more likely that the American people just want to know.

Politics is also a fertile field for the money-minded. The method may consist of advertising contracts between television networks and party campaigners or "presidential theme parks" like that developing in Jimmy Carter's hometown of Plains, Georgia, but the incentives and results are always the same. Some mercenaries will even cash in on the destruction of a political career, the most recent example being that of Donna Rice signing herself as a model for "No Excuses" jeans.

Perhaps the greatest crime in the field today, however, is not the blatant, showy



Matt Beem/Tower Artist

arrogance of its participants, but its manipulative actions against the public and the media. During the recent nomination of Judge Bork to the Supreme

Court, a member of the opposing Democratic Party, Ted Kennedy, stated to the media that Robert Bork's America is a place where all women are barefoot, pregnant, and down on the farm, knowing full well the emotional violence these words would provoke if taken at face value. President Reagan himself has a very special version of "Meet The Press" in which he uses the noise of his nearby helicopter to avoid answering questions he finds distasteful.

Webster's Dictionary defines politics as "the art of government," but today's participants seem to be focusing too strongly on the art and not enough on the government. Whether their motives be self-oriented or directed towards improving the nation, their methods are usually focused on the voter's emotions and lust for scandal rather than their senses of justice and logic. Admittedly, politics has been a game of cunning ever since the historic deal struck between Jefferson and Hamilton on the location of the new country's capitol, but even games have rules that should not be broken.

Drug abuse takes toll on family life.

Personal Experience

"The mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Although this is the slogan of the United Negro College Fund, and is aimed at young Negro students, it holds true for all races. More importantly, it holds true for those who are wasting their minds...on drugs.

Maybe you haven't encountered someone on drugs, but I have lived with one. He's my brother.

We used to be so close when we were younger. We used to fantasize about our favorite characters and fight each other's battles. We had weekly trips to the museum, and divided our chores so that our fun could begin

much sooner than we had anticipated. Despite our parent's divorce, we still managed to have a full childhood together.

Then he began his drugging. He was only twelve when I noticed his strange behavior. He didn't act twelve, but more like twenty-one. Always hyper, and always taking everything so serious. I don't know why he started, but I believe that it had a lot to do with the divorce and the loss of a father figure. Maybe he drugged to fill that empty place the divorce left in all seven of us (the children).

When we moved to South Bend, I saw that as a new beginning for us all. No one had to know he had a problem, and his problem would just go away. But evidently he had other things in mind.

The situation got worse. My older brother never had to put up with his problems, until we were all attending Adams together.

When at school, I tried to avoid the issue, but many of my fellow Adams students constantly reminded me of his problems.

"Is he really your brother?"

"Why isn't he as smart as you and your older brother?"

"Do you know that your younger brother is on (or sells) drugs?"

Many times, I didn't answer. I felt that it wasn't my responsibility to excuse, or explain, my brother's problems. But oh too many times, I became defensive. I would explode with a very biblical term. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Or, "Don't tell me, tell him. I'm not the one with the problem!"

Consciously, it didn't effect me. But subconsciously, I was torn apart. I was the scapegoat in my household. Anytime a member of my family was upset, I was the person they took their frustrations out on. The abuse ranged from telling me constantly

that I was fat to grounding me for being in the house when my brother was in his room getting drunk. I never knew that was what he was doing, but I still was at fault. My grades began to drop as a result, and I became unconcerned with life in general. Suicide seemed like the only escape.

When he was kicked out of Adams, I was relieved, but the chaos of my house life—it's no longer a home—was still the same.

After attending many drug rehabs, "in his honor," I began to get angry. "Why am I being punished for some inconsiderate act of my brothers? I'm not the one with the drug problem, so why am I in a rehab?"

Although I never felt it was my fault, I used to cover up for him. Sometimes, I knew that he was trashed, but I didn't say anything, because I knew how long the argument would last. Maybe I contributed to his addiction, but it was the only way I could keep my sanity.

When I stopped feeling sympathy, and started feeling good about myself, I began to progress in school again. No more worrying about his problems anymore for this kid.

My brother still has his addiction, but I lead the kind of life I want to lead. I don't concern myself with his problems, but I just hope that he'll see his problem through before I'll have to attend his funeral.



Home Run Music, Inc.
Guitars-Drums-P.A.s-Recording Equipment-Sales-Repairs-Accessories-Lessons

-We can get your band playing with affordable rentals of P.A. equipment, guitars, keyboards, and effects.

1318 Mishawaka Ave.
South Bend, IN 46615
(219)232-4853

WE'RE YOUR RENTAL CENTER


Builders Store INC.

Hardware & Plumbing

1319 Mishawaka Ave.

Unbeatable.

When you train to be a United States Marine, you train like nobody else. You sweat. You push. You exceed limits you thought you could never exceed. Because you're training to be one thing. Unbeatable! If you've got a taste for winning, contact your local recruiter. **Marine Corps 233-3441**



Marines

We're looking for a few good men.

The Tower

Co-Editors-in-Chief-Kristin Bergren, Holly Lindberg
News Editors-See-Ming Phan, Matt Trinh, Jennifer Crosson
Feature Editors-Melanie Masin, Lisa Primus
Sports Editors-Jim Cowen, Ida Primus
Asst. Scott Scheel

Opinion Editors-See-Eng Phan, Stace Burnside
Asst. Kathy Strieder
Advertising Managers-Rivka Medow
Business Managers-Molly Lennon, Kristin Mitchell
Circulation-Sarah Friend
Distribution-1st Hour Publications
Head Photographer Matt Laherty

Adviser-Babette Maza
Principal-William Przybysz
John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenham, South Bend, IN 46615

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.