

The Tower

John Adams High School

South Bend, IN 46615

The U.S.-Soviet peace summit
has turned the spotlight
on world peace. See pages 5-6.

Students help the homeless

by Matt Trinh

Across the country, record numbers of people are seeking shelter and food. Officials are reporting a growing number of homeless women, children and younger men.

This area is no exception to this epidemic. There was a 945 percent increase in the number of women and families housed at the Hope Rescue Mission between 1981 and 1985.

transient men and single women who are alone, often drifting from place to place with little or no purpose or goals.

Hope Rescue is a non-profit organization; most of its funding and food donations come from individuals, churches, businesses and organizations.

"We have to depend pretty much on volunteers and residents to (direct) the mission on weekends," says Rev. Arnold Bolin, the mission's chaplain and public relations coordinator.

"We encourage students' participation. We need volunteers for kitchen work, and...personal hygiene items, from toothpaste to shampoo."

Why the growing number of homeless?

"The answer lies in the fact that the cost of living is higher and the availability of low-income housing is rare," said Bert Harrison, executive director at Hope Rescue Mission.

Several problems can lead to homelessness: unemployment, illiteracy, substance abuse and child neglect, among others, he said.

Hope Rescue Mission, 532 S. Michigan St., is one place where the homeless can find shelter. Since its opening in 1954, the mission was served more than 21,000 people.

"Our job at the mission is to help people help themselves," Harrison said. "We're in the business of offering hope."

The job has included providing 12,509 beds in 1986, serving a record of 6,005 meals in August, and offering clothing, counseling, and social service assistance.

The shelter receives families who lack income and

Students can have a great effect by volunteering and sponsoring food drives.

"We encourage students' participation. We need volunteers for kitchen work, and donations of canned foods and hundreds of personal hygiene items, from toothpaste to shampoo," Harrison said.

Students also are needed for jobs as librarians or drivers. Other volunteers can paint, clean, sort clothing, or do repairs. Volunteers skilled at using a computer are needed to store data.

The John Adams student government has sponsored a food drive these last two weeks. The food drive was highly successful, as in past years. The food raised will be donated to various help centers like the Hope Rescue Mission.

Though there are other centers similar to the Hope Rescue Mission, who help local homeless, it is still not enough. Students are given an opportunity to make a difference for the better.



A homeless man tries to find shelter from the rain outside of the Hope Rescue Mission. Matt Laherty/Tower

Adams sophomores to attend HOBY seminar

by Ida Primus

This spring, Sophomore Dawn Doverspike will continue an Adams tradition. She will act as an ambassador to the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation State Leadership Seminar (HOBY).

HOBY state seminars are three-day, all-expense-paid events held each spring since 1977. Dawn will be attending the Western Indiana seminar where she and other 10th-grade ambassadors will investigate their future world by meeting and questioning leaders of today.

"It was a learning experience," said senior Martin McNarney, a former Adams ambassador to HOBY. "I came back a more enthusiastic and knowledgeable person."

Leadership is the main emphasis of HOBY. Ambassadors discuss what it takes to be a leader and investigate their own definitions.

Students attending HOBY typically hear around five or six panels or lecturers discuss topics ranging from drug addiction to small businesses. They get a chance to question the panelists and then break up into small groups to discuss what they have heard.

One of the things that makes HOBY exciting is that ambassadors actually talk with today's leaders. Last year's speakers included an ex-narcotics officer, medical

administrators, an editor from the *Indianapolis Star*, and even the county prosecutor of Indianapolis.

Any high school may send a representative to HOBY. Last year, most of the schools in the South Bend area participated. A school may select one 10th grader to attend. Dawn Doverspike was selected by a committee consisting of guidance counselor Rosalyn Ellison and the two HOBY alumni at Adams.

The Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation was established in 1958 by Hugh O'Brien as a means of cultivating future leadership. HOBY Leadership Seminars were held in California starting that year. Today, annual seminars are held in every state.

In 1968, the Foundation held its first International Seminar. Two ambassadors from the Western Indiana State Seminar will represent Western Indiana in this year's International Seminar.

Dawn is one of 11,000 sophomores expected to attend a State Seminar sometime between March 24 and June 19, 1988. Dawn is secretary of the school show choir and is also active as a choreographer. She is involved with youth group and church activities and has played first chair in the French Horn section of the South Bend Youth Symphony for two years.

"I'm really excited," Dawn said, "not only because it's a chance to learn something, but also because it's a chance to meet some new people."

What's News

Local Trust Fund

Benefit trust fund has been established for Jim Webb, a 1973 graduate of John Adam's High School, who is suffering from cancer.

Junior Kiwanian

Senior Jim Cowen is Junior Kiwanian for the months of December and January. He will attend weekly meetings of the Kiwanis Club.

Semi - Formal

The Student Government will sponsor a Semi-Formal on January 9 at Union Station, at 9:00 p.m. Tickets will cost \$5.00 per person.

Financial Aid Meeting

There will be a Financial Aid meeting for parents on January 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. The Financial Aid Form will be discussed at this meeting.



Sophomore Daytra Smith prepares to dish off the ball to sophomore Chrystal Pooch in the B-team game against LaSalle.

Janine Butler/Tower

New talent will pace girls' basketball

by Scott Scheel

The girl's basketball team will look to a talented but inexperienced line up to pace them this year. Although the eagle's are made up of mostly upper classmen not many of them have a lot of game experience; but they do have potential.

One person who does have experience and should lead the team is all-metro player Marilyn Thomas. Thomas, Molly Lennon, and Katie Lane are the senior tri-captains of the team.

Potential seems to be the key word to describe this year's team. They have a lot of talent, but they still have a ways to go before they are a great team. Look for them to start off slowly and then come on strong toward the middle of the

season when they begin to polish their potential into a solid basketball team.

"I think we're going to be a dark horse," says Lennon, "we have a lot of potential but we need to get to the point where we're ten deep."

That is another strong point the Eagles will have—depth. By the time they reach their peak all ten of the varsity players should be able to contribute to the team which will really help them.

The inside play of Yvonne Harris and Jackie May will also play a large roll in the eagle attack this year. Although they didn't get much time last year they have the starting roles now and have been producing quite consistantly.

A very difficult schedule might make their record look unimpressive, but as May says, "Playing the good teams early on will hurt our record, but it will help us down the line;" and down the line is where it counts.

The whole team seems very optimistic about the rest of the season and they all seem to be thinking the same thing. "We'll be good," as junior point guard Megan Moloney says. "It's all uphill from here."

Right now the starting line-up consists of Thomas, May, Moloney, Yvonne Harris, and Vera Marcello. But seniors Lane, Lennon, Debbie Gergesha, and Kari Miller and junior Kristin Mitchell are all expected to contribute a lot this year.

Hockey shoots for another successful team

by Jim Cowen

With a third place state title under its belt from last year, the 1987-88 Adams hockey team already proves to be a powerhouse with its 11-2-0 record in the AA division.

The Eagles will be counting on the talents of returning varsity players Steve Ziolkowski, Kevin Cocquyt, Hal Katz, Rick Barnes, and Chadd "Pucky Penguin" Rosencrantz to lead the squad. They will, however, have to do without the efforts of senior Brian "Djudkus" Max who suffered a broken leg during the football

season. "##\$! happens," stated Max about his ill-fated injury.

Although it lacks the poundage of last year, the team has been able to use other factors to their advantage. Senior Kevin Cocquyt states, "What we don't have in size we make up for in aggressive and physical play. Sophomore Jeff Case feels, "Speed has been our major weapon against most teams."

Whatever it is, it has helped the Eagles bring home victories over Clay, St. Joe, and last year's state champions Lawrence. Since St. Joe is in the AAA division, Adams is only allowed to compete

against the junior varsity which put up all the fight of a wet blanket.

One of the strongest influences on the team is the crowd. "A rowdy crowd can be the difference between winning and losing in some of our games," says senior Steve Ziolkowski. "We probably hit the hardest when our friends are hanging over the side of the rail screaming "knock his head off!!" Mr. Ziolkowski plans on a fulfilling future in the Peace Corps after high school.

Hockey at Adams is not a

varsity sport; therefore the individual players must cover all of their own expenses. This sometimes creates a problem with finding enough players to make up a team at one school. The Adams team consists of players from Mishawaka, Marion, La Salle, and Washington high schools, as well.

Getting players is not the Eagles' only problem, however. Staying out of trouble tops the "things to do" list for this squad. Last year the Eagles were on parole for misconduct, requiring a law enforcement officer to attend

the games.

"I guess we had a strong intimidation factor," states goalie Chadd Rosencrantz, also noted for creating the most penalties for a player in his position. Mr. Rosencrantz is known to have violently beaten a few defenseless locker room doors this season.

The team has all the makings for a superb season. What it really needs is the support of its school. Make an effort to watch the Eagles bang heads this year.

Fairy tales can come true for wrestlers

Throughout life changes are constantly occurring. Sometimes they are expected; sometimes completely unpredictable. Here at John Adams High School a change is about to happen which may come as a shock, but something that is well deserved. The wrestling team is on its way to a successful season. Though a state championship is not as yet a tangible goal, an early season record of 1-3 (already more wins than last year) indicates a definite improvement.

The wrestling squad, which has somewhat struggled in the past, mainly from lack of natural talent, is being greatly helped with the aid of the abundant and talented freshmen. Kirk Golden and Ike Trinh lead the underclassmen and should play highly active roles in the success of the team.

One element somewhat missing in the past which is definitely present this year is the inner-squad competitiveness. Under the leadership of Senior Letterman Martin McNarney, David Eggers, and Jay Blandford, the team is gaining confidence and developing the aggression needed to win.

Wrestling is a sport that is in dire need of support. Too many people are content with "hearing about" the wrestling matches. This is the year to cheer on the wrestlers. Though they did not receive flashy new leotards, they do have a brand new outlook. The future is bright, and the wrestlers could pin a winning season.

According to Jay Blandford, "We have some new talent, and the effort is definitely there. I think we should do pretty well."

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Boys b-ball tries to defend crown

by Amy Golden

The season opener at the shack for Dave Hadaway and his boys proved to be an adequate test of both present and prospective talent. The Eagles came onto the court with explosive shooting talents, tremendous ball handling skills, and a chemistry between them which landed a thirty-point victory over the Andean 59ers. Reflection of the boys' play so far from Hadaway has been positive. They've practiced hard, and their play exemplified this. They played well together, showing intensity and unselfishness.

On Friday, December 4th, the Eagles met Gary Mann. They played well in the first half of play, and the one point advantage proved this. Up until the fourth quarter, it was an even match between the Eagles and the horsemen. In the fourth quarter, the horsemen outran the eagles with their fast breaks. The outcome was a defeat by Gary Mann by 18 points. Gary Watkins sank 17 points, Scott Ricks had 10 points, and Scott Scheel had an addition of 6.

Gary Watkins was the chief contributor to the cause, hitting thirteen out of sixteen shots from the floor. Peter Tulchinsky, Len Kalber, Scott Ricks, Bernie Smith, and Scott Scheel also made substantial contributions to give Adams the 80-50 win.

Adams' recent clash against number 5-ranked Fort Wayne Northrup ended in a 45-41 defeat, but the Bruins were forced to earn this victory. The Eagles had the advantage at the end of the first quarter as Bernie Smith two free throws, making the score 11-8. The Eagles came bursting out in the second quarter, upping their advantage to six points. At the end of the

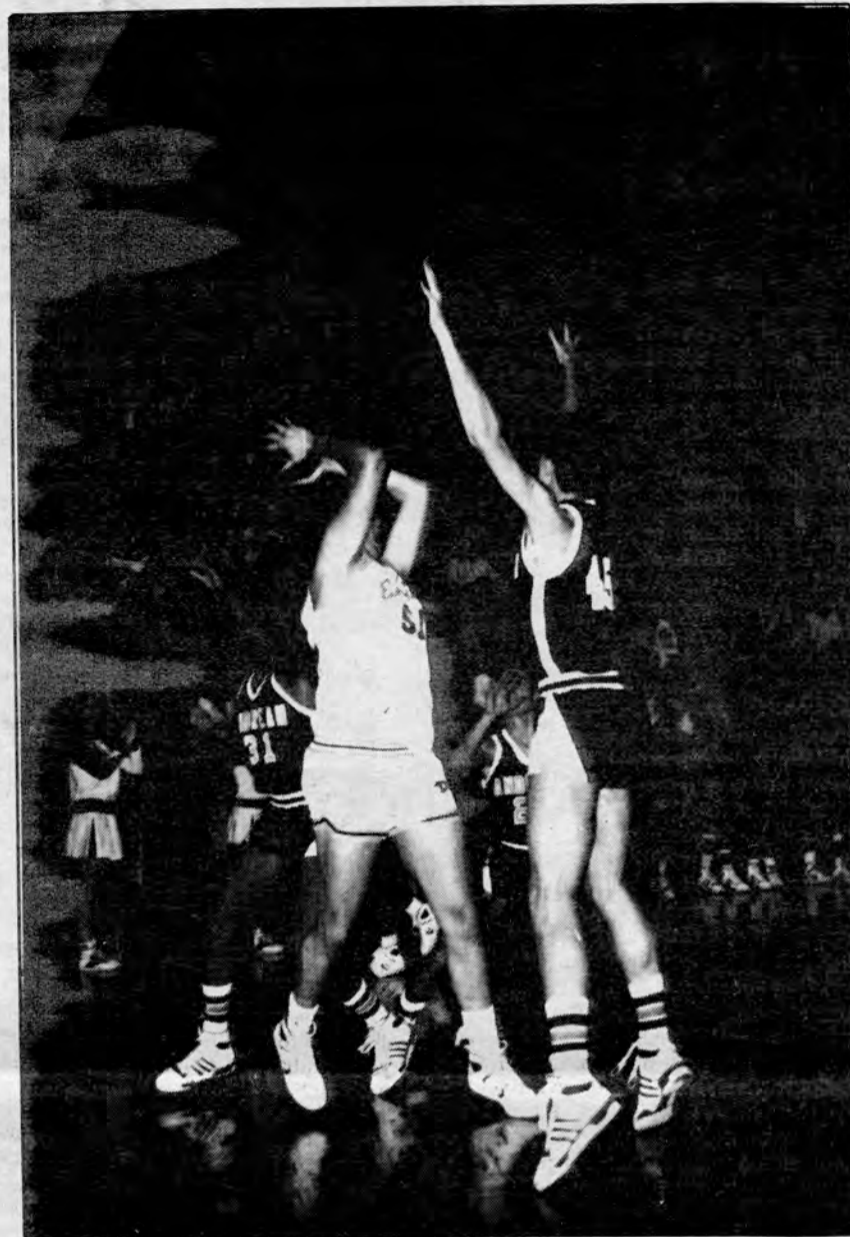
quarter, however, the Bruins had cut the lead to one point. The Eagles had apparently lost their fire in the third quarter as Northrup took a seven-point lead until Peter Tulchinsky had an all-net shot which cut the lead to four. In fourth

quarter action, Scott Scheel and Bernie Smith's shots set the contest at 39 with over five and a half minutes left in the game. After that, the Bruins only allowed one shot to sink as they left the score and the Eagles with a 45-41 defeat. Leaders for the Eagles were Smith with 15 points and Tulchinsky, who added 10.

Although the Eagles have a very young team with only three seniors, play is expected to improve with each trip to the court. The Eagles have a tough schedule, so the outcome of the season is difficult to predict. Both St. Joseph and LaSalle should be the two South Bend teams to give Hadaway's charges the most difficulty.

Gary Roosevelt and Concord should also give the Eagles great challenges to overcome.

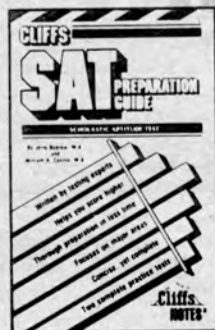
Another challenge to Adams should be the Holiday Tournament at Notre Dame on December 29-30. This is a good opportunity for the high-school teams to gain experience in tournament playing. Along with preparation for the sectional, it will give Adams a chance to play under tournament pressure. The Eagles have taken this tourney about eleven times and they could very well take it this year. The outcome, however, depends on the draw they receive. Warsaw and Plymouth are also contenders for the championship. The tournament provides them with practice as well as experience, the most needed ingredient for this young but talented team.



Lenny (Big Foot) Kalber fakes a Gary Andean man off of his feet before making his move to the basket. The Eagles defeated Gary with a score of 80 to 30. Coley Cook/Tower



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CORRECTION

We would like to apologize to Chris Gramza who took the boy's swimming photo, Brenda Hull who took Karl Roemer's photo, and Gabe Mickels who took the trophy case photo for not giving them photo credits in the last edition.

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Just a little PEACE



Matt Beem/Tower Artist

Activists have long been staging rallies, marches, and other protests to pressure leaders into working for peace. Unfortunately young people today play only a small role in making decisions which will affect world peace in the years to come.

Activists str

by Holly Lindberg

On December 24, 1944 the Germans pushed the Allies to within four miles of the Meuse River in Belgium where they were halted by the coming of Christmas, inadequacy of supplies, and Allied resistance. A story has been told that this night, the Germans and the Allies put down their weapons, sang carols, shared spirits and together they celebrated peace as friends on Christmas Eve.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, today the term "peace" to many people refers to freedom from war, public disturbance, and quarrel. Pacifism itself rejects the use of any form of violence even if committed in self-defense.

Pacifism's oldest roots began in religion with Buddhism. As time went on, Christian pacifists also began to base their beliefs on the New Testament themes of love and brotherhood. The Quakers, otherwise known as the Society of Friends, are the group most closely associated with pacifism. Quakers believe that the teachings of Christ prohibited war.

One widespread nonreligious standpoint on pacifism according to Holbert Carrol, a writer for the World Book Encyclopedia, is "the moral judgement that people act against their

Students change views on U.S.S.R.

by Jim Cowen

A student from 1945-1970 grew up with the "Cold War," the diplomatic conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. Bomb shelters became commonplace and communism was a four-letter word. People painted a naive picture of Soviet life and stereotyped each Russian man as a nonthinking military tool and each Russian woman as a six-foot shot-putter with hairy armpits.

As a rule, when fear grows so does panic. During 1946-1957 a man by the name of Joseph McCarthy became the self-appointed American crusader for the suppression of communism with the flag in one hand and the Bible in the other. Using indiscriminate, inquisitorial, investigative methods he managed to terrorize the United States by explaining that communism was everywhere. Purchasing a bottle of vodka became Soviet financial support. "Blacklists" destroyed an endless number of careers in not only

government but television, radio, and newspaper positions as well. One Washington-Clay graduate of the class of 1956 stated, "All they had to do was mention your name and that you might have something to do with a Communist event, and your career was in jeopardy, guilty or not."

Today, we have no more McCarthyism, but misinformation, stereo-typing, and down-right fear still exists between the two super-powers of the world. Senior Martin McNarney feels, "They're not as bad as we think they are."

Throughout history the Soviet Union has used extremely aggressive, often violent, actions in dominating smaller countries to create "spheres of influence." The United States is not innocent of this practice either, however methods of gaining support were far less physical. Foreign exchange student Susana Hernandez from Chile explains, "The general feeling towards the United

States is good in Chile but not so good towards Russia."

What Russia does in Chile we do in Nicaragua with our aid to the Contras. In trying to influence a country to live the way we want them to we often hamper more than help. A U.S. soldier walking away from a burning village was once noted on saying, "Boy, we liberated the hell out of that place!"

When an American dislikes or distrusts Russia he actually distrusts a handful of people, not an entire country. The same holds true for the Russian who distrusts the American. Senior Ann Henkel states, "I don't think the Soviet Union is any less scared of a nuclear war than we are."

The recent Summit meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan has been a giant step in the right direction in eliminating the fear created by generations of war and lack of communication. We can only hope that our generation will further the efforts for peace started this year.

F

ive for their dream

nature when they use force."

During the times of the Greek and Roman empires, the Olympic Games served as a "temporary peace" truce between the nations. As the Middle Ages came around the Christian church became the greatest source for peace. The churches introduced the "Truce of God" and the "Peace of God" which prohibited warfare on Sundays and on holy days.

The period from 1400-1700 brought about Maximilien de Bethume's "Grand Design" for peace in Europe, the end of the Thirty Years War with the Peace of Westphalia, and Hugo Grotius's *On the Law of War and Peace*.

The 1800's on into the 1900's saw the New York Peace Society, the American Peace Society, and the Universal Peace Union come into effect. Alfred Nobel introduced the world to the Nobel Peace Prize. The League of Nations was established. All of these movements were to promote world peace.

Feelings toward pacifism were most widely evident, however, between 1900 and 1960. Pacifists opposed both World Wars and many refused to sign up for the draft. These were also the days of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mohandas Gandhi, the start of U.S. opposition to the Vietnam

War, and the growing number of "flower children."

Currently, international organizations are working for peaceful settlements of disagreements between nations, disarmament, and improvement of international communication. A popular slogan from *Becoming Peacemakers* by Diane Rich claims, "If we can risk nuclear war, we can risk disarmament."

Although it seems far in the future, people today are still hoping for world peace. Pacifists today renew their commitment during the Eucharist celebration in hopes of promoting peace. One such person is Chris Koehler, a 1986 graduate of St. Joe High School.

"It is not logical to promote war when Christ promotes life and peace," he said. He says that today peace is hard for others to accept because it is so hard to attain. He also believes that world peace can never be achieved because of Soviet resistance to peace.

According to President Reagan, "There is sin and evil in the world and we are all enjoined by scripture and the Lord Jesus to oppose it with all our might."

The world doesn't have to destroy itself to attain peace. Or does it?



President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev greet reporters at the summit in Geneva two years ago. Courtesy of the South Bend Tribune (AP)

Gorbachev comes; so do we

by Lisa Primus

"1-2-3-4! Open up the Iron Door!" I screamed at the top of my tired lungs. "5-6-7-8! Let our people emigrate!" Everyone around me was shouting. Behind my group was a cheer for freedom; in front was a song for peace. "I said a-hey! a-ho! a-Let my people go!"

I was in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. on December 6, the day before Mikhail Gorbachev arrived. The vice president and several congressmen and senators were there with me, along with about a quarter of a million people from all over the continent. 28 of those people were from South Bend.

We were protesting for human rights in the Soviet Union. Specifically, we were demanding the release of about 40,000 Jewish men, women, and children who have applied for permission to leave.

The Soviet government has signed treaty after treaty promising to work for their release. Most recently, the Helsinki Accords of 1975 promised to help unite people with relatives who have already left, but people in the USSR are still waiting to be reunited with their spouses and meet their grandchildren.

We were in Washington to tell Gorbachev that we have not forgotten the treaties, even if he has.

Other groups also greeted Gorbachev with rallies. Groups in favor of the arms pact Gorbachev came to sign linked arms between the White House and the Soviet Embassy in a human chain to show their support. Afghan refugees and anti-communists protested, too.

Several vigils and rallies on behalf of Soviet Jews were staged before and during Gorbachev's stay. The protesting was peaceful and hopeful; Gorbachev has been letting more Jews leave than his predecessor did, but the numbers, however encouraging, are not enough.

Soviet law officially allows for freedom of religion. Yet people under 16 are not allowed to participate in religious functions. This means that some of the most important Jewish rituals, Brit Mila

and Bar Mitzvah, can't be done. Very few synagogues are allowed to operate.

In addition, teaching Hebrew is considered a crime. Every officially recognized nationality in the USSR is allowed to operate schools in its own language. Every one, that is, except the Jews.

People have been sent to prison and labor camps for simply teaching others to read the Jewish language. Gorbachev has opened the field a little; a few official Hebrew classes are being offered, but there is still a long way to go.

Not only is freedom of religion a legal fiction; Soviet citizens also theoretically have freedom of speech. This "freedom" did not stop the government from sentencing Ida Nudel to internal exile when she placed a sign in her window that said she was waiting for permission to leave.

If the Soviet government does not abide by its own laws on civil rights, it can hardly be expected to keep the international human rights treaties it signs.

Soviet leaders have signed treaties calling for freedom to move into or out of any country. They have promised to help re-unite split families. They have agreed to allow Jews to return to their homeland in Israel.

Still, they do everything they can to prevent Jews from applying for permission to leave. The process is long, tedious, and dangerous. When someone applies for a visa, that person generally loses his job. Children are thrown out of public schools. Applicants are labelled as traitors, and people are discouraged from associating with them. Activists can be sent to prison, work camps, or internal exile in Siberia.

The Soviet government has been sending a message that is difficult to ignore: it will always forget agreements it finds inconvenient.

On December 6, we sent a message back: we will never forget those agreements, and we will not rest until our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union are free.

Foreign students adapt to American life

by Becky Wolfe

"Does anyone here speak Spanish?" This question has been asked many times by Romualdo Gago, our foreign exchange student from Spain. Susana Hernandez, from Chile, probably has a much harder time finding someone who speaks Chilean, though.

Romualdo and Susana both arrived in America this fall and began their senior year of high school at Adams. They will attend Adams all year and graduate with the Class of '88 this June. Both plan to return to their native countries this summer.

Susana's American parents are Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, whose son, Tom, graduated from Adams in 1987. Susana says, "I love my parents so much! They are so helpful and caring! On September 18, the Chilean Independence Day, they had a special celebration for me. I did my country's Independence dance with my flags and everything!"

Romualdo is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Nowak. Their son, Steve, graduated last June, and



Susana and Romualdo wonder if home is as far away as it looks on this globe. Becky Wolfe/Tower

their daughter, Natasha, is a sophomore this year.

How is Adams different from schools in other countries? Susana answers, "It is much easier than in Chile. Learning

English is hard—I keep learning every day. When I came, I knew only sentences. Now I am learning phrases and sayings. I love English."

Susana went to Chicago with

the German Club and also plans to go to Germany with them this March. She will have traveled much during her year in America. On Halloween she was in Texas with the Edwards. "I have never

heard of Halloween! The children wore costumes and went to houses to get candy treats. We carved pumpkins and bobbed for apples, too. It was so much fun!"

Romualdo has joined the wrestling team. "I have never tried it. It is my first time. It is fun—I am hopeful. I plan to join the soccer team this spring. It is my favorite sport. I have played since I was a child."

Susana plays tennis and volleyball in Chile. "I'm going to try tennis this spring, but I am too late for volleyball. I went ice skating for the first time last weekend. I kept falling down, but I had lots of fun! We don't have snow where I live in Chile. I can't wait for it to snow more!"

Both students will graduate this June away from their friends and family. About this Susana says, "I am not sad—this is so new and so different. I am really excited for the experience!"

This year will bring so many surprises and fresh experiences for Susana and Romualdo. Adams High School warmly welcomes both Susana and Romualdo and wishes them the best year of their lives.



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Students are on probation for low grades

by Jennifer Crosson

On November 19, Hammond judge Peter Katic sentenced five Hammond teenagers to 60 days in jail for violating the conditions of their underage-drinking probation. The students' offense: failing to achieve all grades of C or above on their report cards. The four boys and a girl were placed in the Lake County and Hammond City jails, where they are now serving time as juvenile criminals.

Katic's defense for his sentence was that imprisonment was the only way to handle these teenagers. "I don't like to send them to jail, but the stick that I have is the jail sentence," he said after the trial. No other options for punishment of such "hardened criminals?" That would seem highly unlikely—unless the juvenile justice system is forfeiting the power of judicial discretion to the schools.

The legal premise on which the verdict was based assumes that receiving good

grades is a logical atonement for the crime of underage drinking. Apparently, it was Judge Katic's belief that attending drinking parties along Lake Michigan had a direct influence on these teenager's academic performances.

That is, at best, a dubious guess. I have known, and would expect most high school students know, a number of "straight-A" students who regularly "escape the pressure" on weekends by getting drunk, without any adverse effects on their academic standing.

It also seems that no one took into account the teenagers' actual ability to achieve average or above grades. When there are students who shine academically committing the same crime, is it right that only the less academically able should be chastised? The decision punishes with a double standard by, in effect, stating: "Look here! Drinking is all right if you have the intellectual merit to conceal it, but as long as you're an academic loser, we'll try to kill both

problems in one sweep by penalizing you for those grades. If you bring them up, fine, we won't bother you anymore."

Worst of all, these five teenagers are now classified as criminals because they could not, or would not, bring their grades up. If their attendance at the drinking parties has really become such a serious problem, then they deserve a punishment which is aimed directly at the crime of underage drinking, rather than at a completely unrelated area of their lives.

Moreover, if the court had any dedication to turning these students around, they would not place them with teenagers who are guilty of crimes against others or their property. Illegal consumption of alcohol, no matter to what degree, is a self-destructive action, and must be recognized as one. In such a situation, offering a positive alternative is more beneficial than discouraging the negative action.

This is not to say that the court was

wrong in attempting to institute a sense of responsibility among the students. Underage drinking is illegal. Like most lawbreakers, these teenagers need to strengthen their sense of personal accountability. However, a more productive, and viable, solution does exist. In addition to receiving personal counseling, these students should be required to do some social and community work, preferably within organizations where they will become involved with the problem of teenagers and alcohol abuse. Such a punishment would be likely to induce a feeling of learning from personal experience, rather than an increased resentment of authority.

Judge Katic's reasoning in sentencing the Hammond students to a jail term was not only discriminatory, but also failed to acknowledge the real problem. As long as the system permits such "solutions" to become court verdicts, teenagers will continue to challenge its process.

War: what is it good for ?

by Stace Burnside

Throughout history, nations, races, people, and religious denominations have tried to resolve their differences through the same method....war.

The threat of war is one of the things feared by many. Just the knowledge that nuclear destruction is just a button away, is not really a pleasant thought. Knowing that your fate is in the hand of one person, who may or may not have an itchy finger, surely doesn't put your mind at ease. Who knows, maybe one day we will be a glowing world. According to Amy Gaglio, "War is a cop-out." But is it really a cop-out? Or is it something deeper? Matt Trinh said, "War is part of us, and we're only suppressing it—our animalistic tendencies—within a set structure, which is society."

The Vietnam War was one of the most emotionally devastating, controversial, and traumatic wars in the history of the United States. In actuality, the Vietnam War was a power struggle between democracy and communism, disguised as a "Peace Project." Nothing was gained in this war, but much and many were lost. Many Vietnam veterans are still suffering mentally and physically, even though it's been over for 12 years. War flashbacks have controlled the minds of many

veterans, and some do not know that the war is over. We lost the war, and a lot of good Americans. Karl Roemer said, "War is the indication of man's mortal traits of greed, power, and selfishness."

Since the Vietnam War, there have been "conflicts" in which the United States have been involved such as Lebanon, Nicaragua and the most recent, the Persian Gulf. These "conflicts" are considered as "the right thing to do." Maybe we're sticking our noses in places where they don't belong. Could these "conflicts" that our "peacemaking" country indulges in, be preparing us for the biggie....WW III?

There was a time when war was appropriate. When you had to defend your family, life or property. But we, the Planet Earth, have taken it to the point of no return. We fight for the wrong reasons, or no reason at all, and make it seem like a "Peace Project." We seem to be stuck on "My bomb's bigger than your bomb," or "My power is greater than your power." Janine Butler said, "Men are just playing games which result in the death of innocent," and she's right. We are constantly in fear of the threat of war, and one of our loved ones being killed. Bruce Springsteen hit the nail right on the head when he sang, "War! What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!"

Letter to the Editor

As I attended the first basketball game, one thing troubled me. The fans just weren't there. Granted, the hockey team was destroying St. Joe at that same time and many students were at the Ice Box. But the adult supporters and fans were missing. As students, we can't do much to get adults to go.

The student fans that were in attendance decided to support their team by good, loud, clean cheering. Much of this cheering included standing up. It seems to me that fans cheer harder when they stand. This extra cheering helps the players get "pumped up" and makes the whole game more exciting.

This is exactly what happened, and Adams ended up killing Adrean 80-50 with Gary Watkins

scoring 27 points. As a fan, standing and cheering makes a game more enjoyable. As an athlete, standing gives you a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

The problem comes in when the season ticket holders behind the bleachers complain about not being able to see. It doesn't take an Einstein to figure out the solution. MOVE!! With the small number of fans, all of them could sit comfortably in the mezzanine opposite of the students.

Another troubling point: the cheerleaders get blamed when the students stand. The cheerleaders are not to blame for the actions of the student body.

Sincerely,
Martin McNarney

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Cliques provide a healthy source of security

by John Strieder

Cliques. What exactly is a "clique," anyway?

The traditional definition of clique is "a small, exclusive circle of people." Sounds upscale. It certainly doesn't sound like anything I've ever run across in a high school. Sure, there are tight-knit groups of friends here and there, but they always gave the impression of being more huddled against the colder winds of adolescence than of being small, exclusive circles. So if the fabled high school cliques do exist, where are they?

One could examine the **Breakfast Club** theory. This states, more or less, that high school students are too afraid of the unknown, and of rejection, to stray outside the safe borderlines of their own little worlds. This is true, to be sure, of all human beings as well as teenagers. In this case, students use their circles of friends to hide from any threatening reality. Not a good idea in the long run, but there is nothing wrong with having people to lean on, a sort of family that one can feel safe in. This can be referred to as a "clique," I suppose. A family has to be small and exclusive; otherwise, it would not remain a family.



Eric Lindberg/Tower Artist

The real problem with cliques is with the people who don't have any to belong to. Especially when one is 14, 15, or 16 years old, feelings tend to be magnified, high-voltaged, and oftentimes taken almost too seriously. It's the time of life when you are first exposed to the "Big World" and all its machinery, and it can feel rather lonely. Love, hate, and everything in between get written in capital letters, and they change by the

hour; sometimes it seems that you are changing almost as fast. Anything stable is welcome, anywhere that one can feel loved, important, and sane in an insane, unloving world is defended strongly by those who have it, and envied angrily and fearfully by those who don't. And considering that most can feel both ways in any given day, it's only natural that those who have a haven will feel even stronger against opening it to the rest of

the world. Unfortunately, this leaves those who feel they don't have a "clique" out in the cold.

But there's always others—friends, future family, brothers or sisters, even other adults. If you don't fit into one existing mold, make one of your own. So many people are in the same boat in high school—outsiders in one way or another, and inevitably they find each other. There's another important factor involved with being a social loner. The more time one has to think about oneself, and the less places one has to hide, the more one confronts who he or she is. It is the freshman year outcasts that always end up as the most unique, interesting people by senior year. And "cliquing," if you will, only delays this inevitable process of self-knowledge. After a while, given a little self-love and self-respect, the so-called "in-groupers" will start saying hello to the "pariahs" if only in recognition for having some of the problems they face now. And who knows, they might even try to make friends with them. The pendulum swings both ways, everybody can get along, and eventually, most will. High school cliques, such as they are, are a temporary nuisance and can be treated that way. To coin an old phrase, "It's a part of growing up."

Schools call for quality curriculum

by Kathy Strieder

One of the most controversial issues in America today is the improvement of the country's educational facilities. An endless amount of studies have been done and every major publication has covered the subject at least once. State governments in particular are responding to the publicity and making changes in their programs. Amidst all of the debating and decision-making, however, educational administrations seem to be ignoring what is actually occurring within American schools.

Many new programs have been considered, and several initiated, across the country. Los Angeles is in the process of testing a year-round curriculum spotted with semi-annual vacations. High schools in Indiana have added a mandatory five minutes to each of their class periods, and the state legislature is

currently contemplating adding at least two weeks to the school year.

The government's approach is well-intended but fundamentally incorrect. No matter how many changes are incorporated into the quantity of time spent in school, unless the attitudes of students towards academics can be altered, the state of today's educational trends will not change.

Giving young people a new outlook on education begins primarily in the home. In Japan, whose social culture is approximately thirty years behind that of the United States, exceptional performance in school is a matter of family honor. Mothers focus their children's entire upbringing on their eventual admittance to a top university. Indian students are also subjected to extreme pressure to succeed in their academic environment. A typical fifth grade Indian child's school day consists of eight hours of classroom work followed by up to five

hours of homework. In America, where many homes are singly parented and many more consist of two parents with careers that keep them out of the house the majority of the time, the kind of intense dedication present in families of other countries may not be possible unless parents can find a different way of influencing their children's attitudes towards academics.

Schools could, however, concentrate more on their own attitudes towards education and how students perceive these. The way to improve education is not in increasing the school year, so much as placing less emphasis on extracurricular activities and more on academics. Students also lose respect for their schools when they set up standards and then fail to act on them. Rules often go unenforced, and many teachers present a double standard to their pupils, demanding that they complete the given assignments while at the same time

failing to apply these premises to their own work.

Finally, the state of American education may not be as bad as it appears. The statistics used as evidence to support this theory are often too vague for proper representation of their subjects. In states where SAT scores are higher, the percentage of students taking the test is usually lower. Iowa is one of the top-ranked states in the nation, but the percentage of high school seniors who take the test in that state is only in the teens, while close to half of Indiana's seniors participate, causing their ranking to drop to the lower half of the list.

The United States' educational facilities have room for improvement, but the steps that authorities are taking may not be leading in the right direction. School should some day be a place for every child, no matter what social background, to get a quality education and pave the road to a promising future.

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