

The Tower

John Adams High School

South Bend, IN 46615

Why do teenagers join
cults? See pages
4-5 for the full story.

Maintenance problems trouble Adams

by Chris Scanlan

Maintenance problems at John Adams are on the rise, and the school administration is warning that problems are likely to continue until the end of the school year, at the earliest. Some of the more common complaints that have been registered by both students and teachers include an increase in trash on the floors, badly supplied bathrooms, and unclean windows. "Rooms do seem messier," commented junior Steve Varga.

The most pressing reason for the current maintenance situation is the South Bend Community School Corporation's financial crisis. After years of skyrocketing debts, the SBCSC is tightening its belt, and building maintenance is not a top priority. About five or six years ago, the School Corporation basically stopped hiring new janitors, and when older building staff retire, they are usually not replaced.

There are currently seven maintenance workers at Adams, of whom three work on the day crew, while the others work the night crew. The situation has reached the point where the building has been divided into different cleaning zones. On any given night, the building staff cleans one of these zones. As a result, most areas of the

building are only cleaned up once every two or three days.

These problems have been compounded by several major building maintenance projects, most notably the asbestos removal. Many hours were spent moving desks and other classroom equipment around for this undertaking, and as a result of the asbestos removal project alone, in addition to related work, Mr. Przybysz predicts that lost time from major building projects will prevent staff from giving the building a thorough cleaning until after school lets out in June.

Many members of the faculty and administration cite lack of student concern about the state of the building as a major factor in the current problem. Math teacher Mr. Jerome Hoffman remembers his experience teaching at Washington High School when it was first built. Previously, Washington district students went to classes in an old and badly kept up building. Students who had gone to classes in the old high school took good care of the new building, and according to Mr. Hoffman, kept it in "immaculate" condition. When those students graduated, he noted, the upkeep of the building began to deteriorate. He added that many students take the building and the custodial staff for granted.

Sometimes, however, students do not simply neglect the building; they abuse it. The principal reason for the lack of paper towels and toilet paper in the boys' bathrooms, according to Mr. Przybysz, is that many students remove all the paper, or even damage the dispensers. Graffiti is still a problem, although the amount of graffiti does appear to be declining from a few years ago.

Solutions have not been easy to find, but most Adams staff feel that students should show less apathy for the state of the building. Some disciplinary measures have been taken; for instance, a few students have been suspended for abusing the building's facilities, and students caught making messes in the cafeteria must spend time cleaning frequently neglected areas of the building, such as the auditorium mezzanine. Teachers should also get involved, said Mr. Hoffman, checking their classrooms frequently for evidence of damage.

Mr. Przybysz recalled a time a few years ago when the Student Government organized a cleanup drive to get rid of graffiti. More than sixty students volunteered to help, and with material provided by the maintenance staff, "they cleaned up the building in an hour or so. They showed real pride in their school."

Residents call for parking restrictions

by Jennifer Crosson

Less than a month after Wall Street residents successfully put through a petition to close their street to parking by Adams students, residents of two other nearby streets have filed to receive the same privilege. If these petitions are approved by city officials, Hoover Avenue and Bellevue Avenue, both of which are presently used by Adams students, could also become residential-only parking zones.

"I think that it's the school's job to take care of this. Not the students, and not us," said one Hoover resident, who supports the street's petition. "The administration should have anticipated the problem, since Adams is an urban school," he added.

The major concern cited in the Hoover residents' petition is the safety hazard to that street's children. Other complaints included students driving at excessive speeds and leaving trash on residents' lawns.

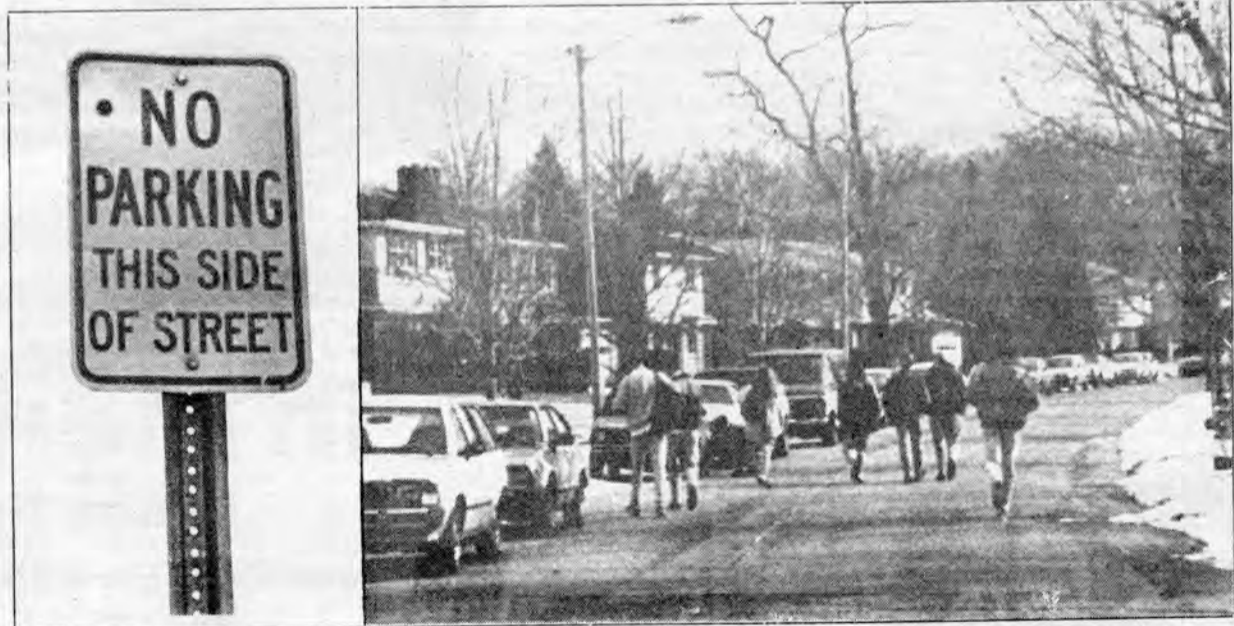
"Some of these kids have no respect for private property," the resident said. "They've wrecked shrubbery and left trash on lawns, and there have been several incidents of students purposely skidding and slamming on their brakes outside of our houses. I think closing the street to the students is the only way to control these offenses."

Only four Hoover residents refused to support the proposal. "I don't want a ban," said a resident who declined to sign the petition. "On a few occasions the students have parked across driveways, which is bad, but I think they've really been good about not dirtying up the street."

The Bellevue petition, drawn up by resident Susan Lee for that street's 900 block, also cites the safety hazard to children and the trash problem, but raises some further questions about the residents' right to a first priority on parking space. Several houses on Bellevue do not have driveways.

"Sometimes I can't get a place to park in front of my own house," Lee said. "Being a taxpayer, I think that I should have the right to that space. These students come and go, but I'm here all day."

Bellevue residents complain that loitering Adams students are using the street as a place to smoke and play unpleasantly loud music, to the point that it can be clearly heard with all doors and windows closed. There



If Bellevue and Hoover Avenue residents get their wish, signs like this on Wall Street may be posted on those streets.

Gabe Mickels/Tower

have also been several incidents of reckless driving. Lee said that she has had three cars hit, while parked, by drivers who then left the scene of the accident.

Although the conflicts created by student parking may form a solid case for the Hoover and Bellevue residents, the solution appears to be more complex than simply closing off these streets to the students. If closing off the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Wall Street has helped to aggravate the situation on Hoover and Bellevue, then closing off these two streets is only apt to relay the same problem to other streets, according to city and school officials.

Before the school can make any decisions, however, there will have to be considerable negotiation with other city officials as to what course of action is best to take. The residents who are now petitioning for parking privileges have already advocated various solutions to the potential problem.

The most frequently mentioned alternative was for students to gain permission to use Potowatomi Park's parking facilities. One resident raised the possibility of using the space now occupied by Potowatomi's baseball field as a parking lot.

A Hoover resident wondered if the I.U.S.B. campus might not have some parking space which could be used by the students. Another widely supported idea was the construction of additional parking facilities directly on the Adams grounds, especially along Wall Street and Mishawaka Avenue. "Adams is the only major local high school without an adequate parking lot," Susan Lee pointed out.

Wednesday last week, several of the residents met with some Adams students and school officials, as well as Common Councilman William Soderberg and director of code enforcement Patricia DeClerq, to discuss the impending parking situation.

ISTEP tests bring changes in school policy

by Mark Bartholomew

On May 7, 1987, Governor Robert D. Orr signed into law the \$550 million dollar education plan known as the A+ Education Program. Orr described it as the most important act in his seven year tenure as governor. This program has had many effects on statewide school policies. It adds five days to the 1989 school year; requires the evaluation of teachers and administrators; establishes a new school accreditation program; offers financial rewards to schools with improved performance records; and institutes a statewide student test.

This statewide test is known as

ISTEP (Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress). The tests were designed from various exams around the nation and are supposed to be a drastic improvement over the old CTBS tests. At least for now, only the first through third, the sixth through eighth, the ninth, and the eleventh grades are required to be tested by state law. The sophomores will take the ACT tests, and seniors don't take any of these state exams. The results of the tests should be received by the underclassmen in early May.

The ISTEP tests are of major importance for two reasons. First, all children through the eighth grade who do poorly (scoring in

the bottom 15%) on the language arts or math portions of the tests must attend at least eighty hours of summer school. They are then retested at the completion of summer school and, if no significant improvement is seen, they are held back a year. Also included will be science and social studies testing. From third grade on up a writing sample will be required as well.

Second, financial aid to many schools hinges on their respective results on the ISTEP tests. The aid guaranteed by the A+ Education Program is received only through improved performance records. The way of measuring this performance is

through the ISTEP tests. Many educators have expressed resentment that a school's financial status can be determined by one single test.

Also, the tests are tied to the accreditation of schools. Before Orr's program, standards like building conditions were used for accreditation approval. Despite this prospective improvement, some are worried about the ISTEP tests because the teachers must have experience in accredited schools to be certified, and because any school, public or private, cannot participate in the

Indiana High School Athletic Conferences until it is accredited.

This is why many private schools who have to pay for the tests themselves have spoken out against the A+ program.

There are other concerns about the A+ Education Program and ISTEP. An increase from 3% to 3.4% in state taxes has been added to support the program. Many educators are worried that ISTEP will cause a dramatic increase in the amount of children held back.

Some students dislike the disruption caused by the tests, and do not appreciate the extra five days in school. "Those tests are LAME!" said one junior.

Mr. Przybysz presents former Common Councilwoman Eugenia Braboy with a plaque of recognition from the Cultural Awareness Society. Also present are Mrs. Linda Murphy, sponsor of the Adams Cultural Awareness Society, and Diona Williams, the president and Mistress of Ceremony. Braboy was the honored guest at the black history program, "Black Women in Politics," which took place on February 10. She was honored for her political contributions to the South Bend community. Mayor Joseph Kernan was also a speaker at the ceremony, as was Adams student Kasi Bolden.



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In Memoriam

James Paul Webb

November 19, 1954 - February 19, 1988

Today, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.

-A.E. Housman



Adams pays respects to legend

by Stace Burnside

February 9, 1988 was a night of magical moments, fond memories, and the acknowledgment of the greatest high school basketball player in South Bend's history. On this night, James Webb returned to the Hadaway Shack, not as a spunky eastside hooper, but, rather, as a legend in his own time.

"We have heard the expression 'born with a silver spoon in your mouth.' Well, James Webb, our little brother, as we call him, may as well have been born shooting and dribbling a basketball," said Dorothy Hill, his aunt.

Evidence suggests that Webb was destined to play basketball. His sisters, Dorothy and Pat, remember gathering up his rolled socks from underneath the bed or from the wastepaper basket. "His mom and dad remember Anthony Scott making his (Jim's) first basketball hoop from an old tire rim and a bushel basket nailed to a tree," said Dorothy Hill.

"I remember Jim Webb as a teammate at Madison School, and the good times we had back then," said Tom Abernathy. "I was always impressed with the talent and leadership that he had. He was always a year younger than me, but he seemed to be a couple of steps better than me."



Jim Webb shakes hands with John Heisler, statistician for the 1973 state runner-up team on Jim Webb night. Also gathered around Jim are his mother, his two sisters, his stepfather, and former teammates.

Root Photographers

John Adams High School and the Hadaway Shack seems to be the place where James Webb began to explode as a "super hooper." The atmosphere that

Webb projected, was all a part of the game. The winning attitude and determination that he possessed was a big part of the victories. "He was very quiet, not

outspoken," said Darryl Ashby, a former teammate.

"He had a hidden strength within him that he projected when he played ball. You knew what to

do, because he always directed you in the right place."

Saint Joe Indian coach and former teammate, Steve Austin said, "I think that's why we went so far. We were like one big family and that's what it takes sometimes."

The IHSAA Basketball State Championship seemed to be his goal.

"They (Boonie Hill and Jim Webb) talked about going downstate," said Hill. "They talked about it so much until it intrigued me and sometimes I would sit down and talk with them about it, even though we didn't know that it was something they always dreamed of. So they did go downstate a few years later; they saw their dream come true."

Tom Abernathy said, "Jim was obviously a good scorer, but his teams were good. The evidence is by going to the state finals his senior year."

After high school, there was the life of college basketball. Webb attended the University of Cincinnati and then a community college in California.

Last November, Jim Webb was diagnosed as having cancer, and he died on Friday, February 19, 1988. He traveled a long, narrow path, played his last game, and won.

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A look beneath the surface of

American cults grow and flourish in

by Lisa Primus

They come in all sizes and styles. Some are violent, some passive. They are based on Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism,

principle or a person." The object of the devotion could be anyone or anything from Elvis Presley to soccer. In a religious cult, the object of the devotion takes on religious significance, and

have grown and faded for thousands of years.

The formations of these religious cults are basically similar. Several people decide that conventional religion is not satisfying their changing needs, a charismatic leader announces that he or she has a new idea, and a cult is born. People join, renouncing their old lives and devoting themselves to their god-leader in hopes of finding spiritual fulfillment.

Most of these cults fade, but some do not. For example, about two thousand years ago, a cult grew around a man in what today is Israel. The man was reputed to be a miracle worker and a god. The cult grew, even after the man's death, and soon became a Jewish sect, then a religion. Today that former cult is the Christian Church.

Most modern religions took this beginning as a cult with a new messiah and an ambitious leader. Similar groups that today are small, barely known cults could, in 2088, be a major religion.

Since the change is generally slow and gradual, it is difficult to draw the line between sects, religions, and cults. Groups that are usually considered religions, such as the followers of Hare Krishna and the followers of Sun Myung Moon, can also be considered sects.

Today, these sects and cults thrive in the U.S. Since the Constitution protects freedom of religion and the government does not tax church property, it is easy for groups to form and operate here. In most other countries, and in the questioning spirit of the 60's and 70's, brought young people to cults in droves. New cults, big and small, sprung up across the country.

Rev. Moon brought his Unification Church to the U.S. in the 1960's, and soon became one of the biggest American cults. Claiming to be a Christian sect, the group follows Rev. Moon's version of the Bible. For many, Rev. Moon is the Messiah. The most devoted live in communes, communities devoted to the precepts of the Unification Church.

Adapting Christian beliefs to fit modern philosophies was, and still is, common. The deification of the cult's leader is the cult's main goal. Many other cults are closely connected with Eastern religions. The largest group in America is the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, a Hindu sect with around 3,000 members living in American communes. Members work for happiness and enlightenment by completely surrendering themselves to God and by loving Krishna.

At first, these groups may seem to have little to do with each other and less to do with the smaller Christian and Hindu cults.

In reality, the goals and beliefs are rarely as important as the cult expects itself, and this does not vary as much. The tenets are often unclear and incomprehensible; cult life is often obvious.

All of these cults are characterized by strong identification with the group. This is especially the case with cults where members live in communes. In these communes and the people isolated from the world around them, people give up everything they had—families, friends, and hobbies—and submit themselves to a higher entity. In return they gain acceptance, or

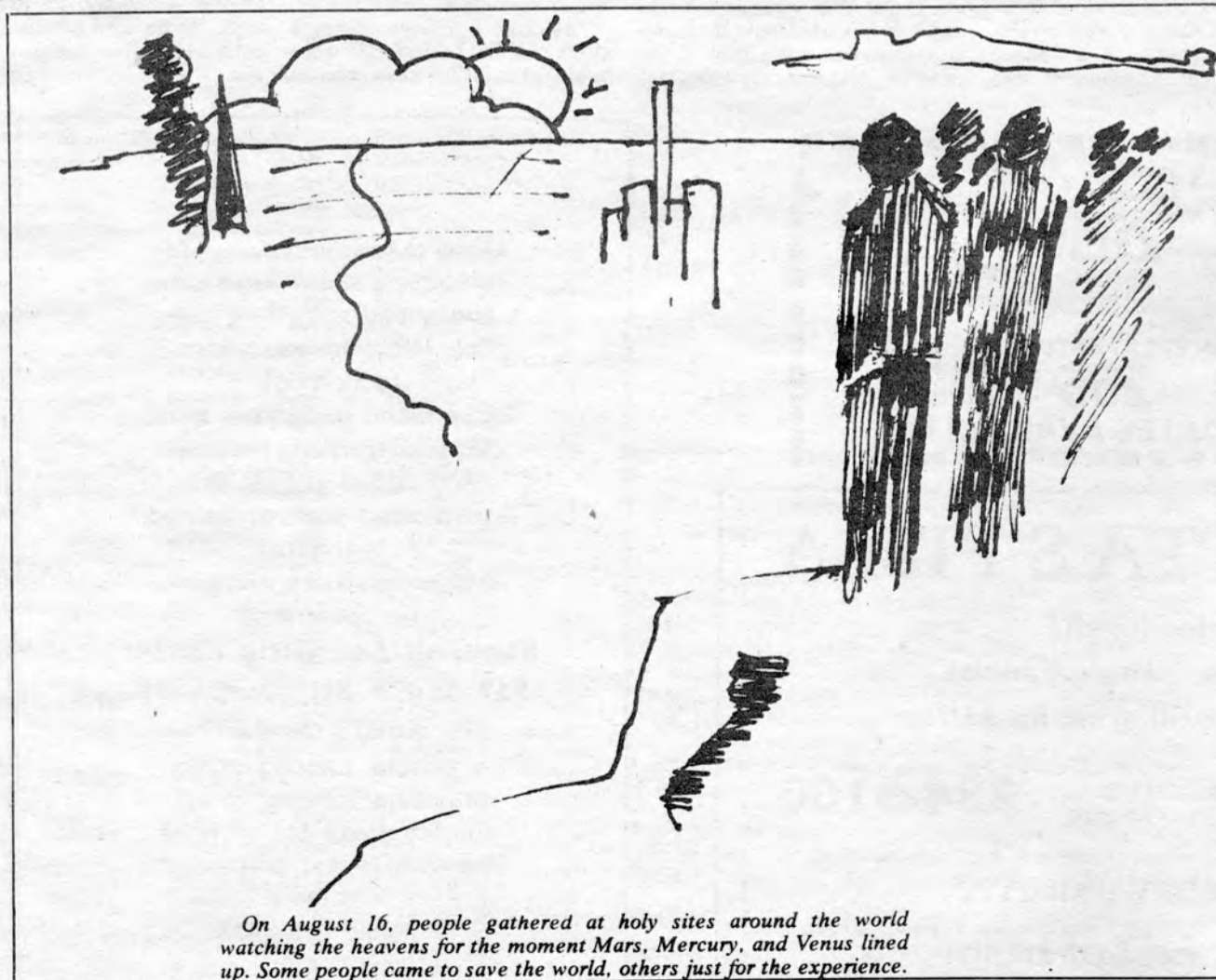
Gurus act as healers and spiritual guides, read their followers' astrologies, and determine their former lives — for a fee.

discrimination, equality, love, and hate. They are religious cults.

Deciding exactly what a cult is is difficult. Webster's Dictionary defines a cult as "a group of persons sharing obsessive and faddish devotion to a

members often use mysticism and the supernatural to try to come to a better understanding of life and God.

Though most of the religious cults in America today are products of the 60's and 70's, cults are far from new. Cults



On August 16, people gathered at holy sites around the world watching the heavens for the moment Mars, Mercury, and Venus lined up. Some people came to save the world, others just for the experience.

Religious cults

The New Age

stronger sense of security than today's world gives most of its inhabitants. They trade their insecurities and doubts for something which seems to be the ultimate answer.

Many cults seem to be innocent religious groups, people following their beliefs and harming no one. Members are free to join and leave. Leaders make sure that the members are healthy physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Others are extremely dangerous. Some are based on hate. The KKK has terrorized blacks and most other minority groups for over a century. Yahweh, a relatively new cult of blacks based in Miami, calls all whites "evil, wicked liars and murderers." At least two Yahweh members have been beaten by cult leaders for not getting their quota of donations, and a former member who publicly denounced the group was later found beheaded.

The Unification Church and other groups have been charged with brainwashing members and prospective members. These members are allowed little sleep, in some cults as little as five hours a day. They are never allowed to be alone and are bombarded with propaganda until they cannot help but believe it.

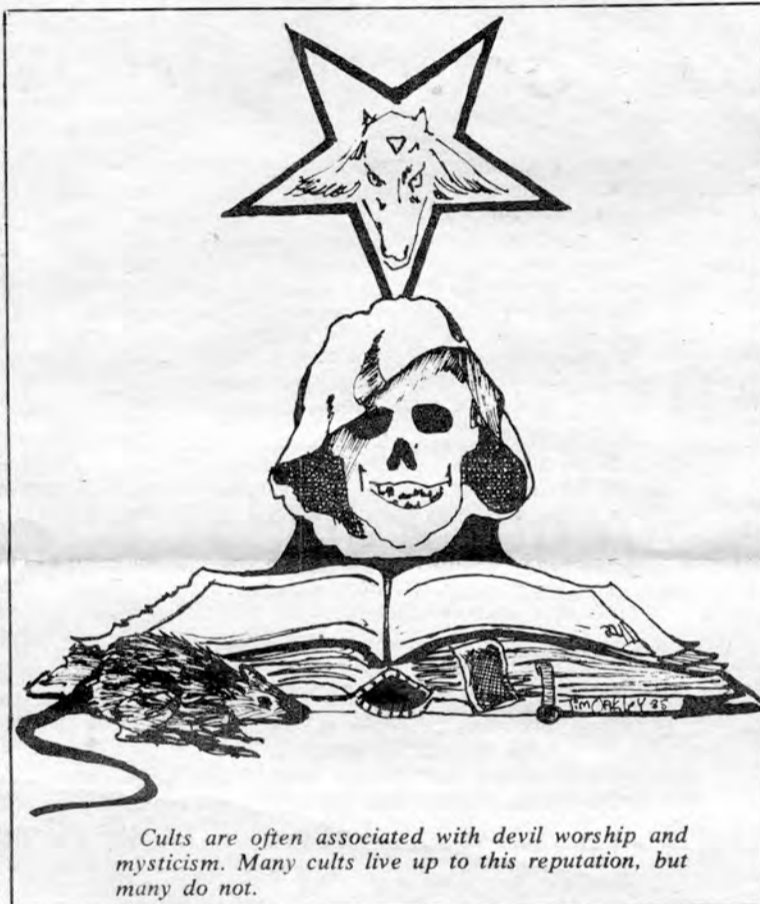
Allegations against American Krishna groups are more serious. In 1979, a leader from the group was convicted of distributing heroin. Now the group is being investigated not only for drug trafficking, but also for child abuse, violence, and murder.

In 1978, Rev. Jim Jones, the leader of a California-based cult called the People's Temple, convinced many of his members to commit suicide with him. He shared his poison with nine hundred members.

Today, these huge cults are declining. The trend is toward "New Age" groups. Believers pay huge sums of money to meet with gurus or to hear them speak. Gurus act as healers and spiritual guides, read their followers' astrologies, and determine their former lives—for a fee.

On Aug. 16, New Age disciples and curious spectators gathered in "sacred sites" all over the globe for the moment when Mars, Venus, and Mercury would line up with the new moon.

Whether these gurus are simply con artists out to make a few dollars, or mystics in touch with a deeper reality, they are now a part of our society, and what role they will play in the advancement of mankind only time will tell.



Cults are often associated with devil worship and mysticism. Many cults live up to this reputation, but many do not.

Timeline of modern American cults

- 1954 — Sun Myung Moon founds Unification Church.
- 1973 — Unification Church moves headquarters to U.S.
- 1978 — Jim Jones leads mass suicide at the People's Temple.
- 1979 — California Hare Krishna leader convicted of distributing heroin.
- 1984 — Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh starts recruiting homeless from American cities for his Utopian cult in Oregon.
- 1985 — Rajneesh flees the U.S. amid financial scandal.
- 1987 — Believers gather at holy sites for Harmonic Convergence.

Teens turn to radical groups for answers

by Paula Winicur

Religious cults are growing among high school students in America. In a recent survey of over one thousand students, one third had been contacted one or

brainwashing and beatings to force members to remain loyal, most of the approximately 2,500 cults and cult-like groups do not. In fact, Levine has found that most cult leaders take good care of their members, making sure that they are healthy, happy, and

Most people in their teens and twenties who join religious cults are normal, responsible people who have problems cutting off their ties to their parents.

two times by cult members. Two-fifths had been contacted three to five times, and one-fourth had been approached more times.

Many kids are approached by recruiters, but only one hundredth of those approached join. Most of these are between sixteen and seventeen. Most attend public high schools, although some are in alternative or parochial schools, and most are Catholic.

There are different reasons why kids join religious cults. The major one is to find their identity. Some adolescents feel they need to get away from home and their parents to find out who they really are, and the cults offer an easy way to do this.

According to researcher Saul Levine, most people in their teens and twenties who join religious cults are normal, responsible people who have problems cutting off their ties to their parents. The time comes when they are too old to rely on their families, and they turn to cults for support.

The experience waiting for the new recruits can be bad, or it can be good. Though some cults use

free of care.

The experience for the family is usually worse. Cult members cut off all ties with family and friends. They even refuse to recognize their own parents.

Some families respond by kidnapping their missing children and trying to force them back into normal society, a practice which can cause emotional problems for the children and strain family relationships even more.

About nine in ten teens who leave home to join religious cults return home within two years. The time they lose is gone forever, and the pain they cause is hard to forget, but years later, some look back on their cult experience as an important part of their emotional growth. By joining, they loosened their tight parental ties; by leaving they proved their independence.

Having a friend or relative join a cult is scary. We are trained to believe that cults are evil and joining a cult is a sign of a sick person, but this is an oversimplification, and within a few years most of these joiners return to their former lives. It's just a matter of time.

Nationalism is a two-edged sword

by Kathy Strieder

The American people have bred a very particular sense of nationalism. A self-centered, self-improving people, they raise their children upon inspired and idealistic documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address. These feelings are then manifested in every vein of society, from politics to art. This purely American sense of nationalism has proved its worth as a tool in promoting the country's prosperity, holding it together in times of crisis and graciously blinding the eyes of its citizens to wrongs that would weaken the loyalties of more rational minds. It has also, on the other hand, endangered international opinion of and relations with America more than once, and the heedless optimism it inspires has often immobilized the nation's populace in ignorance and illusion.

The American ability to reach beyond improbability has led to the achievement of many otherwise unattainable goals throughout United States history. The Revolutionary War itself was a small uprising of hot-tempered radicals against the power of a European Empire, but it succeeded largely due to the stubborn drive of its originators. This same stamina has brought about different phenomena today. The American attitude of improvement by the people for the people has been drawn upon for innumerable kinds of campaigns. Even the national heroes reflect these traits. John Rockefeller and Lee Iacocca both built business empires out of motivation alone.

But these qualities have also cost the United States much peace over issues of overblown pride. President Reagan is a prime example of nationalism gone to an extreme. He has seriously endangered relations

with foreign powers as important as the Soviets by openly labeling them "The Evil Empire" even during press coverage of the most recent summit between the two opposing super powers.



America's blurred sense of reality has also caused it to fail its fellow countries. Although the country's citizens respond quickly to the desperate needs of others, they are apt to lose interest in a cause soon after they pick it up. When the Ethiopian crisis first caught the attention of the public, their response of good will was overwhelming, but now, when members of that nation are facing another drought even more disastrous, the same reports from the media fail to stimulate the public.

American nationalism is a sign of a healthy nation, but it would serve its citizens better in a more moderate form. This may be next to impossible due to the very nature of this quality, but if the public would attempt to base more of its support on fact instead of feeling, it might find that its sense of nationalism is no less inspired and much more useful in building a strong future for the country and the world.

Delicate balance of discipline needed

by Sue Naffziger

Discipline is such an ambiguous term it can be used as a cover up.

With the Paterson, New Jersey principal Joe Clark thrown in the center of media attention, so has the controversy over how disruptive students should be dealt with. Last month, Clark expelled sixty-six students, calling them "parasites" and denying them due process. The enraged school board stepped in and threatened him with the loss of his job.

Clark's reasoning for expelling the students is evident. It can be seen how discipline does need to be enforced. It provides guidelines and makes the students feel safer, as if there is some control in their lives.

The problem lies in the fact that, by taking these students out of the classroom, he leaves them floating in society. These people have nowhere to go. In most cities, an alternative school does not exist. Job training is certainly not provided. So they end up on the streets, and still another generation preys on the pocket-book of society.

While it is obvious Clark's treatment is an extremity, it is equally evident that something simply needs to be done. The problems have escalated over the past twenty years. Students have

declined in their respect as the school system has dropped their expectations of the students.

There must be a median between the two. One extreme does not answer another.

Some schools, such as in Los Angeles' lower side, feel that a positive attitude directs the student far more than simply discipline. A positive attitude teaches discipline as it shows that accomplishments and working at something can bring rewards.

In the February 1, 1988 issue of *Time* magazine, the article "Getting Tough" points out that a successful principal needs to be "a different kind of strong personality with his or her own talents as a manager or leader."

Joe Clark is a leader. That much is determined. How his actions will effect this country in the future insofar as discipline in urban schools remains to be seen.

Discipline is merely a provider for some guidelines with which to work in. It does not provide motivation. It also does not create self-esteem. Discipline is so busy doing its job it does not see the usefulness of experience or the knowledge of why.

Discipline is an act which should be monitored carefully for possible abuse. It should also be seen for simply what it is: an abbreviated way of dealing with a problem.

College provides experience

by See-Eng Phan

What is college?

To many students, college is an extension of high school. To some, it represents an ordeal that seniors must face first semester, whether they like it or not.

ulcer in anyone's stomach. Sometimes, in order to look better on the application, the student may participate in more activities than he may like; thus, he will

also have to put up with a club he hates, but will look good on the application. An admissions officer may be more

The college application contains the student in the form of an essay, grades, test scores, activities, and teacher recommendations. Here, a person is reduced to pages of words and numbers.

The college application contains the student in the form of an essay, grades, test scores, activities, and teacher recommendations. Here, a person is reduced to pages of words and numbers. An admissions officer will judge the student's acceptability upon this application. No doubt, the student suffers for hours rewriting, trying to describe himself, his essence, within a one-page essay. Others spend their time trying to improve their grade point average. The essay, if there is an essay, requires a lot of thought. It is difficult to write about yourself without sounding corny, degrading, or boastful. Then you must take the SAT or ACT, possibly visit a college or two, and what does it come to?

What it amounts to is an endless headache in getting into the college and staying in that college. Also, the anticipation in finding whether or not you are rejected or accepted could produce an

impressed with quantity than sincerity. College is, however, a necessary headache and/or source of ulcers.

Over the years, higher education has bred a broad-minded, well-rounded people. Education has become instrumental in understanding and improving oneself. It offers opportunities to meet people and learn about various subjects. Many college students today think only of how much money they will make. They have forgotten that college was meant to offer education about the self as well as others, rather than to provide an easier way of earning megabucks. Though college may produce some pain, it is meant to spare us from greater pitfalls later in life.

For those still filling out applications, take comfort in the fact that many others are suffering or have suffered and that, in the process of filling out these papers, you will become more aware of who you are and where you are going.

Apathy harms American youth

by Christopher Scanlan

As older people point out, young people are faced with some of the greatest difficulties ever facing the planet. Our generation is confronted with destructive legacies of past ages, the thought patterns which dominated these periods of our history. These include the nuclear threat, environmental hazards, and pervasive racism. Instead of taking stands on these problems, though, many of our generation have become cynical about the future, giving in to passivity and pessimism. But today's youth have to respond now to these problems. These problems are too pressing to be ignored; they'll just get worse without attention.

It is, of course, difficult to be optimistic in the eighties, often described as the "second cold war." Living responsibly in a nuclear age is difficult and dangerous. The threat of mass annihilation forces should force our government to relax international tensions. Instead, we have had a massive military buildup in the past seven years, and tensions are high around the world. Even if most high school students cannot place Nicaragua, Afghanistan, or the Persian Gulf on a globe, a vast majority would have heard about them, and have worries

about what's happening in those places.

There have been some positive signs, especially those accompanying the December summit in Washington. At that summit, both Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev declared that they would work to eliminate more than half of the world's long-range missiles. Additionally, the superpower leaders agreed to begin eliminating a number of missiles in Europe. The best result from further U.S.-Soviet relations would be using the funds wasted on missiles to develop the educational systems of both countries and the economies of other countries, including those of the third world.

Another reason for the current lack of passion for political causes among young people is the way politicians treat their constituents, especially youth. In the 1986 Congressional elections, less than ten percent of the eligible voters in the 18-24 age group voted. Considering the negative ads and 30-second "smear spots" on television during the campaign, it's a wonder that fewer young people didn't vote. An immediate result of this low turnout is that Congress shows little concern for the needs of young people. The recent budget talks, for instance, resulted in millions of dollars in education cuts. More and more college

students are facing huge college loan payments, because the government is providing fewer college grants, and replacing them with loans. On the other hand, elderly people, who are now a well organized group, successfully pressured the negotiators to Social Security. Perhaps we young people do have something to learn from our grandparents.

Political problems not only affect our education; they can affect the very existence of our lives. The deaths of thousands of young Americans in Vietnam are an obvious example of that. And there are ways that we can have a say in what happens, abroad and at home, although the voting age remains eighteen. Political candidates are always looking for youth involvement in campaigns.

Petition drives and numerous forms of peaceful protest are taking place right around this. Beyond this, we need to be more partisan, more willing to be open about our views and fears. Far too often, students think that politics are something "private," too controversial to discuss with friends. Although much of what we associate with the 1960's is negative, including the widespread use of drugs during that period, the basic motto of that

decade, "Challenge authority," should play a greater role in our actions. It was none other than the founder of modern philosophy, Rene Descartes, who said in the seventeenth century: "Question everything!"

Unfortunately, most of us, even the most "radical," are rarely conscientious about the different ways in which our immediate surroundings are the site of some serious problems. Although the strong civil rights movement from earlier decades made it almost impossible for a teacher to say racist things in the classroom, teachers are less sensitive to issues such as sexism. It is not uncommon, even today, for teachers to crack sexist jokes. But never does a student comment to the teacher about those "humorous" lines. (I am just as guilty of this as anyone else.) Sexist practices could conceivably go on for centuries more unless both male and female young people work together against this sort of drivel.

History is not necessarily leading to a more problematic, less desirable future. But if it ends that way, it will because we proved ourselves incapable of overcoming the evils of our past and present. And no one said that would be easy.

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Junior Rusty Cobb stuns the judges with his death defying leap at the sectionals swim meet on Sunday, February 20th. Rusty's dives sent him down state.

Root Photographers



Sophomore Mark Bartholomew buzzes in to answer a question at the Quiz Bowl team's victorious 370-360 match against St. Joe. To Bartholomew's right are junior Bill Wolter and team captain Chris Scanlon. To his right is sophomore Kurt Leege.

Quiz Bowl team looks bright

by See-Ming Phan

This year, the John Adams Quiz Bowl seems to have formed a strong team, and the prospects for the rest of the year are promising. With five victories out of five under their belt already, the Quiz Bowl team has demonstrated that they have the potential to win the league championship and possibly advance to national competition which will be held at New Orleans. They remain one of the only undefeated teams in the area.

Quiz Bowl competition, which began in 1982 with only two teams (Adams and Riley), has been growing steadily. At present, nine teams are competing among each other. Adams has always been a powerful team among these nine.

The team suffered some major

losses though, after the graduation of last year's seniors Mike Jones, Captain Richard Primus, Jeff Rieckhoff, and Sue Wills. The situation for the team seemed doubtful, but with the addition of new members Andre McNeill, Captain Chris Scanlan, Andy Wessels, and alternates Sylvia Chen and See-Ming Phan to last year's veterans Mark Bartholomew, Betsy Furlong, Tom Killeen, Kurt Leege, and Bill Wolter, there is a great deal of optimism about future matches.

"I think the team is more balanced now than it has ever been. We don't need to rely on an individual to carry our game for us, and that is a distinct advantage over the previous years," stated Mark Bartholomew. This is apparent in the five matches, against Riley, Marian, Mishawaka, New Prairie, and

most recently, St. Joseph. Mark said that, "We have been able to function well as a team, and this teamwork has pulled us through some very tight spots during the season." There still remains however, some room for improvement.

"Despite the team's strength, it is a young team and lacks some of the match experience that older teams with seniors and juniors might have," stated freshman Sylvia Chen. "We tend to be a bit sluggish near the first and second rounds and this sometimes allows the opponent to take an early lead. But we're working on it."

Given these shortcomings, the team has been practicing diligently, and hopes to make it to the national competition. Their performance throughout this season has shown that national level seems to be a realistic goal.

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