

The Tower

Students Speak Out
Against new
attendance policy
see page 8

John Adams High School • South Bend, IN 46615

Industrial Arts provides Teacher of the Year

by Jason Ritter

R. Thomas Berry has been selected for this year's "Teacher of the Year" award. Mr. Berry teaches all levels of industrial arts here at John Adams, as well as various extra-curricular activities year 'round.

Mr. Berry started his teaching career at Central High School in 1965, after graduating from Indiana State University. He taught at Central until 1972, when he began his teaching at John Adams. He became the Industrial Arts Department chairman in 1980, and has kept that position since.

Mr. Berry is also very active in student extra-curricular activities as well. He was the founder of the John Adams Students Against Drunk Driving Club, as well as its faculty sponsor for five years. He has seen it grow, since then, from a handful of members to more than 250 participants: John Adams largest club. Mr. Berry then went on to found the first John Adams Fishing Club. It is a smaller group than S.A.D.D., but it remains very active with many trips and activities planned.

Mr. Berry feels fortunate to be teaching at Adams, and is thankful for the support he has received from Mr. Przybysz during his tenure here. He feels that teaching has many fulfilling personal rewards and said, "The greatest reward is when a student makes a com-



Mr. Berry shows his woodshop students the practical applications woodshop equipment. It is this kind of attention to detail, as well as his honest interest in his teaching that has earned Mr. Berry this year's John Adams Teacher of the Year Award.

plete change for the better."

Mr. Berry's students feel fortunate to have him teaching at Adams as well. One of Mr. Berry's woodshop students, Scott Bishop, said, "Mr. Berry is one of the best and most helpful teachers I have ever had. He likes to help each of his students as much as he can." Mr. Berry said his students like his classes because, "I try to make learning fun. The development of class projects comes from students' areas of interest."

Mr. Przybysz had some good things to say about Mr. Berry as well. He said about Mr. Berry, "He is extremely cooperative and willing to help with anything." It is well known that Mr. Berry, and his students also, have spent many hours around the school building and repairing whatever they can for other departments. Mr. Berry is well-liked by his students and colleagues, and gives the distinct impression of someone who really cares about what he is doing. Mr.

Przybysz also said, "I think he is very deserving of this recognition. He is an exceptional teacher and he really does care about his students."

Mr. Berry is very happy with his award, and is humbled when he thinks of the faculty he represents at John Adams with it. He believes in serving the school wherever he is needed, and commenting about his role as teacher he said, "I feel very fortunate to be able to share my instruction with others."

In Brief

The John Adams video yearbook has recently won first place in the Regional Media Fair, and will be going to the State meet April 22. Matt Radecki is the Editor-in-Chief of this experimental, but successful production.

Three members of John Adams Drama have been selected to serve as representatives for the 1988-98 State Thesbian Board. Mr. Joseph Good was selected as an adult representative, and Matt Radecki and Doug Booher were selected as student representatives.

Nevin Longenecker and Babette Maza were awarded Educator of the Year plaques by the "Executive Journal" magazine shortly after Lou Holtz was awarded Man of the Year.

John Adams Footprints has received a superior rating from the National Council of Teachers of English literary magazine. Footprints represented one of only two schools in Indiana that obtained the 90-100 point level of superior rating.

John Anella has been chosen to be a member of the Junior Rotarian. He will be representing John Adams at the Rotary meetings for the six-week period from February 22 to March 29.

The John Adams Future Problem Solving Team, consisting of Sue Austgen, Molly Duman, Matt Laherty, and Tom Killeen, has made it to the State Bowl competition. They placed first in their division and will advance to State on April 22.

Charles Mack and Ann Naftzger have both received a Certificate of Merit for the essays they wrote in the recent Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest.

Ida Primus will represent John Adams as an Indiana Academic All-star. The All-star program is sponsored by The Star of Indianapolis. She is one of only 40 people to be selected for this honor. She has selected Mrs. Maza as her most influential teacher, and the two will be receiving plaques at an honors banquet April 15.

Adams band and orchestra take silver and gold at state

by Stephanie Cirkovich

On February 18 the John Adams orchestra, along with a number of band members competed in the State Solo and Ensemble in Indianapolis. That Saturday morning, the 26 band and orchestra members arrived at Adams to catch a six o'clock bus to North Central High School. But getting up an hour early on a Saturday was just the final part of the demanding schedule these students had to arrange.

"State was much more difficult, but it was also an enjoyable experience."

-Danette Schick

Practice on the music started for most in January. This was in preparation for the District Solo and Ensemble which was hosted here at Adams. Yet some of these musicians had already been rehearsing steadily for up to a few months prior to the competition.

Their hard work paid off. In both District and State competitions, John Adams' musicians performed exceptionally and placed well in all areas.

At the District competition there were

five levels of performance, level one being the most difficult and demanding. Students competed with their own ability to perform their music, rather than with other students. When a musician played a piece from a required list in Level I and received a first place medal, he or she went on to State.

State solo and Ensemble was very different than District in that a soloist had to have his piece memorized. Also, there was only one level of performance. Danette Schick recalled, "State was much more difficult, but it was also an enjoyable experience."

Among the soloists that received a first place gold medal were senior Kerwin Watson, juniors David Beem and Mark Zielinski, and sophomore Clare McDonnell. Senior Christine Clark, junior Dawn Doverspike, sophomore Mike Wolosin, and freshman Stephanie Cirkovich were included in the first place medal winners for Ensembles.

The Adams orchestra received second place silver medals for commendable performances, although some members felt they had done better. Orchestra member Sylvia Chen said, "I feel that the orchestra deserved a first. It was a good performance."

Doing well at the State level is certainly something that all the Adams musicians that participated can be very proud about. Most of these musicians will return to state next year to give it their best effort once more.

National merit finalists announced

by Mark Bartholomew.

Envision a competition which begins with over one million participants, all competing for a large cash prize. The only tool these million-plus contestants are allowed to use is their mind. After a year, the number of participants going on to the next level of the competition has been whittled down to 50,000. Finally, after over two years of competition, the last few contestants are notified: these are the National Merit Scholarship Finalists.

Ida Primus, Lisa Primus, and Kathy Streider are the three Finalists at John Adams. Another finalist from Adams is Chris Scanlan, who graduated as a junior and is currently enrolled at the University of Chicago. Becoming a Finalist is the end of a long road. Ida Primus said, "Becoming a finalist was very nice. It was like a reward for a lot of hard work."

These students were selected on the basis of their PSAT and SAT scores. They entered the program by taking the PSAT in early on in their junior year. The number of Semifinalists is based on each state's percentage of the national total of high school graduates. This represents only about half of one percent of its senior class.

By achieving a high score, partici-



Lisa Primus, Ida Primus, and Kathy Streider have been selected as National Merit Scholarship Finalists. The three students were chosen on the basis of their PSAT and SAT scores.

Photo by Sara Szumaki

pants were classified as Semifinalists. Then, in February, those who fulfilled the competitions's requirements were notified that they had been selected as finalists. Students with a percentile ranking of over 95 percent, who didn't meet the Semifinalist requirements, were designated as Commended Scholars, but were out of the competition.

But the competition for our three Finalists is not yet over. They must now vie for the only 1,800, single-payment, \$2,000 scholarships that are available. A committee of college admissions officers and counselors will review each Finalist's academic records, extra-curricular accomplishments, scores from both the PSAT and SAT, recommenda-

tions, and self-evaluation. It's filling out a college application, again.

Few have what it takes to become a Finalist, and to put these few in perspective Mr. Rensberger said, "It takes someone with a lot of drive and self-discipline. This is the kind of person who truly works hard from 1st grade through college."

Researchers visit I.U.

by Sean Beimfohr

Most Adams students try to reduce stress on weekends by going to parties, movies, and basketball games. So why would four Adams students voluntarily submit themselves to extreme stress? Being the best at any activity always involves dedication and stress. Being the best in science research usually involves more stress and time commitment than any other sport or activity.

It all started with the four of us submitting to and then being selected by the Indiana Science Talent Search to go to IU Bloomington to present our research projects. From the eighty papers submitted, only thirteen students from throughout Indiana were selected for this honor. Molly Duman, Matthew Trinh, Christine Yarger, and Sean Beimfohr from John Adams have been working on research projects for many months, most of the time outside of school, carrying out their individual investigations and developing their displays.

Molly's investigation involved the use of brine shrimp and sponges as possible replacements for vertebrate animals in the testing of various pharmaceuticals. Matt tested some of the effects of passive smoke (the smoke not inhaled directly) on growth and the immune system in newborn mice. To measure the effects of steroids in reducing the allergic reactions of mice to ragweed pollen, Christine administered certain steroids to mice which were exercised on a treadmill daily. My project involved using various symbols in an attempt to enhance the learning ability of mice.

Each of us had to give a fifteen minute presentation before six members of the Indiana Science Talent Search Committee, all of whom hold high science positions at their respective universities. During the trip down, Matt, Christine, questions the judges might ask. Mr. Longenecker, who drove the four of us down, and I conversed most of the time, covering topics from personal interests to parapsychology.

We met our roommates after we checked into the Indiana Memorial Union Building. "It was really great to talk with my roommate from West Lafayette and socialize with the other finalists from Columbus, Evansville, and Hammond."

After giving our presentations, the twelve of us got to know each other better at the Ice Cream Social. After the social, Matt went out with five other finalists to downtown Bloomington and Molly, Christine, and I went out for pizza at Noble Romans. Among the four of us Friday night, we ran into several Adams graduates now attending IU. Needless to say, we were quite short on sleep that night.

On Saturday morning, all of the participants met in the State Room and set up their displays. For about an hour the judges walked around and talked to us individually, making suggestions and asking questions they hadn't had time for during our presentations. Before lunch, several of us went on a tour of the computer-loaded Inorganic Research Laboratories.

All of us assembled in a beautiful reception room for the Honors Luncheon. We were served a formal meal in an



Photo by Marc Wilson

Miss Dawn Doverspike is the winner of the Miss Indiana Teenager Pageant. The pageant was held last weekend at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Indianapolis.

elaborately decorated diningroom. "I loved the chicken casserole," said Matt Trinh. Several different speakers made some short remarks concerning the Search and the organizations involved. A presentation called: "Crystallography: The Nobel Science" was presented by the Senior Scientist of the Department of Chemistry at IU Bloomington. Then came the presentation of awards. Three of us were chosen as winners and one as runner-up. Matt received one of the two \$1000 scholarships offered through the

search.

"This is an unusual opportunity for students and senior researchers to discuss their investigations with each other on a one-to-one basis," said Mr. Longenecker. "We all collected data and wrote papers," said Molly, "but this gave us the opportunity to experience [this] different aspect of science research..."

Over the years thirty-two Adams students have been invited to take part in the program and we are glad to have been a part of this tradition.

Plays show new aspect to frosh and sophs

by Stephanie Cirkovich

Recently, the AP and honors english classes of Mrs. Maza, Mrs. Rickels, Mrs. Hamilton, and Mr. Good witnessed the Chamber Repertory Theater in Tour de Force, a collection of short plays based on various literary works.

These five plays were performed in the O'Laughlin auditorium at Saint Mary's College. Eighty-six students in all from Mrs. Maza's freshmen and Mrs. Rickel's sophomore AP, and Mr. Good's and Mrs. Hamilton's freshmen honor

than the other plays because of its humor."

The fourth play, "The Most Dangerous Game," was a suspenseful tale of a deranged man who hunts other humans to satisfy his passion for the excitement of a good hunt. However, this play was by far the weakest of the five. The weak quality of the production was due to the changing of the original story line, which is itself a classic. The altering of this classic was ultimately the downfall of the play.

"It was interesting to see short stories that we studied in English portrayed in a different way."

—Ernie Mudis

classes left second hour on March 15 to see short stories come to life. Works by such authors as Edgar Allen Poe, Saki, O. Henry, and others were dramatized by this talented troupe.

The first play was "The Fall of the House of Usher," a popular horror story by Edgar Allen Poe. Eerie visual and sound effects enhanced the performance and provided an interesting interpretation of one of Poe's most famous tales.

Next came "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," a dramatic one-act dealing with a dying man's last thoughts. He slips into a realm of fantasy in which he escapes his captors, only to be catapulted back into reality by the sting of a noose around his neck.

The third play was Saki's "The Mouse," which seemed to be the favorite of many. Freshman Ted Peltier said, "The Mouse" was more entertaining

The final skit was "The Ransom of Red-Chief," the story of a kidnapped boy. However, the tables are turned when the child's antics cause so much trouble for the kidnapers, that they actually end up having to pay the father to take him back. The story line seemed to be a bit juvenile for the audience, though. Many thought that it was a childish approach to the short story.

Ernie Mudis commented, "It was interesting to see short stories that we studied in English, portrayed in a different way."

When David Craig was asked about his favorite part of the day he replied, "The breadsticks!" He was referring to the final stop, Noble Roman's for a late lunch. After a full day of witnessing a wonderful professional production, it was back into the swing of things with sixth hour.



Root Photographers

Israelis bridge the gap

by Lisa Primus

On March 14, while most Adams students were attending their usual classes, a few students got a special look at life in a country half way around the world. Ifaat Sher and Elon Glassberg, two high school students from the Israeli Youth Delegation, spent the morning talking with students in four different classes here at Adams.

"The main thrust of this program and any exchange program is to exchange knowledge and information about them and about us," stated Bill Alyea, who coordinated their time at Adams.

Ifaat and Elon are travelling around the midwest to talk to American teenagers about life in Israel and to learn about life here in America.

"It's not so different," explained Elon.

Many students expected to hear that the two Israelis grew up in a place surrounded by soldiers and terrorists, but the pair made it clear that this was not the case.

"We live peaceful, quiet lives," said Ifaat. She and Elon explained that, contrary to what many Americans think, Israel is not at war, and life there is very

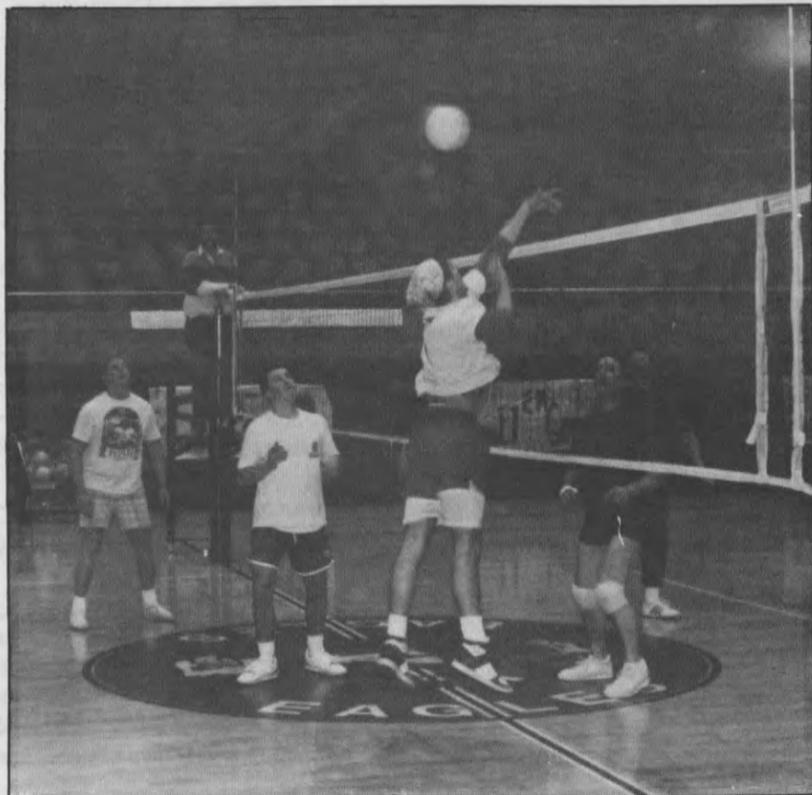
similar to life here in the States. The Israelis talked about everything from school to hiking, and they showed slides of their home towns and important sites in Israel. They even taught some words in Hebrew and played Israeli rock and rap music. They answered questions on everything from youth groups and jobs to whether McDavid's (Israel's McDonald's) flame broils or fries its hamburgers.

"It's always exciting to meet people from other countries," said junior Matt Radecki. "When you learn about them, you also learn about yourself."

The week in South Bend was the fifth of six weeks Elon and Ifaat are spending here in the U.S. They had already visited New York City, and had given presentations in Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Omaha. Next on the agenda were Rockford and Washington, D.C., and then back home to Israel. Despite the weeks of travelling, the two were still far from tired.

"I really like it here," said Ifaat. "It's beautiful, and the people are really nice."

"It's an experience," said Elon, and their visit was also an experience for the Adams classes who got to meet them. It was a nice chance to make the world a little smaller.



Sarah Szumski/Tower

Seniors triumphant

Senior Chris McGrew spikes the volleyball to a bewildered Dan Poe, of the teachers' volleyball team. The seniors went on to win the Stag Volleyball game, 3-1. The Stag Volleyball game was held on Thursday, March 16 in the Adams auditorium. This was the first senior-faculty volleyball game, and is expected to become an annual tradition.

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Physical abuse can be a two-edged blade

by Grant McDougal

"Spare the rod and spoil the child." This axiom is being reexamined today in light of Americans' growing concern about child abuse. It is unknown whether there is actually more child abuse now than before or whether it is merely better reported. The use of corporal punishment has been an accepted mode of discipline in American society since the day it was founded. Currently the United States is perceived to other countries in the world, perhaps stemming from the greater freedom, independence, and rebelliousness of American children as compared to the stricter cultures of the Far East and Europe.

Abuse which may be physical, emotional, or sexual in nature, involves injuring, mistreating, or hurting another individual. During the 17th and 18th centuries in England and in the Puritan settlements of colonial America, whippings and floggings of unruly children were common. Mrs. Carla Roberts, counselor at Adams, points out, "The Bible even supports corporal punishment when it suggests that if children are not hit, they will be spoiled." It was not until the 1800's that Americans recognized the problem by establishing agencies to deal with child abuse. Child labor laws were designed to eliminate the abusive use of children in the work force by establishing limited hours, types of employment, and environmental conditions. Legislation has also been passed to report child abuse. More laws are needed, as well as more stringent enforcement.

Mrs. Roberts suggests that child abusers were themselves abused as children. Many are dissatisfied with their own lives or suffer from mental illness or emotional problems. "To deal with their problems," Mrs. Roberts says, "the par-

ents transfer their anger to the child using him/her as a scapegoat." Such families are labeled dysfunctional since they do not operate correctly due to faulty communication and lack of emotional support from within or without the family circle. Another factor in child abuse is an alcoholic parent.

There are four main categories of child abuse. Physical abuse involves violence or force. Evidence of this form of abuse would be unexplained bruises, cuts, fractures, or burns. Physically abused children may be fearful of their parents or other adults, aggressive, or withdrawn. Sexually abused children may have difficulty walking or sitting, poor peer relationships, genital bruises, and resistance to changing for gym class.

Two of the most common and least recognized forms of mistreatment are neglect and emotional abuse. Neglect frequently results from the parents igno-

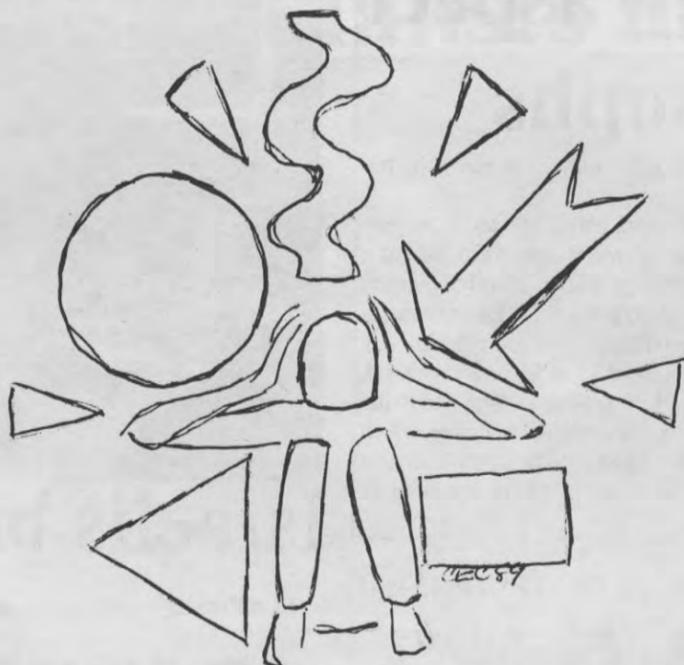
rance or poverty. The child is not provided with proper care or the basic essentials. Frequent hunger, poor hygiene, drug abuse, and fatigue may be signs of a neglected child. Emotional abuse usually takes the form of frequent and severe derogatory comments by the parent figures. This may result from parents setting unrealistically high expectations for their child or due to the frustration and stress caused by the outside world.

The problem with child abuse is not its recognition, but its solution. In a nationwide poll conducted by USA TODAY 43% of adults did not know where to go for help. Others were afraid to report abuse feeling they are interfering in someone's private life. In a recent case of abuse, Lisa Steinberg was bludgeoned to death by her adoptive father as her mother watched. This was not the first time she had been abused, but no one reported their concerns to the authorities. Howard

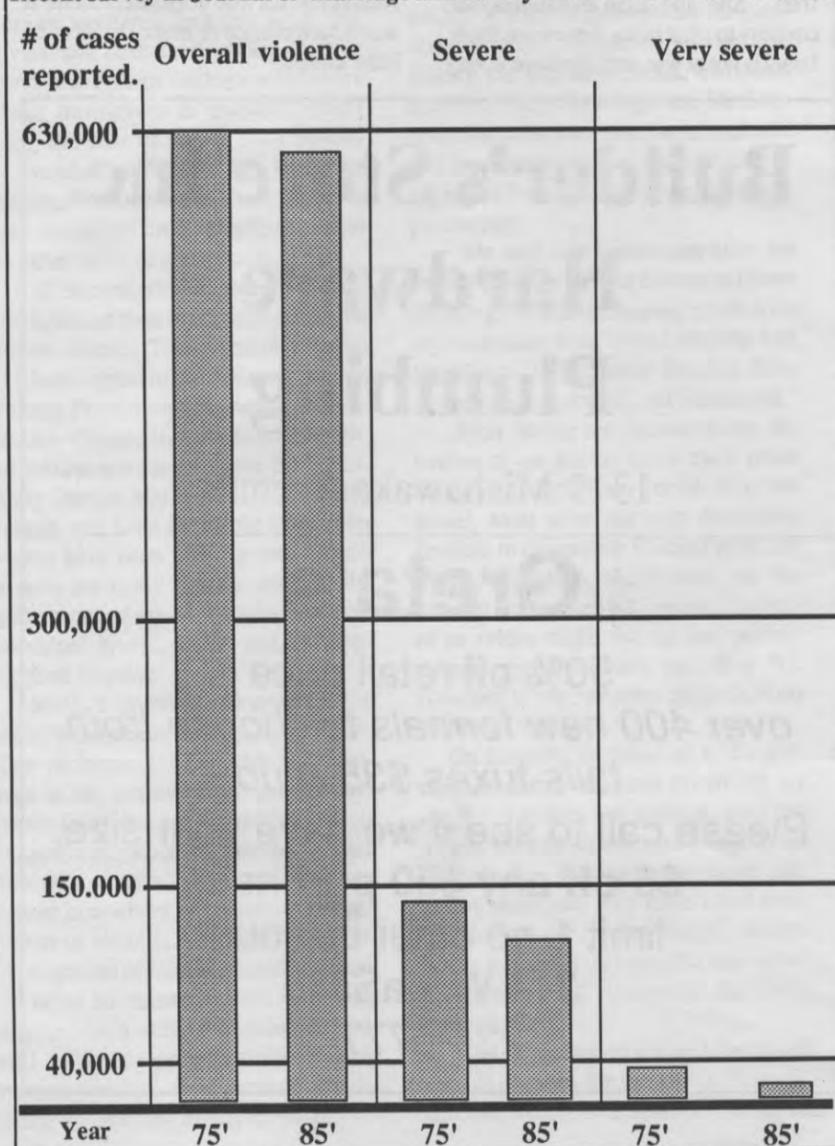
Davidson of the National Bar Associations National Legal Resource Center for Child Advocacy and Protection suggest offering help to the abuser rather than confronting the person with an accusation. Child abuse should be reported to the Welfare Department or a school counselor. There is a 24 hour National Child Abuse Hotline (800-422-4453) which will help the abuser or abused deal with their problem.

Mrs. Roberts suggests that abusers or potential abusers attend local parenting classes which will enable them to deal with the added stress of children. They should also attend lectures and workshops on the subject. After a child is born physicians, preschool teachers, etc. should closely monitor parents' responses to the child. Addressing the problem early will be most effective. Americans insist its citizens take lessons in English, spelling, and math, but no one trains them for the biggest responsibility of all—rearing children. According to Mrs. Roberts, "Too many families are unprepared to be parents since they have little or no training."

Through ad campaigns and reports in the news media, people are gaining an increasing awareness of the problem. To eliminate the problem, dysfunctional families should receive help from friends and social agencies. The legislature needs to pass laws making the physical abuse of one's own children at least as important as the abuse of a stranger. If someone brutally hits another person, he may be charged with battery. Unfortunately hitting a child is often perceived as a parental right. Child abuse can be eliminated through the cooperation of all levels of society, instructional programs, and emotional support. Americans need to spoil the rod and spare the child.



Recent survey in Journal of Marriage and Family shows the decrease of abuse.



Abused suffer psychologically

by Jay Zych

In the "Me" generation of the '80's, it's common to ignore problems that have no effect on our lives. This "see no evil attitude" is running in one particular social problem of our time. This great problem is child abuse. Abused children are many times simply written off and

Mental abuses, such as rejections or denial, are just as likely to cause social inadequacy as physical beatings.

forgotten about.

But what happens to these children? Where do they go? It just cannot be assumed that adulthood cures their childhood ills; the fact that they are no longer children doesn't change the fact that they were abused.

So somewhere out there are these people. And recent studies show that time does not necessarily cure their wounds. The fact is there are grave psychological repercussions that accompany abuse, are way beyond physical damage.

First of all, it has been shown that abused children have a much higher tendency to be maladjusted in school, especially in the first few years. This is important because these years are crucial to a person's developing personality, and

maladjustment here could lead to a worse problem later in life.

Abused children are also likely to be more violent in their youth. The violence may manifest itself in an aggressive negative attitude toward everyone or explosive fits of rage that go against a person's normal character.

One of the most alarming implica-

tions of abuse is suicide. Exact numbers are not available, but there does seem to be a higher incidence of suicide or thoughts about suicide among the abused to the point that their own life becomes worthless.

Physical abuses not only cause the problem, but mental abuses, such as rejections or denial, are just as likely to cause social inadequacy as physical beatings. Victims of mental abuse tend to be loners and are often troubled with the same thoughts about suicide as other battered children.

It's a shame that this problem even exists in our society. But if individuals realized that the problems of battered children do not go away with age, the puzzle is one step closer to a solution.

Bumper stickers catch attention

by Sarah Friend

Driving down the road can often seem like a mechanical chore- a task whose only purpose is to move from point A to point B. What is there to keep the monotony of this activity from "driving" one crazy? Fortunately there are some people out there who understand the importance of diversion, appreciate the value of humor, and genuinely care about the well-being of their fellow drivers. These are the Bumper Sticker Buffs of America.

Bumper stickers have become a vital part of this country's driving population. Not only do these 'mini-billboards' provide a pleasant diversion to neighboring vehicles, but they also offer some insight as to the mentality and personality of the driver. The three categories that bumper stickers fall into are humor, seriousness, and advertisement.

It is one of those subtle pleasures in life- that inward chuckle you experience upon discovering an amusing bumper sticker staring you in the face. What kind of person would want to send out the message "So many pedestrians so little time" or "If you don't like my driving, stay off the sidewalk." What proud car owner would boast "Don't laugh, it's paid for" or "My other car is a Rolls Royce." One of my personal favorites is "Let's not meet by accident." Funny bumper stickers range from silly to sar-



Bumperstickeritis is evident in senior Kristen Mitchell's car.

Photo by Marc Wilson

castic and cover everything in between.

On the flip side of the coin are the serious, issue oriented bumper stickers. Religion, politics, nuclear war, and wildlife preservation all fall under this category. Using subtle techniques and slyly worded phrases, bumper stickers of this nature can often be deceiving. For example, "You can't hug your children with nuclear arms" and "God is my copilot". Others are blunt and to the point, such as "Abortion is the worst form of

child abuse". Serious bumper stickers are often trendy, and their effectiveness may be short lived. Issues relating to politics are usually of this nature. "What's next Amy?" was popular in the late '70s criticizing Jimmy Carter's presidency, while Oliver North was a current source of bumper sticker phrases. Although serious bumper stickers' main intent is to leave a meaningful impression on passerbyers, they can also be somewhat humorous. "It only takes one nuclear

bomb to ruin my day" is funny at a glance, but it leaves the reader with something to think about as well.

A third kind of bumper stickers is for advertisement purposes. Radio stations, sports affiliations, and "Penny Savers" all constitute bumper stickers designed to promote a certain organization. Although they can be the most boring, they are also the most abundant. It is very easy to form opinions about people who post these kind of stickers. "Use your head-Play soccer" obviously belongs to a soccer player, while "Teachers have class" is most likely a teacher's!

Bumper stickers are not always as harmless as they seem. Many people have acquired a disease related to an addiction to bumper stickers. It is called bumperstickeritis and is characterized by bumper to bumper bumper stickers. Scientific studies show that 1 out of every 25 drivers suffers from this disease. Luckily there is no real danger involved in over-indulgence into the world of bumper stickers. In fact, it is probably the most healthy diseases in existence!

Bumper stickers are a great way to overcome an insecurity problem, and they can be a lot of fun. Whether they are used for advertisement, are meant to be thought provoking, or if they are just meant to be funny, they are one of the greatest forms of driving diversion around.

Grades remain important

by Dan Bonham

As the third grading period comes to an end, and the school year winds down, several students are beginning to feel that crunching question concerning the future. The beginning of the second semester signifies many things for the graduating seniors. It shows them the light at the end of the tunnel as they realize that their days are numbered. It is now that many seniors are finally looking and judging the way they treated the first few years of their high school careers.

A majority of these students may find that they aren't extremely pleased with their accomplishments during the first year spent in high school. The freshman year, for many, becomes a rat race for popularity during which many choose to somewhat ignore their homework. For these students, the first taste of final grades can be a rude awakening. The second semester often brings new vows and resolutions pertaining to higher achievements which usually last at least a week. Spring sports are a nightmare for this freshman who normally chooses a varsity letter over an A in algebra. The year end grades are seldom any different than the first semester's for this unhappy camper.

If, by any chance, this same negligent fifteen year old undergoes even a slight change in maturity, the grades will quite possibly climb up the scales. This is usually the result of the student's tendency to relax and seriously consider the future. (One year of high school experience can also be very helpful). Many students do pick up the pace as sophomores in an attempt to cover up the

marks on the previous year's transcript. This also becomes the year where many of the students decide to either study or smoke cigarettes outside the 24 hour coffee shop. If college is a prospect for the student, maturity kicks in and propels the grades to A and B levels.

For many, junior year becomes the time for decisions. College pamphlets are mailed and meetings with counselors become commonplace. Some of the lucky ones may even be contacted by their local recruiter. The term "S.A.T." becomes dreaded by those who will eventually spend hour after hour memorizing their Webster's dictionary. These tests can cause great pain for many as they come to grips with the fact that the combined 650 won't cut it for the scholarship to Yale. In addition to all the testing and visiting and coin-flipping that is involved with choices considering the future, many more routine parts of life begin to suffer such as grades. This usually isn't as great a concern for many juniors because the experience of budgeting time has taught them to study and do homework, but the peak grades of sophomore year are rarely matched.

Finally, as seniors many students begin to feel that familiar laziness that once visited them when they were mere freshmen. Many seniors consider themselves lucky to finish their dreaded applications before the dreaded "senioritis" hits. Most people think that seniors only become lazy as the warmer weather strikes home, but "senioritis" is a common phenomenon that actually surfaces several weeks before the first semester finals are taken. It is now that many student begin to feel weak in the knees at the realization that many of their choice

colleges are requesting a copy of their first semester grades.

Clearly then, many seniors are now desperately seeking A's in impossible classes such as physics. These A's are needed to step up their G.P.A. for their

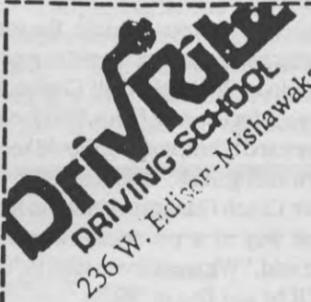
prime colleges. It is now that the seniors need to stop and realize that it wouldn't be necessary if he got an A in typing freshman year. So, to all underclassmen who read this paper; it's never too early to take high school seriously.



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Eagles look to repeat as conference champions

by Guy Loranger

The John Adams baseball team is looking forward to another successful year under the experienced eye of Head Coach Len Buczkowski. Several varsity lettermen are returning from last year's squad that went their first 14 games undefeated and soared as high as third in the A.P. State Poll. The experienced Eagles hope to match last year's success and recapture

We'd like to repeat as conference champions this year. Our main goal is to win the N.I.C.; I also think we should have at least a 20-win season."

— Coach Buczkowski

the N.I.C. championship crown.

"I feel really positive about our chances for success this year. Most of us have been playing together since freshman year and I think we've really come together as a team. There are no individuals on our team, and we can count on each other to come through in the clutch," commented senior Doug Naylor.

The Eagles pitching staff will be lead by returning All-N.I.C. performer, senior Rob Bennett. Helping out on the mound as well will be the strong arms of Kevin Brisson and Andy Rassi.

Depth and experience will be a tremendous asset this season for the Adams



Kirk Riffel gets in his practice cuts while Kevin Brisson awaits his turn at the plate in preparation for their season opener.

defense as they return varsity starters at virtually every position. Manning the bases are first baseman Shane Bennett, Joe Jones at second, and in the hot spot at third is Peter Tulchinsky. Counted on for both offensive and defensive stability will be four-year starter Gary Watkins at short-stop.

The outfield for the Eagles remains intact from last year's squad. Experienced seniors Rick Bortone, Doug Naylor, and Brian Simpson will provide the necessary hustle for the defense.

The team also hopes to put some runs on the scoreboard as well with a surplus of offensive firepower. Most likely to lead-off the hitting lineup will be the reliable Simpson. However, the power hitting Watkins and Tulchinsky will be counted on to clean up.

The Eagles were tested in their first game by a Marian squad last Tuesday. The team's first ever defense of the annual Adams Invitational will be held on the line less than a month away in April, and then it is on to a tough N.I.C. Schedule.

"We'd like to repeat as conference champions this year. Our main goal is to win the N.I.C.; I also think we should have at least a 20-win season," stated Coach Buczkowski.

Pete Tulchinsky summed up the general atmosphere of the baseball program best when he said, "We hope to improve as the season progresses, and reach our potential by Sectionals. One of our main goals this year is to do better in the Sectionals than we did last year, and go on to Regionals, and then STATE!"

Photo by David Atkins

Athletes fire up for spring seasons

Softball

John Adams Girls' Softball is primed for an outstanding 1989 season. Although the numbers will be split with a new softball "B-team," there are enough great players to go around.

This year, there will be a B-team included in the softball program. With the incoming freshman and first year players added to the talented players from last year, it seems as though the B-team is a good prospect. Senior varsity player Mari Whitcomb, about the B-team stated, "The new B-team looks as if it has great potential. Every player seems to be improving daily, and it is almost inevitable that they will have a successful season."

Varsity is a good prospect as well. With all but one of last year's players eligible to play this year, it seem unlikely that they can do anything but improve. Sophomore varsity player Ann Naffziger said, "The team has a positive outlook for this season; having only lost one senior from last year's team, we are hoping to improve on last year's record."

With high hopes and a surplus of talented players, J.A. softball is a new force to be reckoned. Junior varsity player Michelle Walbert summed up the thoughts of most of the team. She stated, "This year's softball season looks as though it will be a good one for both the varsity and B-team. We should have a great season."

Golf

With three of last year's top four players returning, expectations are high for the 1989 John Adams golf team. Although Steve Ziolkowski, who held the

season, will be missed, returning lettermen Joe Dennen, Kevin Kaeppler, and Bobby Bushman have the talent to make up for his loss. Senior Reed Bingamen, junior Mark Zielinski, and sophomore Brian Hoedema are expected to compete for the remaining varsity spots. "We will be very competitive in practice which will help us improve everyday," commented Hoedema.

The Eagles have a long road ahead of them if they are to successfully defend their Northern Indiana Conferene championship and improve on their runner-up finish in the state tournament. Along with a tough conference schedule, coach Jerry Flanagan's Eagles must also face perennial state powerhouses St. Joe and Warsaw. Several invitationals also dot the schedule including LaPorte, LaVille, Wawasee, the Kaeppler Invitational at Morris Park and the Marian Invitational at South Bend Country Club. "We have a lot of tough matches but they should really help us prepare for the tournament," said Hoedema.

Despite the rigorous schedule, the veteran Eagles will be well prepared to make a return trip to Plainfield Golf Course in Indianapolis for the state finals. "With our experience and talent, nothing should keep us from winning State," said senior Kevin Kaeppler. Coach Flanagan seemed to feel the same way at a pre-season meeting when he said, "We went down state in '88 and we'll be just fine in '89."

Track

After last year's disappointing 1-9 record, the John Adams boys' track team hopes to return to the top of area competition in 1989. The loss of 800 meter runner Lance Harris could hurt the team in

the middle distances, but they have a great group of talented runners to make up for his loss.

Senior Prescott Woodard will set the pace for the veteran Eagles in the 200 and 400 meters as well as in the long jump. Seniors Gus Giger, Chad Taylor, and Kerwin Watson will also be key performers along with junior George Davis and Terrance Scott, sophomores Anthony Day, Gabe Golba and Ian Gluck, and freshman David Craig.

Fourth-year head coach Carl Hamilton is optimistic about his team's chances for a successful season. "We have some good leadership and hopefully we'll improve on last year's record," he commented. "We could surprise some people."

Girls' track coach Randy Isaacson takes and experienced team into his fourth season at the helm. Seniors Cathy Cane and Kasi Bolden, two of the best sprinters in the area, Julie Rickhoff, and distance runners Gina Kelly and Angela Davis will provide the leadership for this talented squad. Junior hurdler Wendy Biggs and distance runner Sue Austgen will provide support on the track while LaTasha Taylor and Julie Auten will be strong in the field events throughout the season.

The experience of the 1989 girls' track team will be a vital asset to help lead them through a tough conference schedule and prepare them for post-season meets.

Tennis

For the 89' school year, the John Adams Girl's Tennis Team expects a rebuilding year resulting from the loss of last year's seniors.

The Eagles are paying the price now for a varsity team that was comprised primarily of seniors considering that this year's

squad doesn't have any at all. "We'll just have to make up for the lack of experience with extra effort and determination," stated junior Julie Short, who is one of the three returning juniors on a team that boasts only five returning players.

One bright aspect of the upcoming year is a heavy freshman class that will bring a flood of talent in the next few years. "I really see potential for this year's team once we have the chance to get used to the high school level of play," commented freshman prospect, Kelly Keiser, who is a promising asset to this year's team. In addition to Kelly Keiser, the other incoming freshman are Kristi Miller, Marci Mechling, Meredith Mickels, Misty Annis, and Tia Newbill.

The sophomore class should be an important factor as well with returning players Jessica Kapsa, Katrina Kimbel and rookies Rachel Friend, Cecilia Emery, Jenny Yoder, and Sarah Hayes.

Since they're aren't any seniors present in the squad this season, the juniors will have to provide the leadership. Returning are juniors Julie Short, Susan Smith, and Gretchen Long. Jane Gardner is the sole newcomer in the junior class.

The lady netters practice everyday under the watchful eye of veteran coach Cleo Kilgore. Their season opener is against Plymouth on April 17. Even with the lack of upperclassmen, the players have managed to keep a positive attitude about this season. "I think that there are strong possibilities for a winning season, and if we remain optimistic, we should do well," said sophomore Jessica Kapsa.

These articles were researched and written by Jason Kelly, Jason Ritter, and Jay Zych.

Athletes await decision over soccer controversy

By Brendan Addis
sports editor

Soccer has become one of the fastest growing sports in the Midwest. So far, it hasn't been recognized as an Indiana High School Athletic Association sport, like football. But many high schools in northern and southern Indiana have admitted soccer in to their athletic programs.

A problem arises, though, when a northern team wants to schedule a game with a team down south. Soccer is acknowledged as a fall sport in the southern part of the state and a spring sport in the north.

For several years, solutions have been sought. Last year, a committee was formed to assess the situation and come up with a proposal to present to the IHSAA suggesting soccer as either a fall sport or a spring sport.

But the investigation conducted by the committee was confidential, keeping athletes as well as coaches in the dark. This unsettled area athletes who participate in a fall sport and in soccer, because if soccer were to be acknowledged as a fall sport throughout the state, they'd have to choose between the two sports.

"I'm not sure what I would do. It would be the most difficult decision of

my athletic career," said sophomore David Klotz, who participates in tennis as well as in soccer. "It's a decision which I hope I won't have to make."

Several schools in Indiana do not have soccer teams, since the IHSAA has not recognized it as a varsity sport. But if it were a state sport, several schools might start a soccer program. "There are approximately 125 schools in the state now which recognize soccer, and if it became a state sport, I could easily see another 50 to 60 schools start a program immediately," stated head soccer coach Jim Tallman.

But when would this decision come into effect? Many changes would come about as a result. Schedules would have to be changed, and a tournament would have to be added at the end of the season.

At this point, the proposal will need to be presented to the IHSAA before any such questions will be answered. Recently, the committee announced a proposal for soccer to become a state sport in the spring of 1991. This does not ensure that soccer will become a state sport, because the final decision is made by the IHSAA.

Most likely, though, younger players on high school teams will have a state tournament to look forward to in the

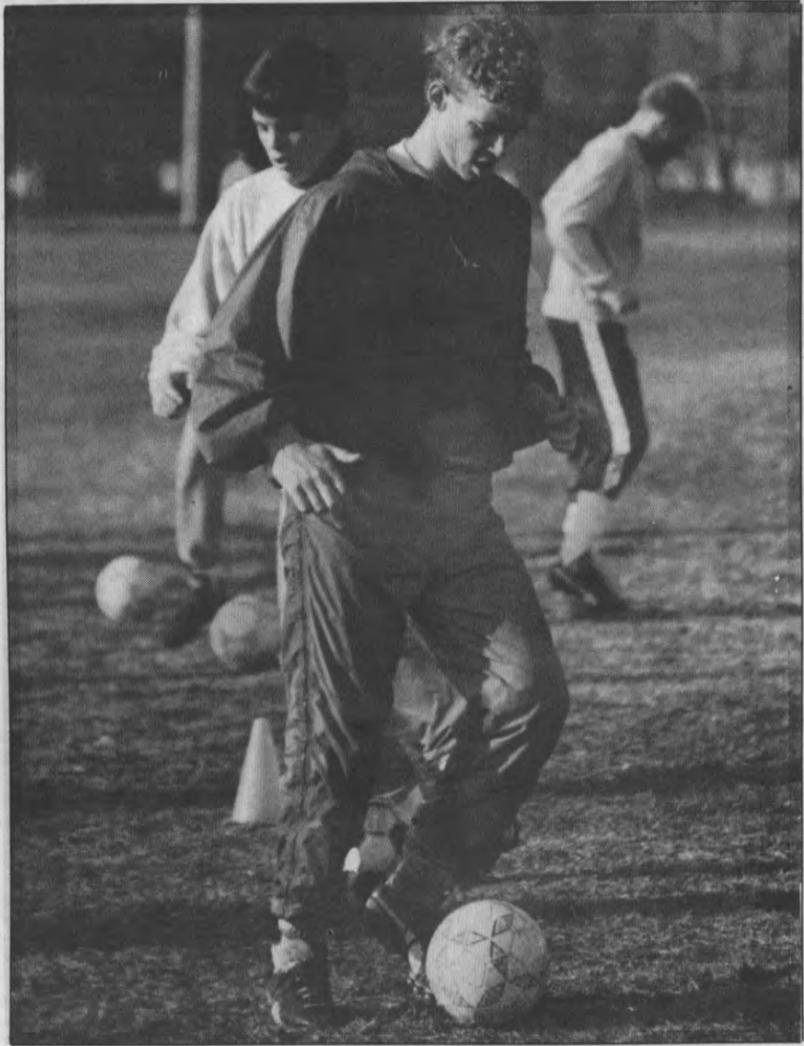


Photo by David Atkins

Mark Wilson practices his skills while preparing for the opener against Munster.

next few years. "I welcome the opportunity to compete with the teams in south-

ern Indiana," said sophomore soccer player James Quinn.

Lacrosse enters into Midwest sports scene

By Matt Nelson

Although it's popularity is limited in this part of the country compared to the eastern coast, a new high school sport is being introduced to South Bend. This spring, St. Joseph's High School has organized a lacrosse team as a club sport. The team will compete with several opponents from Illinois and Michigan and pay a schedule of ten games. The team was started by St. Joe students and will be coached by Notre Dame players.

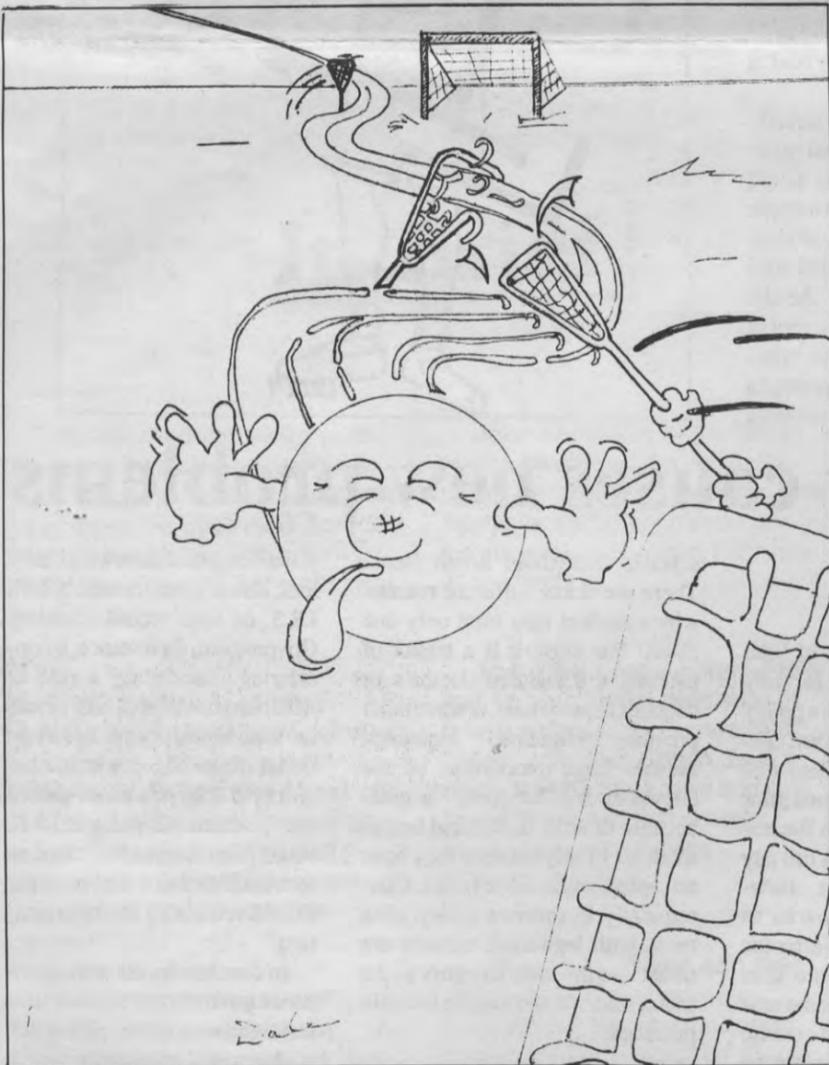
The sport of lacrosse is played with a rubber sponge ball, somewhat smaller than a tennis ball. Each player carries a long stick, or crosse, which is equipped with a sort of pocket of tough cord and rawhide lacings at one end to catch and carry the ball. Also, each player wears a helmet with a wire face mask to protect himself. Additional equipment may include padded gloves, arm pads, or shoulder pads.

The playing field is 110 yards by 60 yards with a goal at each end measuring 6' by 6'. Each team consists of ten players at a time. The quarters start with a face-off between the opposing centers

in which the referee places the ball between their sticks and both try to gain control of it. The ball is then worked down field in order to set up a possible goal. Opponents may knock the ball out of a player's crosse, or check the player but only from the front. The goalkeeper is allowed to use his hands to knock a ball away, and is the only player allowed to do so. Any violation of a rule may result in a player sitting out for one to three minutes or the opposing team may be allowed to put the ball in play. This is known as a free throw.

The Indians hope that the sport might spread to other local schools so they could better compete with teams more on their level. "I've seen Culver play, and their level of play is much higher than ours," stated Sean Murphy of St. Joe, "but before we can look forward to success we need to get experience."

The team will continue to practice and has its first game sometime in April. Like all sports, though, lacrosse takes some time to master. Whatever the case, the sport will offer the players a new challenge and bring a new dimension to local high school sports.



The Tower

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Students Speak Out

"It appears that the teachers are grasping at straws with this attempt to deal with the attendance problem. I feel that this, like a lot of other policies, will soon be forgotten."

Gabrielle Mickels, senior

"Just because they're put in I.S.S. doesn't mean they'll stop. They're still getting what they want—to be out of class."

Jenny Moreland, freshman

"Students shouldn't have that much of a problem getting an exit pass before they leave. I don't think the new policy will bring about much of a change in the attitudes of skippers, but it probably won't be a real hassle for those who don't."

Gretchen Long, junior

"The administration should ask the students what they want. Perhaps they could come to an agreement."

Jennifer Yoder, sophomore

"I think that the attendance office will be bringing more work upon themselves in order to enforce a policy that isn't really going to have that much of an effect anyway."

Mike Schlemma, junior

"I agree with the policy in a sense that it will probably help to crack down on skipping a little. However, sometimes emergencies do arise where a student may need to leave school; and just because he/she didn't get an exit pass doesn't constitute punishment."

Kristin Mitchell, senior

"I think that this policy could cause a lot of student and parent complaints. Also, kids may start missing whole days instead of single periods."

Kenisha Hesbin, sophomore

"If something important came up, I would not be able to leave because of this policy."

Jodi Dobosiewicz, freshman

"The introduction of this or any new policy is ridiculous because in time the administration will get more and more lax about enforcing it, just like others in the past. What really should be done is to enforce the old policies better."

Liz Sweeney, junior

"I don't think this policy will really affect that many people. It's probably more of an attempt to intimidate students than to actually punish them."

Matt Frankiewicz, senior

"If I am gone due to a legitimate excuse, the school has no right to put me in I.S.S. The only thing that will change because of this policy is that people will start forging notes to get exit passes instead of admits."

Laura Hammonds, sophomore

"There will never be a policy which could prevent skippers. Where there's a will there's a way."

Julie Shroeder, sophomore

School cracks down

By Matt Nelson
opinion editor

Being a student, my natural reaction to the new one hour absence policy was much in line with other students. I was quick to take a negative attitude and hold the policy as another needless step towards trying to improve school attendance. However, whether one disagrees with the policy or not, there is another view to be considered in the matter. That is, the view of the administration, whose many attempts at cutting down "skipping" seem to be ending in vain.

Although at first the policy may seem rather strict and unfair, it is important to keep in mind that the administration is targeting the people who are habitually missing only a single class. The problem of "skipping" is one that the school has always had to deal with, and the current regulations do not seem to be effective enough. This may be due to the fact that the students have simply found a way to beat the system and evade their punishment. Whatever the case, the one thing that stands clear is that the administration had to do something, and this policy is what they thought was best.

Some students have already speculated on the fact that missing two or three periods would be easier to miss than just a single period. However, if a student were to come back to school after missing two periods, he/she would run the risk of being caught by a security guard. Also, missing three periods would prompt a call to be made to the students

home. The administration must then trust that the parents would inform the school as to whether or not the absence was legitimate. Either way, the student would be caught and a suiting punishment could be imposed.

The question still remains, however, as to whether or not this new stipulation will be any different from others like it presented in the past. "I don't think the new policy will really change anything," commented junior Mary Kate Kelly, "students will probably find a way

around it." The administration, though, is confident that the new policy will make a difference.

When it comes down to one point, the policy is simply a question of responsibility. Students are responsible for abiding by the rules that are given to them. When they do not, policies such as this must be imposed. So, before complaining about the harshness of tighter school regulations, perhaps the students should consider who brought them on in the first place.



Policy causes new problems

By Guy Loranger

The administration of John Adams High School recently adopted a new attendance policy concerning single period absences. The policy stated that unless an exit pass is issued prior to the missed class, then the student will be subject to a full day of in school suspension. However, the policy does allow for an excuse to be brought in after the student has missed more than one class period. To put the new rule into more clear and concise language: A student might be able to skip a whole day of school and obtain a false admit with no trouble; but someone else who misses only one period and has a legitimate excuse may have to spend the day in I.S.S. Although the administration seems to think this policy is a good one, there are several loopholes and faults to be found in it, as well as the severity of the punishment.

A single period absence is an all too common occurrence in

schools throughout South Bend. There are many different reasons why a student may miss only one class. For most, it is a matter of meeting a scheduled doctor's or dentist's appointment, or some other previous obligation. However, another large proportion of the absentees are "skipping" a class because of tests, unfinished homework, or simply because they have no aspirations in school at all. Consequently, by this new policy, even those with legitimate excuses are thrust into the same category as the truant students and may be unfairly punished.

The severity of the punishment is ludicrous as well. It is hard to find the logic in being condemned to an entire day of I.S.S. when a student may in fact be innocent. However, the administration will be reluctant to swallow their pride due to the adopted "no exceptions" rule that goes with the policy. Thus, many undeserving people may be punished in order to make examples for the people who should.

In addition, there are many

school organizations which may look down upon members with I.S.S. on their record. Student Government, for instance, is considering introducing a rule in which anyone put in I.S.S. would be immediately expelled. National Honor Society is another group in which a clean record may be essential. A day in I.S.S. could raise serious questions as to whether or not that member should remain in the organization.

In conclusion, the new attendance policy is just another useless tightening of the rules which students will eventually find a way to sidestep. Many students will probably realize that missing an entire afternoon of classes would be much easier to account for than missing a single period. The school's intentions are noble, but fall short of intelligent. Therefore, the administration should find some other modification to the attendance policy; and take more time to consider just who their actions may be affecting.