

### SAT scores

The result on SAT scores shows Adams ranked second compared to other area schools. For details concerning these scores, see the opinion page.

### Senior ballplayers

The Sports Page pays a tribute to Adams' senior basketball players. Congratulations on a great season!

### Live from France

Mr. Brady's fourth hour French class is developing a new sense of learning. A detailed description of their filming is on the feature page.

# The Tower

March 21, 1986 Vol. 46 No. 10

John Adams High School

808 S. Twyckenham Drive

South Bend, IN 46615



Mr. Thomas' art students add a touch of variety to the previously drab band hallway with their artistic skill.

Mike Szymanowski / Tower

## Mural adds color to Adams

By Sharna Chapman

A group of students under the direction of Mr. Robert Thomas have been busy painting a mural located on the far east hall, outside of the band room and the swimming pool. The mural, which will eventually cover one hundred and one feet of the wall, represents the last ten years and the important events which have occurred.

The mural is connected by the backdrop of the United States flag. Further unity of the ten years is provided by the color scheme. The whole mural is to be painted in red and blue, and mixtures of both, such as pink and violet. As Mr. Thomas explained, "We decided to use red and blue because they are the school colors, and also to represent the flag."

The mural is divided into ten parts with each part representing one year, starting with 1976 and continuing through 1986. They presently have Jimmie Carter, the beginning of J.R. and "Dallas," Wilt Chamberlin, the Bicentennial, and "A Chorus Line," the most popular musical of 1976. The death of Elvis Presley, the building of the Century Center, and the beginning of the Star

Wars saga were represented in 1977. The creation of Garfield, the election of John Hiler, the gas prices going up, and the beginning of the shuttle are represented in 1978. They also have the death of John Lennon, the election of President Reagan, and the releasing of the Iranian hostages represented in the mural.

The mural, however, is not even near finishing. As one junior, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "I don't think we'll ever get finished this year." Many drawings are still in the planning stages, such as popular cartoons and rock groups. They are planning on having Mickey Mouse's anniversary, as well as Pac-Man Incorporated in the mural. The mural hasn't even been named yet and Mr. Thomas says that he is open for suggestions. The mural does, however, have a definite ending. The last drawing for the 1986 section will be a tribute to the seven astronauts who were killed in the shuttle explosion.

If everything goes on schedule, the mural should be completed within a few months. The artists have already done quite a lot of work on it in the past month. Soon, the school will have a beautiful and colorful tribute while allowing budding artists to develop their skills.

## NHS members play Safety Pup

By Liz Panzica

On Saturday, March 8th, John Adams National Honors Society volunteers assisted the National Children's Safety Council in the prevention of child abductions.

Some NHS members working in space provided by University Park Mall issued child identification cards. These cards contain vital information about the child along with the thumbprint and a picture. The information is designed for the parents to use in times of emergency. The cards

contain records that would be used as an aid in the event of a child's disappearance. The NHS workers weighed and measured the children and filled out card data.

Other John Adams NHS volunteers dressed as Safety Pup and handed out pamphlets and brochures. Safety Pup is employed by the National Child Safety Council to teach children about safety procedures. Safety Pup is displayed on everything from milk cartons to posters. Meeting Safety Pup in "person"

really made an impression on the young children present.

National Honor Society felt the National Child Safety Council was an important project that deserved the attention of the community. The council, made up of local chapters, addresses the problem of child safety. The non-profit group stresses prevention as a way to stop the number of child abductions. Lisa Sager, NHS member, felt the group "made parents aware of the best way to protect their children, by providing safety information."

## What's News

### Research students present findings

Zev Winicur, Stephan Chen, Chris Coussens, Don Marti and Guy Hamilton were invited by Indiana University Medical School to present their research findings before a science and review board on March 7 and 8. Of the twenty-four students invited to the school from all over Indiana, Adams ranked in the state with five students.

### Junior Kiwanian named

The Junior Kiwanian from March 6 to April 10 will be Sarah Wilhelm. Sarah's many activities include editor of the 1986 Yearbook. She will represent John Adams at the weekly Kiwanian meeting.

### Junior Rotarian chosen

Patrick Woodard has been named Junior Rotarian for the period of April 2 to May 7. Patrick plays on the football and soccer teams and is treasurer of the senior class. Rotarian is a service organization of local adults.

### ISU's Summer Honors program

Indiana State University's 1986 Summer Honors program will give talented high school students first-hand experience as college students by offering seminars in sixteen fields of study. Seminars are: June 15-27—aerospace, chemistry, health sciences, World War Two history, physics, and Spanish; July 13-25—art, computer science and mathematics, English, French, government and politics, and theater; July 27-August 8—archeology, business, computer science and mathematics, electronics and computer technology, and radio-t.v.-film. Students earn two hours of University credit and may compete for an ISU Talent Grant. For more information, contact the guidance office.

### Sneak preview of college life

Sophomores and juniors who rank in the top fifty percent of their class may sneak a preview of college life by attending a new program at Indiana State University this summer. ISU's Intro Program, July 6-12, will offer structured programs in career counseling, financial aid, housing, student life, and recreation. The cost is \$100 for resident students. For more information contact ISU, Instructional Services, Alumni Center 213, Terre Haute, IN 47809, (812) 237-2334. Applications are due by June 16.

### Maple competes in Speech Sectional

Michelle Maple placed fourth at the Speech Sectional held at Elkhart Memorial High School in the category of broadcasting. She will go on to the speech regionals at Lakeland on March 22.

### Kennedy wins award

Marco Kennedy, who represented Adams in the VFW "Voice of Democracy" Contest, was awarded a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond for his fourth place Northern Indiana District placing. He was presented the award by Charles Schaefer on March 13th.

### "Footprints" receives state award

The John Adams Literary Magazine "Footprints" was awarded an excellent rating in the state of Indiana for 1985. They were chosen by the National Council of Teachers of English.

# French students ham it up for videos

By Paula Makris

February, supposedly the last month of winter, is over. Waiting out the long rainy (or possibly snowy) weeks between March first and spring break, however, becomes even more of an agony to the average student and teacher. Winter at least gave rise to the occasional hope for a snow day, but all spring provides is mud. Mud days being rare in northern Indiana, it is fortunate that some teachers recognize the need for a break in the normal course of study and try something new. Or student teachers, as the students in Mr. Brady's fourth year French class will tell you.

Miss Lisa Johnston, Mr. Brady's student teacher, having just finished a unit on French business letters, began, as her last project, to introduce "la comedie francaise" to her students in the form of

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Moliere's play, *L'Avare*. The class had dealt with classic French literature before, in the reading of two dramatic plays, *Andromaque* and *Le Cid*. While these works were not unappreciated, they did tend to get confusing, a bit like reading Shakespeare that had somehow been translated into French.

Used to reciting lines and discussing themes, the class was pleasantly surprised when Miss Johnston announced that with *L'Avare* the students would be acting out the scenes and making videos of them. Miss Johnston explains this idea by saying, "I wanted to do

something different. Right now I get to practice teaching, so it's a good time to try out all my ideas and see how they work." In the videos, the lines are taken straight from the play (all done in French, of course,) and the students are dressing the parts, or modernizing their costumes.

On the students' inclination toward acting, Miss Johnston says, "Let's face it; everyone's a ham and I know this is something that they'd all like to do." Quite possibly she is referring to junior Guy Hamilton, who, in his role as *la Fleche*, drops his pants while smiling for the camera. Of course he is wearing

boxer shorts; these videos are rated G. Each student has different ideas on the way they'd like their video done. Senior Don Marti envisions his premiering on MTV; Moliere set to music, "I was going to try to find some French punk rock, but I guess we're going to have to use Mozart instead, which is really more applicable."

The videos, however, are not just a break for the class. Miss Johnston is using them in correlation with discussing the play and writing papers on it, hoping that they will generate more interest. Junior Sue Quimby's reaction supports this hope. "It takes the monotony out of the reading and writing. I might actually understand it now." There will be a screening of the videos on Miss Johnston's last day with the French class, but even after she departs, her students will be with her on film.

# Spring has sprung and thoughts are on break

By See-Eng Phan

The groundhog has emerged from his hole to tell us that Spring is soon to come. Spring officially began on March 20, but the groundhog's shadow has predicted otherwise.

The temperatures are hanging above 30 degrees during the day, most of the snow has temporarily melted, and the sun even peeks out from behind the clouds once in a while. The days are getting longer. This means more time to enjoy the outside atmosphere, less time to sit inside and wait for the weather to warm up a bit.

Some vigorous people who have already begun to leave the signs of winter behind are the athletes. The track team starts their practices outside in the 30 degree and above weather. "Spring means track, and track means spring. I wouldn't have it any other way," states senior, Jay Yazel. Soon, softball, baseball, soccer, girls tennis, and golf will be moving outside to welcome spring and "no more winter coats."

Instead, the fashion trend will be moving toward white and pale colors, Hawaiian prints, and light weight fabrics. In and out of school students and teachers will be donning shorts, skirts, T-shirts, sandals, tank tops, OPs, cotton pants, swimsuits, and vests. "I look forward to spring because I can shed my bulky sweaters and winter coat and enjoy the new line of spring and summer fashions," comments one enthusiastic student.

The fashion forecasts a warm, early spring and so does nature. Everyone knows that "April showers bring May flowers." The green grass is peeping through the snow, and the trees are budding. The geese are flying home from Florida, and the robins are chirping their familiar tunes. Spring just wouldn't be the same without robins and other feathered friends.

On the less fortunate side, spring always seems to carry in those dreaded sniffles, allergies, and flu bugs. The deceiving beauty of spring is actually the cause of the suffering; the pollen, the disease carrying bugs, and

the wet weather are all a part.

A definite cure for this suffering is the week of March 22-March 30—SPRING BREAK!! Some lucky people are escaping to such exotic places as the sandy beaches of Hawaii, the swamps of Florida, the deserts of California,

the ocean breezes of a cruise, or even the jungles of the Amazon. Other not so fortunate people are staying close to home. But not to fear, anyone can have parties, go shopping, or swim in a refreshing pool. Or you could just relax and stare at the TV set if all your

friends are gone, or you just finished reading your last good book for the fourth time. Of course, if all of the airlines are booked and the hotels are filled, you can sit on the toilet and imagine yourself to be anywhere you want to be.

But, back to reality... "Spring has sprung, the grass has ris'. I wonder where the robin is. "So as soon as the robins start chirping their tunes, we can all look forward to the melodious sound of the words "spring vacation."



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# Farewell to four outstanding seniors

By Karl Roemer

Jeff Mitchell is identical to Chrobot in many ways. Very good friends, they both starred in football, both took over 50% of the shots this year, and both were all-NIC. But unlike Chrobot, Mitchell has always been a natural shooter. He played often his sophomore season, and started his junior year. In both seasons, like Chrobot, "the shot-taking was not my major role," he said. "Our two major shooters, Raymond and Kevin, had conflicts among themselves." But this year, he and Chrobot stepped into this role. "We never clashed, because we're such good friends and we always enjoy playing with each other."

As shown in the Sectionals two weeks ago, when one would have an off night, the other would take the load. Chrobot shot fair against Washington, but Mitchell came through with 18 points, shooting almost 50%. Hadaway commented, "He improved a great deal. He shot very well, and I enjoyed him as a player."

Unlike Chrobot and Mitchell, Scott "Opie" Clarisey did not assume the shooting duties this year, though he was capable. "I have no doubt," remarked Hadaway, "that he would have been one of the best players in the



Senior Ron Chrobot fights for a rebound in the Sectional Championship against Mishawaka. Tony Wilson looks on.

city, had he been healthy. His broken leg cheated him because he's a fine shooter." Opie has always been a crowd favorite. As a sophomore the chants of "Op---ee! Op---ee! Op---ee!" became a trademark. Whenever he was on the floor, he seemed to

have a calm, confident, mellowness about him.

As a junior he stated, "The hype of being #1 in the state, along with the Hall of Fame tournament (at Indianapolis) was excellent." That year, he had a major B-team role, and a spot on

the varsity for this season was evident. "My role on the team this year was obviously hampered. I wanted to help as much as I could, which means getting the ball to Ron and Jeff."

This unselfish "team" attitude was one reason why the Eagles jelled as a team. "We had our ups and downs, like the last 2 years," Opie explained, "but I think we came on nicely in the end."

beginning, we worked as a team. Then we started going our own ways in the middle (of the season). Against Fort Wayne Elmhurst is when we came together as a unit."

In the Sectional, when he entered the Clay game, Charles attempted to bring the crowd closer to the team. "I tried to make a couple shots to get the crowd really cheering," Swartz

"We had our ups and downs, but I think we came on nicely in the end."

-Scott Clarisey

The other senior crowd favorite was the likeable Charles Swartz. As a sophomore at St. Joe High, he played regularly on the B-team. "When I transferred to Adams, it was pretty tough not playing much. Before this season, though, I knew I wasn't going to play a lot." His attitude, though, did not change. "Charles practiced hard every day and I'm going to miss him," Hadaway commented. "There are some kids, when they don't play much, who get more out of basketball. I'm speaking in terms of a good work ethic and group contribution. They become better prepared for life. Charles is such a person. He'll be very successful in whatever he does."

On reflecting on the season, Charles observed, "In the

missed, but he made his own contribution by grabbing the enthusiastic crowd's support.

Chrobot, Mitchell, Clarisey, and Swartz each gave in his own way to the JA basketball team. Each plans to continue his education. Chrobot will attend Indiana Central or Michigan on a football scholarship. Mitchell plans to enroll at Butler or Indiana Central on a football scholarship. Clarisey hopes to be a walk-on at Butler or a regular at Tri-State, while Swartz, pursuing a difficult criminal-law degree, will attend Ferris State. All four agree that Adams has some bright basketball seasons ahead, and many will agree that the four seniors, with their dedication and talent, have bright opportunities in the future.

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## Athletic Shorts

### Hockey

At the John Adams Hockey Awards Banquet last night, the following trophies were presented: the award for the Most Valuable of the Year, given to Todd Fuller from Niles. Fuller was also awarded the Most Contributing Offensive Player trophy. Goalie Chadd was honored with the Most Contributing Defensive Player of the Year. Steve Ziolkowski received the Most Improved Player of the Year award. The "Eagles" Award for Best Attitude both on and off the ice was awarded to Barry Mead, with Rookie of the Year honors given to Doug Marrese. The team also honored its three retiring seniors, Barry Mead, Todd Fuller, and Brendan Max.

### Wrestling

The wrestling team finished its season with a 2-14 record. Senior Troy Lentz, the only Adams wrestler to qualify for regionals, was awarded the MVP award. Senior Mike Quimby received the Kiwanis Award, and Ed Dabros earned the Sportsmanship award.

### Swimming

The team finished the year with a 2-11 record. Larry Piser and P.H. Mullen qualified for the state meet, and Mullen was named to the first and second team NIC in the 500 and 200 free, respectively. Mullen received the MVP award. The Sportsmanship award was given to Pat Brothers. The Spark Plug Award, given in the memory of Dave Menucci, was awarded to Jeff Gramza:

### Boys' Basketball

The Sectional runnerup team ended its season with an 11 - 11 record. During the regular season Coach Dave Hadaway achieved his 300th victory. Ron Chrobot was first team NIC and Jeff Mitchell was second team NIC. The MVP was awarded to Chrobot and the defensive MVP went to Tony Wilson. Charles Swartz received the Sportsmanship award and Mitchell earned the Kiwanis.

Owner, Sooka Elliott, with 5 yrs. teaching experience

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# SATs are collegiate yardsticks—no more

By Richard Primus

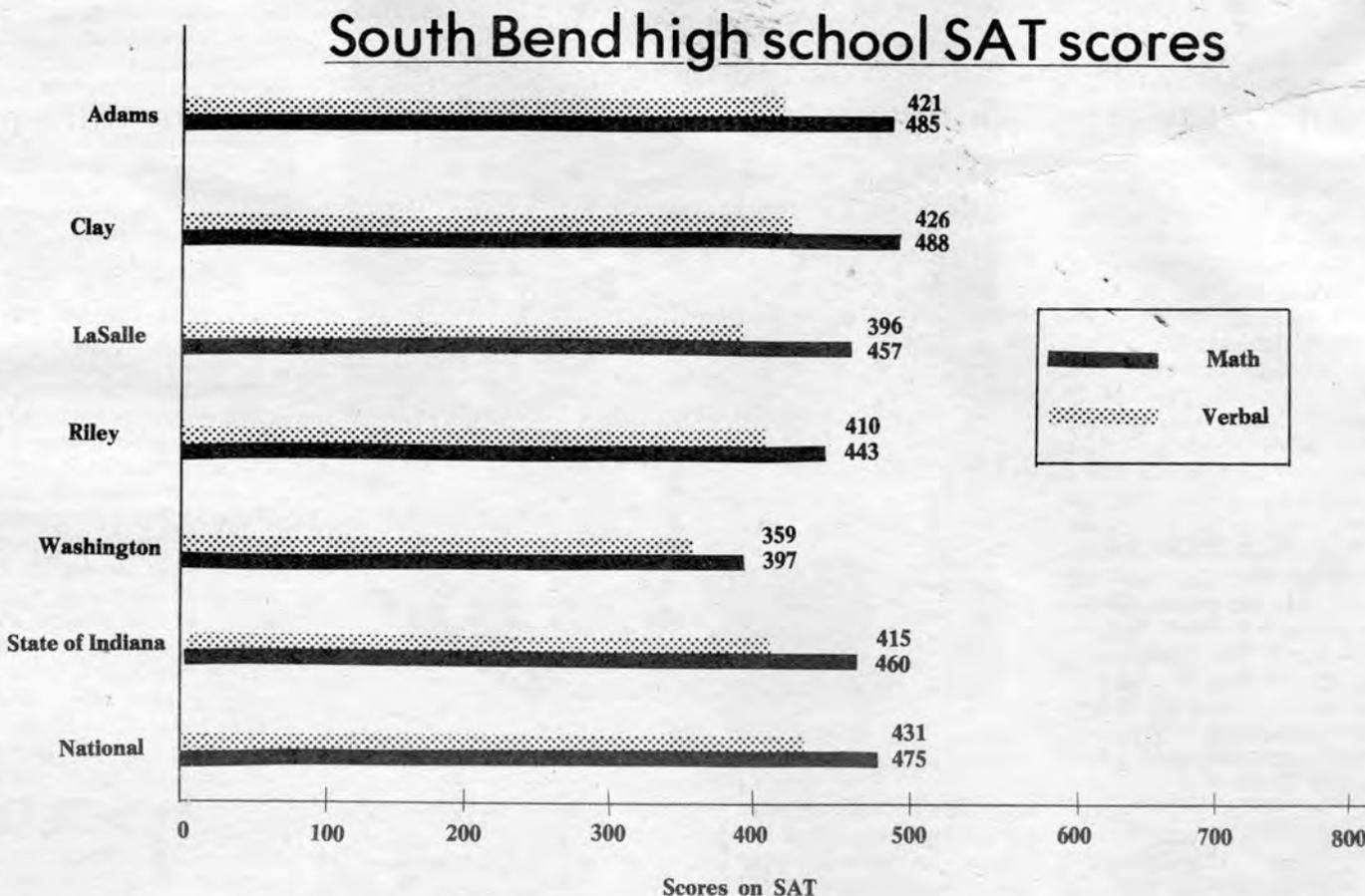
The report on SAT scores in South Bend schools for last school year is out, and it shows few surprises. The average South Bend public high school student's score of 863 (combined) remained below both the state average of 875 and the national average of 906. Adams students, however, achieved a 906 average score, well above the state average and most other local schools. For whatever value the SAT may have as a gauge, Adams can be proud.

On the other hand, these scores are not particularly high. A perfect score on the test is 1600, and each test-taker is "spotted" 400 points at the start. This means that on a 1200 point scale, the Adams average—although well above the corporation average—is a mere 506 points.

On the surface, this is distressing. Scoring 506 points out of 1200 on a test in school would be the equivalent of 42 percent, an F on anyone's grading scale. Obviously, the SAT cannot be used to measure students or schools in this fashion.

The SAT, it must be remembered, is designed to give colleges a standard in making their selections. It is not intended to be taken by students who are not planning to attend colleges. Interestingly enough, half of all South Bend seniors take the test as opposed to only a third nationwide. Can there really be such a great discrepancy in the percentage of students who go on to college? It would seem unlikely. Perhaps, then, these statistics are skewed because of the large number of non-college bound persons who take the SAT.

On the other hand, SAT scores are convenient measuring sticks for schools to use. Because quantitative comparisons are infinitely easier than qualitative ones,



it is easy to say, "Look at our SAT scores! They're above the corporation average, so we must be a good school." Conversely, schools with poor reputations often feel that SAT scores must be increased to show improvement of the school overall.

This practice occurs even at Adams. Lists of SAT vocabulary words are diligently studied in many English

classes in hope of improving scores. Students are encouraged to take practice SAT's or SAT preparatory classes in order to improve their scores.

But this is all a perversion of the test itself. The SAT is designed for the single task of aiding colleges in deciding who is likely to do well in higher education. It cannot and does not measure the quality of the school which the test-taker attends.

If schools want to improve their methods of education—and improvement is rarely a bad idea—they should concentrate on having qualified teachers, wide course selections, and high minimum requirements. SAT scores should not be invoked as all-powerful indicators. They should be relegated to their proper roles as individual collegiate yardsticks, and nothing more.

# Spring fever strikes John Adams

By Marc Conklin

There are two aspects of spring break to consider: the break itself and the mood in school afterwards.

The actual break is undoubtedly the most wonderful time for students. It is a time for them to forget certain things, such as pale skin, wool sweaters, and the city of South Bend, and to remember others: the idea of life without school, the wonderful sounds of a large body of water, and the fragrance of Hawaiian Tropic baking lotion.

Even the little unpleasantnesses of summer—third-degree sunburns, sand kickers kicking scorching sand, malnourished insects—seem to be a welcome end to the winter blahs.

Of course, for some, there is only one way to go—South. Particularly Florida, the universal Utopia for escapees. For others, there are the local hotspots on Lake Michigan. And for those who have to work twelve hours a day or spend their time filling out college applications—too bad.

The worst part of spring break, though, is the end. Students come back with their tropic tans and sun-bleached hair only to find themselves being reminded that they have nine more weeks of school. Teachers just don't seem to understand. Tans **cannot** fade; hair **must** stay light—even if it means venturing off to Lake Michigan at times inconvenient for them. Reminding a student that school is not over is just the thing to crush the

heart of a highly impressionable young person.

Why don't teachers seem to enjoy the spring? Mr. Longenecker and Mr. Shanley should be excited about the increased phloem-xylem action of the trees. Mr. Kline should enjoy the pastoral elements, and Mr. Goodman should be content with a warm head.

But still teachers insist on pushing reality instead of joining in the fun.

Wait a minute...If the teachers don't enjoy spring, what about THE CORPORATION?

I can see it now: the Corporation orders all shades in South Bend Community Schools to be fully closed; all absences in the last nine weeks shall be assumed to be beach trips and will not be excused...



## The Tower

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