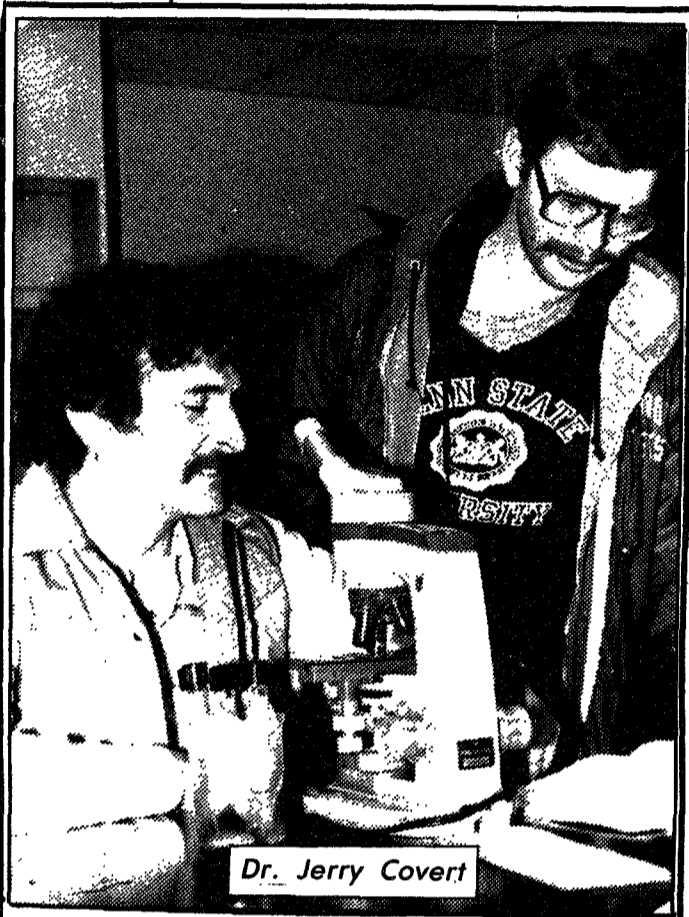
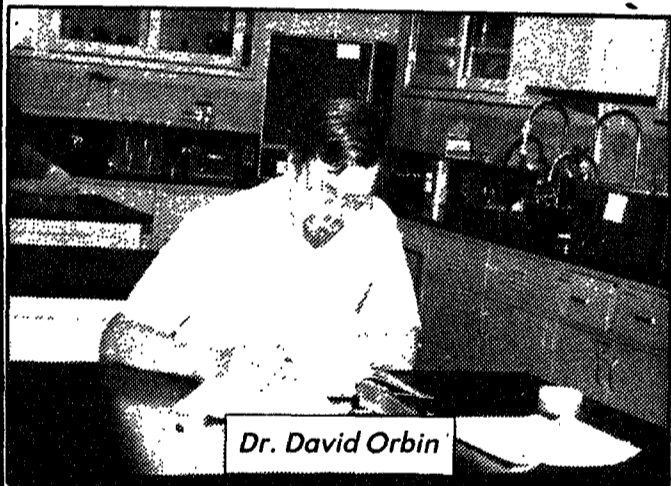


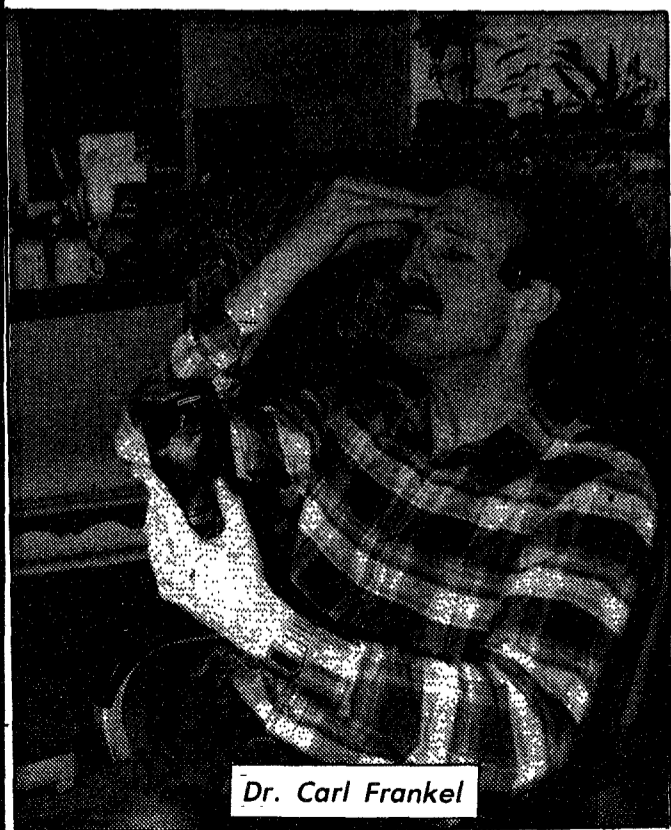
Dissecting the Biology Department



Dr. Jerry Covert



Dr. David Orbin



Dr. Carl Frankel

By Steph Kocher

The biology department here at Highacres has a unique mixture of professors. They are each different but they have one thing in common, the love of biology.

Dr. Orbin hails from Western Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. He did his undergraduate work at Otterbein College in Ohio, which is a small liberal arts college of about 1,100 students. While at Otterbein, he was involved in dramatics and also worked as a lab assistant. He graduated from there with a B.S. in Biology. Dr. Orbin went on to Auburn in Alabama to do his graduate work. There he got his doctorate in Plant Pathology.

At Highacres, Dr. Orbin teaches Biology 111, 112, 113, which are freshman courses; Environmental biology; Botany; Micro. and a course called Plants, Places and People. Dr. Orbin is also involved in the Computer Science Club, which sponsors the Computer Fair. He is vice-president and editor of their newsletter.

Before coming to Highacres, Orbin taught one year at the New Kensington campus. Dr. Orbin is also involved in an independent project, with two student helpers, that studies kinds of microorganic animals in sewage treatment.

Dr. Orbin

Dr. Orbin lives in Conyngham with his wife and two children. When he is not teaching, Orbin enjoys camping and traveling. He said that he likes teaching here and that it is a good place to live.

Dr. Orbin is proud of a published piece of work on a project he and many other professors were involved in three years ago at Stanford University in California. The project was done in conjunction with NASA and concerned an orbiting micro laboratory. He explained that it was designed to study dangerous life forms or substances from other planets outside the earth's atmosphere, rather than bringing it back into our atmosphere.

Dr. Frankel

Dr. Frankel is from Montreal, Canada. He did his undergraduate work at McGill University in Canada, which is the major

English university. He graduated from there with a B.S. in Genetics. Frankel went on to do his graduate work in genetics, biochemistry, and zoology at Michigan State, where he got his doctorate. While there, he was involved in Enuro, political activities, Gay Rights, and was a volunteer working with disabled children.

At Highacres, Frankel teaches Biological sciences, Zoology, all biologies, Genetics, Biochemistry, and he taught a special course with Dr. Marchesani last year called Science Technology Society. Dr. Frankel is also involved in organizing the Street Hockey league and has put on the dramatic plays here. Dr. Frankel also is working on an independent project involving two organisms.

Dr. Frankel resides in Hazleton. When he is not teaching, he enjoys sleeping, hiking in the woods with his dog and friends, reading, gardening, and entertaining friends.

for the Outings Club and Biology Club. He is on the Student Affairs Committee, and is a senator in the University Senate, in which he is serving his third term.

Covert has published research papers in the areas of Histamine, which affects antibody production, development of fevers in infectious animals, and an isolated virus that infects a bacterium called *Aeromonas hydrophila*.

He is also chairman of the board that approves the Baccalaureate Programs, is on the Steering Committee, and Panel modulator for the conference on the general education held at University Park spring term.

When Dr. Covert is not at committee meetings or teaching, he resides in Nuangola Station with his wife. He enjoys gardening, running, ice skating, fishing, canoeing, eating dinner in New York City, traveling to warm climates, and traveling with his wife on their motorcycles.



Penn State student in lab

Dr. Covert

Dr. Covert comes from Western Pennsylvania. He completed his first two years of undergraduate work at Grove City College, and finished with a B.S. in Biology at Edinboro State.

After graduating from Edinboro, Covert taught 7-9 grade general science and tenth grade Biology for three years at Mt. Pleasant. Then he got a National Science Foundation Grant to get his doctorate from Penn State.

At Highacres, Covert teaches Bi Sci 1 and 4, Micro 1, 2, 6, 7 and Bio 29, 41, and 42. He was involved in starting the MIT program which works Berwick and St. Joseph's hospitals. Covert is also the advisor

Each professor agrees that they all work well together, and that the lab facilities are adequate for a two-year campus. Covert stated, however, that there is a need for an update in equipment, especially when the switch is made to semesters.

Covert said that they have a cohesive program; Orbin said that each of their skills complement each other, and Frankel said that they have a "neat team."

When the professors were asked a general question about attitudes in biology, each one had a different response:

Orbin stated that students are curious about themselves, and after taking biology, their level of perception is changed.

Frankel stated that students should have different areas of specialty, but should learn biology as a whole as related to other areas. He sees biology teachers as "generalizers." He felt it important for any student to have a rational scientific comparison, to love living creatures, and not to look at biology as "cold hard facts."

Covert agrees with this and adds that people should know themselves before others, and to know themselves as a wide general area and how we fit into the world.