

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

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John Adams High School / Student-Produced Newspaper

One of our Reporters takes on the controversy of Political Correctness Page Three



2 **OPINION**
Ben Carson's visit to Jordan: his anecdotes do no good



4 **OPINION**
A scientist's studies in optogenetics - is it ethical?



5 **OPINION**
Inflammatory, transphobic, and intolerant rhetoric in Houston



7 **LOCAL**
Local winter activities for you, your friends, & your family



STANTON WINS CANN AWARD

NIKI HAKIMZADEH • REPORTER

Cecilia Stanton, known by most as Mrs. Stanton, is a name any JA student or faculty member will recognize with a smile. Stanton, an 8-year faculty member in the Spanish department, teaches Spanish 1,3,4 (regular), 4 (IB), 5 (IB), and 6. The only thing more impressive than Stanton's countless achievements and outstanding school record is her simply remarkable and unique background.

Stanton was born and raised in Chile, where she and her family lived until she was ten years old. They then moved to New York, where she learned English. There, she was an ENL (English as a New Language) student until she was thirteen. She and her family moved back to Chile, where she finished high school. After high school, Stanton was questioning whether or not to stay in Chile for college: "For college in Chile, you have to pick what you want to be when you are only 17 or 18 years old, and I wasn't sure what I wanted to do so I decided to come to college in the states." She then got her Bachelor's of Arts in Romance Languages and Literatures, and Latin American Studies, at Notre Dame. After getting her undergraduate she considered getting her Ph.D. in Literature, but decided against it. Stanton then started working with the kids at Boys and Girls Club for a year, where, she said, "I first realized that I really wanted to be a teacher." She then decided to apply for a teaching license and start the process of becoming a teacher. Luckily, at this same time Adams was in need of a teacher. Stanton applied for the job and she got it. She started teaching with an emergency permit which allowed her to teach until she got her license a couple years later. During this time she also got her masters at IUSB in secondary education. She is now in her 9th year of teaching at JA.

Stanton's road to becoming a teacher was not the easiest. Though she knew from a young age that she enjoyed teaching she didn't know if it

would be the best choice for her. She said, "Unfortunately, teaching is one of those professions that people don't see the value until they are in it, so it was highly discouraged. People would say 'Oh you aren't going to make a lot of money' or 'It's a lot of work,' but once I started working with kids, I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Stanton is currently involved in many different clubs at Adams like NHS (National Honor Society), the Spanish Club, JA student government, and many more. However, she says the most time consuming activity is NHS, "We do a lot of community service and that's probably my favorite thing. In NHS our focus is service but we also want to learn how to work in a group. Every year we have two big projects, one in the fall, which is a Christmas party for Boys and Girls club, and one in the spring, which is called "Night of the Arts," where all of the proceeds go to a different organization each year." She continued, "I like NHS because it gives me the opportunity to work with kids I don't have in the classroom and I am able to work with kids in a different way than I do in the classroom and I am able to build their persona outside of being a student." She also runs the Spanish Club which has an annual Sabor Latino dance where all students are welcome to come and learn Latin American dances. Looking at all of the different extracurriculars Stanton is a part of may make you wonder, "How?" Stanton said, "It's really hard, but I'm just the kind of person that goes non-stop and every once in awhile I need to take a break but it is just part of my personality and it is how I've always been," she continues, "but it is hard

to balance all the work that I have as a classroom teacher and still include family time but I do try to incorporate my family in a lot of the things I do."

Stanton is not only seen as great in JA's eyes but she is also recognized as an outstanding teacher on a national level. This summer, she and four other teachers around the world were chosen to win the Cann award, which is an award given to teachers that are making a difference. Stanton said, "It was really nice to get the Cann award because I was nominated by a former student and the fact

that they just took a minute to just look at what I do and the commitment that I have for my students, that was really nice." Recently, she also won the 2015 Adams Teacher of the Year award, which she stated, "It is nice to know that my peers here at Adams recognize the work that I have been putting in, and for them to be able to recognize that I am truly devoted to what I do with my students in and outside of the classroom, it is very flattering."

The most resounding mark of Stanton's success, however, is the mark she leaves on her students. Senior and a 4-year student of Stanton, Alicia Porile, said, "I will never forget what it felt like to have a teacher who truly believed in each one of her students."

Stanton has also benefited from her students; she said, "The more students I know, the more stories I know, it has made me a better and more compassionate person." In her few years of teaching, Stanton has affected people's lives in incredible ways. As Senior Caroline Hall said, "The world needs more teachers like Mrs. Stanton!"



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Carson Campaign/Facebook/screengrab

BEN CARSON'S VISIT TO JORDAN

MARIAH RUSH • NEWS EDITOR

The displacement of the refugees of the Syrian Civil War has been a crisis since the outbreak of war in March 2011, but despite the urgency, only a few countries have been willing to accept refugees. President Barack Obama's administration announced that the United States will accept 10,000 Syrian refugees into the United States over the next year. The proclamation was met with criticism by many Republicans, including Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, despite the fact that 10,000 refugees is only a small fraction of the number of refugees neighboring Arab countries, such as Jordan, which has taken in an estimated 1.4 million people. This number is inconceivably small compared to the total number of Syrian refugees in the world (estimated at 4.29 million people).

Ben Carson, a 2016 Republican Presidential candidate, has been extremely vocal about his opposition to letting Syrian refugees into the United States due to the threat of terrorists posing as refugees. Carson recently conducted a private visit and tour of the Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and concluded that, "[he] did not detect any great desire for them to come to the United States...they were quite willing to stay there as long as it takes before they can get back home." After visiting, Carson urged the Obama administration to provide aid to the camps in Jordan — but to not let any of the refugees in those camps into the United States because the majority would rather be relocated in their own country rather than be resettled in the United States.

It appears that Carson is looking for any excuse to not let Syrians into our country. Previously, Carson was worried about refugees being terrorists

and likened blocking these potential terrorists to handling a rabid dog; towards the end of his lengthy metaphor about rabid dogs, Carson said, "We have to have in place screening mechanisms that allow us to determine who the mad dogs are, quite frankly." So, if not vetting the refugees thoroughly enough is Carson's complaint, why not advocate for better screening instead?

This is the problem with Carson's "detection": detections are not facts, nor are they an all encompassing representation of the feelings of a large and diverse group of people that Carson is not a part of. Carson's private visit to Jordan, free from the public eye and journalists, should not be used to make any judgements in the eyes of the American people. We, as a country, should remember that Carson is worried about letting people who are literally fleeing from horrific circumstances into our country for asylum; however, he is fine with letting other countries, such as Germany and Jordan, take the brunt of the refugees when the United States is easily equipped to handle them. Even with a careful screening process, Carson is still afraid of refugees, but continues to use the childish excuse that they do not even want to come to America as a shield. We do not know if any Syrian actually said this — even more so, it's doubtful that none of the millions of refugees in Jordan do not want to be in the United States. For all we know, this is just an assumption...and we at the Tower do not want a president who makes such fatal decisions based on unfounded assumptions.

Despite the differing opinions on Syrian refugees coming to the United States, Ben Carson's observations during his journey to Jordan cannot be utilized in any argument on the topic. Whether or not you believe refugees should be accepted into the United States, I urge you to not take this man's statement as fact. Carson's statement is akin to when your mother told you to give something to a sibling and you kept it for yourself because "they didn't want it anyway." Take this as the desperate plea of a man who really does not want anyone else in his country.

HAS POLITICAL CORRECTNESS GONE TOO FAR?

ALICE GOULDING • REPORTER

Something is brewing on college campuses across America.

In November, all yoga classes were suspended at the University of Ottawa's Student Disability Center because of concerns raised about the intent of the class. While the instructor described the class as "mindful stretching", others believed it was culturally appropriating Indian traditions. Mount Holyoke students staged a boycott of "The Vagina Monologues", a play that centers around the theme of women empowerment, because they deemed it transphobic for not including women born without vaginas. At Wesleyan University, students voted to cut funding for the campus newspaper after it ran an editorial that criticized the Black Lives Matter movement. At Columbia University, Ovid's "Metamorphoses" was removed from a required core course because students argued that the accounts of rape in the poem were "triggering".

This movement, most commonly referred to as political correctness, has reentered the political and social spheres of many academic institutions and workplaces after its inception - and later decline - in the early 1990s. Those who identify as politically correct hope to create an environment in which disparaging or triggering comments are non-existent. However, in order to establish this climate, the "PC" community has relied on an accountability system that equates errors in speech or thought to actual aggressions against marginalized parties.

Yes, sexist and racist comments are distressing. Of course hurtful name-calling needs to be addressed. But how far do we go in the confrontation of these comments? When does our labelling of people as a "bigot" or "micro-aggressor" become so extreme that we become akin to the name-callers we are trying to reprove?

Take, for example, a case at the University of Kansas. Andrea Quenette, an assistant professor of communication studies, has been on administrative leave ever since an open letter, penned by graduate students at the university, claimed that she was "threatening...the cultivation of a safe learning environment" by using "racist language". The letter is referring to Quenette's usage of the n-word during a seminar on how to talk to students about racial issues. Students felt that Quenette's actions were racist, but instead of discussing them



Do the trappings of "Safe Spaces" and Political correctness infringe on free speech?

during the seminar, they returned the next week with prepared speeches that urged her to resign.

What are the implications of calling a college professor "racist" for using the n-word in the context of a seminar about race relations? If she is "racist", then what do we call the KKK, ISIL, or the Westboro Baptists? What line are we crossing by grouping people like Quenette with some of the most deplorable in the world?

Political correctness fails to answer these questions. It fails, in part, because it never set out to answer in them in the first place. The PC movement was one that was originally driven by a common goal: to eliminate hate speech and actions from specific environments (such as the workplace or places of learning) in order to ensure that minority groups were never made to feel uncomfortable because of their inherent characteristics or qualities, which is an honorable endeavor, one that I am in complete support of.

The actions of extremists are not normally representative of the larger population. Yet it seems that within our vitriolic political society, the people who can talk the loudest attract the most attention, no matter what it is they're saying (For more evidence of this, see Donald Trump). And political correctness, as it is expressed by its most extreme exponents today, is no longer about editing people's speech and actions so that ideas can be expressed by those who normally are not given a voice. Rather, it is about eliminating free speech altogether. Gone is any semblance of real social justice. Instead, we are left with a hyper-policing which seems to only benefit the few who force those around them to adhere to these lofty ideals, giving them some sort of satisfaction in knowing that they are the most "correct" person in the room.

This type of policing is dangerous, especially in academic settings like university campuses and high school classrooms. A teacher's job is not to regurgitate information at their class, hoping that it

will be absorbed by their students with no questions asked. On the contrary, a teacher is supposed to question and challenge their students' preconceived ideas to help expand their worldviews, from a Math teacher asking students to prove why a formula works in the form of an exam, to an English teacher, "Huck Finn" in hand, initiating a discussion - albeit difficult - on race relations in antebellum America.

If these types of discussions are banned because of their potential to "trigger" some sort of bad reaction, we are inhibiting any sort of real learning. We, as students, will learn nothing if our academic superiors only reinforce that our ideas are the most "correct" because they offend the least. Let's face it: some parts of our society will make you feel uncomfortable. In the past and present, people have committed egregious actions; authors have written inflammatory statements. But do we shy away from these discussions just because they don't make us feel "safe"? Can we? Do we have the right to sugarcoat - or blatantly ignore - ugly moments in our nation's - and the world's - history? Is this denial yet another offense committed against these groups of marginalized people?

I am not Donald Trump, nor am I Rush Limbaugh. I am not asking for a more relaxed version of political correctness so that I can espouse blatant hate speech whenever I feel like it. I am, however, asking that we stop policing every person's last word. Instead, I hope that we, as a society, can have more educated and meaningful discussions in which we recognize the good intentions in others instead of trying to catch them in the act of misspeaking or misunderstanding. I want to see more dialogues between people that end with them learning something rather than them walking away angrily because their ideas were rejected because they chose the wrong word.

THE ETHICS OF FABRICATED MEMORY

KAITY RADDE • REPORTER

Think of your worst memory, or your favorite one. Think of a good memory that you can't remember quite as vividly anymore. Now imagine that any one of them could be enhanced, de-emphasized, replaced with a false memory, or removed altogether. What?



*Steve Ramirez,
the MIT
neuroscientist
who explores the
uses of
optogenetics*

This is the science that Steve Ramirez, an MIT neuroscientist, is working to perfect. To this point, all of his research and achievements have been conducted via mice. He has successfully given mice amnesia and aims to implant false memories. He has the ability to find individual brain cells that hold a specific memory - and that's where he starts tinkering.

The technology he uses is called optogenetics, which he explains as follows: "You can find a handful of brain cells that hold onto one memory, and we can genetically engineer just those cells to respond to light." His goal is to translate this to humans for sufferers of PTSD, depression, and Alzheimer's. Science is "technologically not even close" to doing this in people rather than in mice, but it is extremely plausible for just a few decades in the future.

Ramirez's goals are well-intentioned, and I believe that he genuinely wants to help people - who wouldn't want to restore memories of those with amnesia or Alzheimer's, or alleviate the trauma of combat veterans with PTSD? However, his progress in mice begs the question of whether or not society is willing to accept a treatment with such obvious ethical dilemmas.

The entire concept is presumptuous at best: people's personalities are made up of every past experience they have had - every interaction, every event - traumatic or otherwise. Ramirez and his supporters assume that people suffering from PTSD or depression would be willing to have memo-

ries faded or forgotten, or even replaced with an artificial one. Essentially, they assume that people would jump at a treatment opportunity to change who they are rather than fight for an opportunity to recover.

Even if their assumptions were correct, there are a multitude of potential pitfalls. As with any medical treatment, there are risks, but patients who participate in this treatment (especially in preliminary trials), will have to face a brand new type of risk: will the combat veteran with PTSD who is willing to erase their battlefield memories be willing to risk erasing, for example, their wedding day? Will the patient with depression be able to bear it if their doctor enhances one of their worst memories instead of one of the best? The line between fantasy and reality will blur, and people could go insane not knowing what is real and what has been fabricated. Translating this from mice to men will be difficult, to say the least. The complexity of our brains and memories would make such mistakes realistic.

Doctors, on the other hand, will have to accept a new frontier of medical malpractice: To what extent will they be responsible if something like this were to happen? Can patients with Alzheimer's truly consent to treatment? Will there be doctors willing to take on the responsibility of destroying or creating memories? If not, optogenetics could be nothing more than a rarely performed, extremely expensive treatment used by an infinitesimally small number of people.

For the sake of speculation, as that is all anyone can do at this point, let's assume that there will be a way to avoid those problems entirely. When optogenetic treatment becomes a reality and does not sound like a concept out of a science-fiction movie, many doctors will be able to use it; there will be plenty of room for nefarious intentions, even if there is legislation to prevent them. The ability to remove and implant memories could open a whole new dimension of torture or interrogation if one's enemies can manipulate their greatest fears or make people believe anything in order to get information.

It is important to start this conversation as a society early on, before these problems can manifest themselves. In my opinion, the ethical and clinical risks outweigh any benefits. No matter who this is being used on, whether it is Alzheimer's, amnesia, PTSD, or depression, there is so much room for doubt about what will be considered reality. All patients will be expected to trust that what they "know" in their minds actually occurred. Our minds, our convictions, our fears, our hopes, and our memories are the source of all of the information in the world. It's time to stop taking that for granted.



NEW STARBUCKS CUPS

SAMANTHA JANKOWSKI • REPORTER

This Holiday Season Starbucks has offered a cup that is a "blank canvas". The company made it blank so that the customers can tell their Holiday stories in their own unique way. Some people interpret this to be against Christianity and appears politically incorrect. The fact of the matter is that Christmas has become a Holiday represented by Rudolph with his shiny nose, talking snowmen, and red and green ornaments hanging from a pine tree. These ideas have nothing to do with Christianity, but do hark back to many ancient myths. It is absurd to think that not having reindeer or Frosty the Snowman on the cup would exclude any religious belief. People need a path to follow whether that be Christianity or Pagan beliefs, and a major event such as Christmas can help people see the light and goodness of the world. For some, they believe that it is a New Year and that we've come from the darkest part of the year to the brightest part. Others, from a Christian view, believe that December 25th marks the birth of Baby Jesus in Bethlehem, and that he was sent to save all from their sins. With all of this controversy people are forgetting the real meaning of Christmas: the bringing together of families that create happiness. I write this as a Catholic, and I feel that there is no need to force my religious beliefs on anyone. As a Catholic, the best I can do is carry out the Word of God and if people don't agree with it, I'll move on and let people make their own choices about what they believe in. I want people to realize that there are many Catholics like me who don't blow things out of proportion and just want the good for all. We just have to be careful, because stripping away the surface and texture of Christmas, points in the direction to a life with no meaning. In all reality to some it is a superstition, to others it's a way of life.

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

ALICE GOULDING • REPORTER

Earlier this month, thousands of people in Houston, Texas, had protection from discrimination, a voice in our legal system, and peace of mind. People of color could not be refused housing because of their race. Women could not be denied a job based solely on their gender. Veterans, senior citizens, and people with disabilities could not be judged unfairly due to their ethnicity, religion, or national origin. None of these statements, however, are true today. Fifteen different classes of people, formerly protected from these types of discrimination, can no longer seek redress at the local level, but have to go through the cumbersome process of a federal court case. Why? Because in Houston, and in much of America, we still have trouble understanding and accepting people based on their sexual and gender orientation.

The Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, or HERO, was originally passed in May 2014, and in addition to securing the rights of the aforementioned groups, banned any discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, which is not covered by any federal anti-discrimination laws.

This past election day saw the end of HERO. Campaigners for the repeal of the ordinance used inflammatory rhetoric to persuade voters that the ordinance was not meant to protect the rights of transgender people (among many others), but was a license to allow men to freely enter women's bathrooms. Dan Patrick, the republican Lt. Governor of Texas, made the same connection when he thanked voters for defeating, he said, "The bathroom ordinance. The voters clearly understand that this proposition was never about equality - that is already the law. It was about allowing men to enter women's restrooms and locker rooms - defying common sense and common decency."

Patrick is referring to a specific section of the ordinance, which allowed transgender people to use the bathroom of their expressed gender instead of the gender assigned to them at birth.

Supporters of the ordinance were clear that it did not enable pedophilia and assault, but attempted to establish equality and dignity for all people within the city. Andrea Chilton Greer, a consultant and advocate for human rights in the Houston area said, "It was a lie that the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance would have allowed men to attack girls in bathrooms. That is against the law—there is an actual city law, in addition to state criminal laws, that makes it illegal to attack anyone in the bathroom."



Greer is correct both legally and morally: this is not, and never has been, an issue of assault. Republicans in Texas - and elsewhere - have perpetuated subversive claims like the "bathroom ordinance" in order to advance their intolerant, and in this case, transphobic, agendas.

This month, Indiana Republican lawmakers put forward a new bill which would expand the state's pre-existing civil rights laws to include protections for transgender people, but would provide exceptions for religious protestors. The new bill includes a jarring clause: businesses and schools, both public and private, would be allowed to create their own policies regarding who can and cannot use certain restrooms. This, of course, allows these entities to decide whether or not transgender people can use the bathroom of their choice. While this may seem like a minor inconvenience for transgender people, it digs much deeper. This bill allows corporations to evaluate the self and self-identity of

a person, giving them a gross amount of power over a class of people who are already in desperate need of protection in the eyes of the law.

We cannot achieve equality in America by disenfranchising certain groups in order to defend against imagined dangers. We cannot claim to be a country founded on the principle of freedom if we refuse to extend that freedom to everyone.

Greer believes that this setback will eventually reverse itself, if and when "young people stand up and say 'Hey, we don't accept you discriminating against our transgender friends, and we want to protect them.' That will be a victory for transgender and gender nonconforming people not just in those towns, but in every town, Houston included."

The bigots don't have to win. We just have to be willing to speak up for those whose voices have been silenced for so long.

MOCKINGJAY PART 2 REVIEW



MADDY KIMMELL • REPORTER

When the world was first introduced to the twisted mind of Suzanne Collins after the release of her dystopian style novels the discussion of film franchise for "The Hunger Games" series promptly begun. Now, after three successful franchise films, "The Hunger Games" comes to a close with it's final installment "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2". Although the film has seen the lowest box office turn out of the series, it has received much critical praise and adoration from fans. Senior Ian Friedland praised the final installment saying, "I loved the new hunger games movie. I'm always so impressed with how well the crew behind them pulls off the aesthetic and thematic challenges of making a literary adaptation about children who kill children. it was entertaining, affecting, beautifully acted and really thought provoking at points. I'm sad this part of my childhood is coming to an end, but I'm glad they pulled off such a great finish".

The film picks up where "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1" left off. Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), the symbol of hope to the rebellion, must slowly recover after being attacked by Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), who was taken by the Capitol and turned into a weapon made to destroy the Mockingjay. After recovering, Katniss must do her part as the Mockingjay and convince members of various Districts to join their rebel forces and fight against the true enemy, President Snow. During one of Katniss' campaigns as the Mockingjay in District 2 she is injured by a loyalist. This convinces Katniss that the rebels will never win unless President Snow is eliminated. Katniss sneaks away from the rebellion's headquarters on an aircraft leaving for the Capitol. With her own agenda, Katniss, Gale, a brainwashed Peeta, and a team of trained soldiers who set forth to capture footage of the war with the hope that it will persuade others to take action and join the fight against the Capitol.

Like most films that get converted from a book "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2" failed to do the book justice. However, the film was still a pleasant surprise as it exceeded all expectations. Director Francis Lawrence beautifully captured the crumbling dystopian society in the midst of revolution and on the edge of a new beginning. The film remained visually captivating for the

duration of the film. However, this was not enough to compensate for the films predictable and overall banal screenplay. The film's lead actress, Lawrence, carried the cast with a moving and spirited performance. The Oscar winning actress succeeds in rallying up the audience and imparting rebellious spirit to the audience. The film was without a doubt the highlight of the film franchise, making it the perfect way to end this near monumental series.

NATIONAL DOG SHOW 2015

HALLE GREEN • REPORTER

The National Dog Show Presented by Purina returned for it's 16th year on NBC. This year's show was hosted in Oaks, Pennsylvania. The actual event took place on November 15, but it was aired on November 26, as it a Thanksgiving tradition. This year's event featured over 170 breeds competing for titles in numerous categories, which include "Best of Breed", "First in Group", and the supreme title of "Best in Show".

There were dogs split into these seven groups: Toy, Terrier, Working, Sporting, Hound, Non-Sporting, and Herding, in which they competed against one another. A winner was determined from each group, as well as a winner from the seven dogs, the chosen dog would be given the title of "Best in Show." This year's winner of the overall

"Best in Show" title went to Charlie, the Skye Terrier.

The winner of the Hound Group was the Scottish Deerhound, which was followed by the American Foxhound, Whippet, and the Bloodhound. In the Herding Group the winner was the Bearded Collie, in second place was the Australian Shepherd, and in third place was the Briard. First in the Working Group was the Newfoundland, followed by the Samoyed, the Doberman Pinscher and the Bullmastiff. In the Terrier Group the winners were the Skye Terrier, Scottish Terrier, Smooth Fox Terrier, and the American Staffordshire. The Winner of the Toy Group was the Smooth Coat Chihuahua, followed by the Japanese Chin, the Brussels Griffon, and the Yorkshire Terrier. In the Sporting Group the winners were the Cocker Spaniel, the Gordon Setter, the Wirehaired Pointing, and the Curly-Coated Retriever. The winners of the Non-Sporting Group were the French Bulldog, the Coton de Tulear, the Keeshonden, and the Lhasa Apso.

Charlier, the 4.5-year-old Skye Terrier, is not new to the title "Best in Show", as this is his 79th time winning the title. David Frei, the show's host told People Magazine: "Not only a great Skye terrier and a great show dog, but Charlie is fun for everyone. He makes us all smile as we look at those big ears, his beautiful coat, his long and low shape and his happy personality." The Skye Terrier has now replaced Nathan, the Bloodhound for his title as "Best in Show." Let's see who takes this title next year for the 2016 National Dog Show.



Charlie, the 4.5 year old Skye Terrier, wins his 79th "Best in Show" title at the National Dog Show.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

ABIGAIL MYERS • REPORTER

Welcome to December! As we enter this month dedicated to winter and holiday festivities, many are excited for the arrival of snow and the many winter sports that come with it. On November 21st, South Bend experienced its first snow of the winter season. Many weather experts estimate that this year's winter will be a La Niña winter, a much milder weather pattern than the brutal El Niño winters South Bend residents have experienced recently. Regardless, South Bend is busy preparing for upcoming holiday festivities and winter-inspired activities, many of which are oriented for students.

South Bend Parks and Recreation has many festivities planned to kick off this year's holiday season. Starting with the tree lighting ceremony on December 4th, the holidays will be officially underway in South Bend. The tree lighting will take place at 7pm across from the Morris Civic in downtown South Bend. Then, on December 5th, residents can enjoy breakfast, tea, and pizza with Santa at the Fiddler's Hearth and Tapestry Restaurants respectively.

South Bend residents can continue celebrating throughout the season participating in winter sports. Howard Park Ice Rink opened officially for the holiday season on November 27th and will remain open throughout the winter season. The rink's hours are Monday-Thursday from 3-5:30 pm, Friday from 3-5:30 and 7-10pm, Saturday sessions from 10am-noon, 1-3:30pm, 4-6pm, and 7-10pm, and Sunday from 1-3:30pm, 4-6pm, and 7-9pm. For only \$6 for adult admission and \$3 for skate rental, people can have an enjoyable experience at the current rink. "My friends and I know that when it is snowing, it is ice skating season," said JA sophomore Dana Garwood. Soon things will be changing at the Howard Park Ice Rink, South Bend Parks and Recreation Marketing Director, Mr. Mark Bradley, stated that, "This is the final winter for the CURRENT ice rink. After this season, a NEW rink will be constructed on the same site at Howard Park."

Swiss Valley Ski Resort also offers a unique experience for area residents who are interested in skiing or snowboarding. They are open Friday from noon to 7pm, Saturday from 10am to 7pm, and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Rates vary depending on the day of the week, see skiswissvalley.com for more details. St. Patrick's County Park offers Cross-Country skiing from 11-4pm for a price of \$5 for adults and \$4 for youth and an additional \$10



"South Bend is busy preparing for upcoming holiday festivities"

for ski equipment. This offer lasts from December through March.

For those who are not as light on their feet but still want to have fun this winter, there are multiple sledding hills in the area where you can indulge in the fun. In addition to skiing, St. Patrick's County Park features a public sledding hill for tubing. Residents can tube at St. Patrick's County Park from 11-5pm for \$3 and an additional gate fee to enter the park. Bendix Woods offers unsupervised sledding all winter long on its sledding hill.

Many John Adams students are excited and look forward to what this winter will bring. When asked what they look forward to this winter, sopho-

more Zach Carlson explained, "[The] snow, I like it when it is snowing." Others believe that winter should be a more social time of year. "I enjoy [winter activities] because it's a nice way to hang out with friends and relax," said Fiona Hughes, a sophomore at John Adams. "It's a great way to have fun with a huge group," added a John Adams freshman. But why should students participate in these activities? Dana Garwood answered, "It [is] a good experience. Students shouldn't be afraid to put themselves out there and try something new." Regardless of what you do this holiday season, be sure to make this winter special.



BLACK FRIDAY PARTICIPATION FALTERS

AMANDA ELLISON • REPORTER

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas as Black Friday crowds begin their holiday shopping in retail stores across the country. However, studies have noticed a shift in consumers' choices, as many people spent more money online this year, opting out of usual brick and mortar stores. Consumers excessive online activity this year shows how people may be losing interest in Black Friday; in fact, consumer are beginning to prefer Cyber Monday. Many popular retail stores realized this, promptly emphasizing Cyber Monday more than ever - the main reason for the push towards Cyber Monday appears, according to researchers, to be convenience. Researchers also cited stores' tendency to remain open all day Thursday, and not just Friday, this year. Retail worker Lauren Green said, "It's beginning to turn into Black Thursday instead of Black Friday as most sales started Thursday this year." She continued and went on to say, "[She] noticed that sales dropped even lower after Black Friday so the deals are not really deals on Black Friday." Studies have proven that shoppers were more active on December 23 last year, scrambling for last minute Christmas Gifts.

TURNING A NEW LEAF: FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF

ALEX SEARFOSS • REPORTER

With the football season now over the coaching staff of the John Adams team is seeing a significant change in their structure. Coach Craig Redman, who coached the football team for five years with a 26-28 record, has stepped down from the head coach position. He is being replaced by Resource Officer Antwon Jones who has had the position of Adams resource officer for two years. With the changing of staff, it is a sure that the football team will need to make adjustments in order to be ready for the 2016-17 season. Former football captain James Schell has confidence in the team, saying that "Officer Jones will be a good fit for the team I think. I'm excited to see how they perform in the future." Schell isn't the only one excited to see the change; the school has been buzzing with the new changes, and it isn't a stretch to say that the next season will be full of excitement.

SOUTH BEND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

SYDNEY GRANLUND • REPORTER

On November 17, the 29th annual Community Hall of Fame Banquet took place at the Century Center. The proceeds of the dinner went to the South Bend Alumni Association's Co-Ex Grants program, which provides for the extra-curricular activities that run without tax support. Seven Adams students were invited to the event to watch this year's six individuals and one family be inducted into South Bend's Hall of Fame (HOF). The goal for the students that night was "to show support for our city and further engage Adams in the South Bend community," according to attendee Alice Goulding. Along with supporting the city, the students were examples of the "thriving student

body" at Adams, Goulding continued.

According to HOF chairman James Kapsa, each person or family honored expresses "the enduring mosaic of talent, service and heritage which make our community a vibrant place to live." Of the inductees, there was one Adams graduate, Jody Freid, and a former Adams mock trial coach, Jane Woodward Miller. The other four individuals inducted were Elijah Anderson, John (Jack) McGann, Benito Salazar, and a historical inductee, Thomas S. Stanfield. Aside from individuals, the Veldman family was also brought into the HOF. In addition to inducting outstanding members of the community, awards were also given out. Evie Kirkwood, Kevin Smith, St. Margaret's House, and WNIT were recognized for their contributions to South Bend. The banquet was held to honor those whose actions have changed South Bend for the better, but, for Goulding, it was much more. "The dinner changed my outlook on the city," she said, "Surrounded by hundreds of people who have helped form South Bend into the dynamic city it is today, I felt inspired to give back to my community as well." South Bend couldn't be as great as it is without the help of its community, and hopefully more Adams students will become motivated to make a difference and be invited into the city's Hall of Fame in the future.



Our seven student attendees, Principal Seitz, & Assistant Principal Troyer at the event