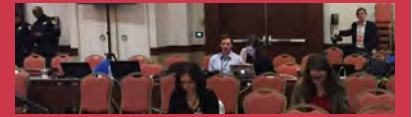




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THE LOVE GROUP

SYDNEY GRANLUND • REPORTER

NIKI HAKIMZADEH • REPORTER

Last year, Principal Seitz and several other teachers brought to life the idea of a group to benefit young African-American women. Ms. Hoston, a coordinator of LOVE and a teacher at Adams, said she was inspired to initiate this group after seeing a successful club "much like our BROTHERS group" while getting her administrator's license. Mr. Seitz also witnessed success in other schools with affinity groups, or groups founded around a common interest.

The Ladies of Victorious Excellence, more commonly known as the LOVE group, have returned and grown after a successful first year, but they are still establishing themselves and constantly brainstorming ways to get more involved in the community as well as finding methods of boosting the self-esteem of Adams' African-American female students. This year, there are about 40 members according to Ms. Hoston, and the group has recently announced that they are looking for new girls to sign up.

The LOVE group serves a different purpose to each member and coordinator. To sophomore Alieza Pompey, being in LOVE helps members "realize what [they] can do and what [they] can achieve as African American females." Pompey also believes LOVE helps give the African American students at Adams a better sense of community; since JA is so large, the LOVE group makes it feel smaller, forming a close-knit community helping to form a real connection between classmates. Ms. Hoston said the group was formed to "empower our young African American women through self esteem and education." Mr. Seitz said the purpose of LOVE is "to build leaders in the building." Mr. Seitz continued, "We have seen a decrease in the number of suspensions, and the achievement levels of students in the group has increased." Every LOVE member has a different perspective, and their personal missions are diverse, but they all share a commitment to making a difference amongst JA's African American girls.



The LOVE Group happily crowds together

were able to sit in on a meeting to gain insight on the group's goals and talk with the student leaders and coordinators. At the meeting, members shared their positive experiences from volunteering and from a field trip on January 29; they also planned for an upcoming fundraiser. The gathering had a very comfortable vibe, and the girls truly seemed like a band of sisters. However, not all meetings are the same. An upcoming meeting will feature a guest speaker to teach the members about teen dating and how to stay safe. Mr. Seitz said, "The beautiful concept of the groups [ISO, Brothers, and LOVE] is that students do the majority of the leading and planning," which was definitely proven as the meeting was driven by group members.

As well as their work to instill confidence and a sense of sisterhood in the members of the club, the JA LOVE group also works towards bettering the community. The girls frequently volunteer at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). They serve dinner on the second Monday of every month and also participated in a gift donation last Christmas. The group hopes to participate in many more volunteer opportunities in the future. Pompey said, "When you volunteer you are volunteering out of the goodness of your heart and I think that is what makes it feel so fulfilling."

The group has not only brought a sense of awareness to the girls, but it allows them to see their own potential. Pompey said, "We have sup-

Every Thursday during one of the lunch periods, a portion of the LOVE group gets together in the audi-

torium. Like most of the student body at Adams, that was the extent of what we knew about LOVE and what it means to be a LOVE member: attending a meeting every Thursday, but to do what? We

porters that are teachers, we have a guidance counselor [Ms. Johnson], and an assistant principal [Mrs. Hooker] so we see that as African American girls we know can achieve much more than working in a retail job or flipping burgers." LOVE also gives their members an opportunity to relate with other African American girls. Sophomore Alaina Powell said, "I'm in LOVE because I get to be with girls just

like me. We share some of the same problems and it is nice to talk about different topics." The girls are also able to feel a deeper connection with the sponsors. Pompey said, "LOVE brings all the African American girls at John Adams together and gives us a reason to feel as if we are connected.

LOVE has affected me personally by bringing me closer to some of our supporters because of how they interact with the group. I definitely feel that our supporters care about the group as a whole, but some of them go the extra mile and you feel like they actually care about you as an individual." She continues saying how she hopes for the group to expand, "I hope that the group is able to do more activities that will draw in a bigger crowd."

If you are interested in joining this tight-knit group of girls in their attempt to better the community, then you can join the LOVE group with three easy steps. First, get a permission slip from Ms. Johnson, a JA guidance counselor. Second, have it signed and return it to Ms. Johnson's office. Lastly, you must confirm with your fourth hour teacher that you are allowed to attend the meetings. With that you are ready to join the JA LOVE group and can become a part of this loving sisterhood. "I definitely would recommend LOVE to other girls because of the sense of guidance that African American girls can take from being a part of it," said Pompey, "I think it is a great group to be in because it helps with self-awareness and it also helps to, in a way, breakdown Adams to where it doesn't seem so large because there are all these African American girls that are around."

Nevertheless, whether you are a Freshman or a Senior, the JA LOVE club is an exceptional group for any African American girl to join.

THE JOHN ADAMS

Tower

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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A recent shooting in Canada brought attention to the comparative infrequency of Canadian Gun Violence

WHY SHOOTINGS IN CANADA ARE RARE

MARIAH RUSH • OPINION EDITOR

Already in 2016, towards the end of January, a mass school shooting shook the small town of Saskatchewan, Canada. Yes, you read that right - Canada. For most, this comes as a shock, considering that Canada is known for its peace, loving, and simple ways. This is in no way disparaging Canada, especially considering their peace-loving ways have worked for them for the past two decades. This shooting, which killed four and injured nine, was the worst Canada has seen since 1992.

The day began when a 17 year old male allegedly gunned down two of his siblings, and then headed to school where he killed two more, including a teacher. Several others were wounded. Very few details have been released regarding the incident, considering the young age of most involved.

While the shooting is, as any other, tragic, it points to a bigger picture. Upon hearing the news, my first reaction was of shock, and not only because of the horridness of shootings in general - it was the fact that this occurred in Canada that appalled me. I know I am not alone in this. When asking friends and family if they had heard the news they either had not heard at all or asked me if I was sure of the location. But why is this our first reaction?

Canada is universally known for its cold weather, maple syrup, and free health care. But also,

in stark contrast to the United States, they have fairly strict gun laws. Canada itself is known as a very peaceful, safe place. In the 2002 documentary 'Bowling for Columbine,' the filmmaker depicted Canada as a sort of safe haven, where people didn't lock their doors and gun deaths were very low.

The laws themselves are complicated, as they divide firearms into categories with different requirements for tests, permits, and training courses. On average, Canadians expect an extensive background and health check, as well as a mandatory 28 day waiting period. But here's the major difference between Canada's gun laws and America's: Canada has no law or constitution providing the right to bear arms. This eliminates much, if not all, of the debate that has clouded our government for decades.

Of course, this shooting proves that even Canada is not immune to the violence and terrorism that plagues our world. At this point, conservatives would begin to preach of the uselessness that is Canadian gun laws, or the uselessness of any strict gun laws whatsoever. But remember, this is the worst shooting Canada has had in over twenty years. Once the math is all said and done, Canada has, on average, one gun related death for every 215,000 people. The United States, however, has a whopping one gun related death for every 28,000 people.

This circle of violence has proved to be unbreaking. However, this shooting is so shocking because it rarely happens in Canada, a place with strict gun laws. Maybe, just maybe, the United States can learn from Canada: Letting any random person buy a gun whenever they feel like shooting is asking for an inordinate amount of disasters. The statistics speak for themselves: Canada's gun laws work. The right to bear arms may be important to some, but in the case of no regulations for firearms, it becomes terrifying. As much as I do not like say-

REPUBLICANS IN IOWA: THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE GOP

KAITY RADDE • LOCAL EDITOR

As anyone who has been following the current presidential race can see, the Republican field is utterly unpredictable and riddled with turbulence. There is an enormous number of candidates, and each one of them has a different vision for the future of the party. We, as a nation, are flying blind. Trust no predictions. Trust no analysis. So far, the polls have been wrong and the results have been shocking. Nobody knows where this election is headed.

Just four days before the Iowa Caucuses, Fox News held yet another GOP debate. Donald Trump was absent, boycotting the debate because of his crippling fear of confrontation, in this case embodied by moderator Megyn Kelly. Trump's absence, simply put, was a refreshing glimpse at conservatism's potential - and in my opinion, purpose - for optimism and American exceptionalism rather than fear-mongering and publicly widening schisms within the GOP, and it let other candidates shine.

Iowa, usually an irrelevant fly-over state, is an important electoral battleground because it marks the official beginning of the primary season. It provides the opportunity to catapult or destroy campaigns. Many Iowa voters changed their preferred candidate multiple times over the last few months and even weeks before the caucuses, and the night's results evidenced such: despite previous polls dolling Trump the unanimous winner, Cruz won Iowa with eight delegates, and Trump barely held on to second, beating Rubio by only one percentage point.

From my vantage point from the press box at Rubio's Caucus Night event in Des Moines, the excitement was palpable. When the first round of results came in - only 17% of them - it looked like Trump (27% at the time) could easily close the 3% gap between Cruz and himself, and Rubio didn't seem like a threat at 19%. But as the results kept

coming, Trump and Cruz were on the decline, and Rubio was steadily climbing.

I, along with other reporters there early, watched Rubio's numbers rise and close in on Donald Trump. Every round of results brought a curious murmur in the press box, and once the general public started to trail in, every round of results brought an impressive cheer from the growing crowd of Rubio supporters.

The end result left Cruz with 28% and eight delegates, Trump with 24% and seven delegates, and Rubio with 23% and seven delegates as well. The rest of the candidates were in the single digits.

The most notable thing that Iowa seemed to prove for the Republicans was that Donald Trump failed his first real test as a candidate, and that Trumplings that created the poll numbers that send a shiver down many of our spines may not translate into actual votes. Trump's presence on the ground in Des Moines was pathetic compared to that of the

"I saw one lonely Trumpling holding a sign on a street corner the entire day in Des Moines"

other candidates - I saw one lonely Trumpling holding a sign on a street corner the entire day in Des Moines - further demonstrating his incapability to run a real campaign; his non-establishment background that he touts with arrogance only dragged him backwards. And the more obvious Trump revelation: he can be dethroned. Sadly, he was dethroned by the most disliked person in the Senate, regardless of party affiliation.

Primary season had officially begun, and analysts thought they knew where it was headed. Trump's unlikely reign had begun its decline, and the real race would be between Cruz and Rubio - between the far right and moderate conservatism. Sure, the debate three nights before New Hampshire was a bit of a shock - the perpetually-polished Rubio was mercilessly shredded to bits by Christie, and Donald Trump had returned to his spot in the middle without many attacks coming to or from him. But who watches those debates at this point, anyway?

Hopefully, they didn't put their money where their mouths were: a few days later in the primary, everything changed. The field was thinner: Huckabee, Santorum, and Paul all dropped out soon after Iowa, giving their supporters time to choose a new candidate. Trump won by a wide margin with 35% and ten delegates, and Kasich, who finished eighth

in Iowa with less than 2%, finished second with 15% and four delegates. Cruz's plausible yet unlikely Iowa victory, which should have given him extra momentum, didn't have the momentum that it would've in most cases: in the coverage that ensued, he managed to be overshadowed by both Trump and Rubio, finishing third in New Hampshire with three delegates.

Further down the line, Rubio's momentum came to a screeching halt - likely because of his poor debate performance - and he finished fifth, behind none other than Jeb Bush. (Yes, you read that correctly: the candidate who has been described as the Republican Party's potential savior finished behind the man who had to ask people at his own rally to "please clap.") Rubio and Bush received three delegates each, and none of the candidates behind them won any. Christie and Fiorina dropped out after the results came in, both failing to gain support.

As the saying goes, "The people of Iowa pick corn, and the people of New Hampshire pick presidents." But more important than the candidates the early states choose is which candidates they don't pick: poor performance in the first few states often marks the end for those candidates, and voters in later states that may have been supporting a dropout will have to choose another one.

Furthermore, the White House isn't the only thing on the line for the Republicans this election: their identity is, too. Choosing Ted Cruz would force the party further right than it's ever been in recent history, and choosing Donald Trump would make it a laughingstock, not to mention terrifying. The prospects for John Kasich and Marco Rubio, the two moderate and reasonable candidates who could probably accomplish something positive in the White House, still look bleak. The upcoming primaries in South Carolina and Nevada may give the nation a better idea of where this election is headed - but then again, they might not.

Primary season is just getting started, and this election is the most important one in many of our lifetimes thus far. Watch closely - nobody knows what's coming next for the Republicans, and the outcome could change the dynamics of our two-party system for decades to come.



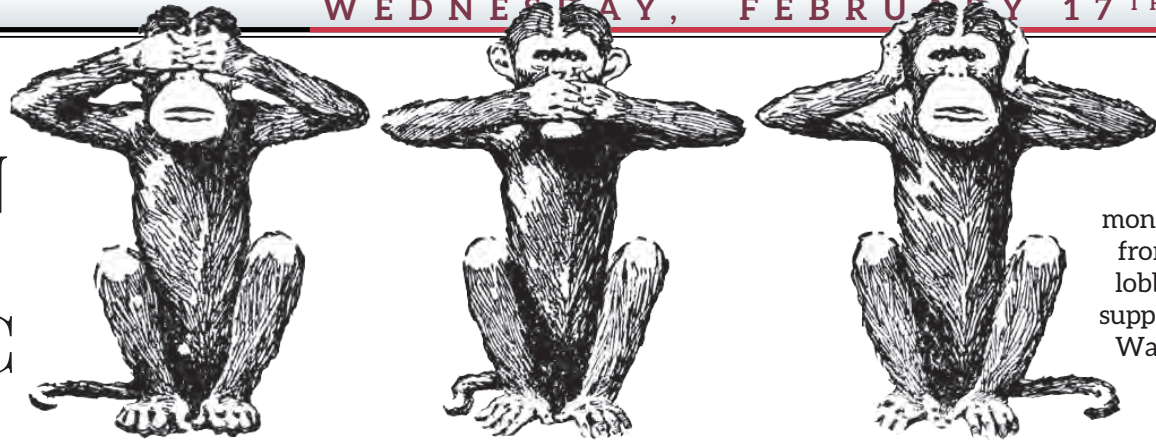
THREE WISE MONKEYS ON THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

DANIEL CLARK • CREATIVE DIRECTOR

In the New Hampshire Democratic Primaries that took place on February 10th, there was a shocking political upset. In an astonishing underdog victory - Sanders' 60.4% to Clinton's 38.0% - the Democratic establishment candidate was beaten. This proved that this campaign is not just one which has consistently been described as more of a coronation. Now Clinton's fear of losing another presidential run is not just visceral. Her rival, Senator Sanders, now is in a position of momentum and recognition that he hadn't held during the earlier days of the campaign. Why? A tie in Iowa, a dominating win by Sanders in New Hampshire, and a new poll has the candidates tied in the next state, Nevada.

This brief summary of the Democratic primary race serves as an objective background on a well-debated platform, most poignant being the argument that Sanders is an idealist, whereas Clinton is more of a realist. Sanders supporters point out that the same rhetoric was used against Obama in the 2008 race, and we all know how that election turned out. Because of the outcome of the 2008 election, I believe that it is plausible to argue Clinton is the actual idealist and Sanders the true realist.

The last time the United States saw a left wing was the New Deal Democrats, who faced their decline and eventual replacement in the primaries of the 1968 election. Overtaken by Robert Kennedy, these "new Democrats" became what is now the Democratic Party establishment. However many left-wing Americans now find the neoliberal ideals of the



Democratic Party outdated and ineffective, especially when pitted against the rampant right-wing ideological paradigm that has dominated the Republican Party since the era of Reagan. This, along with the rise of the Tea Party following President Obama's 2008 election, has made many skeptical of the Democratic Party's effectiveness.

The only way that Democrats can progress forward and form a more advantageous party is if they begin to support "Sanders Democrats", a revival of the New Deal Democrat ideology that integrates new knowledge learned from European social democracies. The country faces a chance to progress forwards, yet Clinton supporters claim that the "realistic" choice is the establishment, an establishment that has failed to pass any substantial legislation in the right-wing dominated political mainstream. It is much too idealistic, in my perspective, to claim that she will have any greater chance to be a "progressive that get things done" than Sanders would. In fact, the contingent revival of the left-wing as a real threat to right-wing power presents a much better chance of getting past the endless blockage of legislation that has plagued the New Democrats' policies.

Pragmatically speaking, it seems that supporting Sanders' path to victory is the route the country must take to progress. The New Democrat ideology, founded in centrism, corporatism, and fiscal conservatism has found its end in Sanders. His populist support exceeds that of any candidate in the history of the United States - three million individual contributions- in the face of Hillary's corporate fundraising machine. Indeed, then,

how can a pragmatist say that she is the most electable? How can a pragmatist see empirical facts that show the contradictions in Hillary's political history - her claims of being a moderate, her claims of being

a progressive, her claims that \$150,000 is "not a lot" of money to accept from fossil fuel lobbyists, her support of the Iraq War- and come to the conclusion that she is the one that

will "get things done"?

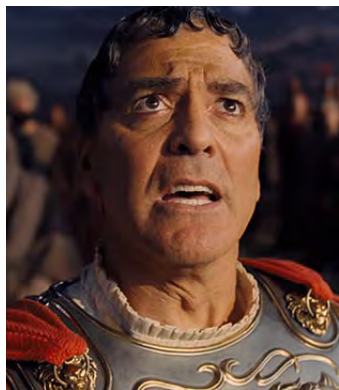
The questions now being asked by a pragmatist are: "What will another President Clinton really get done?" and "Who will she really be helping?" I would answer, saying that she wouldn't get much of anything done without a strong left wing. This is heightened considering that the contingency of Hillary's win have a antithetical outcome; the weakening of the Democratic Party, in the eyes of millennials, will come to fruition if Clinton is elected. The Democratic Party establishment, however, can only think "pragmatically" in the short term: they fear the change that is necessary for the continued survival of their party.

Even the centrist ideology of the Democratic Party has been ousted in the mind of the younger generations, people continue to antagonize Sanders for being too idealistic without realizing that their beloved centrist ideology is no longer as widely supported amongst younger voters. There will be those who call Sanders an idealist for wanting to replicate the many pragmatic, practical, and successful instances of social democracy, single-payer healthcare, and free higher education. Pro-Clinton diatribes against Sanders will continue to be written and spread by a wealthy establishment that is growing more and more scared as each new poll is released. These same people won't look around them to see the application (and thus pragmatism) of his policies, which are visible both internationally and domestically. They will not see the true lack of any pragmatic application of the faux progressivism so loved by Clinton and her centrist establishment. They, too, will not hear the cry of populist support and the pragmatic defense of his policies. Clinton supporters will not speak out even if they see the real instances of Sanders' policies, and hear the cry of the people who so want change. Instead, they will turn a blind eye and continue to only see the status quo, hoping it will remain indefinitely.

*"see no evil,
hear no evil,
speak no evil"*

HAIL, CAESAR! REVIEW

MADDY KIMMELL • REPORTER



This Coen Brothers comedy is an entertaining story of the kidnapping of a famous actor - George Clooney as "Baird Whitlock" - and shows a glimpse inside the glamour of old Hollywood

Fans of the Coen brothers - known for cinematic masterpieces such as "Fargo" - have been gifted with another stylized offbeat comedy, complete with an unimaginable plotline, eccentric characters, and witty dialogue. Set in the backdrop of old Hollywood, "Hail, Caesar!" stars Josh Brolin as the intimidating head of production at Capitol Pictures and Eddie Mannix, who works tirelessly throughout the film to keep the company's reputation clean by fixing the many demanding and constant problems that arise. Despite the film's many sporadic moments, including a scandalous pregnancy, a frustratingly demanding director, and two reporters desperately seeking gossip, the film largely follows the film star Baird Whitlock's mysterious disappearance from the set of the upcoming and highly anticipated epic: "Hail, Caesar".

After waking up in an unknown house, Whitlock discovers he has been kidnapped by "The Future" - a group of friendly Communist writers attempting to blackmail the production company that they worked for after receiving no recognition for their work. The group demands a lofty one hundred thousand dollars in exchange for Whitlock. Even though they are technically keeping him as a hostage, the group shows Whitlock kindness and in the end Whitlock enjoys his time spent with the Communists. Meanwhile, Mannix sets out to secure the one hundred thousand dollars, keep the press off of the disappearance or one of the biggest film stars of the time, cover up a pregnancy, and fix any other vexatious problem as it arises.

The humor in the film is quintessential Coen brothers comedy, the type of comedy that makes you laugh even though you can't quite pinpoint why it's funny or even if it's appropriate to laugh at all. Starring George Clooney, Scarlett Johansson,

Ralph Fiennes, Channing Tatum, Alden Ehrenreich, and Tilda Swinton, the film will undoubtedly be remembered for its countless riotous performances. The film also provides an entertaining commentary on the old Hollywood film industry while successfully addressing the then omnipresent issues of the Cold War. Fans and critics have overall enjoyed the film. Adams senior and Coen brothers enthusiast Ilan Friedland said, "This movie is a treat for both

fans of the Coen brothers and old Hollywood. It was almost like a clip show of old MGM films, garnished with the Coen brothers signature humor and philosophical discussion. I loved it!" Although the film is much less plot driven than other Coen brother films, it succeeds in holding its audience attention with its many absorbing characters who seem to cross paths at the most inopportune times. "Hail, Caesar" may not deserve the same praise as "Fargo" or "The Big Lebowski", but it will certainly be enjoyed and celebrated by all devoted fans and critics alike.

QUIZ BOWL

IAN HAVENS • REPORTER

For the first time since the 2012-2013 season, the Adams Quiz Bowl team has clinched a position in the State Championship, where they will compete in March.

"Quiz Bowl is a loosely-organized group of students attempting to exercise their intellects through entertaining, low stakes competition," says senior member Matt Stoner. "We meet every Tuesday to practice."

Quiz Bowl has traditionally had passionate and committed members, but it's evident that there have been major changes this year, and the results are decidedly positive.

"I think quiz bowl has been so successful this year because we really decentralized and focused on improving our underclassmen and new recruits instead of just playing people who had been in the program for four years," says team captain Ilan Friedland. "There were just a lot of new people this year who brought fresh enthusiasm that the team really needed."

"Aside from Saint Joe, we are the best in the area," comments Stoner, citing their defeat of regional powerhouse Penn High School. Team coach Heath Weaver backs up this claim, stating, "[the team] ranked second in the regular season with a record of 5-2. This is a vast improvement over last year's 2-5 record."

Though a large portion of the team's mem-

bers will graduate this spring, the team is incredibly optimistic looking forward.

"The team had great participation from all grades, and looks to continue its improvement through a system of recruiting high-potential students for next year," remarks Mr. Weaver.

Unfortunately, no underclassman team members could be reached to comment on this year's success. But senior members are quick to praise the leadership and initiative of the younger competitors.

"This year was a great note to go out on," says Friedland. "I think the team is being left to a very capable community!"

WRESTLING SECTIONALS

SAMANTHA JANKOWSKI • REPORTER

With a great season behind them, the wrestling team finished 4th in the NIC sectional tournament. Joey Zahl, Vincent Calhoun, and Tavonte Malone made it to the sectional championship, all placing second. This gave them a great start on the way to regionals. Tavaris Evans, placing third, advances to regionals as well.

The regional competition was a tough battle for the Eagles, but they kept their heads held high and had enough endurance to advance to semi-state. All four of our wrestlers advanced. Zahl, Calhoun, and Evans placed third in semi-state, while Malone took second. In addition, Malone got first in the NIC; Zahl and Evans received honorable mentions. Malone, who was favored to win sectionals, endured a tough loss, but this only further motivated him to advance onto regionals.

During the sectional tournament, Malone reached an impressive milestone: his 100th career victory. Malone said, "I couldn't of done this without the help of my great coach and my teammates who always have my back." Malone qualified for state last year and is expected to place this year. No outsider can truly understand how hard it is to be a wrestler - daily practices, weekly scrimmages, meticulous diets - and how difficult it is to remain competitive. In order to perform at their best, they have to make their weight class, which can only be accomplished by maintaining an equilibrium between working out and eating right. The wrestlers uphold a level of dedication and discipline that Adams is proud to have within its student body. The Tower wishes the wrestling team best of luck at semi-state!

MODEL U.N.

ALICE GOULDING • REPORTER

4 days. 26 committees. 2600 delegates. At the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago, MUNUC (Model United Nations of the University of Chicago) hosted high school students from around the world February 4-7 as they debated international policy and law. Students took on the persona of a delegate or public figure from their assigned country and exchanged ideas with other countries in committees ranging from General Assemblies with over 250 delegates, to more intimate, specialized agencies of as little as 30.

The goal: to pass a resolution or legislation paper within the four days that addressed both the problems raised in the initial crisis as well as those that surfaced during the impassioned debates that filled each committee session. While the objective may seem simple, the process is not. Each successful resolution requires a simple majority vote, which can only be achieved if those delegates drafting the document can garner support from multiple countries, both big and small, well developed and impoverished, and conservative and liberal. In addition, each idea, clause, and amendment is fervently vetted by opposing countries, who subject the authors to intensive question and answer sessions. Equally stressful and exhilarating, MUNUC stands as a pinnacle of academic competition.

As Adams' students filed into the hotel, it was clear that MUNUC was a conference of both fierce competition and tactful diplomacy. Josephine Barber, sophomore at Adams, marveled at the magnitude of the event, stating, "We only had a few practices before the conference. Arriving, we definitely felt unprepared for the intensity of the competition, but that didn't make the experience any less rewarding." This sentiment was shared by all 33 students, who had varying degrees of success in their respective committees, where they represented the countries of France or Tajikistan.

Slumping in a chair during one of her committees' rare breaks throughout the 5 hour session, Sarah Konkey, senior at Adams, let out an audible sigh of relief. Newcomer to the MUNUC conference, Konkey quickly realized that she would have a prominent role in her small committee, which dealt with international police intervening with drug trafficking within the opium trade. As a delegate of France, Konkey was a Power Five country, meaning that her active participation was not only required, but vital if any productive decisions were to be made. "This is so much more intense and interesting than I thought it would be," said Konkey. "Germany and the U.K. want me to coauthor their resolution,



Adams students pose for a picture at Model U.N.

but I've already made preliminary amendments to a working paper written in part by Egypt and Afghanistan. Whatever I choose to do in this next caucus will drastically impact how the next two days go," Konkey continued. Keep in mind Konkey had never participated in Model UN before, but that's the beauty of the competition; while memorizing prewritten statements and knowing the correct jargon can get someone so far, the real action begins when delegates begin making calculated, split-second decisions under the pressure and time constraints of their committee.

Few can speak to the strain of these high-stakes situations better than Mary Harsch, senior at Adams, who was woken up at 12:30 in the morning to attend a crisis meeting on behalf of France. The meeting involved a Turkish hostage crisis in Iraq. Those present met until 5:45 that morning, working together to draft resolutions that would help save those held captive. Every twenty minutes, however, another hostage was pronounced dead. Harsch found this experience "interesting because not only did my delegation [France] play a huge role, we were able to save a hostage seconds away from being murdered in addition to working on easing tensions between the Turkish and Iraqi military forces. We were wonderfully successful."

The weekend was not, however, completely spent within the confines of committee rooms. Adams students were given opportunities, both inside and outside the conference, that expanded their worldviews. Students representing delegations of

France were able to sit down with Vincent Floreani, the consul general at the Consulate of France in Chicago. While present, Floreani spoke about becoming 'global citizens' and stated that despite the ever growing presence of terrorism in France and the Western World, climate change and global warming still stand as the largest threat and most pressing issue for the UN. Senior Georgia Ferdig found the seminar to be "eye opening. Everything Mr. Floreani said about the humanitarian crises in the world rang true to me, especially since a lot of the ideas coincided with ones that are brought up within the IB Program. It was fascinating to make that connection."

In addition to meeting with UN officials, students also seized the chance to immerse themselves in city life. Joey Varga, junior at Adams, found himself exploring the city of Chicago whenever he could, stating, "I loved being in Chicago, especially right downtown, just blocks away from Trump Tower. In my free time, I got to discover new and interesting places to eat with my friends."

All in all, Model UN was an exciting weekend for every one of the Adams students involved in the conference. As Heath Weaver, IB History and Philosophy teacher and sponsor of the group surmised: "Model UN was an excellent opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in international issues. I think the students had a wonderful time and I feel honored and privileged to assist them in this worthwhile endeavor." Till next year, MUNUC!

SBCSC BUS DRIVER STRIKE

ABIGAIL MYERS • REPORTER

Since late January, the South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC) and their bus drivers have been trying to negotiate a new employment contract. The current proposed contract gives bus drivers a 2% raise increase that will be effective for the next 10 years. However, bus drivers and their union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees—Local #686 (AFSCME) are protesting the proposed 2% increase through an organized work stoppage. This has particularly affected students at Adams since several students were stranded after school because the scheduled activity bus never arrived. Many bus drivers supported the “strike” including ‘Mr. T’ as he is known by his students, who stated, “I agree with it.” Others think the matter should be handled differently. “I prefer to see negotiations rather than strikes,” explained one SBCSC bus driver who wished to remain anonymous. Regardless, this “strike” has affected many South Bend schools students and staff.

The “bus driver strike” was a result of an accumulated disapproval of SBCSC’s treatment of their bus drivers. “[The bus drivers who participated in the strike] want to emphasize how little SBCSC values, supports, appreciates and respects their school bus drivers,” said one bus driver. To many drivers, the newly proposed contract, which included a 2% raise for drivers, was the so-called

‘last straw’ that came after what they consider continuous low wages, mistreatment, and poor working conditions. Many bus drivers who were participating in the organized work stoppage or “strike” used their time off to attend a school board meeting. “[They were] not working so they could attend a board meeting to discuss higher wages,” said Ms. Tiffany Reddick, Driver and Safety Supervisor for the SBCSC Department of Transportation. This particular board meeting was held to discuss the new contract between SBCSC and AFSCME and, once there, multiple bus drivers spoke out against the deal. “They won’t pay us for what we’re worth,” stated a bus driver for South Bend schools. Other drivers would not comment to The Tower and stated that they were not allowed to speak publicly about it. “I would comment but I am not allowed to,” explained one bus driver.

Despite the combined efforts of the bus drivers, the SBCSC denies that a strike took place. “The bus drivers are not on strike, nor have they ever been on strike,” stated Sue Coney, the Director of Communications for SBCSC. Ms. Coney and other SBCSC department employees refused to comment any further on the situation, despite the persistent attempts made by The Tower. In response to the “strike” and continuous work stoppage, South Bend Schools filed a Temporary Restraining Order against all Corporation bus drivers which legally bound them to fulfill their obligation to drive their buses. In addition, SBCSC had legal action, including a hearing and an injunction, pending with the St. Joseph County Superior Court. As a result, any continuation of the “bus driver strike” had come to a screeching halt, no pun intended.

Finally, on February 3, a step was made toward a resolution between the South Bend Community School Corporation and the bus driver union (AFSCME). The two parties issued a joint statement:

After fruitful discussions between the leadership of AFSCME local #686 and the School Corporation, both parties agreed that there is no longer a need for the presence of a Temporary Restraining Order related to Corporation bus drivers and the Corporation will dismiss its legal action pending in the St. Joseph Superior Court. Both sides are focused on completing a ratification vote on a proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement and moving forward to improve the dialogue and relations between labor and management. The union strongly expressed their commitment to honor the current contract and provide safe and reliable transportation to students and the Corporation is satisfied with that commitment.

Although this conflict seems to be coming to an end, many are still skeptical that a good agreement will be made. “SBCSC has a ‘take it or leave it’ mentality in dealing with its employees [and] contractors,” explained an SBCSC bus driver who wished to remain anonymous. In addition, over 200 bus drivers stated that working conditions have not improved, according to the South Bend Tribune. For the time being, the AFSCME has agreed to honor the current proposed contract but wants to continue to work toward a new contract that all parties can agree on.

THE NEXT STEP: BRANDON WADLEY AND GABE BROOKS

AMANDA ELLISON • REPORTER

MADDIE MCCONNELL • REPORTER

John Adams High School is proud to announce that two of its senior football players, Brandon Wadley and Gabe Brooks, have officially committed to play at the college level at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, home of the Lakers.

During Wadley's high school career, he played very well both on the football field and the basketball court, balancing both sports with ease. However, football has always been his main focus. Wadley said, "This opportunity means the world to me because I get the chance to showcase my talent at the next level. Many people dream about playing college sports but don't get the chance to, and I'm just blessed that something I have been working towards since the eighth grade has finally come true." To reach this level of success, Wadley lived by one saying: "Dream, Believe, Do, and Complete," and he plans to continue living by this through his college years as a Laker.

Fellow teammate Gabe Brooks helped improve the team when he decided to transfer his sophomore year from Saint Joseph High School. Brooks said, "Transferring from Saint Joe to Adams was a great decision," which makes sense, as he has become a featured player at Adams instead of sharing back field at Saint Joe.

Brooks started off on a high note with JA. At 6'2" and 170 lbs., he became a major factor for the Eagles. He wore the number seven jersey like former Adams star player, Shaq Vann, and was also nominated as Burger King outstanding student athlete this past fall. Brooks' natural talent is not surprising considering his lineage. His uncle, Tony Brooks, was a running back for Notre Dame from 1987-1991, and his dad, Reggie Brooks, was an All American out of the backfield for the Irish in 1992. Brooks said, "I'm excited to finally get a reward for all my hard work, and can't wait to learn more as I go on to the next level."

Brooks and Wadley's outstanding talent played a key role this past football season, with many highlights including a win over Mishawaka. This marked Adams' first win over Mishawaka in

23 years. The two committed to Grand Valley State on February 3rd on national signing day. Even though Brooks and Wadley will be long gone next year, expect nothing less but victory from the JA football team in 2016. Since training for their upcoming season has already begun, they will surely be prepared to compete and finished what they started at last years sectionals.

LADY EAGLES SEASON ENDS IN SECTIONALS

BEN KINGANGA • REPORTER

The Lady Eagles faced LaPorte on Feb. 2 for the sectional game. This was a rematch for the Eagles against the Slicers from a loss they sustained on their last regular season game. The Lady Eagles were looking to bounce back from a 55-47 loss against LaPorte in the sectional rematch. The team felt full of confidence before playing the Slicers Tuesday night. "I think we should push the ball and use our speed to our advantage. It comes down to making our shots and executing on offense," junior forward Maddie McConnell said. The team presses their opponents but they did not press Laporte because they did not want to show the Slicers their tactics and were planning to do that during sectionals. "We need to use our speed against LaPorte because they are very slow and I think we can beat them off the dribble," junior guard Samantha Jankowski said.

The team got off to a slow start Tuesday night at the sectional game. LaPorte had a 25-7 lead in the first quarter. The Lady Eagles had a rough start and had to play catch up the whole game. The team played well the second quarter and the rest of the game but the 18 point deficit in the first quarter affected the outcome and made it tough to comeback. "I think we should have changed from man to man press to a zone press," forward Maddie McConnell said. LaPorte led by at least 10 points throughout the game. Junior guard, Samantha Jankowski, lead the team in scoring with 23 points. Despite the loss the team had a winning season and finished with a 8-3 record in the NIC and a 14-10 overall record. Congrats to the Lady Eagles on a good season.

OVERVIEW OF JOHN ADAMS WRESTLING SECTIONALS

SAMANTHA JANKOWSKI • REPORTER

With a great season behind them, the wrestling team finished 4th in the NIC sectional tournament. Joey Zahl, Vincent Calhoun, and Tavonte Malone made it to the sectional championship, all placing second. This gave them a great start on the way to regionals. Tavaris Evans, placing third, advances to regionals too.

Regionals was a tough battle for the Eagles, but they kept their heads held high and had enough endurance to advance to semi-state. All four of our wrestlers advanced. Zahl, Calhoun, and Evans placed third in semi-state, while Malone took second. Malone got first in the NIC, along with Zahl and Evans with honorable mention. Malone, who was favored to win sectionals, endured a tough loss at sectionals, but that loss gave him even more motivation to advance to regionals.

During the sectional tournament, Malone reached his 100th career victory. Malone said, "I couldn't of done this without the help of my great coach and my teammates who always have my back." He went to state last year and is expected to place in state this year. No one truly understands how hard it is to be a wrestler, they put themselves through a lot to come this far. Every day they're building up their endurance, working out in the gym, and they also have to make their weight class, which makes their diet extremely complex. The wrestlers will keep giving Adams a great name, and we wish the wrestlers luck onto semi-state.