

# The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



## Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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## TAKING A KNEE TO TAKE A STAND:

### IS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM THE RIGHT PLACE TO PROTEST?

MARIAH RUSH & KAITY RADDE - EDITORS

Standing for the National Anthem is something that comes as naturally to many Americans as breathing, and the gesture is generally taken in stride. So, it's not surprising that when NFL San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick elected to remain seated during the anthem, to show support for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, the media erupted into a frenzy. Initially, he acted alone, but he was soon joined by other athletes, both football players and athletes from other sports. A recent poll by ESPN named Kaepernick the most disliked player in the NFL. Perhaps this stems from the debate about the effectiveness of his actions and the criticism of the platform he chose to protest through. This criticism prompted numerous questions from members of the BLM movement - having been denounced previously for more active and violent protests, if this peaceful form of protest was not acceptable, what is?

Since his seemingly simple action has generated much debate, the editorial staff of the Tower (Mariah Rush, Kaity Radde, and Alice Goulding) decided to sit down with three Adams teachers - history teacher Mr. Weaver and English teachers Mr. Ebright and Mr. Elrod - to discuss the protest. Weaver, in his infinite thoughtfulness, brought a copy of the United States Constitution for everyone involved, just in case anyone needed to brush-up on the most important and applicable document in this situation.

All three teachers agreed that Kaepernick, and the athletes who have joined him, have the right to do what they are doing, as protected by the First Amendment, which details, amongst many other things, the right to free speech. The hazier issue was whether or not this specific avenue of protest was effective, marking the point at which disagreement arose among the three teachers.

Their general disagreement came in the statements of their positions, as follows: "I do not think it's effective in what he's attempting to accomplish, nor do I like it," Weaver explained. Ebright believed that his protest was effective

in generating discussion but not in resolution. Elrod agreed that it generated discussion, but, unlike the other teachers, agreed with Kaepernick's actions on a matter of principle, saying, "I agree with [his actions], however. [...] Individuals should not have to stand for a country that does not stand for them," and thus, three of the most prominent opinions on this topic were represented.

"I think the discussion that should be had is, if his goal is to create discussion about police officers and the way they are treating African-Americans when they come into contact with them, it has not accomplished that goal," Weaver argued. Instead, he believes, it has created a discussion about free speech - a discussion that, in educated circles, ends with the conclusion that he does have the right to sit down - and "has not accomplished what he is trying to accomplish,"

***"The only people that have the power to make a tangible dent in this issue are those within our local communities, in schools, and in everyday life."***

which was to bring attention to the BLM movement within the arena of sports.

"We shouldn't be promoting nationalism that sets us against other nations," Elrod said, calling into question the real reasons why we, as Americans, stand for the National Anthem, and if that standing instills in us a sense that our country is better than every other nation. Elrod then posed a question that many people overlook - "Why do we even stand for the National Anthem?"

"Patriotism shouldn't be state-mandated," Ebright said, agreeing with Elrod, and went on to explain that respect for a country should be earned, rather than expected from citizens. However, from the perspective of a coach in a theoretical situation such as this one, he said, "There is a time and place to communicate that message, and the National Anthem, in my subjective opinion, is not that time and place."

In addition to sitting for the National Anthem, Kaepernick also chose to wear socks that depicted police officers as pigs, an action that some would say has tarnished the message he is trying to get across. Ebright, whose brother is a member of the NYPD, said that "he's making generalizations about [law enforcement], and so

by being anti-stereotype [...] and then making generalizations yourself, I think it's counterproductive."

Elrod countered, "I think that generalizations and stereotypes exist because it is a systemic problem with cops [...] and the tension that they have with people of color." The system, he argued, is broken, and the BLM movement is trying to address issues surrounding individual police officers.

Weaver also agreed that it "delegitimizes his [message]" and is offensive to the law enforcement officers, which doesn't help in making him more accessible. "Cops are at the end of a problem," he explained. In his opinion, the negative actions towards predominantly African-American males are a result of what they have dealt with, and these behaviors exhibited by these victims are a result of racism; the problem must be dealt with from both ends rather than solely focusing on the "wrong end of the line."

Besides the fact that all three teachers had differing views of the issue at hand, all of them agreed that discussion and personal action are both the best ways to solve the complex problem at hand. Although celebrities like Kaepernick have the biggest platform to affect change and be seen, some believe that Kaepernick's action will not change anything at all. Weaver said, "I think, in the end, it's been completely pointless [...] any athlete sitting for the National Anthem will not cause any change."

So, who or what might be more effective? Elrod and Ebright both cited comedians as well as personal heroes as options. "When [Kaepernick] is sitting for the Anthem, he's just making people angry [...] but comedy diffuses that anger," Elrod offered. Ebright agreed, saying, "I think we are going to listen to and agree with whoever our heroes are. [...] We live in a society that idealizes athletes and celebrities. These people [who] we tend to hold to a higher standard can have the most effectiveness in this situation," Ebright said.

Although they have conflicting opinions, all present agreed upon the idea that the people in a local community have the best ability and most responsibility to address and solve this complex problem. This is an empowering sentiment: the only people that have the power to make a tangible dent in this issue are those within our local communities, in schools, and in everyday life - not the people removed from us by our television screens, making millions of dollars every year.

T H E J O H N A D A M S  
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*The Tower* thanks the *South Bend Tribune* for printing services.

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# THE EMMYS

CASEY CARROLL - OPINION COLUMNIST

The 68th Primetime Emmy Awards took place on Aug. 18 and proved to be entertaining and nail-biting. Jimmy Kimmel, the host of this year's Emmys, did a great job as the MC, with jokes about OJ Simpson, "Veep," Jeb Bush, and his joking "feud" with Matt Damon that originated on his show a couple of years ago, adding to the quality of watching the award show. He breezed through the award ceremony while entertaining the guests and making sure that everything was on schedule, bringing the show home on time.

One of the other larger presences of the night, Donald J. Trump, wasn't even in attendance. He was mocked consistently throughout the show, mostly by Mark Burnett, the creator of Trump's former show, "The Apprentice." The major awards received that night included Julia Lewis-Dreyfus's fifth consecutive award for outstanding lead actress in a comedy due to her starring role on "Veep," Alan Yang, Aziz Ansari's co-creator of "Master of None," and Tatiana Maslany's unexpected win for "Orphan Black."

These awards were major, but none were as big as the announcement that HBO's "Game of Thrones" was granted the title of all-time Emmy champion. The show now has a well-deserved

total of 38 Emmys, surpassing "Frasier" and leading all shows by twelve Emmys, which includes the awards given out earlier that night. The show matched its record from last year and contributed to HBO's claim for the most awards this year at 22 Emmys. With only two seasons left of the show, they are expected to surpass the record-holder, "Saturday Night Live," which holds 45 Emmys.

Although the Emmys were mostly pleasing to watch, the ceremony of "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story," which involved banter and speeches about the deaths of the people he killed and the criminal himself, was uncomfortable and caused tension throughout the audience and those watching at home. The pre-recorded opening segment featuring Jimmy Kimmel running late to the Emmys was not a popular part of the night. The "Stranger Things" kids handing out sandwiches to the crowd was seen as false in comparison with Ellen Degeneres' authentic and surprising "pizza giveaway" at the Oscars. Some members of the audience also thought that "Game of Thrones" won many awards that it didn't deserve.

The Emmys had a fair dose of awkward moments and controversial wins. However, to Kimmel's credit, he moved the awards along, something many hosts have struggled with at past award shows, and was able to move past the awkward moments to make the show an overall success.



# RUTH BADER GINSBURG

## RENOWNED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE VISITS THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On September 12, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited the University of Notre Dame upon invitation by Notre Dame alumna and U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Ann Claire Williams. The 83 year old, with a personality as large as her stature is small, drew a crowd of about 7,500 people. Her accomplishments abound both before and during her time on the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS).

Much of the discussion was focused on her life before her SCOTUS appointment and her ability to succeed in a field that was all but monopolized by men. Her class of about 500 at Harvard Law consisted of only nine women, and even after she beat the odds in order to graduate while raising a small child and having a husband with cancer, she had immense trouble finding a job. Not only was she a woman - she was also Jewish and the mother of a five year old child, a trifecta that practically disqualified her from many jobs in the legal community and placed innumerable obstacles on her path.

At the beginning of her career, after being turned down for a clerkship by a Supreme Court Justice on the basis of her gender, she worked on International Procedure at Columbia Law. There, Ginsburg traveled to Sweden - and learned the Swedish language - in order to co-author a book on civil procedure. Much of her thinking on gender equality that has influenced the SCOTUS for decades was influenced by her time there. After teaching at Rutgers and Columbia, she co-founded the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, arguing several landmark cases that dealt with gender equality before the SCOTUS.

Obviously, she overcame the many challenges that stood between her and a successful legal career even before becoming the second woman in history to earn a place on the highest court in the land. She has written many Court Opinions, but her dissents were (and are) so engaging and concise that they are ultimately what made her famous and accessible to people across the nation and across generations. They also earned her the nickname "Notorious R.B.G." - a name she's embraced since it came to her attention.

Her accomplishments are clearly astounding, but her personality and integrity are what make her captivating, especially to younger generations. She is commendable for her ability to be both fierce in defending her values and respectful toward those who disagree with her. One of the questions that a student asked her concerned how she was able to keep preconceived beliefs and conclusions about a case or issue out of her verdicts. Her answer was essentially that she takes into account her fellow Justices and her duty to them to ensure that her opinions do not affect her verdicts and jeopardize the Court's integrity, as she expects the rest of the Justices to do. Summarizing her idea that her beliefs alone do not and can not dictate the judgements of the Supreme Court, Ginsburg concluded, "I'm not queen."

In a joking response to that answer, Judge Williams, curator of the event and facilitator of the conversation, said, "You're not Queen Ruth?"

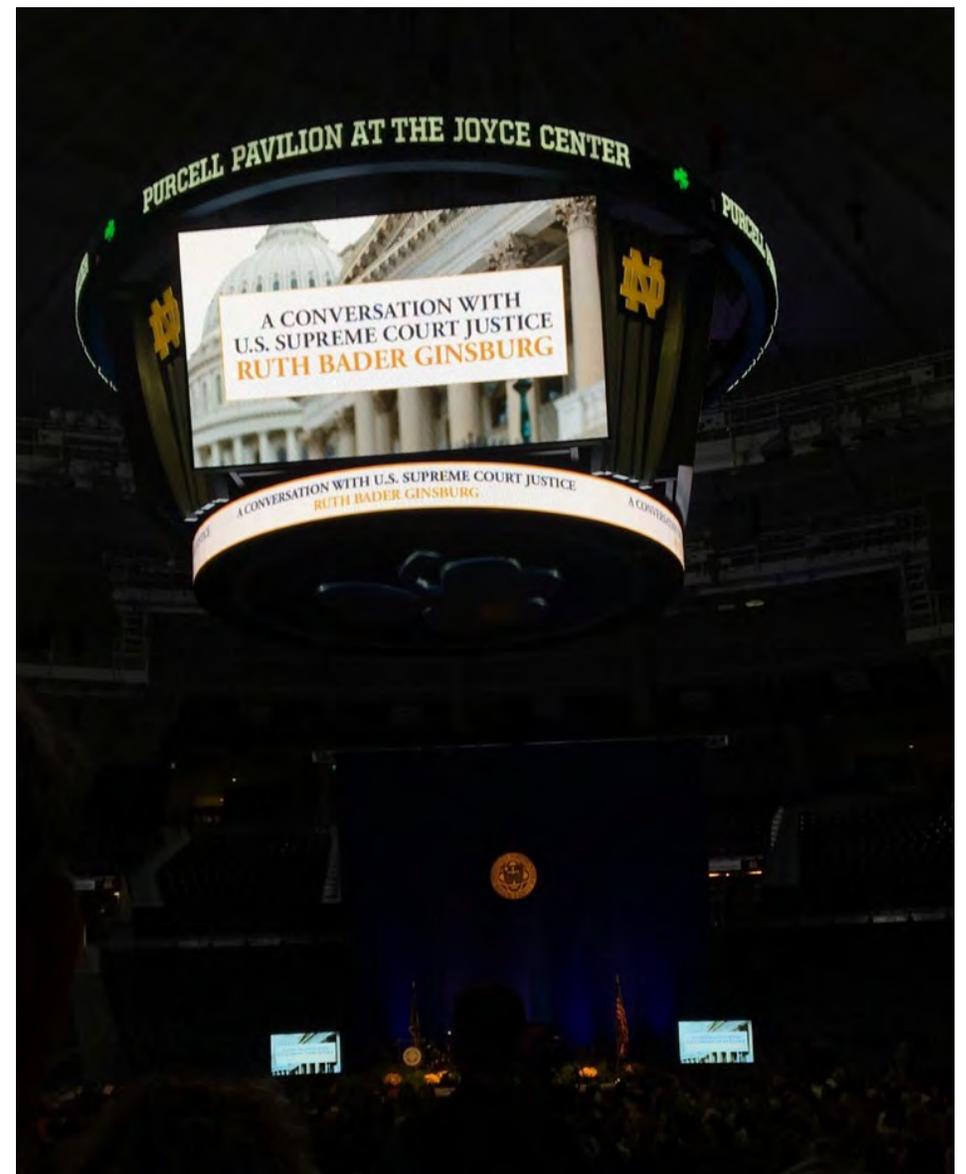
After a pause and with a grin, Ginsburg replied, "I'd rather be notorious."

At that point, the crowd erupted into the most infectious, raucous applause of the event, and though the exchange happened in jest, it emphasized one of her characteristics that I personally appreciate and try to replicate the most: her ability to look beyond herself and her

own personal politics and recognize that other opinions are as valid as her own.

The crippling effects of partisanship so staunch that tolerance becomes blasphemous comes into clear view during election cycles - especially this one. It is refreshing to see someone in Justice Ginsburg's position set an example of respect that crosses the formidable political aisle. Her friendship with the late Justice Scalia, her self-described "best buddy" and a judge who was as consistently conservative as Ginsburg is liberal, is puzzling to many. But, logically, it shouldn't be. The two were colleagues, spent enormous amounts of time together, and had a fair amount of personal interests in common. Instead of letting their opposing viewpoints ruin their close friendship, they acted like adults; their disagreements over pressing issues remained intellectual rather than escalating to personal animosity.

Justice Ginsburg sets an example of personal respect that transcends opposing viewpoints - an example that we sorely need today. By embodying the ideal that the people of this great nation can and should improve America together rather than pitting themselves against each other, she ensures that her legacy will survive untarnished, regardless of whether future generations agree with her decisions - and dissents - or not.



# SYRIAN REFUGEES HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW?

TAYLOR WALDRON - OPINION COLUMNIST

Earlier this year, an article reporting the alleged sexual assault of more than 1,000 women on New Year's Eve in Cologne, Germany was released online via The Independent, a U.K.-produced newspaper. The report stated that the victims identified their attackers as men of "Arab and North African origins." The identification of these men sparked a wave of anti-refugee and anti-Islamic protests throughout Germany. Local polls revealed that this specific event hardened an already tense nation's attitude toward Syrian immigration, and those who oppose the assimilation of Syrian refugees now have more reason to believe in the negative claims made against them.

If this is at all shocking or if this event seems new to you, it is due to a number of media flaws in the Western World; a branch of media that is famed for selective stories and reporting only what yields personal interest. Because of this, it took more than a month for a nationally recognized U.S. newspaper, The Huffington Post, to deliver a story on the situation in Cologne. Beyond the 800 words written for The Huffington Post, there was very little said about these attacks in U.S. media.

Recently, everything that has been broadcasted in the U.S. on the topic of Syrian refugees on major news networks has focused on the assimilation of said refugees into the United States. Within our borders, there is a

stigma associated with the recent immigration of nearly 10,000 Syrian refugees that occurred this past August. Under international pressure from the United Nations - specifically European nations - President Obama raised the number of Syrian refugees who would be offered legal status and announced his relocation program last fall.

Before this relocation program, Syrian immigrants only made up roughly 2% of the total 70,000 refugees admitted in 2015. The overall Syrian refugee population has grown from roughly 2,000 to 12,000 people in one fiscal year. This statistic is alarming and culturally jarring to many U.S. citizens who perhaps do not understand the severity that immigration policies hold. JA senior Adam Sharpe voiced his concern of the relocation plan, saying, "The [financial] cost is my main reason for not supporting the immigration of Syrian refugees. Who would pay for it? Overall I just don't see the benefits and it could cause unnecessary problems." Sharpe, along with many other students at Adams who consider themselves to be politically mindful, had no idea that the assault in Cologne occurred. Like Sharpe, these students knew of the relocation program in the U.S. but were unaware of the problems occurring with similar refugee programs across the world.

Cologne is just one example of many. To name a few others, the relocation of 1,200 Syrian refugees to Sweden, 1,000 to Norway, and 500 to Australia have caused major tensions in those countries while U.S. citizens are voicing their concerns on possible tensions here at home. In the United States, the public is concerned with potential problems and potential costs, financial and otherwise, while the rest of the world is already bearing the burden of real problems and real costs made larger

by America's inaction enabled by the Atlantic Ocean.

Aside from the limited U.S. media coverage of Syrian refugees, the conversations that are actually occurring have been mainly comedic political assertions that make a mockery of the real crisis occurring in our country. In most recent news, Donald Trump Jr. posted a tweet regarding the Syrian refugee crisis. The tweet said, "If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you that just three of them would kill you, would you take a handful? That's our Syrian refugee problem." Not only is this assertion remarkably unconnected from the reality of the crisis, but it also aids in the negative generalization of an entire ethnic community.

This statement made national headlines and clouded the airtime for relevant news. As a nation, the U.S. is far too concerned with the declarations of political families and not well versed enough in the factual happenings of the rest of the world. Americans hide their fear of refugees behind a mask of satire and inaction, which helps neither Americans or the refugees it vilifies.

## WICKED

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

The three-time Tony award-winning musical, *Wicked*, flew in at the Morris Performing Arts Center from September 7-18. The musical is set before Dorothy came into the famed storyline and revolves around the two witches of Oz: Elphaba, "the Wicked Witch of the West," and Galinda, "the Good Witch." Based off of the book "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West" by Gregory Maguire, it follows Elphaba, who is misunderstood by everyone due to her green skin and Galinda who is a popular, bubbly, blonde that everyone loves.

As these two witches become the unlikeliest of friends at the University of Shiz, they encounter many challenges from love interests to discovering the good and bad in the great city of Oz. Along with the spectacular plot, *Wicked's* jaw-dropping original songs like 'Defying Gravity,' 'Popular,' and 'As Long As You're Mine' are spectacular additions to the musical.

John Adams junior, Julianne Grohowski, said, "The company's voices were so powerful and everyone's voices were so controlled. I couldn't believe that I was in South Bend, I felt like I was at Broadway!" Regan Yoder, a junior, said, "Overall the play was really good. After seeing it a couple times previously, in my opinion, the voices weren't as strong as the other performances, mainly because they used a couple understudies in the show I went to."

The stage was not a disappointment either - it was transformed into the Emerald City. Overall, the \$11 million production took only 30 hours to create. This included all the scenery, lights, orchestra, and wardrobe. With the movie slated to come out in theaters in 2019, audiences will get to enjoy *Wicked* on stage and on the big screen, so if you missed the show at the Morris, audiences across the world will still get the chance to enjoy the story.



# THE DOUBLE STANDARD OF A SICK DAY: HILLARY CLINTON'S HEALTH WOES

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

Hillary Clinton and Donald J. Trump have both embarked on one of the most grueling and exhausting jobs in the nation: running for president. Second only to holding the position itself, becoming a presidential candidate requires a certain type of person - one who can go weeks at a time on maybe two hours of sleep a night, one who is up to the task of flying back and forth across the country giving stump speeches on college campuses, one who is willing to submit to the invasive and unforgiving media, and one who is prepared to answer any and all questions with a level of poise and charisma.

In short, if you want to run for president, you have to be ready to sacrifice your mental and physical stability.

As a full-IB senior who participates in about four too many extracurricular activities, this schedule sounds harrowing, and I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy. But Clinton isn't a young and spry 17 like me - at 68 years old, she is closer in age to my retired grandmother than my working mother. Yet few would describe Clinton as a senior citizen; ambitious and powerful, she exudes the same passion this time around as she did in 2000 when running for the Senate.

So when Clinton left the 9/11 memorial service early this month, I was, of course, worried for the Democratic candidate, but understood that becoming sick as an elderly person undertaking a job such as her's was bound to happen. She's not going to die; Clinton announced that she had pneumonia, a contagious and airborne infection, and something she'll likely be over by the end of the month. But the internet was not as forgiving - some called for her resignation from the campaign, others said she was hiding dementia, and others still proposed that we'd been watching a body double the whole time.

Obviously a falter in a presidential campaign looks bad, whatever the reason. But Clinton's health only proves one thing: that she is a human being with an immune system

that - like all of our's - doesn't always function at 100 percent. Should she have alerted the world sooner to her health issues? Probably, especially because of her problem with trustworthiness. Trump was quick to jump on this, suggesting that she was hiding something.

So why does the media not question her male contender? What about the fact that Trump has yet to release his tax returns? Or the fact that in a medical letter released last week, a doctor detailed that he is overweight, takes a cholesterol drug, but still is in "excellent condition?" I don't see the media - both news and social - attacking him with quite as much vehemency as Clinton. Last summer, when Trump refused to attend a national debate because the questions were too hard, I don't remember people conjecturing that he was actually covering up the fact that he was dying from an exotic illness.

And let me remind you that former President George W. Bush choked on a pretzel, fainted, and scraped up his face in the aftermath, and still was reelected president. And that his father, President H. W. Bush, vomited into the lap of the Prime Minister of Japan at a state dinner. He, however, did not get reelected (I guess we have to draw the line somewhere).



Trump declared in an interview last week that Clinton "doesn't have the strength or the stamina" to be president. I was appalled, of course, at the level of sexism the statement held. Clinton has led one of the largest primary campaigns to date - a successful one, I might add - but I suppose that doesn't cut it for the millionaire golf club owner.

Does Trump frequent morning news talk shows as she does? If you count calling in from your phone in Trump Towers, then sure, but that requires about as much energy as typing out a 140-character tweet, another signature move for Trump and his campaign, who seem to have made it their mission to show the world that once again, he can do the bare minimum and still be, as he puts it, "so good". Not much strength or stamina needed there.

The media doesn't even get the chance to spend more than one news cycle on something outrageous that Trump has said or done, because by the time they report it, he's already eclipsed himself with another equally upsetting comment.

Clinton, on the other hand, like all women vying for leadership positions, is held to a very different standard. We can all cut Trump some slack when he makes outlandish statements, or falters during his campaign, hell, even when he says he'll imprison women for taking advantage of their already limited reproductive rights, because he's one of the guys, which I guess excuses him from needing to show eloquence and tact.

But if Clinton works too hard, shows an ounce of passion for this work she does, or gets a little heated in a debate, she's suddenly painted as robotic, scary, or bossy. She isn't any of these things; she's merely a woman trying to assume a role that men have held for over 225 years. I'm not saying that we all must vote for Clinton because she is female, for that would be an equally bad sentiment. I am, however, being critical of the fact that someone as laughably unqualified and inappropriate as Trump can become a national presidential candidate. It just goes to show how scared we are as a country to accept female leadership.

Here we find the root of the real issue that the far-right media has with Clinton. It's not really the illness, or the way she recites her speeches, or how she dresses, or how her hair looks - it's the fact that she has the audacity to prove to the world that our understanding of what a leader looks like is horribly limited.

# FRANKENSTEIN GUEST SPEAKER

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Over the summer, many seniors had to endure the task of reading the famed novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley. As the year has progressed, the senior IB students delved further into the world of the seemingly larger than life idea that is "Frankenstein." One of the many misconceptions stemming from the novel is the fact that Frankenstein is actually the scientist that creates the Creature that the novel is centered around - others include that the novel is a simple horror story. However, it is much more than that, as explained to Adams students in a lecture by the associate professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame, Eileen Hunt Botting.

This lecture, set up by JA English teacher Anne Raymer, involved a question and answer format for Botting to showcase her impressive knowledge not only of the novel in general, but also of more specific topics like the impact of a creature being outcast from society and abandoned completely by its parents. Botting examines this developmental link in her book she is currently writing that is based on political philosophy.

Granted the ACLS fellowship by Notre Dame, Botting has been given a grant to write this heavily researched and explored book. Botting is one of two ND professors to receive this prestigious year-long grant to take a year off from teaching and researching. "Shelley wrote a philosophical novel that allows us to explore the issue of basic human rights," Botting said. According to senior Magdalena Sedmak, Botting's ideas about the popular story are crucial to understanding the novel's connection to the real world. "Children are our future and they should be treated right...not left alone to die like the Creature was," said Sedmak. "[Shelley is] setting up a kind of philosophical thought experiment that enables readers to envision and justify the fundamental rights of children to care and education," Botting told the University of Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters.

Botting hopes to complete her book by 2018, which is the bicentennial of Shelley's novel being published. JA thanks Ms. Botting for taking time to talk to students and wishes her well on the publishing of her book!

# SCIENCE RESEARCH

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

Participants in Adams' Science Research group, led by JA biology and science research teacher Nevin Longenecker, are well known as recipients of grants, scholarships, and recognition. In fact, Adams has repeatedly been praised for its science research program and consistent yield of recognition in the community as well as its groundbreaking work. This year, six student researchers traveled to the Indiana University Medical Center in Bloomington to give presentations surrounding their fields of study. These students were finalists in the Indiana Science Talent Search. Those who are selected to give presentations must first submit a 25 page paper, which is then reviewed by a committee from the Indiana Academy of Science. Only twelve papers are chosen, and an impressive total of six of those were from Adams. In many instances, students even apply for grants to help fund their research. Since 1980, the research group at Adams has received over \$110,000 from a variety of scientific organizations. In the past, investigators have used these funds to study water purification, fuel cells, and even DNA with the advanced laboratory equipment offered in science research.

Longenecker, who has led researchers to IU since 1985, is "always pleased with the students selected to go." Down at IU, the competition has

been known to be particularly fierce. "It's always the best papers by Indiana students which are featured in the competition," he explained. However, students from Adams are usually the ones to receive major awards, in part because of the outstanding leadership of Longenecker. This year, those students included juniors Naomi Freel, Renée Nerenberg, and Caroline Pitts. Seniors Robert Howard, Alyssa Ignaco, and Jack Lloyd also joined them at the competition. Topics such as renewable energy, building design, water purification, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease were investigated by the aforementioned individuals.

Pitts received a scholarship for her exceptional work. She worked with planarian flatworms, miniscule organisms which have unique properties such as the ability to regenerate a missing body part. Her research was centered on the "effects of time and regeneration in the retention of a conditioned behavior" in the worms. This research could potentially be applied to aid cancer-fighting agents in human stem cells. Put simply, this research may help to cure cancer. Her work earned her a \$300 scholarship from the Indiana Academy of Science to any Indiana college or university she may attend. Over the years, students from Adams have earned over \$1.5 million in scholarships from the Indiana Academy of Science.

The exceptionalism of the science research program here at Adams is showing no signs of decline, and we look forward to seeing what is next for these talented individuals.



# MARCHING BAND

ABBY MYERS - REPORTER

As the school year starts and fall sports are underway here at Adams, so too is marching season for the Adams Marching Band. This year the band has been busy working on their show "Balance and Contrasts," which focuses on contrasting themes of movement vs. non-movement and sound vs. silence featuring musical selections from "Sinfonia Noblissima." The band program welcomes Ms. Rory Haney as the new brass tech, Mr. Scott Kurtzweil as the new color guard director, and junior Alexander Ammerman as a new drum major for the marching band this year.

As many of you have probably witnessed, the band program, commonly known as the "Marching Eagles" is a vital part of our school and takes a major role in rousing school spirit. The band works hard to positively promote our school by performing at football games and playing pep music in the stands of football and basketball games. Overall, the band's goal is to represent Adams and combine their individual musical talents. "My goals for this marching season are improving my [musical] skills, meeting new people, and representing Adams in a positive way," said Maggie Blanchard, a freshman and clarinet player in the band.

In addition to working on their marching show, many band members enjoy growing together and making friends within the band. According to sophomore Dylan Herthoge, the best part of band are "The bus rides [to competitions] because you get to socialize with people." Junior Chynna Victory agreed, saying, "The people in the band are my favorite, they're like my family."

Practice started for band members in late July, including an intense week in August of 10 hour rehearsals each day. It has continued throughout the school year with practices Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday during zero hour and on Wednesday nights. In addition, the band program is starting something new this year: after school ensembles, which are divided into brass ensemble, woodwind ensemble, and percussion ensemble. All of these specific ensembles include a select group of band students who practice fun songs to play together, much like a concert band, although the actual concert band doesn't start until mid-October.

After a bitter end to last year's season, in which the band missed qualifying for the state competition by a small margin of 1.5 points, many long-time members want to go to state again, proving that they still have state-worthy skill. "My top goal for the band would be to make it to state, like we did my sophomore year. That would be the perfect culmination of everything we've worked on so far this year," said senior and baritone section leader Robert Howard. He continued, "Going to state would show me that the band has been incredibly dedicated all season and has wanted to do well badly enough to work for it."

There is certainly a lot to look forward to in the marching season for the Marching Eagles. So far, they have competed at the Tipton High School ISSMA Summer Showcase, earning a silver rating, at Goshen High School's Crimson Marching Band Festival, earning 1st place overall, at the Concord High School Marching Invitational, earning a 2nd place overall, and most recently at Penn High School's Kingsmen Carnival of Bands. The Marching Band will also be competing at the Homestead High School Fall Festival of Bands on October 1st. The band will compete in Fort Wayne at the Regional ISSMA competition, hoping to earn a gold rating in order to qualify for the state ISSMA competition. Students can also watch the band perform during pre-game and halftime at varsity football home games.



# GIRLS SOCCER

SYDNEY GRANLUND - REPORTER

The John Adams Girls Soccer Team is about halfway through its season, and it has not been one to disappoint. The Eagles' NIC record sits at 5-1 with a couple of impressive wins and a close loss under their belt. The girls managed to shut out both Washington and Riley, scoring eight and nine goals in each game, respectively. Two more wins came at home - one against Elkhart Memorial on September 3, winning 4-1, and then against Elkhart Central on August 22, winning 2-1. On September 7, the girls lost a heartbreaker and a nailbiter to St. Joe at home. JA was able to hold St. Joe to only one goal in the first half, but they could not get past St. Joe's defense and lost 0-1. Although the game did not



end as the team wished, senior leader Mary Claire Burnett said it was the "most exciting part of the season so far." However, the girls pulled off an upset on September 13 against Marian, winning with a score of 1-0. Senior Rachael Zeiger said, "It felt amazing to beat Marian! It was especially exciting for the seniors because after 3 years we were finally able to do it."

The major success the Lady Eagles have seen on the field is largely due to the sisterhood off of the field. "The team atmosphere is much like a family," Burnett said. She continued, "We are all very close and we all love each other so much." Senior Erin Pinter added, "We know when to be serious but also have a lot of fun with each other." Burnett and Pinter agreed on a central goal: to win every game that their team is capable of winning. Zeiger continued to say, "I think we all have a goal of winning sectionals, something that we've wanted to achieve for a while now, and it would be amazing to finally do it." Zeiger is also excited about how well the team has been playing together and said the "wins have been even more special because [they've] played as a team and continued to improve."

The Eagles' season is coming to a close, but the girls will face Penn on September 27, "which is a pretty big game," according to junior Gwen Fourman. The state tournament begins with sectionals on October 4, and Zeiger said the team would love students to come out and support the team "because it creates a fun atmosphere to play in." Good luck Lady Eagles!

# VOLLEYBALL

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

The John Adams girls volleyball season is well under way, with varsity having played twenty matches so far. The team is led by senior captains Katie Derrickson and Cleo Barnes, as well as seniors Kaila White and Abi Trzaskowski. Their record is 8-13 overall, with an NIC record of 2-7.

The varsity athletes came off of a 2-1 record at the Goshen Invitational, where they faced Goshen, FW Wayne, and Jimtown. There, the team beat Fort Wayne

and Jimtown but fell to Goshen. The winning record at the Goshen Invitational gave the Eagles great momentum going into the home court match against Jimtown on September 20, where they fought hard during four sets. Unfortunately, they fell short of a win. The team regained their momentum with both JV and varsity victories against Clay on September 22 at home.

According to captain Cleo Barnes, there is very good chemistry this year on all three teams - freshman, junior varsity, and varsity. "Everyone gets along well with each other and pushes each other to be the best that they can be. It is a great team to be on. There is no negativity, and few conflicts," said Barnes. All three teams practice together, which helps strengthen their bond. Junior Quincy Haag said this about the team dynamic: "The team dynamic is absolutely amazing. When someone makes a mistake we know how to react, and that is a major key to accomplishing our goals during this season. When it comes down to the connection between teammates, it's there, and you can see the camaraderie on and off the court."

This season, the varsity team's hardest fought battle was their game against Bremen. The similarities between the two teams made for a competitive matchup. They fell shy of a win by just three points, but the team was proud of its performance. "It is the teams we can beat such as: John Glenn, Jimtown, Bremen, etc. [...] The little things are what gets to us in these types of matches," Barnes said. "Those matches are vital to proving how much we deserve to be there in that position, as well as how far we've come," added junior Quincy Haag. The athletes look forward to working hard in more tough match ups, such as the Penn Kingsmen. In those games, it is not necessarily about the final score - "They look to leave everything on the court and give everything they have, to not focus on the final score but to focus on how much heart they play with," said Haag.

Our Eagles still have eight more regular season matches, including three more at home. The athletes would love if everyone came out to support them for the remainder of their season. Let's make this happen and encourage our Eagles to victory!