

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



Thursday, January 26th, 2017

STUDENT-PRODUCED * SINCE 1940

President Obama says
farewell



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MAYOR PETE RUNS FOR DNC CHAIR

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

November 8, 2016 was not a beneficial day for the Democratic Party. The party was demolished at the local, state, and federal levels. Republicans now hold the presidency, both chambers of Congress, a majority of state legislatures, and local governments across the country. Wherever the Democrats go from the election, it is obvious that the party requires new leadership and a new direction. South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg thinks that he can provide the party with both of those items.

Buttigieg launched his campaign to be the chairperson of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) on January 5, appearing on MSNBC's "The Last Word." In his interview with Ari Melber, he laid out his vision for the Democratic Party and the priorities it should hold. "I believe that there needs to be a local perspective," explained Buttigieg. "The solutions that our party needs aren't going to come from Washington," he continued. Chairing the DNC is not the most prominent responsibility in politics, and Melber inquired as to why he sought to be head of the committee instead of running for a higher office. Buttigieg explained that "everything changed on November 8... nothing could be more important or consequential than organizing the opposition."

Buttigieg touted his experience as mayor of South Bend several times in the interview. When asked about the economy, Buttigieg pointed to South Bend's job climate. "In South Bend, we have union of auto workers making vehicles that are sold all over the world. Workers can win in the future if we're not afraid to face it." He also laid out the values that the Democratic Party, in his mind, stands for. "We have always been the party of fairness, and that includes economic

fairness and political fairness, and we have to stand up for that."

However well-delivered Buttigieg's remarks were, he still has five competitors vying for the position. Among the most prominent and endorsed include Labor Secretary Tom Perez and Minnesota Representative Keith Ellison. Perez was endorsed by President Obama and four Democratic governors. Ellison, the most liberal choice, was endorsed by Senators Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

When asked why he would be different than all five contenders, Buttigieg showcased his time in South Bend. "I have the experience of someone who's been an executive, a mayor... someone who runs a \$300 million budget and a 1,000 person organization." He also mentioned his military career, which includes cybersecurity training, as an important asset for managing the DNC. In his interview, Buttigieg proved himself to be a competitive option for the DNC chair who may rack up endorsements as time passes.

Overall, Buttigieg's DNC campaign is about bringing a local perspective to a national movement. He wants to represent those, especially in the rust belt, who may have voted for Donald Trump based on economic strife. He also wants to revive the party by bringing new leadership and ideas to the table in a time when the Democrats are struggling against a tide of populism



and anti-establishment sentiments brought upon by Trump and his campaign. Buttigieg hopes to be able to act as an effective opposition against Trump and the Republicans currently in power at every level of the American governmental structure.

Whatever the results of the DNC chair election, Buttigieg has thrust himself into the national spotlight, and name recognition is incredibly important when running for a prominent position in government. "The New York Times," in an article written by Frank Bruni, cited Buttigieg as one of fourteen young Democrats to watch in the national arena. Buttigieg could use the DNC position to position himself for a run for the Senate or even the presidency. Whatever the case, this young mayor from a liberal Indiana city is casting his name into prominence.

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

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PRESIDENT OBAMA:
ONE LAST
TIME

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This January is a busy time for the White House - President Obama is due to address our nation one last time as our President, with his farewell address. Though he gave his last press conference after the address, his farewell address was the last time he spoke to the nation as a whole. Before the end of the month, the country will have a new president. While preparing for President-elect Donald Trump to take over within ten days, President Barack Obama gave his farewell address on January 10. Unlike some presidents, who have opted to give their speech at the White House, President Obama chose to deliver his speech in his home city of Chicago, at McCormick Place. The Saturday prior to his historic speech, thousands of people lined up the night before into the morning in an attempt to receive tickets to see the president. Prior to the speech, President Obama called the speech an attempt to "say thanks" in his own words. Personnel close to the President shared that he has been working on this speech for the past few months. Although every farewell address is highly covered, this address in particular has been deemed historic, as it is the farewell to the country's first African-American president.

To supporters, his first words to a roaring crowd hinted at a note of melancholy and at the same time, humor. "You can tell I'm a lame duck [president] because no one is following instructions," he joked. Following that, his words turned serious. He began reminiscing on his days in Chicago after first moving in his early twenties, and how Chicago taught him that, "[Chicago] is where I learned that change only happens when ordinary people get involved and they get engaged and they come together to demand it." He continued on to lament over our progress over the past 240 years, and the courage that has propelled our nation to become better, and more equal. To a teary-eyed crowd, President Obama said, "That's what we mean when we say America's exceptional...not that our nation has been flawless to start, but that we have shown the capacity to change."

In a time of political uncertainty and divisiveness, President Obama recognizes that our progress has seemed "uneven" at times, but offers hope to people uncertain about the future of our democracy. With reassurance, he said, "The work of democracy has always been hard, contentious and sometimes bloody. For every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back. But the long sweep of America has been defined by forward motion, a constant widening of our founding creed to embrace all, and not just some."

Not to be forgotten, President Obama gave individual shout-outs to his wife, family, and (of course) Vice President Joe Biden. He reflected on accomplishments of his administration, highlighting the recession turnaround, our newly-mended relationship with Cuba, marriage equality, health care, and the capture of Osama Bin Laden, among others. He later goes on to highlight tasks that the country still needs to accomplish - specifically racially and economically. Quoting one of the most quotable characters in literature, Atticus Finch, President Obama said, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

However, the point of this address was not to show what the Obama Administration has done for our country, or what still needs to be accomplished - that is a subjective task, one that many may disagree on. Something we can agree on, which lately has not appeared easy, is that President Obama's farewell address is meant to inspire hope for many who may have lost it recently. Its purpose is to show that America is great, even with the problems that seem to be ever-presently lingering. Whatever your opinion on President Obama, he has shown the nation that although our country still has a ways to go, we have certainly come a long way and that our democracy is important. Returning to his core anthem that rocked the country eight years ago, President Obama ended his final speech to the country with, "Yes we can. Yes we did. Yes we can."



THE TRUMP INAUGURATION AND THE MARCH THAT TRUMPED IT

OPINION

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The inauguration of the forty-fifth President of the United States took place on January 20, 2017. Some regard it as the day that the people took power back from Washington insiders; others regard it as the day that time travelers will return to in order to stop it from happening.

Inauguration Day, while it can be awkward or tense when power transfers from one party to another, is traditionally a day that the nation celebrates the age-old precedent of peaceful transfer of power - and a day that the newly inaugurated president generally tries to bring unity and optimism to the country that was divided by the past campaign.

President Donald J. Trump did not hesitate to break from that tradition. His inaugural address provided a decidedly grim view of the state of America. The beginning of his address was relatively hopeful, even with its implicit veil of criticism of the past, but it quickly devolved into an image of a poverty and violence stricken nation that sounds nothing like the America many - dare I say the vast majority - of us see on a daily basis, even as he evoked the name of God what felt like more times in one speech than he had throughout his campaign. Language like “carnage,” “scattered like tombstones,” and “very sad depletion” is generally unheard of at an inauguration; Trump used it as the backbone of his address.

Interestingly enough, Trump’s speech expounded a brand of big-government nationalism - which runs contrary to the small-government ideals that have defined the ideologies of most

Congressional Republicans for the past century. His address raised the questions: will Republicans allow him to change the Grand Ole Party’s identity, or will they defend themselves against the populist movement that propelled Trump to the Oval Office? John McCain and others have promised to be true to what he considers to be his party’s basic tenants before Trump, but will the McCains outnumber those who put the word “Republican” over the party’s definition and past intentions? Or will Trump bend to the will of establishment Republicans once he realizes that he needs them to get anything done?

Aside from Trump’s unsettlingly bleak view of the United States as we know it, the rest of his inauguration passed unremarkably. Inauguration turnout, despite what Trump and White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer would like you to believe, was significantly lower than it was

precedent of falsehood, even regarding an issue of so little importance as inauguration attendance.

The next day, however, was a sight to behold. The Women’s March, whose official goal was “to affirm our shared humanity and pronounce our bold message of resistance and self-determination,” drew far more people than the inauguration had - according to the New York Times, three times as many (again, based on Metro data and aerial imagery). It brought people of all backgrounds, parties, nationalities, and genders together, the common thread being a distaste for Trump and a passion for women’s rights - and clever signs.

Sister marches sprang up across the country and the world, including here in South Bend, and millions of people came together for the same cause around the world. The march in

Trump’s hometown of New York City sent one of the clearest messages of defiance. Across the world, the show of unity in the opposition to Trump was inspiring and uplifting for the women - and men - who feel threatened by the new President and his prospective policies.

However, plenty of Trump’s supporters believed that the marches were “ridiculous” or “pointless.” Trump himself asked the world - through Twitter, of course - “Why didn’t these people vote?” - suggesting that he had evidence that they didn’t.

It is worth reminding the detractors of peaceful protest that marching - the signs, the chants, the voices, and most importantly, the numbers -

brought us some of our most precious freedoms, including a woman’s right to vote and countless civil rights victories. Even if marches don’t bring about revolutionary legislation as they have in the past, some believe that they send a message to the people they are protesting against - in this case, the Trump Administration - that they will not sit still or keep quiet until their voices are heeded.

Squeaky wheels get the grease, my fellow Americans. Keep squeaking.



at Barack Obama’s, based on Metro ridership numbers and photo and video evidence. It is worth noting that Sean Spicer’s first interaction with the American people was laced with objective falsehoods, which Kellyanne Conway called “alternative facts.”

In short, Inauguration Day was exciting for Trump and his supporters, but it brought uncertainty and fear not only to his most outspoken enemies but also to members of his own party in Congress and beyond. And it set a dangerous

TRUMP'S TAXES AND FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS

OPINION

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

On April 19, 2011, a few months before the kickoff of the 2012 Republican primary campaign, Donald Trump was interviewed by ABC News about his business ventures. Between bragging about his company's success and criticizing former President Barack Obama, Trump was asked if he'd release his tax returns by ABC news. Trump furrowed his brows, responding, "I'm going to do the tax returns when Obama does his birth certificate." The White House released Obama's birth certificate eight days later, but there was no sign of any financial paperwork from Trump Tower.

A month before the 2012 election, Trump went on CNN and chastised Republican nominee Mitt Romney for his lack of transparency, urging him to release his tax returns, but with a caveat – "if he [Obama] releases, I'd like to do a swap. College records, passport applications for every tax return he [Romney] ever signed."

In a May 2014 interview, a reporter pointed out to Trump that he had yet to release his tax returns, despite promising to do so after Obama produced his birth certificate. Trump responded, deadpan, that "if I decide to run for office, I'll produce my tax returns, absolutely and I would love to do that."

On June 16, 2015, more than a year later, Trump declared he was running for president, but still his tax returns stayed out of the public eye. Finally, he settled on a condition: he'd release his tax returns as soon as his lawyers were done with their audit of them, which he assured NBC in February would be done in a few months tops.

We'll never know what his taxes look like, and certainly will never discover what on earth they entail that could make him squirm around the issue for five years. This Sunday, Kellyanne Conway, former campaign manager for and current counselor to Trump, announced that the president would never release his tax statements. One can now only speculate as to why he's made something the last nine Republican nominees have done such a large issue.

Maybe he makes a lot less than he has purported to make. Most likely, he doesn't give as

much back – either to charities or the federal government – as he wants us to think. Thirdly, and probably most concerningly, he may owe money to foreign businesses or corporations that he doesn't want us to know about.

This last one is especially disquieting given Trump's fairly public admiration for Russia and its president, Vladimir Putin. Trump has not shied away from lauding Putin with praise for his handling of the Russian military in foreign conflicts, and for his tight grip on Russian affairs and diplomacy. An American president becoming cordial – even friendly – with a foreign dignitary is nothing out of the usual, except when that leader involves himself in the running of American domestic affairs.

This summer, for instance, state-sponsored Russian hackers successfully infiltrated the Democratic National Committee's computer servers, leaking information about the internal strategies of almost a dozen Democratic congressional campaigns, which many believe torpedoed their chances of winning in November. Additionally, hacked emails from the chair of the Hillary Clinton campaign were the focal point of news cycles for almost a week. Though entirely unrelated to the private-server emails that haunted Clinton throughout her campaign, many conservative pundits were quick to connect the two. Closer to November 8th, Russian-sponsored hackers began setting up internet sites on which to spread the thousands of documents they'd obtained. This reinvigorated the conversations about the hacks over the summer, only this time much closer to the election.

In late December, American intelligence agencies issued a statement saying they had "high confidence" that Russia had involved itself in the American election, to purposely thwart Clinton's chance of winning, and aid Trump's unforeseen rise to victory, effectively altering the outcome of the election. Additionally, Obama imposed several sanctions on Russian organizations, officers, and intelligence services, as well as deporting 35 Russian diplomats from the United States. Trump responded in an official statement, telling the country to move on. On Twitter, Trump was more crass, tweeting, "If Russia, or some other entity, was hacking, why did the White House wait so long to act? Why did they only complain after Hillary lost?" Trump's Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan disagreed, saying that Obama's executive order was "overdue but an appropriate way to end eight years of failed policy with Russia."

Did Russia tamper with the 2016 election in order to get back at Obama for years of mis-

treatment in foreign affairs? Perhaps, but that is a question we cannot answer with certainty if now President Trump does not pursue further investigations, something he is unlikely to do, given his unwillingness to admit that there was any foul play.

On Inauguration Day, President Trump repeated multiple times that his presidency would be one that put "America first." While many of his proposed policies – from building a wall along the Mexican border to creating a registry for Muslim immigrants – purport to serve the national interest, this message is tainted when viewed in light of Trump's refusal to be transparent about his finances and hesitancy to condemn Russia and Putin for their actions. If the president will not release his tax statements – that very well may contain information about shady dealing with foreign powers – and celebrates his friendship with Putin, how are we to know he will always put our interests first?

CARRIE FISHER AND DEBBIE REYNOLDS

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

On December 27, 2016 beloved "Star Wars" actress Carrie Fisher died of a heart attack at the age of 60. Days before, Fisher was returning on a flight from London to Los Angeles when she suffered a heart attack. Once the plane landed, she was rushed to UCLA Medical Center where she later died.

Fisher was best known for her role as Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" films. When news broke of the actress' death, social media outpoured with deep sadness. Among her co-stars, Mark Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker, tweeted, "No words #devastated." "Star Wars" creator George Lucas said in a statement, "She was extremely smart; a talented actress, writer and comedienne with a very colorful personality that everyone loved."

Her other credits include: "When Harry Met Sally" (1989), "The Blues Brothers" (1980), and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (2015). Fisher is also a highly accredited author, writing semi-autobiographical novels voicing her battle with mental illness in "Postcards for the Edge," and her autobiographies "Wishful Drinking," and the recently published "The Princess Diarist," among others.

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One day after Fisher's death, her mother, Debbie Reynolds suffered a "severe stroke" at her son's home. While planning funeral arrangements an ambulance responded to a 911 call made by Reynolds' son Todd Fisher. Reportedly he said, "She said, 'I want to be with Carrie' and then she was gone." Reynolds was one of the last golden age actors of television and cinema. Her legacy includes being a talented actress, singer, and businesswoman.

Among her works, she is best known as playing Kathy Selden in the musical "Singin' in the Rain" (1952) and the Disney original movie, "Halloweentown" (1998). Both Reynolds and Fisher leave behind Reynolds' son Todd Fisher and Carrie Fisher's daughter, Billie Lourd, who is best known as playing Chanel #3 on the TV series "Scream Queens."

Reynolds and Fisher were buried next to each other at Los Angeles' Forest Lawn Memorial which is the final resting place of famous celebrities like Bette Davis, Lucille Ball, Liberace, and

Paul Walker. Both mother and daughter had a special bond that was irreplaceable. Living right next door to each other they were especially close. In the new HBO documentary "Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher & Debbie Reynolds," Reynolds notes, "We are separated by one daunting hill." That special bond that the two shared has always been strong through the good times and the bad.

In an interview with Oprah Winfrey in 2011, Reynolds and Fisher sat down to discuss their life and special bond. While in Fisher's 20s, Fisher and Reynolds were estranged for a couple of years. The main reason for the split was because Fisher was tired of being seen as just as Debbie Reynolds' daughter. Fisher was quoted saying, "In order to have my own identity, I had to forge my own character out of nothing. I wanted my own life." Then in 1981, Fisher overdosed and collapsed on a movie set. Reynolds recalled her trip to the hospital: "It was terrifying. I was crying like mad. I've had to walk through a lot of tears. But she's worth it."

In Fisher's 2008 memoir, she wrote about her experience with mental illness. Fisher was quoted saying, "The only lesson for me, or anybody, is that you have to get help. It's not a neat illness. It doesn't go away. I'm just lucky this hasn't happened more." With that Reynolds added, "All I can do is love her." Eventually after reconciling, both mother and daughter became more like best friends and enjoyed singing together the song "Happy Days Are Here Again."

HIDDEN FIGURES

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

"Hidden Figures," the powerful and inspiring holiday movie release, has taken over the box office. Centered around three African-American women in 1962, mathematician Katherine Goble Johnson works at the segregated West Area Computers division of Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. The movie also follows the aspiring engineer, Mary Jackson, and informal supervisor, Dorothy Vaughan. After the success of Russia's launch of the Sputnik I, NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is forced to think outside of the box in order to launch American astronauts into space as soon as possible.

Al Harrison, the director of the Space Task Group, is pressured by his superiors, causing Katherine Goble to be assigned to assist the team. The temporary promotion leads Katherine to make history as the first African-American woman in the team. Katherine, struggles to taken seriously because of her race and gender which promotes her dismissal throughout the workplace, especially with the head engineer, Paul Stafford. Dorothy Vaughan painstakingly strives to become the official supervisor of the West Area Computers due to the fact that she does all of the work a supervisor would do. She is rejected by her supervisor, Vivian Mitchell, every time she reaches for the opportunity. Fighting back against the prejudices of her time, Dorothy decides that she needs to take bigger steps for change, so she teaches herself how to work the "uncrackable" IBM machine. Since the IBM would have taken the jobs of the West Area Computers, Dorothy tells Mrs. Mitchell that she will only use the machine if she can take her trained workers with her. When Mary Jackson is able to identify a flaw in the experimental space capsule's heat shields, she decides to take action and become an engineer. She is eventually able to take classes at an all white high school and accomplish her dream. The three strong, inspiring woman caused positive changes throughout society.

Because this movie is based on a true story, I believe this movie is important for people to watch because it gives the viewers a visual on the prejudices and despicable acts of the time. Katherine's in-

ability to use the station's restroom, drink coffee from the same pot as her co-workers, or wear any kind of jewelry she can afford, tells of the segregation between white people and African-Americans at this time. Dorothy's struggle to become an official supervisor when the position was never filled and her outings in which she is unable to check out a book from the "Whites Only" sections show the inequality outside of NASA as well. Mary's fight for becoming an engineer represents the events of this time because of her initial inability to receive the education she must have to become an engineer. The movie also shows snippets of the means in which whites and African-Americans were segregated through "Whites Only" water fountains and peaceful protests being disrupted violently by police officers. The kindness shown through John Glenn and the judge of Mary's case reflect that not all people were racist at this time.

All of these aspects make "Hidden Figures" a must-see movie. Overall, "Hidden Figures" is a powerful movie that should be seen by all to know that you should never give up, no matter the obstacles.



YOUNG LIFE

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

Often times in high school, students have trouble making friends, meeting new people, or just getting comfortable in general. Fortunately, for any students stuck in this difficult position, John Adams has a branch of the amazing youth group known as "Young Life." Young Life is a club where students can meet and interact with other students. It is a Christian based youth group for any students looking for a fun way to meet new students and strengthen their faith.

Every Monday Young Life meets at either Church of the Savior or one of the group members' houses. The group of normally about 30 kids engages in many activities like games, conversations, as well as community work. It is great for anyone who wants to have fun, but also be involved in the community. One of the recent projects was helping to feed the hungry. For holidays such as Thanksgiving or Christmas JA Young Life has potlucks or pizza parties. Anything that needs to be purchased is typically provided by the group leaders. The leaders are Jake Stier, who attends Holy Cross College, and Emily Nikodemski, who attends Notre Dame. According to many of the members, Stier and Nikodemski are great role models to the youth and they devote so much of their time and money to Young Life.

Once a month the JA Young Life group meets with both Penn's and Clay's Young Life to discuss what they have been up to and enjoy each other's company. What's great is that members from different schools can meet and interact with each other and find out they have a lot in common. The JA meetings, however, aren't only exclusive to students from Adams. If you have friends from other schools who are interested, bring them along with you.

Although Young Life is a program that stresses faith in God, everyone is welcome, and they do not discriminate. Anyone who is interested in going may attend regardless of their religion.

If you are interested in joining, contact one of the many members of the group or just show up to the location it is being held. You can follow the twitter page @younglifeadams. Young Life looks forward to seeing you there!

THEATER: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BRENDAN HAYNER-SLATTERY - REPORTER

It seems the end of the holiday season will be stretched a little bit later this year with the John Adams Drama Department's production of "A Christmas Carol." The program's newest show, "A Christmas Carol" will be performed at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, February 10th, in the school auditorium. Students and community members alike are invited to come see Evelyn Scrooge face the spirits that haunt her past, present, and future in this modernized retelling of the classic Dickens tale. Tickets will be sold at the door, at a price of \$3.00 for JA students and \$5.00 for general admission. The money raised will go to charity.

This performance stands out from the typical work of John Adams theater in a number of ways. First and most notably, the production of "A Christmas Carol" features a high level of student involvement. The script itself is student-written, with each scene drafted collaboratively by several members of the cast and crew. Furthermore, for the first time in over five years of the program's history, the production is led by a student director, Drama Club president senior Taylor Waldron. "This is a big change from any of our past shows," Waldron explained. "It's exciting to try something new."

The increased role of students in the production, however, is not the only change this year's show has to offer: it will also be brought to a new venue. In addition to the February 10th performance at Adams, the play will be performed later in the month at several retirement homes throughout the city. Although presenting a school play as a traveling show is unusual, program leaders hope it will provide a valuable experience for the student actors involved and foster better connections to the community at large. The specific dates and locations of these later shows remain under discussion.

Throughout the year, while working to write and rehearse plays, the Drama Department has continued to struggle with obtaining the funding needed to purchase performance rights and build theatrical sets. For those interested in helping to support the program in bringing new productions to the stage, a fundraiser will be held on March 16, at Blaze Pizza on Eddy

St. The fundraiser will last from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M., and anyone who wishes is encouraged to attend - and, of course, to come see "A Christmas Carol" on February 10th.

MIDWINTER

KENNEDI KYLE and KAYLAN PARKER - REPORTERS

This year's Midwinter was on Sunday, January 15th at The Brick. Because of the reasonable ticket prices, there were many students in attendance which made the dreamful evening more memorable. The theme was "A Midwinter's Night's Dream", a play off the title of Shakespeare's play, "A Midsummer's Night's Dream." Although there weren't many upperclassmen to start the dancefest, the freshmen and sophomores were able to have fun all by themselves.

Sophomore Adiyah Williams said, "Overall it was decent night, but I did not like the selection of music that was played." This factor alone made the dream turn into a nightmare for some. Some attendees did not mind the music, because it was more about having fun with their friends. Williams also said, "I still had a great time and experience, and it is a great excuse to dress up for a night." Next year the student body hopes for better jams.

Senior student body government Vice President Abby Kern, agreed with Williams about the music that was played, but it didn't stop her groove. Kern enjoyed herself with friends and fellow peers and made her senior year midwinter genuinely fantastic. Kern said, "This year's midwinter meant so much to me because it is one of the last formal dances I will attend before prom." Most of the underclassmen went with a group of friends, and very few were accompanied by a date. This type of thing doesn't happen often but when it does the party is better than ever. Even though the music was a big flop, the student body government did a superb job decorating the venue.

MOCK TRIAL

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

John Adams is renowned for its superb mock trial program. Having won 16 state titles as of 2016, the mock trial program at Adams is the best in the state. With three new freshman teams, the 2016 season has gotten off to a great start. Donna Sharp is currently serving her second year as the mock trial coordinator. Sharp enjoys “seeing the students come in for practice and listening to the chatter and excitement of regionals.” Mock trial participants this year are definitely anxious for regionals, as every Adams team must attend the Penn regionals this year.

“We have been limited this year with regionals,” Sharp explained. “In the past, we were allowed to go to the Hammond regionals or Penn. With eleven teams, we are more than likely going to have to go up against our own teams.” Sharp expressed optimism at the chances of an Adams team winning state, though, explaining that “most schools do not have the amount of student interest that Adams has for mock trial.”

This year, Adams has one team in particular that is likely to win state. “Not Necessarily,” an all-senior team, is a favorite to journey to Hartford, Connecticut, to compete against teams from all 50 states. Brendan Hayner-Slattery, a member of the team, said that “it would be nice” to go to nationals. “We’re practicing three times a week right now, but we’ll increase our practices soon,” said Hayner-Slattery. Adams has even won nationals in the past, emerging victorious in 2009 and 2011.

Not only is the mock trial program here state-renowned, but it has also been recognized nationally. Many mock trial participants have even sacrificed the chance to earn an IB diploma to compete at nationals, as IB testing is the same week as the national competition. Hayner-Slattery, a diploma candidate, said that he would give up his diploma to go to nationals. Winning state is a difficult feat to accomplish, and to some, this facet of Adams’s academic prowess takes greater precedence over that of the IB program.

JAVA WINTER WALK

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

On Sunday February 19, 2017, the John Adams Volunteer Association, otherwise known as JAVA, will participate in the 18th annual Winter Walk for St. Margaret’s House, a women’s shelter. Since opening their doors in 1990, St. Margaret’s House has helped support hundreds of women and children in the community. The organization provides daily services for families, such as providing a hot meal, shower, access to clothing, or to simply make a phone call to a loved one. St. Margaret’s House improves the lives of women and children by providing individual attention to their immediate needs, breaking the bonds of isolation, and helping them acquire skills to better their lives. Through a philosophy of shared ownership in St. Margaret’s House, guests become empowered by participating in planning and decision making. The purpose of the event is to raise money and awareness for the St. Margaret’s House located in downtown South Bend. The walk represents the countless women and children that must walk to the shelter regardless of weather conditions.

The theme of this year’s walk is “Wear Red.” Volunteers who are helping and walking should all wear red attire. The color will honor the memory of Sister Agnes Anne who was an avid volunteer and participated in the Winter Walk every year, and always sported her red coat. Sister Agnes Anne passed away this year, so the

volunteers wanted to find a way to represent her loving memory.

Aside from walking, volunteers can also help out with activities at the South Bend County City Building before the event begins. “You can help face paint or make posters for the walk,” said senior JAVA member Zoe Ricker. “Cool people walk with us. The mayor goes, pageant girls go, there’s always a nice keynote speaker,” said Ricker.

The walk will begin in the lobby of the County City Building (227 W. Jefferson Blvd) and end in front of St. Margaret’s House (117 N Lafayette Blvd). If you want to volunteer with JAVA, you can sign up at their website, <http://www.javagetfilled.com>. Once there, you will follow a link to the St. Margaret’s House website where you will be asked to select team JAVA. Volunteers should arrive at the County City building at 2:00pm. The walk will begin at 2:30pm. You can also make digital donations via the St. Margaret’s House Website, <http://www.stmargarethouse.org/winterwalk/donations>, or cash donations to select JAVA team members who will be patrolling the halls of Adams wearing fanny packs. JAVA members collecting donations are: Mary Claire Burnett, Novalí Centellas, Colin Daniels, Marissa King, Rebecca Klaybor, Isel Otero, and Lexis White. Look for them in February.

Ricker suggests that Eagles get involved and volunteer for this event. “Not only are you literally walking in the footsteps of these women, but you’re gaining an understanding of what these they go through every single day to walk to the center and you also get a glimpse at the literal and metaphorical warmth the center provides for those in need.”



WRESTLING

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

The John Adams wrestling team sometimes goes unnoticed during its winter season. Between basketball games and first semester finals, the wrestlers aren't nearly talked about enough. But that's not to say they aren't deserving of recognition; every day after school they meet to scrimmage, lift weights, and practice agility drills. The team is comprised of nineteen students from JA's student body, all of whom have committed themselves to an intense regimen of conditioning, gearing up for their post-season journey to state.

On Saturday, January 14th, wrestlers of all weight groups traveled from area high schools to compete in the NIC conference meet. The overall team had a middling performance, placing seventh overall out of a pool of thirteen teams. Senior four-year varsity captain Tavonte Malone, however, assured *The Tower* that the wrestling team really shines with its individual performers: Malone and his fellow captain, Joey Zahl, were conference runners up in their respective weight groups, and several other teammates placed in the top five.

With a winning conference record of 3-2 (overall record of 12-14), Malone is confident about the team's prospects at sectionals. "I think all of the conditioning will pay off [at sectionals] ... I know everyone's been pushing themselves" said Malone. Malone, who is currently ranked sixth in the state in his weight class, believes that sectionals is only the beginning for Adams wrestling's post-season showings. Last year, Malone and his fellow captains, Zahl and sophomore Vincent Calhoun, all made it to semi-state, with Malone advancing onto the state championship rounds.

"I'm confident they'll make it again [to semi-state]" said Malone, in regards to his fellow captains' post-season prospects. "They've been working hard ... we all have."

The wrestling team will compete at sectionals January 28. *The Tower* wishes the wrestling team best of luck!

SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Adams HS Newspaper, *The Tower*. Come in to the Chipotle at **1251 Eddy St. Suite 101** in South Bend on **Thursday, February 16th** between **5:00pm** and **9:00pm**.

Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Adams HS Newspaper, *The Tower*.



MEXICAN GRILL

If placing an order online during your fundraiser, please note you must choose the pay in-store option and inform our cashier of your participation before paying. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

Take this flyer to Chipotle on February 16 - 50% of the proceed will go directly to *The Tower*!