

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



Thursday, February 23rd, 2017

STUDENT-PRODUCED * SINCE 1940

Thank you to all readers of The Tower who attended the fundraiser at Chipotle on Feb. 16! We appreciate your continued support.

2

OPINION:
Conservatism in the age of Trump

NEWS

5

A review of the drama department's "A Christmas Carol"

ADAMS

7

Adams enjoys vast musical success at ISSMA

ADAMS

8

Senior Spotlight: Stephanie Portolese, swimmer

SPORTS

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY: ADAMS' SUCCESSES

KAYLAN PARKER and KENNEDI KYLE - REPORTERS

National Signing Day was on February 1, 2017, and five student athletes from Adams participated in signing to a college for their respective sport. On behalf of JA, we would like to congratulate the following students: Kaitie Derrickson, Mary Claire Burnett, Andrew Burgess, Jack Driscoll, and Felix King.

Kaitie Derrickson has been a member of the volleyball team at Adams for four years as libero and backup setter. One thing that gained her interest in volleyball is that it is a team sport, but everybody on the court has their own objective to do. In the past two years, Derrickson has received three awards- one of them being for sportsmanship, and the second being MVP of the team. Her favorite memory while playing at Adams was during the Bremen game when the team won a very exciting contest as the set ended 30-28 which resulted in a win for Adams. Derrickson had two offers to play volleyball in college: one from Indiana Wesleyan University and the other from Glen Oaks Community College. On signing day, Derrickson made the decision to commit to Glen Oaks Community College because it is a very small school that is like a family and a handful of teammates from her travel team will be attending as well. Derrickson would like to thank her family for the love and the support throughout the past four years. She would also like to say a special thanks to her co-captain Cleo Barnes and her coaches who always believed in her.

The next signee is Mary Claire Burnett, known by her friends as MC. Burnett has been

apart of the girls varsity soccer team for four years. has been playing soccer since the age of four and her position was center midfield. Burnett believes that soccer is beautiful, the game is all a creation, and is not made of plays and set ups. Since Burnett's sophomore year, she has been the team's MVP. Her favorite memory is bonding with her girls at the team's cabin trip and laughing endlessly. Burnett had three college offers" one from IUPUI, Northern Illinois, and Western Michigan. She made the decision to attend Western Michigan because it is a very successful program and is a medium state school not too far from home. Burnett would like to thank her best friends Caroline, Mia, Mary Cate, and Gabs for their support and love. She would also like to thank her parents for allowing her to grow academically and athletically, and a special thanks to Coach Mac for pushing her to work harder and for being her role model.

The first senior football player we would like to congratulate is Andrew Burgess. Burgess was the quarterback of the John Adams varsity football team. Burgess has been playing organized football since eighth grade. He enjoys the game of football, because of the environment of a big game and playing under the lights. Burgess has received five awards over the course of his high school career. The first one is most improved, the second is 2nd team all NIC, during his junior year. He received the other awards during his senior year, the first award being offensive MVP, second for 1st team all NIC, and lastly Burger King Outstanding Student Athlete. Burgess' favorite moment is beating Mishawaka the first time in 23 years last year. Burgess had offers from Kentucky Christian and Valparaiso, but he will be attending Eastern Kentucky. Eastern Kentucky was the best choice because many other schools wanted to change his position. The coaches from Eastern guaranteed that he would stay at the quarterback position. When he visited the campus he fell in love with it. Andrew would like to thank his parents and family for all the support and guidance throughout his journey. He would also like to

thank Antwon Jones, Weston Lambert, and Kyle Harvey for seeing his potential and always pushing him to be the best player as well as person that he can be.

Jack Driscoll has been playing football for seven years, three years for Pop Warner and four years for Adams. He enjoys football because of the hard work, brotherhood, and dedication that comes along with it. Jack has received six awards throughout his high school career: All State Junior Offensive line, All State Senior tight end, All State Senior Defensive end, Defensive MVP, and Academic All-Conference. He also shares the same memory of beating Mishawaka his junior year with Burgess. He received offers from Valparaiso, University of Indianapolis, and walk on offers for Ball State and Bowling Green University. Jack made the decision to attend Grand Valley State because they have a great team and it is a great school. Jack would like to thank Coach Jones, Lambert, Harvey, his parents, brother Liam, and teammates (especially Alec Breiler).

Felix King has been playing football since the age of four. King likes football because of the competition and the enthusiasm of it all plus it is a fun sport where life lessons are taught and great relationships are made. King previously attended school in Chicago before transferring to Adams. His junior year he received team MVP and All-Conference. This past season as a senior he received an All-Conference award. The most memorable moment for Felix was ending the regular season with a win against Saint Joe, proving Adams has the best football team in South Bend. He received offers from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Quincy University, Robert Morris University, Saint Ambrose University, Northwest Missouri State, but he committed to Mckendree University. Felix would like to thank his family for supporting him in his football career since he was young. He would also like to thank all of his coaches past and present, and new friends at Adams and old friends from Chicago.

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mariah Rush

ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kaity Radde

MANAGING EDITOR

Alice Goulding

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kaity Radde

REPORTERS

Casey Carroll

David Engel

Brendan Hayner-Slattery

Alicia Koszyk

Kennedi Kyle

Hunter Melanson

Abby Myers

Kaylan Parker

Taylor Waldron

ADVISOR

Samantha Lewis

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Tower is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Letters to the Editor must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Letters to the Editor must be sent to slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us, or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenhams Dr.

Editorials are written by the Editorial Board of *The Tower* (comprised of Mariah Rush, Kaity Radde, and Alice Goulding) and are designated as such.

The Tower thanks the *South Bend Tribune* for printing services.

We at *The Tower* also request that readers consider donating to help pay for the printing & production of our newspaper. Your donations will help the growth of a voice for the local community; your help and contributions are greatly appreciated.

CONSERVATISM in the age of TRUMP

OPINION

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Being a self-described “independent conservative” in South Bend, the glorious blue dot on a red state, isn’t the easiest thing in the world. And, while my acute aversion to party labels deprives me of the ability to speak to the issue personally, being a Republican in South Bend - especially now - probably isn’t too easy, either.

The Tower, as regular readers know, tends to lean left. The fact that its conservative voice - me - is decidedly moderate and utterly disgusted by Donald Trump hasn’t helped. However, I’m writing this op-ed in the hope that other conservatives can see that Trump does not define the word just because he is the president.

Before the 2016 election cycle, I thought the biggest difference between the broad ideologies of conservatism and liberalism in the United States - and, to paint with the broad brush I tend to reprimand others for using, Republicans and Democrats - was cut and dry. Small government versus big government, and other small things separated them but they all generally fell under that category. I thought that all Americans, regardless of ideology, could go for a good “U-S-A” chant and loved the “New Colossus” - that “give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free” was not controversial.

I also vehemently believed - and believe - that conservatives lie on a spectrum, with most clustered relatively near the two extremes: moderates, like John Kasich, and people I have no way of describing besides “religious zealots who apply the Bible to things like baking cakes for gay people but not to things like helping desperate refugees,” like Mike Pence, who should probably be in a different party altogether. I thought the John Kasichs vastly outnumbered the Mike Pences.

And I, like so many others, laughed off the primary candidate Donald Trump, expecting him to

pull a Herman Cain and be far from my mind by, say, February 2017. I went to the Iowa Caucuses - the first primary in the union - and fangirled over Marco Rubio from the press box at his rally in Des Moines. A month later, when Rubio was gone and the lockscreen on my phone was no longer his face, I spread the *New York Times*’ endorsement of John Kasich like the plague and prayed that people would vote for him over Ted Cruz (who falls under the same category of conservative as Mike Pence), ever ignoring Trump.

After the primaries, I was disappointed. And in a perpetual “I-told-you-so” state over my feelings toward party labels, because I certainly wasn’t lumped in with the Republicans who were now synonymous with Trump, but that’s beside the point. Hillary Clinton, though, wasn’t a bad option, as far as I was concerned. She was moderate; I felt that in another life, we would be friends who often got into debates but generally agreed that political extremism was dangerous and America was great.

Many conservatives disagreed. Obviously. If it were 1980, I tried to remind my Republican relatives who had resigned themselves to a Trump vote because they were well-behaved Republicans, Hillary Clinton would probably be the one with an R. after her name, and you would vote for her - not the man-child who just

became a Republican a few years ago.

Aside from hoping to reach conservatives who support or defend Trump only because they feel the pull of party allegiance, there’s a broader idea that I hope you, dear reader, can take from this. Party labels and the unwillingness to confront things you see as wrong because they come from something within “your party” have matured into devastating blows to the integrity of our political system. Wrong is wrong, regardless of whether it has the label “conservative” or “liberal.”

It’s that line of thought that can see “nasty woman” as a bipartisan, ideology-blind rallying cry. It’s that line of thought that can allow you to support a Rubio and a Clinton simultaneously. And it’s that line of thought that will begin to heal the national division that all of us have grown up with.

“I thought that all Americans, regardless of ideology, could go for a good ‘U-S-A’ chant and loved the ‘New Colossus’”

BETSY DEVOS: ADAMS TEACHERS REACT

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

On February 2, Betsy DeVos was confirmed as Secretary of the Department of Education, joining President Donald Trump's cabinet after weeks of contentious debate, and by a slim 51-50 vote in the Senate. Vice President Mike Pence, president of the Senate, had to break the tied vote himself, the first time in American history that a Vice President has intervened in a cabinet appointment. Clips from her confirmation hearing went viral in the days afterward, especially one in which she told Connecticut Senator Christopher Murphy (D), who has been a champion of the gun control lobby after the Sandy Hook mass shooting in his state, that she believes guns should be in schools to "protect from potential grizzlies." Senate Democrats – who currently hold 46 of the 100 seats, plus two independent senators who caucus with them – were able to convince two Republicans to vote against her, but it wasn't enough to halt her confirmation.

Teachers at Adams expressed regret and wariness over her confirmation. "My immediate reaction to her confirmation was anger... [as an educator] I am leary of what she will do and what she will be able to do," said IB Spanish teacher Becky Hernandez. IB Spanish teacher and sponsor of NHS Cecelia Stanton had similar

sentiments, expressing that she was "saddened that somebody with so little experience working in public education and working with kids and families that truly need [it] has been appointed."

The lack of experience Ms. Stanton spoke to stems from DeVos's career in Michigan. DeVos has never attended a public school, nor has she ever worked in a public school before. She chose not to send her children to public schools as well, and said in the past that public schools are a "dead end." A graduate of Calvin College, a small Christian liberal arts college in Michigan, the Michigan billionaire has instead spent her career promoting charter schools and voucher programs, which allow parents to take their children out of a public school and place them in a parochial school, using funds that are diverted away from the school corporations.

DeVos served as chairwoman of the American Federation of Children, a group she founded, where she supported political candidates who supported the expansion of voucher programs and attacked any candidate who did not. She's also a veteran fundraiser for the Reformed Christian community, whose schools she tends to overwhelmingly favor over public schools, judging by her donation record. DeVos believes that voucher programs allow students to receive religious schooling that isn't monitored by the government, which she's said in the past "sucks."

IB Math Studies teacher Marilyn Arney finds the appointment "concerning," stating that "[DeVos] has a long history of trying to eliminate public schools in favor of vouchers and private schools...as a public school teacher, that's scary." IB Physics and Civic Air Patrol teacher Dan Walsh believes that DeVos's stance on charter schools means that she will work to "take away from something that's working [public schools] to give to something that's not working [charter schools]...robbing from [public schools] to make other rich."

Not all teachers, however, were against DeVos's appointment. "I don't know that I disagree with her policies... I agree with the idea of vouchers and magnet schools and charter schools," said IB English teacher Mark McCown. Citing his past teaching experience at private schools as his reason for not being "scared" of alternative forms of schooling, McCown believes that DeVos's appointment will allow for more vetting of public schools, stating that "if a bad charter school or a bad private

school is bad, they fail. If a bad public school stays in existence, they stay around."

Throughout the campaign, DeVos showed no enthusiasm for Trump, who nominated her for the position last November. A Jeb Bush turned Marco Rubio supporter, DeVos called the president an "interloper" who "does not represent the Republican Party." During the 2016 election season, DeVos and her husband donated 2.7 million dollars to Republican candidates and organizations, according to The New York Times (DeVos has donated more than 200 million dollars to Republicans throughout her career, a fact she admitted to in her Senate hearing).

Mrs. Hernandez – and most of the editorial boards of national newspapers – believes that she bought her way into the position; Paul Kingston, Economics teacher, finds sentiments like Ms Hernandez's to be based solely on partisan allegiance. In regards to the national outcry after her initial confirmation, Kingston said, "I mean, she was appointed, she was confirmed by the Senate– what else are we going to do? I think the left needs to pick and choose their battles... You don't have the votes in the Senate!"

Nevin Longenecker, Biology and Science Research teacher agreed with Mr. Kingston, stating "there are philosophical differences between the Democrat and the Republican approach to [education]...people would be upset either way [if she were appointed or not]." Heath Weaver, IB Philosophy, History, and Theory of Knowledge teacher disagreed: "She obviously wants to see students fail...that's what happens with the implementation of charter schools and vouchers...I'm pretty sure most people don't want to see that."

She's only been in office two weeks, but DeVos has felt more pushback during the short period than most Cabinet officials receive during their entire term. After visiting D.C. public schools and subsequently criticizing its teachers for having "receiving" attitudes, thousands of teachers took to social media to share their own stories of self sacrifice and giving regarding their careers.

"President Trump's swamp got a new billionaire today," read the statement released by the Democratic National Committee after DeVos's Senate confirmation. Though it is still uncertain what is in store for public education on the national level, none of the teachers interviewed conveyed a sense of optimism about the future. Mr. Weaver concluded by saying "the worst case scenario is that she does to the entire country what [she fought for] in Michigan – they increase their charter schools and voucher programs and statewide success for students actually goes down. So, the worst thing that happens is that students aren't able to succeed."



AN OVERVIEW OF TRUMP'S CABINET

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

One of the primary duties of the president after being elected is to assemble a team of people who will advise him on a variety of issues. These past few months, President Donald Trump has been busy selecting individuals for this group, termed "the cabinet," who will inform him about topics ranging from national security to agriculture. Many of President Trump's picks have been widely accepted by the populace, but some have been more controversial. These include Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State, Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education, and Jeff Sessions for Attorney General.

However, some of the people President Trump has nominated have sparked controversy from those on the left end of the political spectrum, and even some Republicans. Some have deemed these people incompetent and unqualified for the positions they are set to hold. Republicans, however, have mainly voted on party lines, and all three candidates aforementioned have been approved by the Senate, which votes to confirm nominees. The Trump administration's confirmation process has been characterized by dramatic speeches on the floor of the Senate, raucous protests, and passionate orations by demonstrators.

Rex Tillerson was approved by the Senate to be Secretary of State with a 56-43 vote. Senators were skeptical about his potential conflicts of interest due to his position as CEO of ExxonMobil, a large oil corporation. They were also concerned about his ties to Russia, seeing as ExxonMobil has a partnership with a Russian oil company. Other senators were pleased with Tillerson's vast knowledge of the world and experience with world leaders due to his business expertise. Indiana Democrat Joe Donnelly voted to reject Tillerson because of his "[previous] lobbying campaign to undermine the national security interests of the United States in favor of Russia, Iran, and corporate profit." Tillerson maintained a cordial relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his time as Exxon's CEO. This is a common practice among CEOs of large corporations, as they often possess operations and assets in other countries. However, this sets up an inevitable conflict of interest

in any position in government.

Betsy DeVos narrowly passed her Senate confirmation vote to be Secretary of Education with a 50-50 vote. This has never occurred before in American history, and Vice President Mike Pence had to break the tie, voting to approve DeVos. Democrats, public education activists, and even some Republicans were outraged by her confirmation, protesting throughout the night before her confirmation. DeVos, as chair of the Michigan Republican Party, dedicated much effort to funnelling money away from public schools and towards charter and private institutions.

Meanwhile, private school and school voucher advocates were delighted with her approval. DeVos's family, over the years, has donated over \$200 million to the campaigns of various Republicans, including over \$850,000 to the same Republican senators who voted to approve her. She never attended public schools, her children always attended private schools, and she has never been a teacher or held an administrative position in a school. Many have argued that she is unqualified to be Secretary of Education due to her lack of experience, while others have asserted that she will protect school choice.

The protests sparked by former Alabama Republican Jeff Sessions rivaled those of Betsy DeVos. Sessions, however, passed the Senate by a slim 52-47 vote to become Attorney General, with Democrat of West Virginia Joe Manchin III voting with the Republicans. It was common courtesy to vote to approve a fellow Senator, but Senate Democrats could not oblige with this custom. Sessions was unable to gain a federal judgeship position in the 1980s because of allegations that he had made racially charged comments. A letter from Coretta Scott King, an activist and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife, detailed her perception of Sessions' intimidation of black voters in Alabama. Massachusetts Democrat Elizabeth Warren read these remarks on the floor of the Senate, but she was blocked from making further remarks by Kentucky Republican Mitch McConnell and other Republicans. They claimed that she was "impugning Sessions' character" in a widely viewed portion of Sessions' hearing. Those opposed to Sessions claim that he will not protect civil rights, and they dislike his immigration and policing policies. In voting for Sessions, Senator Manchin claimed that he "has not seen the things he's been accused of." Republicans claimed that Sessions had changed for the better, and was not a racist or a bigot.

Presidents' cabinets often help shape their legacies, and Trump's will be no different. The people he selects will influence policy in a

way that will change the country for decades. Whether it be foreign strategy under Rex Tillerson or educational policy under Betsy DeVos, Trump's picks will define the agenda of the United States for the next four years and perhaps beyond.

GRAMMYS RECAP

OPINION

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

Anyone with basic knowledge of music, art, or pop culture knows that the Grammys are one of the most monumental Sunday nights of the year. Showcasing the top names in music, the Grammys are where many artists first make their mark on the music industry. On the other hand, already established artists tend to assert their position in the growing industry. This year's Grammys in particular were quite historical consisting of foreseeable upsets, as well as revolutionary performances from the likes of Adele, Beyonce, Chance the Rapper, The Weeknd, and A Tribe Called Quest.

The star of the night, talented singer Adele, swept the competition in receiving five out of the five Grammys she was nominated for. Those Grammys consisted of: Best Pop Vocal Album for "25", Best Pop Solo Performance for "Hello," Record of the Year For "Hello," Song of the Year for "Hello," and most prominently Album of the Year for "25." Despite her talent and success as an artist, some critics and music enthusiasts believe she should not have received Album of the Year and that Beyonce's "Lemonade" was far more deserving of the honor. Adele even admitted herself that she did not deserve the award during her acceptance speech, adding as well how Beyonce is one of her greatest inspirations.

Beyonce, on the other hand, still managed to take home two Grammys with Best Urban contemporary album for "Lemonade," and Best Music Video with "Formation." With 62 total nominations and 22 wins in her career, she is the most decorated female Grammy winner in history, and added a light load of telegraphs to her collection this year.

Probably the most anticipated genre of the night for some, hip hop, came with obvious victories from Chance the Rapper and Drake.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Chance the Rapper proved to be the well-deserved star of the show by taking home three out of the seven Grammys he was nominated for. He dominated the competition with Best Rap Performance for “No Problem” featuring Lil Wayne and 2 Chainz, Best New Artist, and Rap Album of the Year for his unique 2016 project “Coloring Book.” The Chicago native is literally changing the course of the Grammys; he has no label, has never sold his music, and his music is available only on streaming services such as SoundCloud or Spotify. Because of Chance, stream only albums and songs are now eligible for Grammy nominations, and the Grammys are now more accepting of a broader range of artists.

Regardless of Chance’s talent and impact on the industry, he along with Kanye West, was no match for the mainstream power that Drake possesses. That’s right, Drake won the two Grammys for Best Rap Song, and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration, both with his hit single “Hotline Bling.” Somehow a non-rap song won two Grammys that were literally for Best Rap Song, and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration. Aside from that, Hotline Bling managed to beat Kanye West’s “Famous” and “Ultralightbeam,” which was hopefully a mistake by the committee. Those are two of the most influential tracks of 2016, yet somehow Drake’s mainstream facade still proved victorious.

Among the performing acts of the night were Adele, The Weeknd, Chance the Rapper, Beyoncé, A Tribe Called Quest, and Bruno Mars. The Grammys opened with Adele performing her tremendously popular song “Hello” which shook the world in 2016 and coincidentally won three Grammys. The British singer also performed the tribute for the late singer George Michael. During the performance she stopped and restarted due to a key malfunction, because she is Adele and she can do that. The Weeknd and Daft Punk delivered a futuristic performance, performing “I Feel It Coming” from The Weeknd’s 2016 project “Starboy,” which should have been nominated for a Grammy.

Although the Grammys failed to recognize Beyoncé’s work on “Lemonade” for album of the year, she pulled off one of the best performances of the night with two songs “Drought” and “Sandcastles.” The interesting choreography and beautiful vocals were met with praise from the audience. The political statement of the night was by none other than rap group A Tribe Called Quest. Joined by Busta Rhymes and Anderson Paak they performed two politically charged songs from their album. Of course Chance the

Rapper had the most lively and upbeat performance with songs “All We Got” and “How Great.” His buddy Kirk Franklin, also a Grammy winner, joined him on the gospel like track “How Great.” Following Chance was Bruno Mars along with The Time to pay homage to the late Prince. The Time performed “Jungle Love” and “The Bird.” Mars performed a variation of “Let’s Go Crazy” and moved the crowd while showcasing his skills on the guitar. Mars was the exclamation point of a night that embodies many memories of artists throughout the years, while showcasing showcasing their achievements and contributions.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: RETOLD

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

On February 10, the John Adams Drama Department sponsored “A Christmas Carol: Retold” directed by Taylor Waldron, senior and Drama Club president. Adapted from the classic novel by Charles Dickens, “A Christmas Carol: Retold” put a fresh modern day twist on the classic Christmas tale. In this play, it featured a female Scrooge played by senior Olivia Hershberger and included a neat plot twist at the end.

The opening scene starts with the Jameson family. Claire (Alicia Trevino) who is about to go to bed when her Grandma (Grace Potter) tells her a bedtime story about Evelyn Scrooge. The scene then cuts to Scrooge and Bobbie Cratchet (Caitlin Wirtz) finishing up work late on Christmas Eve. Before long, the true colors are seen of the cheap, impolite Evelyn Scrooge as she tells her co-worker Bobbie that she will see her the next day which is Christmas. Bobbie is heartbroken by this news and tries to convince Scrooge to let her stay home. Scrooge doesn’t budge and tells Bobbie either she will come on Christmas or she will lose her job. Heartbroken that she cannot spend Christmas with her family, Bobbie agrees and heads home. Later that night, Scrooge is visited by her late business partner, Marley (Julilla Baer). The audience learns that Marley has been chained and tormented in the afterlife for being selfish and greedy like Scrooge. In her visit, Marley warns Scrooge to change her ways or one day Scrooge will pay a worse price than Marley. Thinking this is all just

a dream, Scrooge ignores Marley’s warning and goes back to bed. Scrooge is again awakened when she is visited by three more ghosts: the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Future. The Ghost of Christmas Past (Brendan Hayner-Slatery) shows Evelyn’s miserable life as a little girl being bullied by her classmates and then as a young adult choosing her career over marriage. Overall, his purpose was to make Scrooge repent and not make other people’s lives just as miserable as her’s was.

Still persistent that this is all just a dream, the Ghost of Christmas Present (Maya Troischt) pays Scrooge the next visit. She takes Scrooge to see Bobbie. Looking through the window, Scrooge sees how Bobbie’s family is struggling financially. As Bobbie’s husband cannot work and how she is trying to save up money for her daughter’s surgery. Scrooge also sees how sad-den Bobbie and her family feel as she cannot spend Christmas with them nor can she afford to lose her job due to her daughter’s illness. Bearing to see all this, the Scrooge still will not budge helping Bobbie and demands to be taken back home. Returning back in her bed, Scrooge finally believes she’s at peace until the Ghost of Christmas Future or also known as Death (Brendan Hayer-Slatery) scares her. He shows Scrooge her tombstone and what will happen to her if she doesn’t change her ways. Finally, Scrooge believes this and vows to change her ways and gives Bobbie a raise so she can pay for her daughter’s surgery. In the last part of the play, we are taken back to the setting of Claire and her grandma. After listening to this story, Claire believes this is just a made up story her grandma made until the Ghost of Christmas Future appears next to her bed.

“A Christmas Carol: Retold” was a great modern-day rendition of Dickens’ classic novel which has been adapted into many movies over the years. Overall, Waldron and the JA Drama Department did an excellent job in their performance with creating the sets and acting. However, during the play I found it at times to be distracting to hear the actors on one side of the stage while on the other side the crew was getting ready for the next scene. Altogether, the idea of having a female Scrooge was a great touch and the humorous sarcasm made a great modernized play.

MOCK TRIAL REGIONALS

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On February 18, JA continued the pattern of excellence in Mock Trial at the regional competition at Penn High School. Adams had nine teams participating in the competition in which students prepare for months with a court case, and write a script for each member to play a witness or lawyer part for prosecution and/or defense. Throughout the long, almost 12 hour day, each team goes through three separate trials, and draws teams to play randomly at first, but later draws teams depending on their previous scores. For example, if a team won their first two rounds, in the last trial they may go up against a team that also won its last two rounds. There are two judges in each trial, who each give separate verdicts as to which team “won” the round, pertaining to the points acquired from a multitude of categories. While all Adams teams performed exceptionally well, The Tower would like to recognize the top placing teams at regionals.

Out of these nine teams competing out of 24, Adams has six teams continuing on to state in early March. This is incredible, especially considering only the top 11 teams continue on to state. However, one senior JA team, Post Truth, placed 12 in the competition, but happened to be “wildcarded” or “bubbled” in to going to state, due to their high scores. Adams took places one through three, six and nine (as well as the number twelve wildcard team) at the competition.

Dead Precedents, an all junior JA team, received first place. Consisting of juniors Patrik Bauer, Alex Blad, Ben Fecher, Naomi Freel, Michael Garcia, Niki Hakimzadeh, Logan Reimbold-Thomas, and Mia Utayde, Dead Precedents was the only undefeated team in the regional. “We prepared to do well and we were confident going into the competition that we would make it to state, but I don’t think we fully expected to take first,” said Ben Fecher. After hundreds of hours of practicing,

their hard work paid off, and they expect to do as well, if not better, at the state competition. “[Winning] was an indescribable feeling....going up onstage and seeing everyone standing and clapping, all the long practices, all the hard work... it all paid off,” said Niki Hakimzadeh.

Overrule the World, an all sophomore Adams team, took second place at regionals, with five wins and one loss. It is relatively rare for a sophomore team to place so high, so this team can only improve from here. Overrule the World’s members are Keiasia Brown, David Engel, Sofia Lora, Ethan Lindley, Maddie Lorenz, Tina Rea, Stanley Rozenbilt, and Max Thompson. “I really didn’t think we would get second, as Penn was sort of an Adams blood-bath type situation,” said David Engel. “It really was an honor to get second as a sophomore team, and we hope to do just as well at state,” he continued.

Not Necessarily, a powerful team boasting seniors Amanda Brewster, Ana Mare Broden, Alice Goulding, Elijah Grammer, Brendan Hayner-Slattery, Robert Howard, Douglas Moody, and Abi Trzaskowski, received third place at regionals. They also won five trials and lost one. Being five points away from winning the regional is only motivating this team, according to Alice Goulding. “While things do shift around (the team that placed second at regionals last year ended up not placing at all at state), Adams will most likely be holding onto the state champion trophy another year... while we were disappointed, it’s only motivated us to practice intensely these next two weeks,” said Goulding.

Other JA teams going to state are Law and Murder with sixth place, Notorious M.O.B with ninth place, and Post Truth with twelfth place.

The state competition in Indianapolis will be on March 4 and 5. In the past few years, the state winner has been an Adams team, so hopefully this year will be no different and we will have a team go to Nationals to represent Indiana. With these competitive teams in the mix, it looks like there will be stiff competition just among the teams from JA, only making for a more interesting state competition.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS CLUB

BRENDAN HAYNER-SLATTERY - REPORTER

Out of all the groups and activities that shape the daily lives of Adams students, Dungeons and Dragons Club is certainly one of the less well-known. It has, however, built up a vibrant community of students ranging from freshmen to seniors that join together each week to play a unique tabletop game. Each player inhabits the role of an individual character in a mix of improv acting and collaborative storytelling as they solve problems and confront adversaries in a fantasy setting. The club is divided into several groups, each led by a Dungeon Master who builds the surrounding world, setting up challenges of combat or skill that are resolved with the mark of a pencil or the roll of a die.

For those who attend, the weekly meetings offer a much-appreciated opportunity for relaxation and camaraderie. Club member Joe Garwood described the game as a wholly positive experience. “It’s a nice chance to de-stress and hang out with friends at the end of the day,” Garwood explained. Other players expressed similar sentiments: that rather than being an addition to their workloads, Dungeons and Dragons meetings help to relieve the pressure of their schoolwork and lives.

The club has quite a history at John Adams, with groups stretching back for years and changing as members graduate and new students arrive. In the last few years, however, the club has grown noticeably in size, adding additional groups to accommodate new members. “I was surprised,” remarked Game Master Theodore Banik, “by how much group sizes have grown over the last few years as more people have found out about it.” The club now runs three games with five to eight players each.

Although this year’s games are already underway, those interested in joining the club in the future are encouraged to get in contact with one of the Game Masters: Douglas Moody, Stuart Mayfield, or Theodore Banik. Meetings take place every Wednesday afternoon in Ms. Woodward’s art room from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M., and students are welcome to stop by for further information.

ISSMA

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

The John Adams high school band, orchestra, and choir all took on ISSMA, the Indiana State School Music Association, on February 4, 2017.

The John Adams Choir members and piano students earned 75 gold medals and six silver medals at contest. For group events, the show choir's Madrigal, show choir's large girls ensemble, and show choir's large boys ensemble all received gold medals. Vocal solos by Aliyah Arzadon, Maria Clear, Mitchell Caponigro, Rachel Casper, Martell Green, Tessa Griffin, Kennedy Kyle, and Emily Murton all received gold medals as well. The boy's barbershop quartet was performed by Logan Reimbold-Thomas, Irene'e Shema, Zach Fernandez, and Thomas Han. The girl's barbershop quartet was performed by Amara Ball, Rachel Casper, Hannah Mihut, and Aliyah Arzadon. Rachel Casper, who won gold medals performed "Poor Man Lazarus" in the girl's ensemble, "Homeward Bound" as a solo, "Hark! All Ye Lovely Saints Above" in Madrigal, and "Dream A Little Dream of Me" in a barber-

shop quartet said, "I am so happy to have the opportunity to perform at state with my amazing show choir friends and awesome director, Doc!" A record was also set when 4 JA piano solo performers all received gold medals. Lara Chuppe, Maria Clear, Mylee Finley, and Max Thompson all received gold medals for their piano performance. All of these vocal performers will go on to the state contest in Indianapolis on Saturday, February 18, to perform at Perry Meridian high school. All piano solo gold medal winners will perform at Perry Meridian middle school the same day.

The John Adams' band and orchestra students also won a plethora of medals in their solos and ensembles. Josette Wright won a gold medal for her piccolo solo. Eileen Davidson, Emily Shemesh, Josette Wright, and Zoe Gezelter all received gold medals for their flute solos. Gold medals were also given to Basil Thurin and Abigail Myers on clarinet, Daniel Shemesh on trumpet, Renee Nerenburg on baritone, Amelia Chuppe, Claire Stowe, Safra Arevalo, and Emma Kirner all on violin. Olivia Hershberger, Zoe Bonnell, and Madlean Koehler on cello, Max McCoy on snare drum, and Max Tompson on bass also received gold medals for their amazing solo

performances at ISSMA. Silver medals were also awarded to Robert Howard for his trombone solo and Zach Thomas for his baritone solo. Stewart McGowan was awarded bronze with his alto saxophone solo. In group one ensembles, three golds were given to Eileena Davidson, Josette Wright, and Emily Shemesh for their flute solo, as well as fourteen to the large string ensemble; including Amelia Chuppe, Safra Arevalo, Caroline Pitts, Claire Stowe, Sarah Sass, Kate O'Brien, Alyssa Dang, Hannah Curl, Corwynne Pugh, Zoe Bonnell, Olivia Hershberger, Madlean Koehler, Katherine Driver, and Douglas Moody. The large brass ensemble, including Daniel Shemesh, Caitlin Dunlap, Robert Howard, Julilla Baer, Elizabeth Mellor, Zach Thomas, Chris Vreugdenhil, Ethan Goodrich, and Ethan Davis-Dhoore, received eleven silver medals for their performance. The group three ensemble brass trio (Zach Thomas, Renee Nerenburg, and Ethan Goodrich) were awarded three gold medals. All of the events will perform at state on February 25, 2017.

Everyone at The Tower would like to congratulate our choir, band, and orchestra students on their accomplishments and wish them luck at state!



StephSews

Turn your cherished tees and other clothing into a *QuilTee* memory you can use and display!

Class of 2017 receives \$20 off if you include an Adams shirt.

Hurry and secure your date to have a completed *QuilTee* by graduation!

Pricing examples:
 48"x60" (4x5ft) = \$259
 Contains ~ 12-18 Tees
 60"x72" (5x6ft) = \$388
 Contains ~ 18-25 Tees

steph.banik@gmail.com
 (574)-360-6035
 facebook.com/stephsews

Prices include all labor and materials

GIRLS BASKETBALL MAKES IT TO SECTIONALS

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

The 2016-2017 girls basketball season was momentous for the Lady Eagles. For the first time in twelve years, the John Adams Girls Basketball team made it to sectionals. This was also the first sectional for the girls' coach, Leon Scott. In the first round, the girls beat Mishawaka High School with a score of 67-51. It was the first sectional win for Adams since the 2004-05 season. In the second round, the Lady Eagles faced Michigan City. Senior Maddie McConnell noted, "Beating Michigan City was tough considering they have a player that's at least 6'3." Kaylan Parker led the team with a total 20 points scored, followed by Sam Jankowski with 13 points, and Maddie McConnell with 10, summing up the 63-51 win for the girls.

Saturday, February 4, 2017 was filled with anxiety and excitement for the girls basketball team. McConnell says, "The locker room was wild before the start of the game. When we came out we were all running around, pumped up, ready to play. We even danced before the game with the cheerleaders." The girls were elated to see so much JA parent, faculty, and student support. McConnell says, "South Bend really showed out for us that night." Senior Kaylan Parker agreed saying, "There were players, coaches, students, and parents from other South Bend schools who drove all the way to LaPorte to support us."

In the final round, playing for the sectional title, the girls fell short and lost to LaPorte with a final score of 53-48. Even though they lost, McConnell says "We never quit. At one point we were down by 13 and we came back strong and played as a team." She continues, "Up until the end, we still stayed together, as a team, held our heads high. We all we got, We all we need." With tears in their eyes, the girls gracefully left the LaPorte gym with respect for themselves and the game they played. This tough, final loss does not minimize the many accomplishments the team made this season. On top of making it into the final round of sectionals, the girls finished off their regular season with a record of 14-7. Seniors Samantha Jankowski and Reniya

Columbus were both named ALL-NIC 2nd team and Teaonna Miller received honorable mention. The team will also see 9 of their players graduate this spring.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT STEPHANIE PORTOLESE

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

High school is normally regarded as a stressful task, no matter the person undergoing the four year marathon. But what about high school in addition to participating in a year-round varsity sport and numerous extra-curriculars? What about maintaining A's in a rigorous IB program while maintaining your sanity and social life? Stephanie Portolese, a senior swimmer for JA, is an impressive rarity - she can check off all of these boxes.

Although this would make many others go insane, Portolese regards swimming as something that is just natural for her to do. Now a three time state qualifier, Portolese began swimming for the YMCA swim team after taking lessons for years, and has continued swimming for over a decade. "I keep coming back because it's what I know, it's something I loved," said Portolese. Perhaps consistently winning races and breaking records (her first high school record was broken during her freshman season) has something to do with her dedication, but nevertheless, it appears as if the pool was just where she belonged. "It was my proverbial rock," she continued. "I've always swam, and I couldn't imagine not [swimming]." Regarded universally as one of JA's best female swimmers, Portolese is one of the few swimmers that comes in early before school to morning practice, and goes back again after. Some days, it's quite possible for those select swimmers to never see the sun.

After swimming for her YMCA team, the Stingrays, throughout elementary and middle school,

Portolese headed to the JA pool to continue her swimming career, and was not disappointed. "Swimming in high school was just so much fun. I was able to be as competitive as I wanted, I really began to become the athlete I am now," Portolese said. And compete she certainly did. Portolese claims her "main events" as the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke- and she holds Adam's school record for both. "When I broke my first record it was unbelievable... I knew I could do it, but it was beyond crazy when it actually happened," she explained. "The ones after that were equally as exciting and unbelievable," she continued.

As for her future plans, Portolese plans on majoring in biology and chemistry at IU Bloomington, and is most likely headed towards becoming a doctor. However, she does not plan on pursuing swimming in college, and cites this last swim season as "bittersweet." "This is one of the only things I'm finding hard to leave behind, both because of how much fun I've had and how much this team has meant to me and because

this year did not end the way I had hoped," she said. "I encountered both great experiences with my team as well as health issues which took away from my athletic ability. But all in all I wouldn't trade it for anything." Whether it is continuing to swim while encountering health problems, or cheering on her team at meets and coming in for an early morning practice, or conquering an achievement outside of the pool, Portolese is known to be resilient and reliable by her team-

"When I broke my first record, it was unbelievable... I knew I could do it, but it was beyond crazy when it actually happened."

mates and friends.

However, swimming is not Portolese's only athletic ability. For the past few years, Portolese has participated in a week-long bike trip, covering over 400 miles, in addition to the months-long training that goes into the trip. In fact, Portolese intends to participate in the Little 500 bike race down at IU Bloomington during college. Although JA's swimming season is over, Portolese has headed back to the YMCA to begin another swim season with a different team, where she first began to swim. There truly is not an off-season for this immensely talented athlete.