

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



Thursday, March 23rd, 2017

STUDENT-PRODUCED * SINCE 1940

Dear Tower readers: remember, if you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, we are always accepting them. See details on page 2.

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STANDARDIZED TESTS

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

One of the persistent inconveniences of the high school experience is the standardized test, as many students are well aware of by now. Whether it is the state mandated ISTEP or PSAT or the necessary SAT or ACT for college, standardized tests are unavoidable for a student looking to graduate high school. Sophomores recently had to take the ISTEP, and in October of 2016, they, as well as juniors, had to complete the PSAT. In addition, many students are currently preparing for the SAT and ACT they will have to complete in order to gain entry into their dream colleges. While most high schoolers view standardized tests as a necessary annoyance, there is much more beyond the surface as to what these exams really entail.

Standardized tests are used by states as a means of using a standard to measure student achievement. The given test is identical throughout the region in which students take it, and therefore, schools and teachers can be held accountable and areas of struggle can be noted and fixed throughout the student population. This was the philosophy held by former President George W. Bush when he signed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) into law in 2002. In response to a lack of American competitiveness with other countries, this legislation required states to test students in grades 3-8, and emphasized accountability and the closure of various achievement gaps between groups of students. Indiana had already implemented the ISTEP in 2002, but this law mandated standardized testing among the states. The NCLB, since 2002, has affected achievement, teaching, and education in a variety of ways.

The design, production, and distribution of these tests is a quite a challenge, and many state governments have left at least two of those duties to private companies. Every student who has ever been to school has seen the logos of

McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin, Pearson, and the College Board. Pearson designs and prints the ISTEP for Indiana, and is partnered with 15 other states to write standardized tests. In some cases, Pearson has a monopoly on the market. In 2015, the Indiana Department of Education awarded Pearson a \$38 million contract to write the ISTEP test, and \$7 million to assemble the IREAD test for third graders. In total, some analysts estimate, Pearson has control of 40 percent of the testing market in the United States. McGraw-Hill currently has a contract with the state totaling around \$60 million to create several tests surrounding a wide range of topics. Private corporations clearly play a large role in the mandated testing scene of America, but, as many students may have noticed, they are embedded in many more aspects of the educational experience. Companies such as the ones aforementioned respond to state curriculums by designing textbooks, worksheets, and exams that are used throughout the school day.

Mandated standardized testing has had far-reaching impacts inside the classroom. Amy Elliott, a sophomore english teacher, has had to alter the way she teaches to conform to the standards set by the exams. "Our entire English department has focused more and more on improving student skills in writing and reading comprehension because of standardized testing," Elliott explained. Specifically, she said, the department works to "teach students the skills they need [to pass] ISTEP." What Elliott is describing is a phenomena known as "teaching to the test." Critics of NCLB have often cited this as detrimental to the academic achievement and individuality of the student. This instruction, however, has lead to "academic growth in students from the beginning of the year to the spring," according to Elliott. She remarked that she has observed students "making great progress" to reach the goal of passing the ISTEP. Proponents of standardized testing say that a rigid, structured curriculum centered around a set of standards will allow for students to improve their academic status to reach those standards. According to poll data, most teachers agree that systematized exams are necessary to measure progress.

Although the main goal of NCLB and standardized testing was to increase achievement and bolster competitiveness, many argue that NCLB has not done this, and the topic of standardized testing is quite controversial. Since the law's inception, numerous data sets have been released to support various claims made about the effectiveness of the legislation. The act set a formidable goal of 100% proficiency by 2014; that is, that all students reach grade level performance by 2014. The results are out, and no state reached this goal, or even came close. Based on additional tests, however, math scores have increased, but reading scores have remained constant. Score gaps between different demographics remained largely unchanged, and SAT scores have declined for all groups except Asians. On the PISA, the international test students take by which they are compared to other countries, scores have declined since 2002. Based on these metrics, student achievement may have increased in some areas, but the achievement gaps remain wide and students are still underperforming when compared internationally. In addition to largely stagnant progress made by these exams, tests given by companies such as Pearson are frequently complained about. Errors in the questions, reading passages which don't make sense, and questions that have stumped college professors have made parents, teachers, and students unhappy.

If standardized tests have failed in narrowing achievement gaps and increasing competitiveness, why do large education companies still receive multi-million dollar contracts with the government? A recent report found that McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Pearson, and Educational Testing Service (ETS) spent over \$20 million lobbying across the nation from 2009-2014. An investigation found that Pearson took school officials on lavish vacations through a fraudulent "charitable" organization. Intense lobbying operations have secured huge contracts for these companies. It is likely that Pearson and other corporations will maintain their tight grip on the U.S. education system if nothing is done to counter the extensive solicitation being carried out in the name of profit.

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

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at the movies...



GET OUT

OPINION

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Get Out," the mystery thriller with a 99 percent critics rating on Rotten Tomatoes, has swept the country as the somehow relatable story of a young African American man meeting his Caucasian girlfriend's parents for the first time while visiting at their estate. Although it is strange to call this horror satire relatable, its ending is based around having large quantities of supernatural fiction, so the twinges of race relations found throughout echos what is currently felt by minorities now. In addition to this, the movie is widely successful, and director Jordan Peele has made history by being the first African-American director-writer to debut with a \$100 million movie. Peele describes this film as filled with "social demons" and envisions writing and directing other movies with similar types of spiritual messages.

When Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) and his girlfriend Rose (Allison Williams) reach the meet-the-parents stage in their relationship, Rose invites Chris to her family's estate for a family weekend. Chris asks a crucial question - "Do they know I'm back?" To that, Rose asserts that it does not matter - they are "not racist." However, upon meeting the family, Chris encounters a different story. Among varying interactions with family members about his experience being black and a multitude of insensitive comments, Chris realizes there's something entirely unusual

going on at that estate - the family employs strictly black people as "the help," like their gardener and housekeeper. In addition to this, the gardener and housekeeper act extremely strangely, almost as if something supernatural is occurring. And, of course, something is happening, involving Rose's family and perhaps an alternative reason for Chris' presence at the estate. But you will have to see the film to find out and experience the plot twists first hand. Racial tensions are apparent in many instances throughout the film, but most pertinent in the idea of "the sunken place." On the surface, "the sunken place" is an effect from hypnosis, causing Chris to be hidden in his body, unable to fully control himself. This, in its brilliancy, is a hint at the real-life "sunken place" - the place African-Americans have been banished to, unable to rise up in society.

With hilarious moments, especially involving Chris' friend, TSA guard Rod Williams (Lil Rel Howery), you can get almost anything from this film - except, perhaps, a good night's sleep. With a clever mix of seriousness, horror qualities, and laughter, you cannot go wrong with "Get Out."

Aside from the supernatural element to the movie, the real-life black experience portrayed in the movie is equally as striking. It is truly a black man's white nightmare, and unfortunately, many of the comments and occurrences do happen in real life. That's what makes this story so good - it combines the thrill of a mystery, with something as scary as the real life racism that plagues African-American men and women every day.

“Get Out” and “Logan”

LOGAN: HUGH JACKMAN ENDS HIS CAREER AS THE WOLVERINE

OPINION

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

In 2015, Hugh Jackman announced that he would make his last appearance as the Wolverine in “Logan.” After playing the role of James “Logan” Howlett, the Wolverine, over the course of seven movies and seventeen years, Jackman decided to end his career as this beloved superhero. For those of you who have been living under a rock for the past seventeen years, Wolverine is a mutant who possesses animal-like senses, enhanced physical capabilities, three retracting bone claws on each hand, and a healing ability that allows him to recover from virtually any wound. His famous adamantium claws came to him after he was experimented on and laced with the metal. In the “X-Men” franchise, Jackman did

an incredible job starring in seven of the movies and making an appearance in the other two. Although the “X-Men” movies have been a huge success, the loss of Jackman as the Wolverine could cripple the franchise. There has been talk about a recasting of Wolverine (which Jackman would oversee), but, honestly, no one could ever live up to his portrayal of the character.

Also starring Patrick Stewart, Professor X, and

Dafne Keen, Laura, “Logan” follows James Logan’s life after the other films. It features himself taking care of the X-Men’s leader, Professor Charles Xavier, aka Professor X, in his old age and working to get the two of them away from their legacy as part of the X-Men. Logan’s work is disrupted when a girl who showcases mutant abilities appears in their lives. This movie was incredibly well done but is rated ‘R’ for good reason. I do not recommend watching this movie if you have a weak stomach because the directors made sure to make the Wolverine go out with a bang. “Logan” had many sentimental moments when referencing the other X-Men, bringing tears to the audience’s eyes, and their pasts as superheroes. There are major twists throughout the entirety of the movie that add to the compelling aspect of the film. “Logan” was an amazing movie and I would recommend this and all the other “X-Men” films to everyone (if you haven’t seen them, you’re missing out).

Throughout his career as the Wolverine, Hugh Jackman did an outstanding job of bringing the fictional character to life and winning over all of our hearts. Overall, all I can say is that “Logan” was the perfect ending to the best superhero of this day and age.



CONGRATULATIONS
to the
CLASS *of* 2017

Hang in there - you're almost done!

Courtesy of the Waldron family

WOMEN *of* COURAGE:

SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OPINION

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

This past election cycle was particularly devastating for Democrats in all levels of government. An unprecedented number of minority women, however, were elected to governing positions on the national level. Among their ranks is Illinois Junior Senator Tammy Duckworth, who is Taiwanese (the first person of Taiwanese descent ever elected to the Senate) and a Democrat. Prior to her election to the Senate, Duckworth served two terms in the House of Representatives and was Director of the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs, in addition to serving in the U.S. Army as a helicopter pilot in Iraq.

During his 2016 presidential campaign, Trump made headlines when documents surfaced that explained Trump's absence from the Vietnam War— he had experienced bone spurs in his heels

that made it impossible for him to be drafted and serve our country. However, when Trump was asked about these injuries, he couldn't remember which foot was injured, or if it had afflicted both feet. He also could not remember how long it took for the injuries to heal, merely telling the New York Times that "Over a



period of time, it healed up."

At a later press event, a veteran and Trump supporter "gifted" then candidate Trump his Purple Heart Medal, the military decoration bestowed upon soldiers who are wounded or killed in combat. Trump told his supporters that he's "always wanted" to get a Purple Heart. "This was much easier," Trump joked.

Duckworth was appalled by Trump's comments and was vocal about her distaste for how lightly he handled the situation, tweeting a photo of herself in a hospital bed, a Purple Heart pinned to her chest, with the caption: "This is how one usually looks when you are awarded the Purple Heart. Nothing easy about it." Duckworth lost both of her legs after her helicopter was shot down in Iraq.

Duckworth made headlines again as she battled incumbent Senator Mark Kirk for his seat in the Senate, easily one of the most nationally covered contests, when Kirk made racially charged comments at one of their debates. After Duckworth finished speaking about her family's longstanding commitment to serving in the American armed forces, even when living in her birth nation of Thailand, Kirk smiled and added "I had forgotten that your parents came all the way from Thailand to serve George Washington," implying that he doubted both her ethnic and military background.

Afterwards, thousands of supporters defended Duckworth on Twitter, including former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who said, "Thankful for [Tammy Duckworth's] — and her family's — service to this country. It's really not that hard to grasp, [Mark Kirk]."

Later, the National Republican Senatorial Committee posted a statement that read, "Tammy Duckworth has a sad record of not standing up for our veterans." Duckworth, a veteran and double amputee who has vast experience working with former soldiers in her capacity as a Congresswoman and as Director of the Illinois DA, says she tries to not let comments like those made by the NRSC affect her. When discussing her stance on the military, she emphatically pronounced that she was not unaware of "what the men and women in uniform—and their families—sacrifice every single day to keep the rest of us safe."

She later went on to release an official statement on the matter, ensuring voters that "I worked to reduce Veteran homelessness and increase Veteran access to mental health care. During my time in Congress, I've led legislation to reduce Veteran suicide, and I've worked to protect Veterans' benefits from fraud."

Questioning a decorated war veteran's commitment to her fellow soldiers seems illogical, but it didn't harm Duckworth in anyway: she defeated incumbent Kirk by a whopping 15 percent margin.

Even though she's only been in the Senate a few months, Duckworth is already making strides to oppose Trumpian policies that may negatively affect her constituents. After the original rollout of Trumps travel on seven predominantly Muslim countries, Duckworth was one of its loudest dissenters, standing with green-card holders in O'Hare International Airport, and advocating for their legal aid in Congress. When the revised executive order was presented, Duckworth persisted, pointing out its inherently xenophobic qualities, saying, "Just like his last Muslim ban, this executive order plays into our enemy's hands by giving them a propaganda tool to spread a false narrative about the United States hating Muslims."

She added as well that the order undermines the work that members of the armed forces undertake in order to secure our liberties, stating, "This ban will not make our country safer; it betrays the American values those of us who served in uniform fought to defend. This travel ban is discriminatory and it needs to end."

In addition to calling out President Trump for his radical policies, Duckworth has been working since January with other Senators to pass progressive legislation, some of which she has sponsored herself, an impressive feat for a freshman Senator. One of her more notable bills involves parental leave, an issue that is of personal significance to Duckworth. "When I was wounded in Iraq, my husband was let go from his job after he used all of his unpaid leave to be by my hospital bedside," she said in an interview after the introduction of her measure. "We need to expand paid leave for all Americans. If the President is serious about keeping his campaign promises to help working families, I urge him to support this bill."

After her election to office, Mark Strand, president of the Congressional Institute, commented that her presence "shows you how diverse we are becoming when our female veterans who are wounded are reaching some of the highest offices in the country." Not only is Duckworth a symbol of progression in these otherwise grim times, she is a fresh and intelligent voice in the debate on foreign policy and our armed services, a conversation that often devolves into patriotic riffraff. Watch Duckworth in the coming years—she very well could give draft dodging, POW mocking, President Trump a run for his money.

THE U.S. SENATE

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS

OPINION

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Maine Republican Senator Susan Collins, while she might not have widespread name recognition, is a model for any public servant - after all, there must be a reason that she has the second-highest approval rating in the United States Senate. In 2015, she cast her 6,000th consecutive vote, the longest streak of any current member of the Senate, meaning that she hasn't missed one of the last 6,000 roll call votes.

A self-described "moderate Republican," Collins is easily the most moderate Republican in Congress, and she is widely considered a centrist ally of bipartisan progress and cooperation. She is a member of several moderate Republican groups including the Republican Majority for Choice, a Republican pro-choice group, and Republicans for Environmental Protection, making the fact that she only voted along party lines sixty percent of the time from the late 1990s to 2015 no mystery. Furthermore, she was one of only six Republicans endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBT rights group, in 2008, and she receives their endorsements regularly.

A lifelong Republican, Collins was not hesitant to voice her distaste for candidate Trump as early as August, while many members of her party were still grasping at straws to paint him in a positive light. She explained that she would not vote for him "based on his disregard for the precept of treating others with respect, an idea that should transcend politics," draw-

ing a sharp contrast between herself and those who would denounce his words but stand by their endorsements, willing to put anyone with an R. after his name in the White House.

Already standing up to the Trump administration, she was one of six Congressional Republicans to stand against Trump's travel ban, seeing that "implementing it will be immediately problematic," an objective fact, and that "religious tests [...] run contrary to our American values," standing up against the violation of that basic American belief that many of the ban's supporters either cited as a necessary evil or dismissed entirely. Furthermore, she has expressed openness to investigations of Russian tampering in the election and into Michael Flynn's ties to Russia, a stance that many but by no means most Congressional Republicans have publicly voiced.

Collins is, to put it simply, an inspiration and a vision of what should be expected of a public servant in America. She goes to work, as her voting streak shows, an action that should be expectation that many Congresspeople fail to do. She puts the convictions that her constituents elected her for above her party, surrounded by a partisan climate in which it would be easy to do the opposite. As many of her colleagues have.

More importantly on the national stage, though, this budding Republican presidential administration has well over half of the nation unhappy - and some more extreme opponents of the president are wondering if this is the beginning of an autocracy. Republican, and to a lesser extent, conservative, have become synonymous with oppressive.

Collins is a refreshing re-



minder that the moderate breed of conservative that contained many Republican greats has not died. Her socially liberal but economically conservative stances demonstrate the way that her party is changing and embody the ideals that young conservatives are embracing. Her example shows that the Republican party does not have to stand in the way of socially progressive policies to save face, because that is no longer what the majority of Republicans, especially in younger age brackets desire or expect from a Republican representative.

She and her fellow moderates could be the Republicans' salvation, marrying fiscal responsibility and relatively liberal social policies that are embraced far more widely than they are rejected. The sooner her party recognizes the value in Congresswomen like her, the better.

“Collins is a refreshing reminder that the moderate breed of conservative that contained many Republican greats has not died.”

ST. JOE CEO

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

St. Joe CEO is an entrepreneurship education program that seeks to prepare people, especially youth, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. The CEO - creating entrepreneurial opportunities - program provides an environment in which students are put in real life learning experiences with the opportunity to take risks, manage the results, and learn from the outcomes, like a true entrepreneur. St. Joe CEO is a four credit high school class and is also eligible for six dual credits through Ivy Tech. They meet Monday to Friday from 7:30 am-9:00 am for an entire school year. The class never meets at schools but instead meets at various local businesses, such as 101Co3, for the opportunity to tour twenty to thirty local businesses behind the scenes as well as twenty to thirty guest speakers. This exposure helps the students build their own personal networks and gain a better understanding of all the opportunities and great companies in St. Joseph County. St. Joe CEO accepts students from the South Bend Community School Corporation, New Prairie High School, Penn High School, Mishawaka High School, Career Academy, John Glenn High School, Marian High School, and St. Joseph High School. There are currently 33 students in St. Joe CEO and has a student to facilitator ratio at or below 20:1.

The program was brought to our county in 2014 when area business leaders who wanted to make a difference in this region, impact economic development and to help retain the students. Iris Hammel, the St. Joe CEO Director, was hired in December 2014 to work on getting schools on board, find locations to host classes, and to build the CEO network throughout the county. The program, as a whole, was started in Effingham, Illinois in 2008 and has expanded to 43 programs throughout the United States.

The students participating in the program all start real businesses. They do not have tests, quizzes, or projects, like a typical class, but do work that will be for their personal businesses or the class business. The students create their

business based on a lot of the work they do throughout the course of the year. Many of the students are unsure about the business they would like to start, but they are all working on a business idea. To secure funding for their businesses, the students will pitch to a panel of real investors, such as angel investors, bankers, and venture capitalists. On May 16, 2017, students will host the St. Joe CEO business expo and will be officially open for business.

St. Joe CEO hosted a Startup the City event on March 2, 2017. Startup the City was St. Joe CEO's class business. The students came up with the idea based on the speakers throughout the community and all of the momentum they have been connected to this year. They also noticed that many of their friends and family didn't know about all the change and growth happening in our region and decided to spread the word. The event's goal was to create an event to highlight the region and allow people to plug in and learn more about how to get involved. The mission of Startup the City was to bring together change agents from the community for a high-impact experience focused on raising awareness and building momentum around the growth in our region. The event had three distinct elements: Innovation Way, which highlighted organizations dedicated to building an entrepreneurial ecosystem in St. Joe County, Venture Valley, featuring eight area startup businesses and offered them a chance to compete for best startup idea (1st place received \$2500, 2nd - \$1000, and 3rd - \$500). The night ended with a panel discussion including Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Amish Shah, Bryan Ritchie, Regina Emberton, Sam Centellas, and Jeff Rea. The event was a major success and was enjoyable for everyone in attendance.

St. Joe CEO is always searching for the next group of entrepreneurs. Every year, applications open for the program in mid December and close in mid March. Iris Hammel stated, "This is truly a transformative experience that will prepare students for the next step in life - be that running your own business or securing your first internship or heading off to college." If you're hardworking and trustworthy, you should definitely consider applying for this incredible opportunity.

HOW TEACHERS ARE SURVIVING UNTIL SPRING BREAK

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

With only a couple of weeks left until Spring Break, *The Tower* interviewed some of JA's teachers to see how they are handling these last few weeks.

Mrs. Hernandez

"The few weeks leading up to spring break are hectic for all of us. Between ISTEP and IB testing, all of the papers to grade, class plans to make, curriculum to write, and meetings to attend, it's hard to keep our heads above water." She continued to say, "For me, the most important thing is finding a creative outlet and making myself take the time for it. Whether I'm playing the guitar or taking a walk with my boys or just watching a movie I've been wanting to see" Hernandez added. "Additionally, it's important to unplug and look up every once in awhile. When we fail to look up, when we're too caught up on our online presence, we miss connecting with the beauty around us."

Mrs. Kern

"Well I'm tired," laughed Kern. "During this time of the year, I try to break up the instructions by doing more some more fun stuff. As of right now, we are testing our right and left brains." Kern continued, "In general, my classes are doing more labs, so that people don't get burned out especially the teachers."

Mrs. Kreis-Fisher

"Well, how I'm surviving until spring break is on a lot of caffeine," joked Fisher. "But also trying to do more fun projects and more physical activity so that students are alert and I'm more alert."

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Mrs. Stanton

"I'm doing okay. Every year it's a little rough for me, due to the IB oral exams coming up." She said, "I think it's not just how I feel but how the kids feel. If their energy is low or if they're not mentally here, then it makes it harder for me as a teacher to keep them engaged....It varies from year to year, but I am excited for Spring Break and having that a little bit of that break."

Mr. Wilson

"During this time, there's a lot to do with grading and those kind of things," Wilson said. "While you see Spring Break off in the distance, you know you're not there yet. And so you mentally don't want to get there yet. So the important thing is to keep going."

THIRD ESTATE: SKIN MUSIC VIDEO

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

This past August, Adam's own Third Estate recorded their first ever professionally produced music video alongside a handful of their friends who contributed as extras. After the filming of the video and the release of their song via all major music platforms, I sat down with senior band members Mark Anella and Tye Happ for their first interview with The Tower. The music video for their original song, "Skin" was officially released on March 6, 2017. In two weeks, the video has received over 575 views via YouTube. This past week, lead singer Morgan Garber (JA Class of 2016) joined us for their second interview with The Tower to discuss the music video, the band, and the future of its members.

Q: How has the music video been received?

Anella: We don't know...I don't know. We just [sort of] threw it out there [online] and then went back to our own lives. I'm not even on social media so if anyone is saying [anything] about our video, let me know.

Happ: I wish I knew... good I hope? The video has like [sic] 500 views so far.

Garber: I think a lot of people think it's cool that we even have songs out, so the fact that we also have a music video is always well received. It's a cool thing to say when you're forced to tell a fun fact about yourself on the first day of class.

Q: What was the making of the video like?

Anella: After filming, we waited to get the rough draft from the studio (TJ21). Then we worked with them to craft it into the story we wanted to tell. We had to make a list of clips with the exact time that we wanted them at, [for example] clip 13 at one minute and 34 seconds and then [we] just hoped that those numbers actually looked right when they [pieced] it together.

Happ: Once the cameras and lights were set up, the process was smooth and it all flowed. Not knowing exactly what we wanted beforehand, it was exciting to create the scenes spontaneously.

Garber: It was a very long and repetitive process, but it was an amazing thing to be a part of.

Q: Were you satisfied with the results?

Anella: Super duper! Not many people our age can say that they have professionally produced music videos ... so that's nice. I'm very pleased with the final video. I did not know what to expect going into this so I am nothing but happy about the product.

Happ: Yes.

Garber: I think the final video is amazing, especially considering the fact that we really got to customize it and pick which clips we wanted.

Q: What is your favorite part of the music video?

Anella: It looks incredible when Morgan is surrounded by sparklers during the bridge. I also love the smashing cabinet [scene] because I actually found that piece of crap[sic] on the curb [while] on the way to the filming location. I was stopped in traffic and saw [the cabinet]. I was like, "We gotta have that! We can break it!" and I explained it to the man out there who said it was his cabinet. He seemed to not know what I was talking about, but he let me take it nonetheless.

Happ: I think the highlight of the video is when Zoe Ricker (a senior at Adams) hits the ground with a hammer. Repeatedly.

Garber: I love all the slow motion parts [of the video], especially where the boys are in the shopping carts and we're all walking past the camera. It looks really badass [sic].

Q: Has the video brought any new attention to the band?

Anella: Who knows— our listen counter on Spotify is still "<1,000". The music video was released right after Mock Trial State, so if anyone said anything to me it was about [mock trial]. I got a couple nonspecific "congrats" so those may have been for the video... again who knows. I hear we are big in Austria though.

Happ: It has revived the excitement.

Garber: Ditto to Tye.

Q: What were the reactions of your friends and family to the music video?

Anella: My grandma likes it a lot. She showed it to her friend – Sherry I think – who plays the cello and she liked it too.

Happ: They said it's dope [sic]. Oh also, I'm getting some love from my newfound fans in Austria. Also my boss gave me a promotion for it.

Garber: My family loves it, and my mom shared it on Facebook to all of her middle aged friends.

Q: What are your plans for the future as individual artists?

Anella: I hope to be accepted to Georgetown.

Happ: I think I'm going to get really good at the kazoo so I can add another dimension to my sound while I'm playing set.

Garber: I'm working on lots of original solo music and I hope to release some this summer!

Third Estate thanks their audience for their continuous support, and for the ability to record and perform.



BOYS BASKETBALL REGIONALS

KAYLAN PARKER & KENNEDI KYLE - REPORTERS

On Saturday, March 11, the John Adams boys varsity basketball players played in the IHSAA Regionals at Michigan City. The Eagles went head to head against the Merrillville Pirates at 10 a.m. Unfortunately, the Eagles' season was sadly ended with a score of 49-76 in a hard fought battle. At the start of the game, the scoring for both teams was neck and neck. The first quarter ending score was 18-15, with Eagles up. After the first quarter, the JA boys lost the intensity when senior forward Kyreece Parker sat out most of the first and second quarter due to a couple of quick fouls. Unfortunately, scoring became a struggle when Merrillville picked up their intensity and became unstoppable. Senior guard Michael Green said, "I think we celebrated winning sectionals for so long that we lost ourselves, and forgot that we still had to play against a competitive team." When the margin of the score continued to increase, the team became distraught.

JA's large and enthusiastic student section tried to encourage the Eagles to pick up not only their offense, but especially their defense. At halftime, the Eagles found themselves down by 12 with a possible comeback, but after the break the team did not pick up the pace, causing the Pirates to create a bigger lead. The Pirates outscored the Eagles in the third quarter by 18 points, making it even harder for the team to try and come back. During the fourth quarter, the boys picked up their play a little bit, but it was not enough to outlast the Pirates. By the middle of the fourth, the team found themselves down by 20. The team was tired and had been outplayed. "Even though we lost we made history here at Adams and we will have a picture on the wall, this is one of the best seasons the team has had in awhile" said Parker. The Eagles finished the season with a record of 21-5. We would like to congratulate all the seniors on winning the sectional championship and all their hard work that they put forward on the court.

HOCKEY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

Earlier this month, the John Adams/Marian hockey team finished a great season with an unfortunate loss to Fort Wayne Dwenger in the 2A state championship at the Icebox. With a score of 7 to 4, Adams/Marian offered strong competition but just couldn't get into a rhythm of moving the puck and consistently scoring.

For any team, making it to the state championship is a great feat. I spoke with Adams defensive player Bennett Kinkade to ask some questions about the experience of competing at state, the mindset going into the game, and the plans for next season.

At the beginning of the tournament, the team had high expectations and a difficult but attainable goal of competing in and winning the championship. The team was confident heading into the tournament with a solid record of 24-17. "We already beat all of the teams in our bracket previously, but we wanted to keep our heads high and not become too confident," Kinkade said.

After dominating the competition - the Munster Mustangs, Leo Lions, and the Valparaiso Vikings- in bracket play, the eagles had to get their heads in order for the most crucial game

of the season. "Obviously everyone was nervous, but we wanted to control the tempo of the game and keep our momentum from the previous weekend's win," Kinkade elaborated. "We wanted to treat the game as if it was any other."

Most people watching the game can agree that it began as a rocky start, with Bishop Dwenger scoring four points in the first period. Additionally, it seemed like they had trouble settling in on offense. "When you play in a state championship you have to play a consistent three period game on both sides of the ice, but we just didn't play our usual game the first two periods." "We let our nerves get the best of us," added Kinkade.

Despite the difficult loss at state, the team has every intention of returning to state next year. It's clear that there is a lot of work to be done collectively to become a state level team again.

"We have higher expectations this year, and we'd like to make it as far as possible and make some noise," said Kinkade. "We need to tweak the small problems, like consistency, but overall I think we mesh together well as a team," he added.

Adams/Marian hockey is definitely not a team to be slept on in the coming few years. They are undeniably working everyday to rebuild the program and make it great. Hopefully the team can live up to the expectations and come back next year with an even more successful season than the exceptional 27 - 18 record this year.

