



The Tower would like to thank Jeff Kroger, Mimi Panzica, and Abi Vreugdenhil for all of their help at Tower Rock!

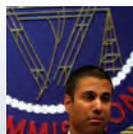
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SPORTS

Tower Rock Winner: OD TEDDY BEAR

KAITY RADDE - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Picture this: it's December 15 in the auditorium, the middle of Tower Rock, approximately 8:20 PM. I go on stage and announce the end of intermission, introducing the first act for the last half of the night - OD Teddy Bear - as the crowd settles and the curtain opens behind me.

That's how the audience at Tower Rock met its victors. Though there were laughs at the name as the curtains were drawn and the band came into view, the band wowed the crowd with its renditions of Heart Shaped Box by Nirvana and Sweet Child O' Mine by Guns N' Roses - enough to win by a significant margin. As the crowd cheered and clapped throughout the performance, it seemed as though they'd been playing together forever, but the friend group only formed their band three weeks before Tower Rock! Claire Hargis, the band's vocalist, said, "it definitely feels like [we've been together] longer, and I love that we all were able to become so close with each other through music," a sentiment that the others share wholeheartedly.

This time constraint is also part of the explanation for the name. Ryan Downey,

who along with Max Thompson serves as both the band's guitarist and drummer, explained that it's a deep track *Parks and Recreation* reference to an abandoned name of the show's band, Mouse Rat. He added, "It was originally Teddy Bear Suicide but [...] I changed it to something similar in a sense."

Part of the reason they were able to come together so quickly is the level of individual experience each of them have. Ryan has played the guitar for eight years and the drums for two, while Max has



taught himself both in recent years. Skylar Dungy, guitarist, has played for four years, and Claire has been singing quite literally forever. The group has different tastes in music, but there are some songs and genres they all love. Skylar said that they're a versatile group, but "if I had to put a finger on it, we would probably classify as rock [and] alternative." Max added, "There was a lot of compromise [in choosing what to play], so we are up for basically any song."

So, was this young group of talented

musicians surprised at their win? In a word, no. Ryan said, "As soon as we opened with Heart Shaped Box and heard the crowd cheer after the first chord, I knew from that point that the chances [of winning] were great." Skylar agreed with him and added, "We had so much fun in the process. We all love to mess around and have a good time, and that's exactly what we did."

Claire said, "We definitely came to win, but at the same time we knew that all that mattered was having the opportunity to share what we had been working so hard on with our friends and family." She also expounded on the joy of performing, regardless of the win: "My favorite part of performing was feeling the energy from the crowd. There is nothing better than playing and hearing people cheer for you. [...] Tower Rock, to me, encourages light hearted competition of talents and unity of people who love to

perform all at the same time, so that definitely makes it special."

As for the band's future, they hope to perform at Night of the Arts in the spring and begin playing locally when opportunities arise. Claire spoke for the group when she said she "cannot wait to [perform together] again in the future." After what we've seen them accomplish with only three rehearsals under their belt, the future looks bright for OD Teddy Bear. *The Tower* congratulates them again for their win!

T H E J O H N A D A M S

T O W E R

//////////////////// S T A F F //////////////////////////////////

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Kaitly Radde

ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Casey Carroll

MANAGING EDITOR

Alicia Koszyk

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kaitly Radde

LAYOUT AIDE

Ryan Downey

REPORTERS

Ryan Downey

Julianne Grohowski

Claire Hargis

Seth Kirkpatrick

Sami Mirza

Alia Murillo

Valencia Randolph

Claire Stowe

Zachary Veazie

Sierra Weaver

Kenneth Weston

ADVISOR

John Nowicki

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 jnowicki2@sbcsc.k12.in.us, or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenham Dr. Letters to the Editor for Issue Five must be submitted by November 3.

Editorials are written by the Editorial Board of *The Tower* (comprised of Kaitly Radde, Casey Carroll, and Alicia Koszyk) and are designated as such.

The Tower thanks the *Herald-Palladium* 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.

Who Said It?

Match the quote to the character that said it.

(Answers below)

QUOTE

1. "One can never have enough socks."
2. "Wit is well-bred insolence."
3. "I'm just a kid from Brooklyn."
4. "If I had to have a stripper's name, it would be Equality."
5. "I'm a damsel, I'm in distress, I can handle this. Have a nice day."
6. "The greatest teacher, failure is."
7. "'Eye of the Tiger' ended the Cold War."
8. "We need a new plague."
9. "What I do is not up to you."
10. "Worrying means you suffer twice."
11. "I stand upon my desk to remind myself that we must constantly look at things in a different way."
12. "You punched the bursar?"
13. "You did it! Congratulations! World's Best Cup of Coffee. Great job, everybody."
14. "I'm going to steal the Declaration of Independence."

CHARACTERS

- A. John Keating, *Dead Poets Society*
- B. Leslie Knope, *Parks and Recreation*
- C. Aaron Burr, *Hamilton: An American Musical*
- D. Winston, *New Girl*
- E. Diana Prince, *Wonder Woman*
- F. Aristotle
- G. Newt Scamander, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*
- H. Albus Dumbledore, *Harry Potter* series
- I. Ben Gates, *National Treasure*
- J. Dwight Schrute, *The Office*
- K. Megara, *Hercules*
- L. Buddy, *Elf*
- M. Steve Rogers, *Captain America: The First Avenger*
- N. Yoda, *Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi*

ANSWERS

1H, 2E, 3M, 4B, 5K, 6N, 7D, 8J, 9E, 10G, 11A, 12C, 13L, 14I

Natalie Holmes

CLAIRE HARGIS - REPORTER

Natalie Holmes is a student here at Adams, but she is anything but an average student. Ever since Natalie was a baby she was different from the rest of us, but it wasn't until she was six years old that the doctors discovered that the condition causing her complications was Mitochondrial Myopathy.

Mitochondrial Myopathy a disease in which the mitochondria within your cells do not produce energy correctly. Only two years after being diagnosed with Mitochondrial Myopathy, Natalie had to have her first brain surgery to treat Chiari Malformation, a condition that causes your brain to protrude past the base of your skull. Through this surgery they also found that Natalie has Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS), which is a condition that causes your body to overproduce scar tissue. Due to her EDS, Natalie had to have four other brain surgeries since then, one of which was just this July.

The recent surgery that Natalie had on her brain in July came with some major complications, but she stayed strong and stayed positive saying "my goal, before and throughout my surgery, complications, and inpatient rehab, was to start my junior year of high school at JAHS on the first day of the school year. I got out of inpatient rehab late on the Friday before school started for this school year. And I made it. Barely. But I made it." Because of her strength and power to overcome things such as this, Natalie is being recognized as one of the Riley Hospital's Champions for 2018. Riley hospital only chooses eight people to be recognized out of the seventy nominated, so this choice is a great honor. Along with being honored by Riley Hospital, she was also recognized at the Riley Hope Happens Here Luncheon event

on November 17. Natalie got to speak in front of 1,500 people one of them being John Adams own Mr. Seitz.

However, these recognitions do not come for nothing. Because of her conditions, Natalie has been on a countless number of doctor visits and even more visits to the children's hospital in Indianapolis. Along with these visits, Natalie is fed 24/7 through a tube to help keep her energy levels at a baseline. Because of the Mitochondrial Myopathy, she doesn't have much energy and she is consistently at a baseline that is lower than the average person's. Natalie has taken what was given to her not as something to limit her and her abilities, but as something to push and encourage her to be the best she can be without letting anything get in her way.

The Spirit of Giving

CLAIRE STOWE - REPORTER

The holiday season is the season for giving. It's the time for friends and families to come together and show generosity. Unfortunately, there are many people in our community who do not have all they need and go without extravagant plans and gifts that some take for granted. The Adams community wants to help those in need.

There are several classes here at Adams that are partnering with Target this year to provide families with gifts. The students are buying a variety of presents for these families, ranging from toy dinosaurs to clothing to gift cards to blankets. Each participating class provides for a different anonymous family, only sharing the ages and sizes of the members in order to buy accurate presents. Several members of these families attend Adams, person-

alizing this venture even more. The students in these classes have all been extremely eager to participate in this project, all putting forth what they can to help brighten these families' holiday seasons.

One student, sophomore Cameron Pierce, has actively participated in this event on her part to make several donations. She comments, "I think it's wonderful to be able to give back to people in our own school community, because even though it's great to give back in the greater South Bend area, it's great to know that you're affecting people who go to your school, and even if you don't know who they are you just know that you're making people happy." Pierce is a huge supporter of this program and believes that the entire participating student body is too. "Most people are more than willing to offer money and gift ideas and go out and spend their own money and time to give these people proper gifts."

This project has surpassed Adams High School and has reached out into the entire South Bend community. Target has similarly engaged, providing gifts to one of these families. The entire Target staff has been welcoming to this project and has donated very generously.

There are so many excellent charities to donate to that help people throughout South Bend. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana, The Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, South Bend Center for the Homeless, and La Casa de Amistad are all non-profit organizations providing excellent services for those in need. Giving and donating is a key part to the holiday season. With so many great organizations, projects, and people in the community, giving back brings extraordinary joy to everyone involved.

Holiday Drinks

CLAIRE HARGIS - REPORTER

An important aspect of the holiday season is the different holiday flavored beverages available at different coffee shops during the time. A popular spot for some of the best holiday drinks is Starbucks.

This season, Starbucks is offering many different festive drinks for the time limited to the holiday season and I chose to try three: the Toasted White Chocolate Mocha, the Peppermint Mocha, and the Caramel Brûlée. I tried each drink iced, hot, and blended and reviewed them based on taste.

Out of all of the hot drinks, the best was the Peppermint Mocha. It had a rich chocolate flavor along with an accent of mint that was well balanced when warm. The Peppermint Mocha iced and blended was fine, but it's worth acknowledging that the mint flavor is very strong in the cold drinks.

My favorite iced drink has to be the Toasted White Chocolate Mocha. This drink was the most neutral, meaning that most people who try this will probably enjoy it. The Toasted White Chocolate Mocha is sweet, but not to the point where it is sickening and the flavor of the syrup really compliments the tartness of the coffee as well. This drink was equally as delightful warm and blended as it was iced and definitely is an overall favorite of mine for this holiday season.

The final drink that I tried was the Caramel Brûlée. This drink has been a favorite of mine for the past few holiday seasons. It is absolutely delicious blended as a frappuccino and is a great spin off from the normal caramel drinks available year round. The flavor is a bit warmer than the average caramel and has a bit more of a zing. The Caramel Brûlée is also good hot and iced, but the flavor is really brought out when blended.

Overall, any of the holiday drinks at Starbucks would bring a little more holiday cheer to your winter season, so ultimately

it is up to you to decide what type of drink you are looking for that is a bit of treat along with some energy.

Star Wars

SIERRA WEAVER - REPORTER

Star Wars: The Last Jedi is the second movie in the sequel trilogy to the original Star Wars films. It was released December 15, 2017. The film is a sequel to Star Wars: The Force Awakens and follows many of the same characters. The Last Jedi stars Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, and Kelly Marie Tran. The film is a solid sequel with great action and an entertaining story.

The film takes place after the events of the Force Awakens in which the resistance successfully destroyed the Starkiller base which was previously an operation base for the First Order. The film begins after the main base of the Resistance is destroyed by The First Order. Finn (John Boyega) and Rose (Kelly Marie Tran) are sent to disable a tracking device held by the First Order. At the same time, Rey (Daisy Ridley) is being trained to use the force by Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill). The film also explores a connection between Rey and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver).

The actors all did a fantastic job with their roles. Their emotion could really be felt through the characters. Because of this, the characters were interesting and realistic. A focus on character development was present in the movie at many times, but never took away from the overall plot. Character development could be seen most easily in the scenes with Rey and Kylo Ren. They had many scenes together which showed their own internal conflicts.

The plot of the film was entertaining the whole time. It was fast-paced and made the movie seem shorter than its runtime of over two hours. The visuals of Star Wars: The Last Jedi were gorgeous and stunning. They provided a good setting for the film. The scenes with Luke and Ray were particularly beautiful. The action scenes of the film were also well done. They were easy to follow and unpredictable. The movie was unpredictable all the way through; it kept viewers entertained and intrigued.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi was a great continuation of the film series. It has realistic and well-developed characters. The film has good action scenes that mix well with the overall entertaining plot. It was visually stunning creating an amazing setting for the story. Overall, the movie is a must-see for the year, especially for fans of any of the previous films.



NET NEUTRALITY: What We've Lost, and What We Still Don't Know

OPINION

KAITY RADDE - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On December 14, the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] led by Ajit Pai voted 3-2 to repeal Obama-era net neutrality regulations. These regulations prevented internet providers from restricting what information users can see online, reducing the quality of service, and charging for the use of certain websites, among other things. Essentially, it made the internet like any other utility - you paid to use it, and that was it.

The repeal will take at least a few weeks to go into effect, but the political effects were felt immediately as public opinion overwhelmingly rejected the decision and a number of organizations and states began to sue. It is unclear why the FCC was so determined to see

the decision through when they knew a legal battle would follow, citizens of their own party would reject them, and the world's most prevalent form of communication would become more restricted from the groups that need easy access the most. Even the positive outcomes they cite lack conclusive evidence, and Pai's ties to Verizon give this decision the same stench that has followed some of Trump's problems with conflicts of interest.

During the vote, the FCC had to evacuate due to security threats, something that news agencies reported through Twitter before it could be found anywhere else, an accidental and poignant argument for net neutrality in and of itself. Sure, some of the people outraged are mostly worried about losing the Instagram aesthetic they've worked so hard on, access to iconic Tweets, and Snapchat streaks that are years long.

“There is more than one way to burn a book.”

Indiana is not one of the states pushing back against the FCC. If you care about the internet as we know it, contact our Congresspeople and do your part to keep it!

But, aside from making these superficial parts of the internet free, net neutrality ensures free access to news, art, and countless methods of communication.

There is a (faint) light at the end of the tunnel, however, in the form of uncertainties. AT&T, Comcast, and two industry trade groups “promised consumers that their experiences online would not change [if net neutrality is repealed].” If major companies themselves don't raise their prices, competition will force the others to follow suit. Furthermore, Congress can still make new net neutrality legislation, though it looks like this may come too little or too late.

To quote one of Ray Bradbury's comments on his magnum opus, *Fahrenheit 451*, “There is more than one way to burn a book.” When five - or, in reality, three - people decide for the entire nation that information on the internet will no longer have a guarantee of freedom and accessibility, our nation moves closer to censorship, something the American character inherently rejects and fights against time and time again. We as the American people deserve better than to have something as important as free communication taken away from us, and as states and as private citizens, we have the responsibility to demand better.



ADAMS DANCE TEAM

CLAIRE HARGIS - REPORTER

The John Adams Dance Team is the newest sport available at Adams. The Dance Team is composed of ten dancers and their coach, Mrs. Saddler. The team has previously performed at a football game and pep rally. They also expect to perform during halftime for both the boys and girls basketball games this season.

I talked with some of the girls on the team to hear about their experiences thus far. Shaylee Saddler said, "To me, creating a dance team at John Adams really brought something different to the table. I've danced my whole life outside of school but I've always wondered what it would be like to be on a team and to be able to connect with others who also enjoy dancing at Adams. Being on the dance team has allowed me to actually say I'm involved with an activity at school and being able to give a different vibe to the crowds at football and basketball games." Similarly, Dancer Tessa Griffin said, "My experience on the dance team has been so amazing. I feel like we've created a great space to empower each other as dancers and girls and promote self expression to the student body, which is super important." Another dancer, Allison Doctor, said, "So far the team has become a family. After spending hours a week practicing the dances you are able to know so much about the other dances and are able to bond over the shared love of dance." Along with describing her experience on the team, Tessa described the team style of dance as "very pop-culture inspired jazz and hip hop, with a little bit of everything thrown in there from time to time." Allison agreed saying, "our typical style is based in hip hop but we also

bring in aspects of jazz and voguing to the dances to bring some variety to our movement."

The dance team practices Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from three to four. Allison Doctor gave an inside look on what happens in practices saying that "during practices we usually warm up and stretch for a little bit and then start to run our dances. We typically focus on our newest dance and go over the counts to get our timing together. It's a lot of fun and hard work." The Dance Team is using all of this hard work during practice to create a good performance for the John Adams population to enjoy, and when doing this they seem to be enjoying it too.

JERUSALEM

SAMI MIRZA - REPORTER

Among the many perennial foreign policy issues facing the United States in a post Cold War world is Palestinian statehood. Palestinians claim that their land was taken unfairly in the 1947 partition that created the modern State of Israel. Israel, on the other hand, points to several thousand years of Jewish history that have been lived out on Israeli/Palestinian soil, citing it as the land of a people long excluded from their home. In the middle of this debate (quite literally) lies Jerusalem. Considered by many to be the seat of Israel/Palestine, it was internationalized in the 1947 agreement, left as neutral ground with no real attachment to either side. Partitioned to give equal parts to Arab and Israeli control, it was fully annexed by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. The international community denounced the move as illegal, and a 1980 declaration stated that Jerusalem was the Jewish capital and it emptied the city of any foreign embassies.

That changed December 6th, when President Trump announced the decision to move the American embassy

in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, recognizing the city as the Israeli capital along the way. Through this move, the United States joins only three other nations in formal recognition of Jerusalem's status as the capital. The choice has also disrupted peace talks between Palestine and Israel, by heightening tensions between the sides, escalating and elongating the conflict.

Among the most well-cited and mainstream resolutions proposed is the two-state solution. The basic premise is as follows: the current territory is split into two states, one Jewish, the other Arab or Muslim. While seemingly simple enough, many problems arise when looking at the nuances. Who should get what territory? What should be done with Israeli settlements in occupied territories? The questions go on. This decision has disrupted the attempts at resolution by giving one side the backing of a major world power, changing negotiations drastically.

For some, however, the two-state solution concedes too much to the opposing side. Take Noor Kanan, for example. She works in Student Management as a student worker. An Arab herself, she feels quite strongly on the subject, especially regarding President Trump's latest move. "I would have been ok with a two-state solution, but not now after this [has] happened," she said. Her sentiments are shared by many Palestinians, who protested the decision at American embassies around the region. They are also partly shared by some Israelis. "I don't support Israel politically," said a sophomore who wished to remain anonymous. He did support a two-state solution, emphasizing that "Israel has a right to exist."

My discussion with these two opposite sides revealed the nuance and complexity of the situation. It also shows how close to home the crisis hits, even thousands of miles away; people you know and interact with may have personal ties to this international dispute.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT BERNAL CORTES

RYAN DOWNEY - REPORTER

For roughly four years, Bernal Cortes has been swimming competitively for our John Adams' Varsity team. With his strong work ethic and determination, he has climbed the ranks from the bottom of the roster to the top as a Varsity captain. When asked how different this experience is in comparison to his beginning stance, he replied, "Swimming is such a team sport, although it doesn't seem like it. We train together, suffer together, and race together. Our team is made up of a lot of new guys that are learning to swim [competitively]. My main role is to both serve as a model for good technique and [how to be] a good person. I try to help these guys learn team skills, while also teaching them how to swim. The main difference is that I have 25 other guys looking to me for direction."

As of December 12, the swim team is 2-2 with wins over Marian and St. Joseph High School. Bernal spoke about how the season was progressing, saying that the year is definitely a rebuild-

ing year. He explained "We lost two fast guys last year, but now we have a lot of new guys - which seems very promising for the future." Even though it was described as a year to grow, the wins over the two schools were quite impressive. Adams beat St. Joe 99-78 and Marian 111-68 with the only two losses being closely matched against New Prairie and Bremen.

Outside of the pool, one may find Bernal working as a game master for Outsmart Escape Rooms or volunteering in the St. Joseph Public Library. Cortes' future as a student is bright, what with being a full IB di-



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ploma candidate and an active member of National Honor Society. He has high aspirations for college as he is aiming to attend Williams College in Massachusetts, one of the most prestigious liberal arts schools in America, where he hopes to continue to swim competitively. We at *The Tower* wish Cortes the best of luck and congratulate him on his accomplishments thus far.

"My main role is to both serve as a model for good technique and [how to be] a good person. The main difference [between being on the team and being a captain] is that I have 25 other guys looking to me for direction."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT LANE McDONALD

SETH KIRKPATRICK - REPORTER

Lane McDonald is one of Adam's best athletes in both swimming and cross country. Additionally, she's been involved in triathlons since the age of thirteen. She's come a long way since her beginnings, moving from a beginner in the sport to a nationally ranked athlete. "Becoming a nationally ranked athlete in one of the most challenging sports there is and it has shaped my life. I first started racing draft-legal triathlon, the form of the sport that occurs in the Summer Olympics."

Since then, she has steadily climbed the national rankings, most recently finishing eighth at the 2017 USA Triathlon [USAT] Junior Elite National Championship. She said, "For me, getting to this point has not been easy. I have been tested as both an athlete and a person. Triathlon is extremely demanding and it has taken a great deal of time, hard work and dedication to be successful in it." When asked about the benefits

of the sport and the ways it has shaped her in spite of the difficult aspects of such a demanding sport, she said, "Triathlon and everything that accompanies it has made me even more independent, personally accountable and as a result, more mature [...] With each [challenge presented by the sport] comes the confirmation that it helps me live more a more fulfilling life."

While this sounds and is extremely demanding, she says that the lifestyle has made her a better, stronger person, so she tries not to view the difficulties as sacrifices. She explains that she's dealt with injury and slow progress in times at certain points, teaching her patience, and difficult sets in swimming, running, and triathlon have all made her more resilient. As far as the mindset it has given her, she explained, "In each race and during each workout I have a choice: I can focus on how tired I am or how hard I am pushing myself or I can focus on doing

"In each race and during each workout I have a choice: I can focus on how tired I am or how hard I am pushing myself or I can focus on doing what I love."

what I love and working to accomplish my goals. Each time I jump into the water or put on my running shoes I know that I have an opportunity to explore my potential."

In the fall, Lane and the rest of the class of 2018 will move on to college. While she has not yet committed, she has received a full ride scholarship offer and waits to hear back from others. Regardless of where she goes to school, her future in her sport and in general looks bright and The Tower wishes her the best of luck!



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Email: innisfreebnb@gmail.com