

The Tower

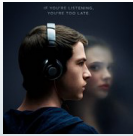
JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL


Thursday, April 20th, 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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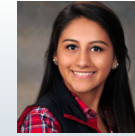
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STUDENT JOURNALISM PROTECTIONS DIE IN INDIANA STATE SENATE

EDITORIAL BOARD

As Americans, we take our First Amendment freedoms for granted. Our current president's distaste for the free media and his threats to "open up our libel laws" and restrict the freedoms that the press enjoys have called to the forefront freedom of the press, which tends to take a backseat to the other First Amendment freedoms. A plethora of advocates and congress-people on both sides of the political aisle to fiercely defend the press in his wake.

Yet freedom of the press for student journalists is still unprotected in the state of Indiana, among many other states.

If passed, a bipartisan bill that originated in the Indiana House of Representatives, primarily authored by Republican Edward Clere and co-authored by two Democrats and one other Republican, would have expanded the freedom of speech and freedom of the press for student journalists. Per the Indiana General Assembly, the bill would prevent schools from suppressing

any school-sponsored media unless it is "libelous or slanderous or gratuitously profane."

This bill, House Bill 1130, died on April 7 in the Indiana State Senate in spite of bipartisan support. This is largely because school boards and administrators - and the state superintendent, at the last moment - rather illogically feared a loss of control.

Clere expressed disappointment in the outcome. "We certainly have seen that there is self-censorship in places where it's understood that certain topics are off limits or that certain stories will never be allowed," he said, referring to student anecdotes of not being told no, necessarily, but deciding against pursuing a topic that is "too" controversial or sensitive. He also argued that "student journalists play a vital role in a school setting in the same way that professional journalists play a vital role [...] at the state or national level." This bill would have given student publications protections that reflect that role.

Clere, though, seemed willing to continue to fight for these protections, explaining that he and his colleagues will "go back to a lot of senators, help them understand that they have been misled."

As you may have heard, the staff of a high school newspaper in Kansas, which has protections for its student journalists, discovered that their principal had not received a degree from an accredited university. Their principal



resigned, and news organizations from the *New York Times* to the *South Bend Tribune* praised the students' successful investigative journalism.

This story, though, which would seem to promote the idea that student newspapers can, in fact, impact their schools and communities in meaningful and important ways, was twisted by the state superintendent into a cautionary tale of how students could print anything they wanted and get any administrators fired at will.

Here at Adams, *The Tower* is unrestricted in the vast majority of situations, though we have been prohibited from printing certain stories or parts of stories in the past. At some schools - especially in less tolerant areas of the state and country - much of what we print, namely opinion pieces, would simply not exist.

While our positive relationship with the school administration means that we are not personally affected in any tangible way by the defeat of this bill, other schools are not so lucky, and we at *The Tower* sincerely hope that the supporters of this bill will succeed in the long run.

"Freedom of the press for student journalists is still unprotected in the state of Indiana"

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

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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. Twyck-
enham 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.

13 REASONS WHY

OPINION

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Maybe you finished all at once, a titanic, nearly thirteen hour binge. Maybe you're halfway through, unable to watch more than an episode at a time and resigned to hope that none of your faster friends spoil it. Maybe you can't decide whether or not to give in to the hype; maybe you just want everyone to stop talking about it (sorry). But, love it or hate it, you've heard about "13 Reasons Why."

Netflix's adaptation of the novel of the same name follows main character Clay Jensen (Dylan Minnette) through his struggle to move past the suicide of his friend and crush, Hannah Baker (Katherine Langford). Hannah left behind a series of thirteen cassette tapes explaining why she took her own life, each one describing a different traumatic event addressed to the person responsible. They were to be listened to in order, and each person was instructed to pass them onto the next person.

Clay, our protagonist, struggles immensely to make it through the tapes and the atrocities they contain. He appears late in the tapes, and

most of the others have already heard theirs; the plot outside of the flashbacks into Hannah's life largely follows the rest of the people on the tapes attempting to stunt Clay's desire to find justice for Hannah. There is also a side plot that follows Hannah's parents and their lawsuit against the school, which Mrs. Jensen's law firm is representing.

The show, with more main characters than most, did a fantastic job of making each character seem like realistic and complex people that the audience can quickly connect with - even the ones that somewhat fit high the school stereotypes of the jock or the nerd. I found myself trying and failing to distance myself from Hannah, knowing that she was already gone and trying to save myself from pain like Clay's. With the exception of a couple for which I felt nothing but burning hatred, most of the characters are painfully relatable, even when they do horrible things.

For those who care more about plot than characterization, audiences of different tastes can flock to this show and find something in it for them. Some will love the tragedy of it, the unapologetic if exaggerated depictions of the universal problem of bullying. Some, myself included, will love the mystery and the amateur detective that Clay becomes. The suspense of the tapes, wondering what and who will appear next, is a driving factor that keeps any audience member pressing on to the next episode.

It is not, however, flawless.

Many have expressed (entirely valid) concerns that the show romanticizes suicide and glosses over mental health issues, which I agree is one of its biggest problems. And while the plot was mostly intriguing, it could have played out just as well - maybe even better - in less than thirteen episodes. Sometimes, it dragged, and I wanted nothing more than to reach through my screen and beg Clay to just get it over with.

Overall, "13 Reasons Why" was a heavy but intriguing watch that I consider well worth the time, though I was one who had to watch it in pieces. If you're looking for a tear-jerker with great acting and a horrific high school, you've come to the right place.



UPCOMING DISNEY LIVE ACTION FILMS

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

Walt Disney Studios has taken a new and exciting approach with their live-action adaptations to their classic films. So far, Disney has prevailed in recreating six films. Although it is not usually considered when thinking of a live-action remake, "101 Dalmatians" (1996), starring Glenn Close as Cruella de Vil, was a huge success and began the idea of live-action films. The next film was "Alice in Wonderland" (2010). This remake told Alice's story with an increased role for the Mad Hatter, played by Johnny Depp, and was given a gothic twist due to its direction by Tim Burton. Four years later, Disney came out with "Maleficent" (2014), an adaption of "Sleeping Beauty" (1959) that tells Aurora's story from the story's villain, Maleficent, played by Angelina Jolie. The twist in the plot line led this movie to bring in over \$240 million in theatres. After the huge success with Maleficent, Disney began creating live-action adaptations annually. "Cinderella" (2015), starring Lily James as Cinderella and Richard Madden as Prince Charming, used the original, darker story of Cinderella, leaving out the classic songs. Even though fans were disappointed in the lack of song, it didn't stop the movie from making \$200 million at the box office. When "The Jungle Book" (2016) was announced as becoming a live-action film. Fans had doubts that the cartoon animals couldn't be successfully brought to life by CGI but were pleasantly surprised Disney pulled it off. "The Jungle Book" (2016) was the most successful live-action remake, at \$364 million, until the newest addition

Currently at \$910 million in the box office, their newest film, "Beauty and the Beast" (2017), starring the extravagant Emma Watson as Belle and Dan Stevens as the Beast, was incredible. The movie displayed all of the songs from the classic along with the beautifully well-written, new songs: "How Does A Moment Last Forever," "Days In the Sun," "How Does A Moment Last Forever Reprise," and "Evermore." The new additions to the soundtrack fit well into the movie and were written by Howard Ashman with the help of Alan Menken, who wrote the original soundtrack. The storyline follows the classic closely, a young girl who is taken as prisoner by a beast to save her father's life, and only occasionally adds small things that the audience would be able to relate to; like the mention of "Romeo and Juliet" and the plague. Viewers also get a deeper insight of the Beast than in the cartoon through flashbacks and song. The movie was well casted and they all did an amazing job portraying their characters. Overall, "Beauty and the Beast" has been the best and most successful Disney live-action film.

With the success the live-action remakes have had, Walt Disney Studios have discussed creating fourteen more live-action films. "Mulan" is planned to be released on November 2, 2018 and plans to be historically accurate by searching for a Chinese cast and will, sadly, leave out the many beloved songs. A remake of "Mary Poppins" is also in the works. This beloved film was originally created as live-action but is still considered as a part of these special remakes. The role of Mary Poppins was

left to Emily Blunt, who has giant shoes to fill, and will also feature Lin Manuel Miranda as the chimney sweep, Jack. The other live-action remakes that have been discussed amongst Disney are "The Little Mermaid," which will feature songs created by the master of the original soundtrack, Alan Menken, and the incredibly talented Lin Manuel Miranda, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "The Lion King," "Cruella de Vil," following the universally despised villain in her days before skinning puppies and is planned to star Emma Stone, "Aladdin," "Peter Pan," "Tinker Bell," rumored to star Reese Witherspoon, "Dumbo," "Winnie the Pooh," which will reportedly follow a grown up version of Christopher Robin, "Pinocchio," "The Sword in the Stone," and "Chernabog," based on a villain from the 1940 classic "Fantasia."

Be sure to look out for Disney's upcoming films!



SYRIA: THE MIDDLE EAST'S LATEST BATTLEGROUND

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

The Middle East has been a contentious topic in the United States media for quite some time now. Whether the debate surrounds oil, refugees, or terrorism, activities in this quagmire of a region are almost always political issues, and world leaders often engage in tense and bitter struggles over control and dominance of the area. The Middle East has been plagued for thousands of years by religious strife. This leads to authoritarian, brutal regimes taking power, which then induces civil war and chaos.

This is exactly what is happening in Syria, where oppressive strongman Bashar al-Assad currently maintains a tight grip on power. Syria is undergoing a bloody civil war, and Assad, with the help of Russia, is emerging victorious. On one side are the rebels; people who want to take the government from Assad and establish their own. The rebels are composed of several different groups. The U.S. government often classifies these groups as "moderates" and "extremists" according to how strongly they identify with Islam. Many of these groups share alliances and are closely intertwined, making it hard for the U.S. to figure out which ones are moderates and which are extremists. Some of the extremists are the U.S.'s sworn enemies, including terrorists groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS. The moderates are mainly small groups of fighters, including Kurdish forces, who are tired of Assad's oppressive government. The civil war has currently been going on for six years. Assad is allied with Russia and Iran, and both of those nations are aiding him militarily. Recently, Assad has been shelling and bombing civilians

in Syria in what many think is an attempt to frighten the masses into submission. Russia has been complicit with this, and is helping Assad murder his own people.

Recently, according to several intelligence sources, Assad decided to use chemical weapons, specifically sarin gas, on civilians in the Idlib province of Syria. Many experts believe he was attempting to take the province from the rebels, as he usually does with shelling and bombs. The international community generally accepts these actions, as they kill terrorists, but chemical weapons are even more cruel and inhumane than bullets.

Therefore, the West reacted with outrage, and President Donald Trump, after seeing

airfields. Several groups of Syrians expressed their gratitude towards Trump, creating posters thanking America and posting them on social media.

Opponents of the attack, however, believe that it will lead to another U.S. intervention. They cite the disaster of the Iraq War, and warn that further U.S.-backed conflict in the Middle East could lead to destabilization of the region and even the world in general. Many are also worried about Russia, a nuclear power that is allied with Assad in Syria. After the strike, Russia exited an agreement with the U.S. that would make plane collisions between the two countries less likely. Russian President Vladimir Putin called the event "an act of aggression"

and claimed that it would damage U.S.-Russia ties. The tomahawk strike is a microcosm for the situation in Syria in general, and the arguments on both sides mirror the debate that has been raging since the civil war started.

On one side of the conflict, a vicious, brutal dictator seeks to control his people through fear and manipulation. On the other side, power-hungry terrorists want to take the government from Assad and make Syria into their own kind of Islamic state. Former President Barack Obama's foreign policy generally favored the rebels, but his main actions in Syria came in the form of drone strikes against ISIS. These strikes often kill many civilians, and the U.S. has a poor track record when

it comes to civilian deaths in the Middle East. He also armed several rebel groups, and there are concerns that those weapons reached the hands of terrorists.

If the U.S. decides to remove Assad from power, a power vacuum will be created, and a terrorist organization will likely take over. If the U.S. remains on the sidelines, Assad will continue to slaughter his own people, hiding behind the fact that he also kills terrorists. President Trump will be faced with several difficult decisions regarding Syria in his next four years in office, and those who draft policy will have to decide between two evils when considering their options, just as they did under the Obama administration.



pictures of the attack, decided to launch cruise missiles at a Syrian airbase to send a message to Assad. Fifty-nine tomahawk missiles were launched from two U.S. Navy destroyers in the Mediterranean Sea, hitting the al-Shayrat airfield in Syria. Shayrat is believed to be the base from which the chemical attack was carried out. The strike killed six Syrian soldiers, and Syrian officials claim it also killed nine civilians, including four children.

U.S. politicians mostly praised the strike, and journalists commended the Trump administration for delivering some form of justice for the Syrian people. Many Republicans, and even some Democrats, called for Trump to become further involved in Syria and bomb more

Coming up at Adams...

SPRING FLING

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

It's that time of year again. The John Adams Show Choir will be performing its annual Spring Fling show on April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Adams auditorium. The theme for this year's show is "High School Musical," from the movies of the same name. The students will perform selections from all three High School Musical movies that will be combined with choreography that reflects the original dance numbers from the Disney Channel original movie. The Show Choir will also incorporate the John Adams Concert Choir and Mixed Choir for a selected number of performances. "It's got some wonderful, advanced choreography to look forward to, and some iconic ballads," said freshman Show Choir member Mitchell Caponigro. "Holy cow. We're doing about seventeen songs I think. I think 'Bop to the Top' is my favorite. We incorporated a latin dance feature and it's pretty freaking awesome," he continued.

For many seniors in show choir, the theme of this show has been a long time coming. "Every year, I look forward to the Spring Fling because I feel as though it's always one of our best performances. From [past themes of] 'Michael Jackson' [and] 'The Beatles' to our theme this year, 'High School Musical'- we always have so much energy on stage," said senior Jazmin Hernandez. "As much as I am looking forward to college next year, I'm going to miss all the friendships I got to make from show choir." Senior Martell Green agreed with Hernandez and said, "Show Choir has been by far one of the best experiences that I've had at JA. Show Choir to me is just one really big family! Seeing that it's slowly coming to an end is very bittersweet." For this year's seniors, Spring Fling and its theme, 'High School Musical' are the perfect way to close the curtain on their time on stage. "[You] don't want

to miss it! It will be one of the biggest shows ever at Adams," said Green.

The Show Choir are some of the most talented students at JA. They are not simply singers, but also choreographers and dancers. "Everyone always asks me if we have a professional that comes in to create our show," said Green. Doc Moely, [the director of the Show Choir], tried that his very first year at Adams and didn't go to well, so now we do everything on our own." The choreographers for this year's show are Martell Green, Tony Stevenson, Kennedi Kyle, Rachel Casper, Josephine Barber, and Amara Ball.

The Spring Fling Show: 'High School Musical' will be performed in the John Adams auditorium on Friday April, 28. Tickets are \$5 and the show will begin at 7 p.m.

NIGHT OF THE ARTS

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

The third annual Night of the Arts is quickly approaching and is sure to be a night you can't miss. With the National Honor Society hosting it for a third year in a row, this event is full of the arts. Many of which include: an art display, a food competition, crafts and a silent auction. Throughout the night, there will also be a show in the auditorium that is set to include: singers, poetry readers, instrument players, and dancers. NHS sponsor, Cecilia Stanton-Verduzco, adds, "It really is just an incredibly fun night!"

Night of the Arts is also a special event to give back to the local community. In the past couple years, the fundraiser has benefited many

local organizations in South Bend. "In 2015, proceeds went to the Robinson Center's Shakespeare group. Last year the proceeds went to the Boys & Girls Club," continued Stanton-Verduzco. "And this year the proceeds will go to the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association]," she said. The YWCA is a non-profit organization that helps women, girls and families throughout the United States with safety services such as shelter, counseling assistance and a crisis hotline.

Night of the Arts takes place on May 4 and tickets are \$5. The doors open at 5pm and the show starts at 5:30pm in the auditorium. There will be additional costs for the food competition, concessions, face paint and the silent auction. One thing is for sure - it's a great opportunity to hang out with friends and leave with a full stomach.

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SABOR LATINO: RAISING MONEY FOR STUDENTS TRAVELING ABROAD

BRENDAN HAYNER-SLATTERY - REPORTER

On Thursday, April 13, more than 150 students flocked to the cafeteria of John Adams High School for a remarkable dance: Sabor Latino. Early in the evening, students were led through basic steps and movements of bachata by dancing instructors Jordan Richardson and Kacie Skidmore, paving the way for several hours of relaxation and fun. The music of the night ranged from bachata and merengue to salsa and pop. Besides dancing, students enjoyed an assortment of tasty snacks, a raffle of T-shirts and gift cards, and above all, the chance to spend time with friends.

This year's Sabor Latino was the eighth annual dance organized and coordinated by the school's Spanish Club, and club leadership was optimistic about the success of the event. "The energy was really good,"

described club president Amanda Brewster. "Everybody seemed to be enjoying it. The professionals coming in was good, because people who don't really know how to dance can still participate, and even learn a thing or two." Vice President Aubren Kubicki agreed, remarking that "everyone seemed to have a good time."

Student volunteers from the National Honor Society also aided in decorating and preparing for the dance. "Having NHS kids definitely helped ease the burden," President Brewster explained. "It's a good burden to have, but it's definitely a lot of work putting it all together." That work paid off, as the event raised over \$900 in proceeds. As always, the money will go to support students involved in the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL).

The theme of this year's dance was "rompiendo fronteras," a Spanish phrase translating to "breaking borders." Club sponsor Cecilia Stanton-Verduzco explained the sentiment behind the theme. "I think this is a great theme to have for a dance like this because it's breaking the borders between our students and bringing people of all different kinds of backgrounds together. It doesn't matter who they are, or where they're from, they can just have a good time."

If you missed the dance or would like to further support the JA students traveling to further their abilities in world languages, they will be having a fundraiser at Five Guys on April 27.



ULTIMATE FRISBEE

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Here at Adams, we enjoy a wide variety of clubs and sports, from typical varsity sports like baseball and tennis to clubs like Spanish Club and recycling club. One activity merging in the middle of these two reaches its peak in the spring - ultimate frisbee. Restarted by a group of students two years ago with only a small group of about eight, ultimate frisbee at JA has now grown to a roster of about 40 players.

Primarily led by seniors James Matheis and Ryan McCann, ultimate is unique in that the playing the sport can be laid back and about having a good time, but it also can be competitive, depending on what you are looking for. "It's a lot of good friendly competition that you can't really get from a varsity level high school sport and I think that is important for those who want to be active and do a sport in high school but not feel like they're being judged on everything they do," said Matheis.

It also serves as a great way to expand your knowledge of both the game and of people around you. "There really is no requirement of previous knowledge of the game to be able to come out and play. Everyone is super accepting of new people and we love to teach new people the game. Not only is Ultimate a lot of fun, but it is a great way to meet new people and make a good group of friends," Matheis continued. It seems to be one of those rare rain-or-shine sports, and Matheis says that even in the worst of weather, the team still manages to have fun. "On days when it's pouring rain or there is 25 m.p.h. wind and no one can throw more than 5 yards, they have fun with it and make it into an enjoyable time. I think that is the key to ultimate, to just be able to come out and enjoy yourself, and with the group of students we have there is no better group to do that with," he said.

If you are serious about the game, there are still great opportunities to compete. Matheis cites one of his favorite ultimate frisbee experiences as going to and competing in ultimate frisbee state in Indianapolis. Matheis said, "The first day we were there it rained the entire day.

It poured so bad at times that you couldn't even see the opposite end zone, and while some sports may be miserable in that kind of weather, it was still a great time to be out playing Ultimate with friends against new teams from different parts of the state." The team ended up bringing home 9th place at state for their first year, as well as the award for Most Spirited Team.

If you're looking for a way to relax and have fun after school, coming to ultimate at the freshman football field at JA may be a great idea for you. Practice is Monday through Thursday from 3-5pm. According to Matheis, "The best aspect of ultimate is the group of people it attracts; they're all a really fun, relaxed people and can have a good time during just about any circumstance."

TRACK SEASON PREVIEW

TAYLOR WALDRON, KENNEDI KYLE, AND
KAYLAN PARKER - REPORTERS

The 2017 girls track season looks like it will be an uphill battle. Several star runners from last season graduated, so the current runners are working even harder to maintain Adams's winning legacy. The girls track team has brought home the gold from the city championship every year for the last six years. So far this season, the girls fought hard to beat Michigan City during their first meet.

Senior Jessiyah Lottie, known for her success in the 4x100 relay race, isn't fazed by the changes in the roster. "We lost a big part of our team this year, but I believe that we can still make it to state," said Lottie. Additionally, senior Carmen Chambliss agreed, stating that, "This year's girls track team has [great] run-

ners [and great] shot put and discus throwers." Stand out field athletes for shot put and discus events include junior Sanela Begic and senior Lua Derakhshani-Stockman, who have both improved since last season in their field events.

For the boys team, they're also working to uphold a legacy of success. Despite a large number of athletes graduating, senior Martel Green is sure that the team will still be successful. "Even though we lost those [talented] seniors, we have runners and throwers who can fill those [slots]," said Green. Green is one of the top throwers in shotput. Another talented field athlete is senior Jacob Johnson, who has participated in track for all four years of his high school career.

Junior hurdler Joselyn Mwenifumbo is excited for this season and is especially appreciative of the coaching staff and team dynamic of the track program here at JA. Personally, she's been succeeding in her goals and events this season. This is only her second year doing hurdles, and Mwenifumbo is undefeated and confident that she will continue to work with her coaches to uphold that record. "Our coaching staff is really dedicated," she says. "There aren't 'boys coaches' and 'girls coaches,' but one combined staff that works together."

Mwenifumbo also notes that there was a huge freshman turnout at the start of the season. "They're all working to get better every day," she says. "We're in a transition period this season and we have a lot of committed athletes who

really are like a family; always rooting for each other and cheering each other on."

The City Championship meet will be on May 4 at St. Joe High School. The meet will start at 5 p.m. The boys and

girls track teams want to see more student support at meets. Mwenifumbo says, "It'd be great to see a larger student turnout, especially since we are building this year. It'd be great to get another City Championship."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT GISELLA MORALES

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

As her final year at Adams draws to an end, senior Gisella Morales will miss her afternoons spent bonding with her teammates on the tennis court. Co-captain and four year member of the John Adams Girls Tennis team, Morales has played both doubles and singles.

Her doubles partner this year, junior Cara Lochmondy, was impressed by Morales's ability to balance the competitiveness of the sport with having fun. "She's an awesome teammate in general too because she's always there for every practice on time and uses practice time to get better," who believes that Morales is the model tennis teammate. "She's out there [to] get a little better every day, get some exercise, and have fun at the same time."

This year, Morales hopes on perfecting her skills, working diligently during practice to achieve her goals. "My goal [is] to work on my technique,

and [be] more consistent and aggressive during matches, but at the same time to actually enjoy playing the sport."

Tennis has been less of a competitive, year-round sport for Morales, and more of a way for her to get exercise and hang out with teammates. "[Prior to JA,] I had only played tennis during my leisure time, but had never competitively played it before on a team." That being said, Morales has proved herself to be a committed team member and excellent captain numerous times, participating in tennis camps during the summer and going out of her way to play tennis with teammates on the courts during the offseason, working to strengthen her skills and friendships.

"This year [the excitement about the end of the year] is in a sense bittersweet, since I know that [tennis] is not something that I will be able to take part of any longer."



For Morales, tennis has only been one component of her high school experience. She's participated in an impressive number of extracurriculars, including John Adams Volunteer Association, National Honor Society, and the International Student Association, in addition to dancing in the Tierra Viva Mexican Folklore Dance Group. She's also held an internship at Monterrosa Law Group and is an active member of the Upward Bound program at The University of Notre Dame. Despite having a busy schedule, her time on the tennis team still stands out as one of the highlights of her high school career, citing "cheering on [her] teammates during long match days" as one of her favorite memories.

Morales finds, like most, that the last few weeks of school are ones of excitement and anticipation for summer. For her, these feelings are heightened because of tennis season. This year, however, feels different. "This year [the excitement about the end of the year] is in a sense bittersweet, since I know that [tennis] is not something that I will be able to take part of any longer."

Gisella wants to thank her coaches for the time and effort they've put into improving the team's techniques and bolstering their already large team spirit. "Both Coach Maria Strafford and Coach Stephanie Holland have been coaching the team since my freshman year and they have not only allowed me, but also encouraged me, to grow as a player."

Next year, Gisella plans on double majoring in political science and business at either The University of Notre Dame or Indiana University. Until then, Gisella can be found studying for her IB exams or out practicing on the tennis courts.