

# The John Adams Tower



KIM  
DAVIS  
CRUSADE



E.U.  
REFUGEE  
CRISIS



GOP  
DEBATE  
REVIEW



NEW  
AHS:  
HOTEL



ROWDY  
GAME  
CROWDS



## JOHN ADAMS HOMECOMING

KAITY RADDE • Reporter

Friday night is our homecoming game against the Elkhart Central Blue Blazers. Homecoming is undeniably the most hyped up game of the season. The game brings with it a multitude of events to bring school spirit to its peak - spirit week, a pep rally in the A gym on gameday, the homecoming parade, the selection of homecoming king and queen, and the game itself - there are even t-shirts designed for the student body just for the game!

Preparations for homecoming festivities have been going on for weeks leading up to the game. Alicia Porile, the student body President, remarks, "We only have time to decorate the floats from after school on the day of homecoming to the start of the parade! But we make decorations and signs in the weeks leading up [to the game]." In addition to the floats, they make homecoming decorations for the hallways.

However, unlike some other schools, Adams doesn't have a homecoming dance in addition to the game and court. "We don't have a homecoming dance because we throw MORP instead... It is just too many [dances] to have in a one month span," explains student body Vice President Sarah Konkey. Adams is the only high school in the area to

have a Halloween themed dance, and its popularity is irrefutable and unchallenged. Having two dances so close together could reduce attendance at both dances. The lack of a dance doesn't take away from the other events such as the parade, and it doesn't diminish the value of the anointed homecoming king or queen. Additionally, the cost and commitment of hosting two dances in one month could stretch the student government too thin.

Yet the general consensus amongst seniors, and the student body at large, seems to contradict that statement. Freshmen in particular are usually somewhat surprised by it, because they expect homecoming to be more prominent, not just a game and court. "I've always thought it was a little odd, especially after hearing people from other schools talk about their own [dance]," says homecoming queen hopeful Brianna Bytner. "I wish we had our own - something to look forward to when classes are so stressful." Also, it would not necessarily split attendance. If the homecoming dance was formal, it would be a completely different event and people would want to go to both.

Dance or no dance, homecoming and all of the events that preface it get our ever-present eagle pride up to its highest level for the game.

The John Adams student section is known for its enthusiasm, to say the least, and our numbers at homecoming last year were overwhelming. Sadly, last year's homecoming game ended in defeat by St. Joe. This year, however, the eagles are performing better. It has been a successful season so far - the prime example is the Adams v. Mishawaka game, when Adams pulled out a win against the Cave-men for the first time in over twenty years. Elkhart Central's record - 1-5 - means that Adams, at least on paper, is already beating them. Come out to see the Eagles add another win to their record!

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THE TOWER serves to supplement the educational environment of John Adams High School by providing an informative and entertaining source of news and communication to the students, faculty, staff, parents and the community. In addition, the publication is committed to the conversation of fine journalistic standards. All unsigned editorials represent a majority vote of the Editorial Board which consists of Tower members and the advisor. Signed editorials, cartoons, and illustrations represent the viewpoint of the individual author or artist. The Tower reserves the right to refuse any advertising copy or ad which does not meet our standards. Advertising and letters may be delivered to room 1831, Ms. Lewis' mail box, or mailed to John Adams High School 808 S Twyckenham Dr, South Bend, IN 46615.



## KIM DAVIS' CRUSADE AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE

### TAMERA BRUCE • Reporter

ROWAN COUNTY- Kim Davis, a Kentucky County Clerk, was arrested for refusing to sign gay marriage licenses. Days later she was released from jail. In her opinion, gay marriage goes against her Christian beliefs. Although she refused to sign the papers, she did allow her fellow colleagues to do so, but they weren't allowed to put her signature on it. "I don't want to have this conflict. I don't want to be in the spotlight," Davis said. "I am no hero. I'm just a person that's been transformed by the grace of God, who wants to work, be with my family. I just want to serve my neighbors quietly without violating my conscience," she continued.

Judge Bunning, who originally chose to charge Davis for refusing to uphold the law, has his personal views about it too. "Her good faith belief is simply not a viable defense," Bunning said in an interview with CNN. Davis' refusal has sparked many questions about whether or not she should have been jailed for standing up for her belief. Ted Cruz and Mike Huckabee, both republican presidential candidates, think otherwise.

"She's shown more courage than most any politician I know and most every pastor I know," Huckabee said to the Huffington Post. "She's not only said something, she's been willing to put her life at risk in order to follow the Christ that came into her life four years ago," Huckabee continued.

He later tweeted, "Kim Davis in federal custody removes all doubts about the criminalization of Christianity in this country." Davis isn't the only county clerk who has gone against signing gay marriage papers. There are other county clerks in Kentucky that also refused to sign same-sex marriage, but the situation has never escalated as far as it has in Davis' case. Many look at Davis' deeds as heroic. Gaye Johnson, a guidance counselor at JA said, "I admire that she stood for her belief, and how she is passionate enough to take the heat. People who stand up for what they believe are not cowards... if she should have been fired is more of an ethical/moral question. I support her for following her heart, but I don't support law breakage." Davis received an ISIS Courage award from the Islamic leader, Abu Ali al-Anbari. According to them, Davis defended religious laws. "Thank you all so much. I love you all so very much," she said. "I just want to give God the glory. His people have rallied, and you are a strong people. We serve a living God who knows exactly where each and every one of us is at. Just keep on pressing. Don't let down, because he is here. He's worthy."

Now, many people look towards Davis' situation as a model for standing up for her beliefs, but others still think that she should've been fired, since she promised to uphold the law the day that she became a county clerk.



# EU REFUGEE CRISIS

MARIAH RUSH • News Editor

Over the past year, the European refugee crisis has grown more and more prominent. For those not affluent in the news occurring overseas, the refugee crisis is basically what it sounds like- over 19 million people have been forced to flee their home countries because of persecution, war, oppression, and other conditions that have made their countries too dangerous to tolerate. Immigration is a scary subject for some people- the change in identity for the inhabitants of countries is not an easy change for some. Because of this, the refugees have to find ways to sneak into other countries. Most of these people head for Europe because of it's wealthy status, even though Europe tends to have stricter border control. Countries are generally making their border control stricter as this crisis continues. Therefore, the only way the refugees can enter countries endangers their lives.

The most refugees come from Syria. Four million people have fled Syria since 2011, which is one fifth of their population. Brutalities by ISIS and Bashar al-Assad's (the President of Syria since 2000) rule has forced many people to leave the country. ISIS has terrorized Syrians with sexual slavery, torture, and other atrocities. The other leading countries- Somalia with 1.1 million refugees and Afghanistan with 2.59 million. The receiving countries are mainly Germany, Austria, and Australia. This past summer, the European Union, the United States, and Kuwait pledged billions of dollars to the United Nations for refugees. However, it is not enough. The refugee camps are overcrowded and overflowing with sickness and disease. The EU (European Union) has decided that a total of 160,000 refugees need to be resettled across Europe. There is not a plan in place on which countries should take refugees. "We have not reached a decision on quotas and details of relocation," said German interior minister Thomas de Maizière after an emergency

EU meeting. This meeting included 28 other countries, but there is still not a plan detailing which countries will step up and take refugees. With the exception of Germany, most countries are blatantly turning away refugees and have increased their border security. This is Europe's worst migrant crisis since World War II.

Although the refugees are fleeing in hopes of finding a better life, they are actually fleeing to a more dangerous life. Refugees have resorted to hiding under trains to sneak in and holding on to the bottom of trains going through the European tunnel, the Channel Tunnel, that goes into Europe. In many cases refugees have fallen to their deaths trying to enter countries.

The United States currently allows 70,000 refugees in a year, a number that has not been increased despite the growing crisis in recent years. The upcoming 2016 presidential election has lead to many candidates voicing their opinion on what the best course of action for the United States is. The current frontrunners of the election, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are among them. Clinton said, "It should not be just one or two countries, or not just Europe and the United States. We should do our part, as should the Europeans. But this is a broader global crisis." Trump said, "There's only so much we can do. We have to fix our own country. Now, Europe is handling it. Germany has been very generous so far, which is very surprising to me, to be honest with you. But there's a huge problem, and we should help as much as possible, but we do have to fix our own country." Magdalena Sedmak, a junior at JA, recently moved to the United States from Austria. She said, "We are one world, and are in this together. The countries should get together and help the refugees...make them feel at home. This Earth is a home for everyone anyways."





## TOWER OP-ED

## CANDIDATE-BY-CANDIDATE REVIEW

ALICE GOULDING • Reporter

The second primetime GOP (also known as the Republican Party) debate took place in September, hosting 11 hopeful candidates. Over the course of three hours the candidates answered questions and participated in heated exchanges on stage. Some candidates dominated the debate, finding a way to involve themselves almost every question, while others seemed barely present. Here's how the candidates fared:

From Left to Right: AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, Justin Sullivan/Getty Images, AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill



CARLY FIORINA

The former Hewlett-Packard CEO who didn't make the cut for the 1st GOP debate, was a formidable presence, and gave the 10 other men on stage a run for their money.

**HIGH:** Fiorina responded to a negative comment made by Trump about her appearance by saying, "I think women all over this country heard very clearly what Mr. Trump said." Fiorina hopes to gain the support of conservative women who are dissatisfied by other candidates.

**Low:** Fiorina's comments on Planned Parenthood included a graphic description of a video showing the treatment of aborted fetuses, which cannot be found by fact-checkers, and has been denied by representatives of Planned Parenthood.



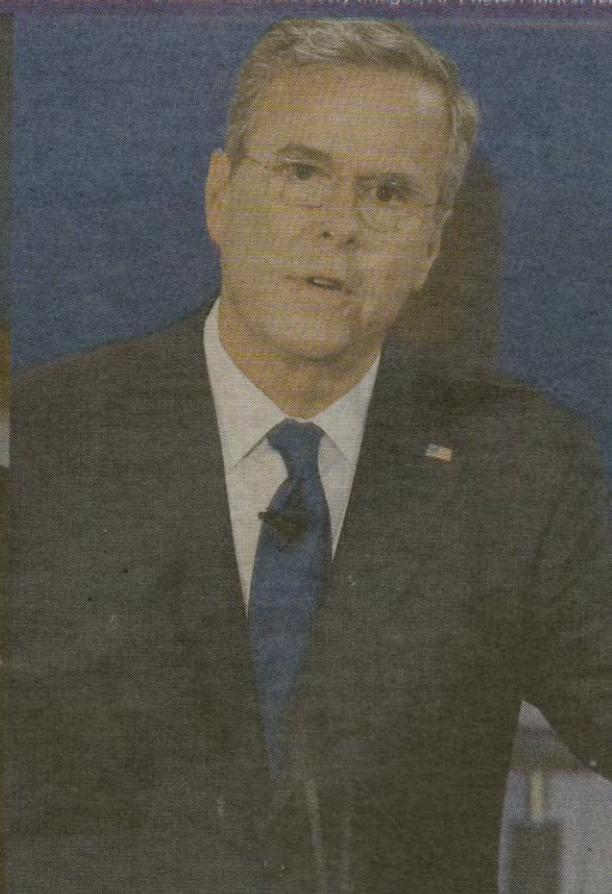
MARCO RUBIO

A Senator from Florida who went unnoticed in the 1st GOP debate, was actively participating all three hours.

**HIGH:** Unlike other candidates, Rubio was able to successfully tackle issues of foreign policy without personally attacking other presidential hopefuls.

**Low:** Rubio did not, however handle personal attacks as well as most. He seemed to fumble with his words when Trump pointed out his shaky voting and attendance record in the Senate.

was most likely hoping for.



JEB BUSH

The former Governor of Florida who was the original GOP favorite but has been in the shadow of Trump this summer, proved to be much more effective in the second debate.

**HIGH:** Bush handled Trump much better this round. His most powerful moment of the night came when he asked Trump to apologize for suggesting that his Mexican-American wife was the reason for his more liberal immigration reform.

**Low:** Jeb tried, unsuccessfully, to approach the subject of his brother's presidency from a different angle, arguing that he "did keep us safe." His comments did not receive the thunderous applause he was most likely hoping for.