

# The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

John Adams High School's Student-Produced Newspaper

One of our editors further discusses gun violence in an opinion piece

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## OPINION

Our Editor-In-Chief takes on Trump yet again



## OPINION

Paris Climate Conference ends - what are the results?



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The Adams Drama Club relaunches with a new director



## LIFESTYLE

Best Christmastime movies perfect for holiday fun

# GUN CONTROL: ADAMS' TEACHERS DISCUSS

KAITY RADDE • REPORTER

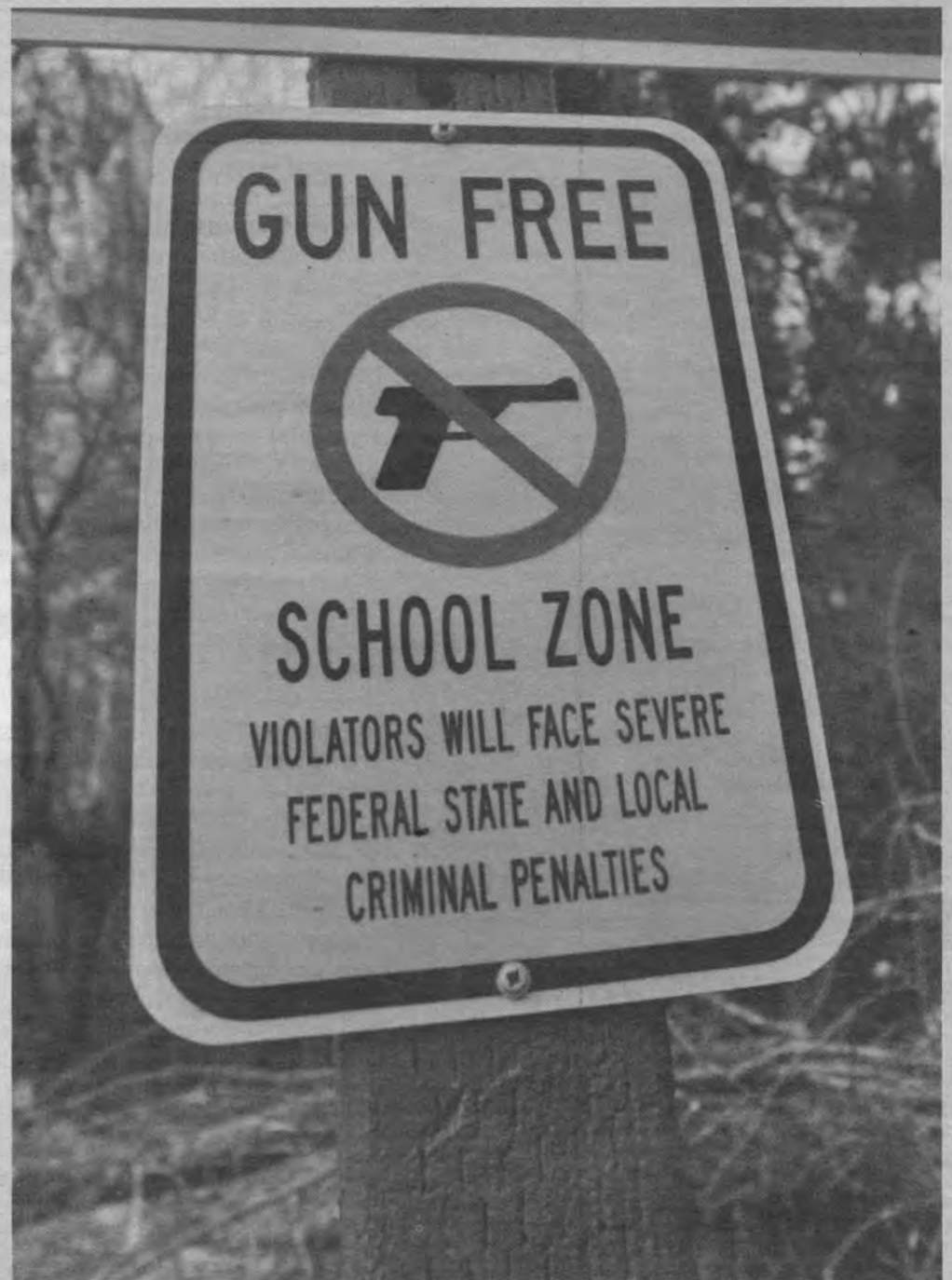
Mass shootings have become all too familiar to the American people. San Bernardino, Columbine, Sandy Hook, and Virginia Tech are no longer names of schools and cities: they are names of massacres. Solutions seem few and far between, and people are becoming both numb and frustrated by these situations.

In his speech about the shooting in Oregon in October, President Obama pointed out the routine of events like these: his address, a call for change, and then no significant changes — a process that is frustrating for both sides of the political aisle. A common thread, however, ran through all seven of the events he listed in his speech as examples: every last one occurred in a gun free zone.

Opponents of gun free zones say that they only serve to disarm law-abiding citizens to leave them as "sitting ducks". The NRA's claim that "the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun" is quoted often and fervently. They point out that as President Obama called for less guns, his daughters were being protected by Secret Service agents, not a sign that reads Gun Free Zone. The tensions and risks that can stem from the presence of a gun are far less important than the security they provide.

On the other hand, supporters claim that the presence of a firearm increases the likelihood of a conflict becoming violent or lethal. An armed civilian, they say, is unlikely to stop a crime; he or she would be more likely to make a deadly situation more deadly. They also state that criminals are more likely to carry a gun if they suspect that their potential victim will have a gun, increasing the likelihood of a fatality, so guns on school campuses (or other gun free zones) could simply increase how often these tragedies happen. Ultimately, not all gun free zones see these types of shootings because perpetrators of mass shootings look for places with high volumes of people that will draw attention.

(CONTINUED ON PG. 2)



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. Editorials submitted must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Editorials must be sent to [slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us), or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenham Dr.

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**THE DEBATE - KINGSTON V.S. ELROD**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

*"We shouldn't have to be capitulating to a system of fear."*

During a roundtable facilitated by the Tower aiming to fairly inform the student body of both arguments, two teachers here at JA explained their points of view. James Elrod, an English teacher, supports gun free zones. Paul Kingston, an economics teacher, is against gun free zones.

The fundamental question in the gun free zone debate is how effective concealed weapons are in stopping violent crime. "By having a gun around, you're automatically going to increase its chances of being used as a weapon," Elrod said. He also added that having a gun around increases the chances of accidental as well as purposeful fatalities.

"Gun violence is down [overall], and gun violence is up in gun free zones," Kingston said. He added that mass shootings are caused by people whose intent is to massacre, and having someone armed could prevent such a situation, whether it acts as a deterrent or is actually used.

Elrod also asserted that guns fuel, rather than deter, tensions. "Honduras is often cited as being the homicide capital of the world...and they have guns everywhere," he said, speaking from his personal experience in Honduras. Guns are so prevalent that people even have their own armed guards. "I don't think [carrying a gun] gives anybody more than a tenuous sense of security," he concluded.

Kingston, however, cited their potential as a deterrent. He acknowledged that guns in the hands of people with emotions running high - i.e., road rage - are more inclined to pull out a gun unnecessarily. In a school setting with responsible armed people, on the other hand, he recognized more benefit than risk: "If people knew that we had guns, people would be less inclined to get in a ruckus so quickly because it could lead to death."

Elrod did not support people at schools beyond student resource officers (SROs) carrying. He pointed out that there are some teachers who should not have guns, and they wouldn't be allowed to have guns in countries with more stringent gun laws. "This would be inviting the idea that teachers are supposed to be guards," he said. It

would distract from their primary responsibility of teaching; besides, it could potentially do more harm than good.

Kingston likened guns to any other safety measure, like locks on doors and security. "There's no getting rid of guns [in America]." Many people don't see safety problems such as terrorism being solved by our government, and they feel the need to protect themselves. This personal protection sentiment translates into our classrooms as well.

The United States has a variable culture across the nation: Vermont, for example, has far less social tension than Chicago. So how effective would a federal blanket solution be? "I think that it needs to be both [at a federal level and a state level]," Mr. Elrod said. "The states need to be on the same page to some extent," he added. Illinois, for example, has stricter gun laws than Indiana - so people in Illinois simply come here to get their guns, a problem that could be solved by better federal regulation.

Connecticut passed a law that would ban all people on the terror watch list from getting guns, an action that Kingston called "political grandstanding": people can simply cross state lines to purchase a firearm, as Elrod pointed out. Instead of drastically changing American laws, Kingston suggested, "I think it would really behoove us to have better gun education," as some kids grow up around guns, and some grow up completely isolated from them. Teaching America's children gun safety and responsibility would be the most effective solution, according to Kingston, as guns are such a large and irremovable part of America's culture.

Although the two teachers disagreed on the fundamental role of guns in America, both would agree that our solution as a nation should not be based on fear, whether that fear is of guns or of their absence. Rather, it should be based on the good of the nation and the rights of its individuals. In Elrod's insightful words, "We shouldn't have to be capitulating to a system of fear."



# A DISCUSSION ON MASS SHOOTINGS

MARIAH RUSH • OPINION EDITOR

It has become the norm, it has become standard; each day we hear of another mass shooting. Headline after headline, newscast after newscast; it is relentless, it is unyielding. The reports blend into the same message: more innocent people are hurt, or even dead. According to the Mass Shooting Tracker, a crowd-sourced database (The tracker defines a mass shooting as one in which at least four people are killed or wounded), in 2015 there have been 353 mass shootings in the United States, and it is not even the end of the year yet. Considering these exorbitant numbers, it is not surprising that many people have become numb to the violence. That is not saying that we are not still saddened by the violence - but the excessive number of shootings have changed us; the shock value has disappeared. Remember when Twitter went silent during every mass shooting? Remember when each shooting was front cover news? In a culture oversaturated with mass shootings, we have all become desensitized; we have all become USED to mass shootings. There's something wrong with that. People old enough to remember the Columbine High School shooting of 1999 can tell you that shootings of that level were a rarity, extremely uncommon. Columbine is commonly known as the deadliest high school shooting in US history.

I was born right after news of the Columbine shooting broke. My mother, who does not remember much from that day (or any other day for that matter), does, in fact, remember how she, and everyone else in the hospital wept in sheer shock. Now when fatal massacres on that level occur, she simply shakes her head and remarks, "That's horrible. It didn't used to be this way."

My mother, who is not by any means a cynical person, illustrates my point - we, as teenagers in the 21st century, have never known a time without a steady gun debate, lockdowns, and mass shoot-

ings. When a shooting occurs, people point fingers at politicians, political parties, and laws that should or should not be in existence. Theories circle about why there have been so many mass shootings in such a short amount of time. Some include the theory that this violence is contagious - one attack may spur one after another.

However, the Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology published a study in 2010 concluding, "Incidents of mass murder have gained considerable media attention, but are not well understood in behavioral sciences. Current definitions are weak, and may include politically or ideologically motivated phenomenon. Our current understanding of the phenomenon indicates these incidents are not peculiar to only western cultures, and appear to be increasing." Therefore, even science does not understand this.

restrictions. The sad truth, however, is that we just aren't surprised anymore by the violence. That is not how it should be in our world today. We cannot and must not accept the fact that innocent people die on a regular basis when we have the means to stop such an atrocity. We need action, and we need it now.

*"It didn't used to be  
this way."*

*Andy Warhol, Gun, 1981, acrylic and  
silkscreen ink on linen*



We seem to be programmed to point fingers when tragedy strikes. It is apparently not enough injury that people are hurt, or sometimes dead as a result of these tragedies. We continue to make the wound worse by attempting to pinpoint where we, as a country, went wrong, or why a person would commit such a horrible act. Though, in reality, this finger-pointing does us no good. We can argue that there are too many guns or too many

# THE TRUMP FALLACY

AIDAN REILLY • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There's always a limit; a line that shall not, under any circumstances, be crossed. A barrier, ubiquitously obeyed. Except, every so often, that wall has been outrageously and maliciously crossed. Frankly, it makes me sick. Donald J. Trump (his campaign wants you to know the J is there) has finally broken that threshold.

Last week, Mr. Trump called for a "total and complete shutdown of all Muslims entering the [United States]". Yes, you read that correctly: the infamous billionaire business mogul, father of the celebrity show "The Apprentice", and perhaps most disconcerting, leader of nationwide GOP Presidential Nominee polls, called for the banning of an ENTIRE religion. Additionally, Mr. Trump has called for a Muslim database, akin to the 1930s Nazi tracking system of Jews, to enable the government to monitor every domestic follower of Islam on a daily basis.

It's almost too difficult to begin. The leading presidential candidate for one of the nation's two marquee parties has responded to acts of terror worldwide with intense Islamophobia, further perpetuating the problem. Mr. Trump fails to see he is playing right into ISIL's, or more appropriately, Daesh's hands, by isolating approximately 1.5 BILLION, Muslims around the world. But let's review.

Mr. Trump is a pronounced xenophobe, racist, and misogynist - in recent months he has called to ban Muslims, has called Mexican immigrants "rapists" while simultaneously planning their departure, and publicly ridiculed Fox News analyst Megyn Kelly. We are well aware of his history with political correctness, or a lack thereof. However, in light of recent developments, Mr. Trump has evolved from playground bully to a legitimate and dangerous threat to millions of Americans. Let me explain: Mr. Trump, a man with zero political experiences who touts himself as an "outsider", is nothing more than an attention seeking leech. A pattern has become clear: bombastic comments, a surge in the polls, and a blatant, poorly hidden fear. Mr. Trump kicked off his presidential campaign with a controversial, or simply put needless, plan to deport 11 million immigrants and erect a 100-foot wall between the Mexican and American border. Trump surged in the polls immediately. In the following weeks, however, Trump squirmed under the microscope: he released a laughable tax plan, proved inept on the debate stage, and simply faltered when pressed about foreign policy.

Let's be clear - Mr. Trump's greatest fear is NOT losing the election. He does not care if his business suffers, ISIL reigns, or if the everyday worker is finally provided the economic rungs this country so starkly lacks. The ONLY thing Mr. Trump cares about is attention; his greatest fear is being swept underneath the rug of culture, rendered obsolete by the American public. Thus, not for his campaign and most certainly not to 'Make America Great Again', Mr. Trump has resorted to horrific rhetoric - especially in the form of racism - to fight his childish fear of losing the spotlight.

While I could spend pages addressing how unconstitutional, illegal, and simply hypocritical Mr. Trump's propositions are, there exists a far greater problem: the fallout of his comments. Myriad news agencies across the nation regularly report that American Muslim families, especially in the wake of recent terror attacks in Paris and California, fear for their lives due to an intense public backlash towards followers of Islam. Muslim families regularly fear for their children at school and any public junctions. Unfortunately, these fears are not histrionic: a 2014 Pew Research survey showed that 82 percent of Republicans were "very concerned" about the rise of Islamic Extremism. Further, in the days following Mr. Trump's horrific proposal, he skyrocketed in the polls, collecting a 10-point lead in New Hampshire according to a recent CNN poll. It should be noted foreign agencies have identified approximately 31,500 members within ISIL - for those counting that constitutes exactly .000021, or .0021% of all Muslims worldwide. Nevertheless, Americans have never been more

*Mr. Trump fails to see he is playing right into ISIL's, or more appropriately, Daesh's hands*

frightened. As a result, American Muslims have a right to legitimately fear persecution, bigotry, and unfortunately, violence as well.

Yes, violence. Mr. Trump is an instigator, fanning the flames on a multidimensional problem in which no simple answers exist. I am horrified, indignant, and sickened all at the same time. Mr. Trump has turned a simply callow and vapid fear into a policy of hate, racism, and alienation; and let us not forget, not without significant consequences to the very structure upon which America was built: freedom of religion and speech.

As each day passes, the divide between American Muslims and the radical right - the Trump supporters - widens. But this isn't a problem for the tabloids,

or even the newspapers. No, this problem concerns us, our friends, our neighbors, our teachers; the list is neverending. Because here is the undeniable fact (as much as Mr. Trump and his ardent followers will not admit): we are ALL Americans, and we ALL have a responsibility to protect our country.

So while the threat of Daesh is certainly genuine, foreboding, and ominous, we grow weaker every second the divide Mr. Trump created grows larger. Now, of all times, is the time to unite. While Mr. Trump may have crossed the red line in pursuit of personal glory, it's our responsibility to not only bridge the nation's divide and come together against the bona fide threat of Daesh, but stop listening to the racist, xenophobic, misogynistic 'Juvenile (don't forget the J) who pretends he wants to help the American people.

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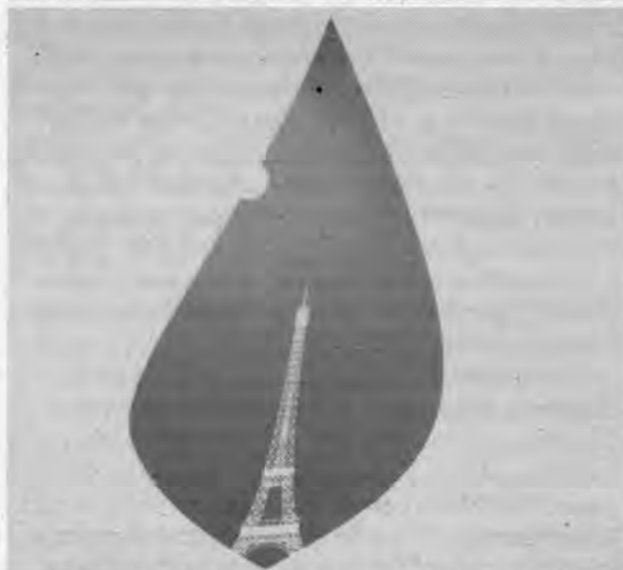


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## PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

**ALICE GOULDING • REPORTER**

Earlier this month, 195 nations met in Paris, France to discuss one key issue: climate change. Two weeks of speeches, panels, and compromises concluded with the publication of a 31-page document. This outlined the steps that all these nations pledge to follow in the coming years to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and cool down our earth's global temperature, which has been rising these past two decades.

Specifically, the Paris Climate Pact aims to bring down pollution levels, limiting the increase in global temperatures to just 2 degrees Celsius. Any more than this, and we could be looking at catastrophic floods, mass extinction of species, and worldwide droughts. Those gathered also agreed to cap the volume of greenhouse gases being produced by each country, effectively restraining the coal and oil industries to a much smaller stash of burnable fossil fuels. Finally, the deal calls for transparency, requiring regular, public communication from all countries on their carbon reduction.

The most important thing to note about these agreements is that they were voluntary. Yes, voluntary. No country was forced to agree to these guidelines, which could – and most likely will – have some bearing on the international coal and oil economies. Yet they all did, showing that climate change is finally being dignified with an adequate level of concern.

This is monumental. The last climate summit as large as this was the Kyoto summit of 1997, which grossly undermined the importance of worldwide responsibility for climate change by

only holding developed countries responsible for monitoring their emissions. This allowed developing countries like China and India, who together are responsible for the majority of greenhouse gases being produced in our atmosphere today, to disregard any planet-saving procedures. The Kyoto deal was destroyed when the US Senate refused to ratify it, ending the possibility of any meaningful worldwide change.

That is, until Paris. Paris was a blank slate, a “do-over” summit for all countries. We can acknowledge that in the past, talks like these have gone poorly. We can also acknowledge that this is long overdue, that for truly effective change to occur we needed these talks to have happened fifty years ago. And we can acknowledge that they didn't, and that that is okay, so long as we continue to hold those responsible for enacting this kind of change accountable for their actions.

We can start with the Republican presidential candidates, the majority of whom have expressed doubts as to whether climate change is, in fact, occurring on our planet. Just ask Sen. Ted Cruz, who actually believes that scientists are “cooking the books” when it comes to the evidence used to support their claims. Or Sen. Marco Rubio, who has openly stated that securing jobs is much more important than the looming threat that is our warming planet. This type of thinking is detrimental to our existence; if we cannot get our publicly elected officials to acknowledge the greatest threat to human life as we know it, how are we ever supposed to effect any sort of real change?

And yes, I do believe that climate change is our greatest threat. No terrorist organization or extremist group is going to take over the world. Those wax and wane with each new decade. But climate change? Climate change is subtle but pervasive; while it may not come with shiny guns and fearmongering threats, it exists, killing us slowly as our oceans begin to blur the line between land and sea and our air starts to become just a bit harder to breathe.

So why is Paris important? It is important because it is a sign of progress. It is important because it is concrete and somewhat feasible, if we try hard enough. And it is important because it shows that we can come together as a collected group of nations and recognize that peacemaking in the Middle East, or the settling of thousands of displaced refugees, or the bringing an end to gun violence and terrorism will all be in vain if our planet becomes uninhabitable for everyone. Yes, the deal vows to lower emissions, decrease global temperatures, and hold every last fossil fuel company accountable for any suspect actions, but it also promises something that we see so rarely in our society today: hope.

## DRAMA CLUB

**SYDNEY GRANLUND • REPORTER**

After months of having no director and therefore being unable to start a play, the John Adams Drama Club has finally got the ball rolling. Ms. Diamond, the new director, has taken the challenge. Club President Aaliyah Darling said, “We’re all super excited to finally have someone who actually seems to know what they’re doing.” Since the club was still practicing and organizing the department without a director, they are wasting no time and jumping right into a project. The group has chosen to do *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by Shakespeare, and they are using a “different setting and time period to put a spin on it,” Darling continued. Their rendition of the Shakespeare classic will take place in New York City during the 1920s. The new director has a lot of plans for this year and JA’s drama crew is ready to go “full speed ahead,” Darling said.

JA Drama is still looking for new members, and auditions just took place. However, it is never too late to join -- Darling said, “Anyone interested [in being a part of drama club] can show up to any meeting they hear about or they can email me at [leahdarling25@yahoo.com](mailto:leahdarling25@yahoo.com) to get more information.”

People are welcome & encouraged to come out to help with Set Design and/or Production. Drama Club meets every Thursday at 3pm in the Auditorium.

*Break a leg, everyone!*

# STAR WARS VIII: THE FORCE AWAKENS

ABIGAIL MYERS • REPORTER

"Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens", the long awaited continuation of the Star Wars series, will premiere on December 18, 2015. "The Force Awakens" serves as a continuation of the Star Wars movie series, which began with the premiere of "Star Wars IV: A New Hope", on May 25, 1977. "The Force Awakens" follows the story of "Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi", which was actually the third movie to be released. Many 1970s moviegoers were skeptical of the movie series about space adventures in an alternate universe; however, the series exceeded all expectations, becoming an American classic. Now, the release of the seventh installment has reinstalled the love and excitement of the Star Wars series.

Anticipation for the new film is even higher because of Star Wars' new ownership. In October of 2012, Disney purchased Lucasfilm, George Lucas's film company and the owner of the rights to all Star Wars movies, for \$4.05 billion dollars. Despite the new ownership, Disney plans to follow through with George Lucas's vision for the series, including the script and screenplay of Star Wars VII. Regardless, debate has grown amongst many Star Wars fans as to what new Star Wars films will be like without George Lucas at the helm. John Adams sophomore Aubrey Dubree stated, "I'm ok with it, as long as Disney doesn't change any of the things that make Star Wars Star Wars." Other fans are not so optimistic; they believe that Disney will not be able to achieve the charisma to equal the other Star Wars movies. "At first I cried," explained Doug Moody, a junior at John Adams. Others are reserving judgement until the movie's premiere, to see what a "Disney Star Wars" will be like. "Disney [just] wants a movie that will bring the Star Wars fanatics back on good terms with the franchise, unlike the mess that happened with episodes I, II, & III," stated John Adams Assistant Band Director, Mr. Freeman.

Like the other Star Wars movies, Star Wars VII continues on the adventures of the Rebel Alliance led by the "Jedi" knights, and its many duels with the evil Galactic Empire, who fight the Jedi with its many "Stormtroopers". The new film marks the beginning of a

third Star Wars trilogy, also known as the "sequel trilogy". In Star Wars VII, the Resistance against the Galactic Empire is still going strong with familiar leaders such as Princess Leia, Han Solo, Chewbacca, R2-D2, C-3PO, and most of all Luke Skywalker. In addition, Star Wars VII introduces new Resistance members including: Finn, a former stormtrooper who is in possession of the famed lightsaber of Darth Vader, Poe Dameron, a fighter pilot, Rey, a scavenger, and BB-8, a new robot with a spherical shape. Together, the Resistance must fight off new enemies: Kylo Ren, a mysterious member of the dark side with a cross-guard red lightsaber, and Captain Phasma, a female stormtrooper villain and a member of the Galactic Empire.

Interestingly, one prime Star Wars character has their roots based here, in Michiana. Adam Driver, the popular new actor who plays the villain Kylo Ren, is a former graduate of Mishawaka High School. Although he was born in San Diego, CA, he grew up here in the South Bend area. He graduated Mishawaka High School in 2001 after participating in many school plays and choir concerts, where he probably began his interest in an acting career. After high school, Adam Driver enlisted in the Marines but was medically discharged after 2 years and 8 months. Soon after, Driver attended the University of Indianapolis and then transferred to Julliard, a prestigious school of the arts. He began his acting career in 2009 by performing in New York City, and later played roles in "You don't know Jack" (2010) and "J. Edgar" (2011).

Many Star Wars fans are excited and thrilled at the arrival of yet another Star Wars movie, since there has not been a new Star Wars movie since 2005 with "Star Wars III: The Revenge of the Sith." "I don't care if it's good or bad, I just want it to be here already," exclaimed JA junior and Star Wars fan Doug Moody. Like many fans of the Star Wars series, Aubrey Dubree hopes that this new installment to the series will expand Star Wars' fanbase, "I think it will open up to a new wave of fans and reignite others' enjoyment of the series," mentioned Dubree. Disney has been promoting the movie for a while now, and increasing anticipation for fans more than ever. Now that Disney owns the Star Wars franchise, promotions are more prevalent than ever including steady releases of short movie clips, video games, television commercials, books, comic series, and even shower heads! However, now many are speculating that Disney has outdone themselves and that they will not be able to keep up with the expectations and hype that their promotions have created. Sophomore Paul Mellor said, "[It] better be good for all the marketing and hype it's getting." Has Disney gone too far? Or will Star Wars VII meet all the expectations? John Adams junior Doug

Moody believes it will, "I am looking forward to whatever highs and lows Episode VII brings," stated Moody. No matter the outcome,

"Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens" will be sure to be a hit among fans and at the box office.



New Star Wars antagonist  
Kylo Ren, is played by  
Mishawaka High School  
graduate Adam Driver



# BEST CHRISTMAS MOVIES

MADDY KIMMELL • REPORTER

Nothing brightens the festive spirit of the holidays like watching your favorite holiday movies. We all have our personal favorites that we watch as a coveted tradition each year. So, here is a list of some of the top holiday movies, in my opinion, for you to enjoy over winter break.

Buena Vista Pictures/Everett



## "THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS"

Tim Burton's cult classic dark musical comedy centers around the story of Halloweentown's despondent Pumpkin King, Jack Skellington, who is beginning to grow weary of the same routine he is forced to repeat every year on October 31st. After the Halloween celebration Jack wanders through the woods skulking while suffering from an existential crisis and stumbles upon a circle of trees with doors on them that appear to be entrances to all the holiday "lands". Intrigued, Jack chooses the door with an ornately decorated tree, which leads him to Christmastown. This new found land of cheer and joy inspires Jack to bring Christmas to Halloweentown, which results in a catastrophe for both Santa Claus and the citizens who find presents that bring terror instead of joy. Although the film functions as both a Christmas and Halloween movie it never fails to elicit the holiday spirit of whoever watches. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" brings refreshingly lighthearted terror to the typically jovial holiday spirit of Christmas.

## "ELF"

"Elf" follows the story of Buddy the elf, who finds out that he is in fact a human and that his real father lives in New York City. After receiving this news Buddy decides to leave to North Pole and travel the magical land of New York City to meet his father. Before embarking on his epic journey to New York City Santa informs Buddy that his father is on the naughty list. Stunned by this terrible news Buddy leaves the North Pole behind and journeys to the human world, which he finds himself utterly underprepared for. After several unfortunate, but hysterical, incidents brought about by Buddy's ignorance of the human world Buddy finds himself facing the problem of his selfish father who clearly wants nothing to do with his son who he previously didn't even know existed. No matter how many times you might have seen this film, it still succeeds in making you smile every time, plus who doesn't love the comedic genius Will Ferrell. But if you don't think "Elf" deserves to be on this list, well that may be because you're a cotton headed ninny muggins.

## "RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER"

Of course a classic Christmas special was essential for this list and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" happens to be the greatest Christmas special, after all Rudolph is the most famous reindeer of all. Although upon close examination this story of a misfit who is continually harassed by his peers because of his physical oddity and then asked to do them all a favor and in return is finally accepted by them may seem a little less merry than some other Christmas specials, the film succeeds in informing us that there is nothing wrong with nonconformity. Featuring classic songs, memorable characters and heartwarming morals "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is an undeniable classic.



## "HOME ALONE"

Being forgotten by your family and left home isn't the best way to spend your Christmas, especially if you're an eight year old boy with a bit of an overactive imagination. Kevin McCallister finds himself home alone after oversleeping his hectic families departure to the airport that morning. At first, having the home to himself seems like the greatest Christmas gift a person could get, but Kevin soon realizes that the holidays without his family is much more lonely than he had originally anticipated. With the news of the infamous Wet Bandits breaking in and terrorizing homes in Kevin's neighborhood he decides to amp up his home's security by setting up various elaborate boobytraps in his home. Despite the film's undeniably corny and predictable plot line and excessive use of physical comedy to elicit laughter from it's audience the film certainly contains many heartwarming moments that compensate for its apparent downfalls.



# THE HOT CHOCOLATE WARS

NIKI HAKIMZADEH • REPORTER

Going into this evaluation I expected that South Bend Chocolate Cafe's hot chocolate would conquer all, but I was pleasantly surprised. I started off my hot chocolate journey at The Chicory Cafe. Their hot chocolate was too sweet and had an overwhelming chocolatey taste, which is why I decided to give it a 2 stars rating. Next I tried the hot cocoa at the ever so famous Starbucks, which (no hard feelings Starbucks) may have been one of the worst hot chocolates I have ever tasted. Their hot chocolate was very rich and had a bitter dark chocolate flavor which is the reason behind my rating of 1.5/5 stars. Starbucks is great for just about anything, just not hot chocolate. The next destination on my journey was the highly acclaimed, South Bend Chocolate Cafe. With the first sip I was convinced I had found my winner, giving it a rating

of 5/5 stars. The hot cocoa had a delicious, smooth, milk chocolatey taste that leaves you with a feeling of warmth inside. However, I had spoke too soon. A couple days later I went to my final destination, The Well, a small, non-profit coffee house just a couple blocks down from Adams. This being my first visit to the coffee house I was not sure what to expect, but with one taste my opinion of SB Chocolate Cafe went out the door. The hot cocoa had a perfect mix of milk and chocolate that made for a delicious, homemade taste resulting in a very deserving, 5/5 stars. Comparing it with the SB Chocolate hot cocoa was a bit difficult because they both deserved the 5/5 rating. After evaluating both it was undeniable that The Well had both the better hot chocolate and the better value with a \$1.21 difference in the two. I was very pleased with my visit at The Well and will certainly be visiting again soon!



## THE CHICORY CAFE

RATING: ★★★★★

SIZE: Small

COST: \$2.97

COMMENTS: Not rich at all, tasted more like hot milk.



## STARBUCKS

RATING: ★★★★★

SIZE: Tall (Small)

COST: \$2.94

COMMENTS: Too rich, dark chocolate



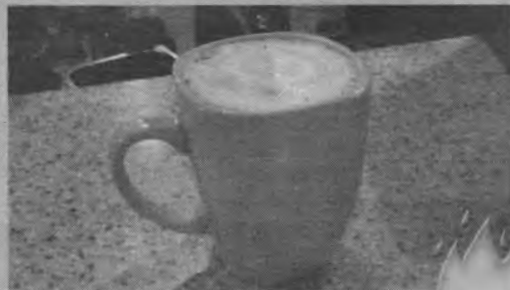
## SOUTH BEND CHOCOLATE COMPANY

RATING: ★★★★★

SIZE: Small

COST: \$3.21

COMMENTS: Rich, smooth, chocolatey flavor.



## THE WELL

RATING: ★★★★★

SIZE: Only One Size

COST: \$2.00

COMMENTS: Perfect mix of milk & chocolate, homemade taste.



Matt Cashore - USA TODAY Sports

## END OF THE ND SEASON

MADDIE MCCONNELL • REPORTER

The Irish stood at 10-1 entering their game against the Stanford Cardinal on Nov 28. Winning that game would almost guarantee a spot in the Top 4 for the Irish. With about six minutes left in regulation the Irish have possession. While eating up almost every second of the clock, Deshone Kizer ran the ball into the end zone giving the Irish a 36-35 lead with thirty seconds remaining. However, the Irish could not sustain the Stanford offense for the remaining thirty seconds of the game. With a harsh face mask call giving Stanford an extra 15 yds putting them in field goal range, sealing the deal. This left the score at a heartbreaking 38-36, therefore killing the Irish shots at a national championship at 10-2. Brian Kelly tells San Jose Mercury News, "I'd put this team up against anybody," later finishing with "Fact of the matter is, we're not going to get that chance."

Although the Fighting Irish's season did not end who we all would've liked, the Irish have been placed in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl game against the Ohio State Buckeyes. This game will take place in Phoenix on New Years Day at 1:00pm. The Irish look to end the season on a high note striving for 11 wins.