

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL


Thursday, November 3rd, 2016

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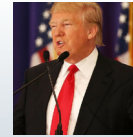
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MADAM PRESIDENT

THE TOWER ENDORSES HILLARY CLINTON

EDITORIAL BOARD

We at *The Tower* debated endorsing a candidate, especially on the cover, but ultimately decided that this election in particular is one that we are obliged to throw our efforts behind. The world that we live in today is turbulent, volatile, and frankly, scary. The United States of America needs a leader who is up to the task of counteracting the problems we face, not one who will mirror them in temperament.

We, the editors - Mariah Rush, Kaity Radde, and Alice Goulding - fall on different points of the political spectrum; respectively, we identify as moderately liberal, moderately conservative, and very liberal. The three of us have varying reasons for feeling morally compelled to endorse Hillary Clinton, but we all unequivocally do. (And that, we suppose, is the only way that Donald Trump could ever serve as a unifying force.)

This nation needs a leader who will be able to handle, mend, and even prevent the tragedies we hear about on a daily basis - a leader who will fight for us with resilience and self control, without actually physically fighting or mobilizing the army at the slightest provocation. Hillary Clinton is that person for our country. This is not because she is the "better of two evils," as many think, but because she is a capable, experienced, incredibly intelligent, and poised leader that everyone in this country can look up to. Although we have made a lot of progress, this country still has work to do, and Hillary Clinton has proven the tenacity to accomplish that work.

When Trump called Clinton "a fighter" during the second presidential debate, it may have been the only sound characterization of her he has made this entire campaign. Ever since her young adult life, Hillary Clinton has been working tirelessly to effect change in every environment she's worked in - no matter the limitations. After receiving her law degree from Yale University in 1973, a time when many women found it next to



impossible to enter into competitive fields, Clinton worked as an attorney for the Children's Defense Fund.

This line of work would carry into her role as First Lady of the United States; as FLOTUS, Clinton worked alongside elected senators to pass the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a highly effective form of government subsidy that benefited families who were ineligible for Medicaid but could otherwise not afford to pay for their children's medical expenses.

Additionally, Clinton created the Office on Violence Against Women, a branch of the Department of Justice that helped put in place services and aid for victims of sexual and physical violence in both household and college campus settings. Clinton's commitment to women's rights was made most public, however, in her speech the the Fourth Women's Conference in Beijing, China in 1995, at which she stated numerous times that the mistreatment of and violence towards women were violations of human rights, emphatically stating that "human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights." Even as First Lady, Hillary Clinton, as always, strove to protect those around us who often go unheard or unseen, always demonstrating a dedication to protecting the rights of all Americans.

As the first and only First Lady to hold elected office, Hillary Clinton became a Senator of New York in 2000. She spent the majority of her first term handling the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks that affected both her state and the nation as a whole. Concerned with the health problems of those emergency responders involved in the

rescue mission on September 11, she successfully worked across party lines to not only help those physically afflicted by the quality of air in the following years, but also to bring into question the dubious actions of several NYC officials at the time of the attacks.

In one of her less admirable moments in public office, Clinton supported the mobilization of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, unlike her opponent who has deluded himself and his followers into believing he never backed the wars (he did, and has been quoted multiple times expressing these beliefs), Clinton has acknowledged the mistake that she - and the majority of Congress - made at the time. She most prominently cites a lack of experience in foreign policy as her primary reason for making this decision, a bold action in a political climate where it is taboo to own up to one's mistakes.

Since then, Clinton has more than surpassed the usual candidate for President in foreign policy experience. Sworn in as Obama's Secretary of State in 2009, Clinton visited over 110 countries in her tenure, negotiating everything from peace talks to trade deals with international ambassadors and ministers. When the US stock market crashed in 2008, Clinton was there, working with economic partners of the United States to mitigate the damages. When the Arab Spring rose up in the early 2010s, Clinton was again ready to take on the intricate task of aiding these tumultuous countries.

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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, submitted physically to room 1831, or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenham 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.

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Clinton helped orchestrate the mission that led to the death of terrorist Osama bin Laden, the man behind the 9/11 attacks, allowing her relief work as a Senator to come full circle in his demise. She vouched for human rights and diplomacy and was unafraid to hold world leaders accountable for inhumane actions against their people. Clinton did not shy away from difficult and controversial issues, all while carrying herself with a level of grace that allowed such talks to occur.

While some may find fault in Clinton's specific actions, few can logically take issue with the breadth of Clinton's achievements in public office and her commitment to serve and advocate for her country, both domestically and abroad. Her experience vastly outweighs most in Washington, and certainly that of Donald Trump.

From the very beginning of her career, she has dealt with constant scrutiny. She has constantly been judged by her husband's successes and failures when, really, her own accomplishments are what should define her image. She has gone through more than her fair share of personal tribulations in the spotlight, but always rises through them with grace.

We do not condone her missteps, but neither does she. Perceptive and thoughtful, Hillary Clinton has worked in the public arena for over 40 years to better this country, and we, as young women, hope to be as influential and hardworking as she is.

Clinton's calmness is apparent. At the presidential debates, Trump made claims of election rigging, unfairness, and Clinton's corruption. Clinton stood by during these debates and managed to do what Trump has not - stay on the topic of how she plans to improve and lead our country.

She has dealt with Trump's frightening lurking during the debates, quite literally turning her back to it and instead focusing on the American people. In the face of endless superficial or worn-out accusations, she has been graceful where she could easily grow frustrated - her many accomplishments should be what we as a nation care about.

Though the fact that Clinton is not Donald Trump is far from the best reason to endorse and vote for her, the fact that she isn't definitely doesn't hurt her. Morally speaking, she is far superior to Mr. Trump - someone who, according to multiple women and even himself in the past, has sexually assaulted women with no apparent effect on his conscience. He lies confidently, so confidently that it makes us wonder if he thinks it's the truth, while Clinton can own up to her mistakes and apologize - something that Trump is utterly incapable of. Her so-called flip-flopping is a mark of someone who is willing to grow and change with new information rather than to staunchly advocate for outdated, under-informed beliefs.

And, let's not forget that in the midst of this election cycle, Donald Trump changed his posi-

tion on abortion, a key issue for many conservatives, *three times in one day*, and his supporters still seemed to care more about Clinton's rational changes, many of which occurred before her campaign even began.

Donald Trump, far from mirroring Clinton's commendable penchant for working across the political aisle, can't seem to work with anyone who he feels has slighted him in the least, much less someone who disagrees with him. He's already blacklisted dozens of mainstream Republicans, further dividing his party.

Just as importantly and most noticeably when compared to Clinton, he is clearly unintelligent, refuses to prepare, and has no semblance of decorum. His debate performances were terrible and lacking in facts; at the first debate, he interrupted Secretary Clinton constantly, and, at both, he behaved like a child. Clinton, during the moments when it would have been easiest to stoop to his level, remained calm and factual.

The most important thing for the American electorate to understand is that the President of the United States is virtually incapable of affecting the everyday lives of Americans without the support of Congress. The question that this election will answer, then, is not so much which policies or ideologies the majority of our nation holds but rather what kind of individual we as a nation want to represent us to the rest of the world.

Do we want a man whose vernacular matches that of a fourth grader, whose messages are consistently of fear and hatred, who has virtually isolated every group besides white men, and who promises the moon without giving us a glimpse of its dust? Or do we want a woman who is commendably qualified, unbelievably poised in the face of resistance, representative of a far larger portion of the population, and inarguably articulate and intelligent?

We wholeheartedly believe that the face of our nation should reflect the latter - someone who can uphold the standard of American excellence and confront the world's problems with dignity. The job of a president is to help the country progressively move forward and to hold onto the values and principles that have helped form our country in a positive manner. Donald Trump will not do these two things, but Hillary Clinton will.

When people first began immigrate to America in the 1700s, it was with the belief that they were heading to a place of freedom and equal opportunity, of justice and the pursuit of happiness. The United States should elect a candidate who will strive to uphold and even improve these ideals. If you are able to vote - even if you aren't enamored with either candidate - you have a duty to vote, especially if you wish to live in an America that respects every last one of its people.

A CONVERSATION WITH MAYOR PETE

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

As a teenager growing up in South Bend, Indiana and attending Adams' academic rival St. Joseph High School, Mayor Pete Buttigieg never thought he'd spend his adult life in his hometown. After attending Harvard University and winning a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, Buttigieg decided to see the world but claims he felt a familiar tug to return to the Midwestern city.

Now 34, Buttigieg is almost a full year into his second term as mayor of South Bend. Having successfully completed numerous projects in his first term, the most notable being his "1000 Houses in a 1000 Days" project and the start-up of many technological companies downtown, Buttigieg envisions South Bend becoming a city robust enough to attract millennials and families alike.

Within the halls of Adams High School, conversation seems to dwell on one of two things: the election or our collective future as college students and members of the workforce. Asking around in several of my classes, I found that people were as concerned with local issues, like the construction downtown and commercial growth, as they were with larger issues like the election. Sitting down with Mayor Pete, I was able to ask him about his opinion on both the election and more local developments.

Venturing downtown this summer was often a fruitless endeavor, largely because of the massive amount of construction happening on major downtown streets. "Smart Streets," Buttigieg's proposal to turn many one-way streets two-way, replace certain traffic lights with roundabouts, and add bike lanes to all major streets, should be a vast improvement to downtown life, according to Buttigieg.

"The reason we are doing Smart Streets is because there is a lot of evidence that it will help the city grow stronger and quicker," said Buttigieg. By making traffic flow both ways, it should become easier for people to walk throughout downtown, a proposition that's appealing to potential local business owners.

The project has taken a considerable amount of time, and Buttigieg is the first to admit this. However, he believes that it was the only viable way to complete the project. "The decision we faced was to do it over several years, tearing up the city in multiple phases, or whether to do as much as we could as quickly as we could," said Buttigieg. "I chose to do the latter."

The "Smart Streets" initiative is being implemented, it appears, not just to solve traffic problems, but also to improve quality of life for those living

and shopping downtown. "Right now, when you're walking down Main St, you're walking right next to a four-lane highway; it's going to feel very different [after "Smart Streets"]. We think this will lead to more foot traffic, which will eventually lead to more business."

Beyond working to improve city life, Buttigieg has championed many social barriers with his support of the LGBT community in the St. Joseph County area. As a gay man himself, Buttigieg campaigned to include sexual orientation as a protected class under South Bend's nondiscrimination clause, a successful measure that now is being considered by the entire county. In general, "counties wait to see what happens in the cities", said Buttigieg, who went on to cite the city's response to RFRA (Religious Freedom Restoration Act) as an example of this relationship: "[RFRA] did not reflect the values of our city and we could prove it because we had a law on the books that spoke directly to this sort of discrimination."

Social issues of this nature have been at the forefront of most discussions regarding the election. This is the same for local politics, which are heavily influenced by national policies and election results. "Our recovery as a city is very much related to the national economic picture. Since 2008,

there's been a steady economic recovery nationwide," said Buttigieg, a Clinton supporter, who went on to say that "a Trump election would lead to another recession."

Moreover, the makeup of Indiana's political scene was disrupted this summer when Gov. Mike Pence withdrew his reelection bid in order to serve as the Vice Presidential nominee for Donald Trump. Buttigieg believes that he differs from Pence in the policy making process, stating, "I try my hardest to work across the aisle whenever I can." He went on to explain that Pence worked to do the opposite, asserting that "the governor damaged the state's economy with the [RFRA bill]."

Putting politics and local issues aside, Buttigieg commented on the state of the city and its accessibility for younger people. When asked about why Adams students should consider moving back to South Bend after college, or staying here after high school graduation, Buttigieg cited the breadth of opportunity that a midsize city can offer as one of South Bend's more attractive qualities. "If you're in politics like I am, it's an exciting place to be because we're a small enough city that [younger] people can have a much larger role in the government," said Buttigieg. "If you're in the private sector, you have access to [jobs at] world class universities, coupled with an extraordinarily low cost of living and access to a major city— Chicago."

Overall, what makes Buttigieg most proud of the city – both as its mayor and as a resident – is the profound sense of engagement and collaboration that permeates both the downtown and beyond, something that can only be found in a place like South Bend. As he puts it: "There's something really important about being from somewhere and being apart of that community, which South Bend offers in a really rich and robust way."



LOCAL ELECTIONS: MEET THE CANDIDATES

ALICIA KOSZYK AND DAVID ENGEL - REPORTERS

DEMOCRATS

GOVERNOR

Former Indiana state representative John Gregg, a Democrat, is running for governor of Indiana against Republican Eric Holcomb. His platform includes infrastructure, veterans communities, equality, education, and the economy. To create safer communities, he believes that Indiana must combat the drug epidemic by investing in drug rehabilitation facilities and community policing tactics. Concerning equal opportunity, Gregg wants to diminish the wage gap and increase voter turnout at elections. For veterans, he wants increased benefits and more job training and inclusion programs. Gregg wants to establish a public preschool system and abolish textbook fees for public schools. He also aims to rebuild our infrastructure by creating an infrastructure bank and handing funds to local communities for spending.

SENATE

Former two-term Governor and U.S. senator Evan Bayh is running against Republican candidate Todd Young for Senate. Among Bayh's achievements, he is responsible for the 21st Century Scholars program, which provides full tuition scholarships to Indiana universities for students who qualify. Bayh passed a \$1.3 billion tax cut to Hoosiers, which is the largest tax cut in Indiana's history. He also brought 350,000 jobs to Hoosiers when he reformed welfare. In this election, Bayh promises to reduce regulations and increase capital for small business owners. He believes in improving our trade laws to protect Hoosier jobs from going overseas and he supports the Trade Adjustment Assistance, which provides support for workers who have lost jobs to international trade.

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

Lynn Coleman is a former police officer running for the second district's United States congressional seat. He is a Democrat running against Republican Jackie Walorski and Libertarian Ron Cenkush. His platform is a diverse one, which includes the economy, social security, healthcare, education, and national security. Regarding ISIS, he claims, we should be "tough and smart," working with our partners in the Middle East to defeat our enemies while respecting Constitutional rights. He plans to keep Social Security publicly funded, insisting that privatization would deny seniors a reliable safety net. With regards to healthcare, he recognizes the Affordable Care Act's flaws but wants to maintain the concept and beneficial provisions. Education-wise, Coleman wants to reduce the cost of college and funnel more resources towards K-12 education.

REPUBLICANS

Republican Eric Holcomb is running for Governor against Democrat John Gregg. Holcomb replaced Mike Pence when he withdrew his campaign to become Donald Trump's running mate. Holcomb is Indiana's Lieutenant Governor and was top advisor to former Gov. Mitch Daniels and current U.S. Senator Dan Coats. Holcomb plans to improve Indiana by increasing Hoosier jobs, bettering education, and improving overall infrastructure. In our schools, he would like to instill STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning as a top priority along with creating a Pre-K option for low income families. On transportation matters, Holcomb would upgrade the South Shore Line to a double-track between Gary and Michigan City to reduce travel time for commuters. Holcomb has yet to reveal how he will pay for the projects while staying within Indiana's balanced budget of \$2.2 billion.

Todd Young is a Republican congressman running for Indiana's open Senate seat against Democrat Evan Bayh. His most important issues include the budget, national security, healthcare, tax reform, Social Security, and energy policy. He believes in deregulation with regard to energy and maintains that we must tap into and harness domestic energy sources. Congressman Young plans to simplify the tax code and lower taxes on businesses and corporations in order to "promote new employment and stronger economic growth." The Affordable Care Act, he believes, must be repealed. Instead, he wants to take a free market approach to healthcare. When it comes to Social Security, he believes that the system needs to be reformed while still covering the same number of people. He believes spending should be tailored around the military and its needs and that a powerful military is the primary focus of the budget.

Jackie Walorski has represented the 2nd District of Indiana since 2012, and is now running for reelection. Walorski has worked with former Gov. Mitch Daniels and was an Assistant Floor Leader in the Indiana Statehouse. She is a member of the House Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Agriculture Committees, and is the chair of the Nutrition Subcommittee. While in Congress, Walorski sponsored the Conscience Protection Act and helped pass the bipartisan bill of temporarily stopping all Guantanamo Bay detainee transfers. In this election, Walorski promises that the safety of the American people will be her number one priority. Walorski promises to work to repeal Obamacare and replace it with reforms that improve access to better health care with lower costs.

DONALD TRUMP: ORPHANED BY THE GOP

OPINION

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During any ordinary election, the nominees facing off in the general election are assumed to have their party's full support. But, of course, this year's election is anything but normal - at least for the Republican party. While the GOP had hoped to stage a major comeback during this election, it has instead become the centerpiece of a much different kind of conversation, a debate no one could have expected before Mr. Donald Trump began his remarkable surge to the top of the polls: will the Republican Party recover? Whatever the answer, what is truly notable is the abandonment - or perhaps more accurately, the orphaning - of Trump by almost all of the important figures in his party.

After deliberating over throwing his support behind Trump for a year of his candidacy, Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan finally agreed to work with Trump and endorsed him in June. However, once the now infamous video surfaced in which Trump suggests that when you are a powerful man, you can just grab women by their genitals, many fellow Republicans, including Ryan, dropped their support almost immediately. Ryan's show of support was especially crucial for Trump; without Ryan's support behind him, Trump would and may still be seen as the man who broke up the Republican Party rather than the positive, "outsider" character he's been pushing for the entirety of his campaign. Unfortunately for the Republican nominee, Ryan wasted no time in separating himself from Mr. Trump. He told House Republicans that he could no longer defend Trump, would not campaign with him, and would instead focus his energy on trying to maintain a Republican majority in the House and Senate. According to his spokeswoman AshLee



Strong, "The speaker is going to spend the next month focused entirely on protecting our congressional majorities." Put plainly, Ryan has given up entirely on the hope that there will be a Republican in the Oval Office come 2017.

Another unfortunate aspect is that Trump's campaign has had to rely on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Mike Pence, to hold up the ticket. With Pence's positive debate performance and overall likability among true conservatives, many have begun to wish that Pence was at the top of this ticket. In fact, The Wall Street Journal's editorial piece, in which they did not endorse Mr. Trump, concluded with, "We'd prefer Mr. Pence as President too." This is especially disappointing considering the fact that The Wall Street Journal is traditionally a right-leaning, Republican, news outlet.

However, they are not alone. Some papers have broken decades-long traditions just to avoid endorsing Trump. To put this in perspective, twelve news-

papers that supported Mitt Romney in the last election, support Clinton in this one. This is far from surprising when juxtaposed with the fact that Trump does not have a single endorsement in any of the top 100 highest circulated papers in the United States.

One of many,

the Arizona Republic, has never endorsed a Democrat for president in its entire 126 year history - until now. Faced with death threats from readers from her own party, the Republic's president Mi-Ai Parrish wrote a follow up to the board's endorsement, explaining that her First Amendment rights are what give the board the ability to make this historic and controversial decision. But, Parrish brings up another central, and frankly, saddening point (at least to the Republican party). According to Parrish, of course the editorial board knew that their decision would be unpopular, but "We chose patriotism over party. We endorsed the Democrat."

The magnitude of this desertion is unparalleled. Mr. Trump expects to still win this election, but without the support of his party. Over a third of Republican senators have dropped their support for Mr. Trump, and several are calling on him to drop out of the race entirely. Some have even claimed they will

write in Mike Pence. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) said he doesn't know if Trump is a superior candidate to Clinton on issues like the Supreme Court. Although still very opposed to Clinton, McCain is just another example of the many Republicans who somehow cannot seem to bring themselves to wholeheartedly support their nominee, begging the question: if his own party does not believe he can lead our country, how can anyone else? As for the Republican Party as a whole, many fingers are crossed that they manage a return sooner rather than later.

A YOUNG AMERICAN'S GUIDE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

ANNA EATON - FORMER TOWER REPORTER

Even though Halloween is over, the scariest time of the year hasn't passed yet: the election. Campaigns continue to bombard the public with ads and populist rhetoric and candidates continue to shout catchy soundbites at their campaigns. What soundbites and rhetoric fail to do, however, is clearly and concisely convey what the candidates actually stand behind. For students who can vote, this is a problem. With this being the most ridiculous election in years but our first, how do we know how to sort out what is accurate and what is not? That is where this guide comes in handy.

Below is an abridged version of the economic positions of our presidential candidates, the top issue to millennials.

Donald Trump - Republican:

Trump's 2016 economic plan focuses on tax reform, protectionism, and cutting spending. The top income tax rate would fall to 33% and lowering the corporate tax rate to 15%. This tax plan alone will add \$19 trillion to U.S. debt.

Hillary Clinton - Democrat:

Clinton proposes raising taxes on high income taxpayers and modifying taxation of multinational corporations. She would also repeal fossil fuel tax incentives and increasing estate and gift taxes. Nearly all of this burden would fall on the top 5% of Americans; the lower 95% shouldn't expect to see much change. Her plan would increase revenue by \$1.1 trillion over the next decade.

PUMPKIN SPICE LATTES: WHERE TO GO TO GET YOUR FIX

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

Fall is finally upon us. The leaves have changed, the air has become colder, and Halloween has passed. For all of the basic folks out there, fall especially means one thing: pumpkin spice lattes. This autumn favorite is a combination of pumpkin-esque flavors mixed in with espresso and normally some sort of cream. Some places do a great job with this fall special; others, not so much. Since I had not yet experienced a PSL, I decided to taste multiple locations' take on the classic fall drink.



HUNTER MELANSON

The South Bend Chocolate Cafe

This locally renowned cafe is almost always outstanding. However, I was not necessarily impressed with the South Bend Chocolate Cafe's rendition of the pumpkin spice latte. It was definitely not bad, but it was not anything to write home about. First of all, the flavor seemed as though someone had injected the drink with syrup and sprinkled fall flavoring on top. For this reason the drink tasted good, yet it just wasn't very unique, just extremely sweet. The drink was not cold, but it probably should have been much more warm. Despite the negatives, a nice touch is that with every pumpkin spice drink the buyer receives a free pumpkin cookie. All in all, I enjoyed it, but there are better options out there for a price tag of \$3.75.

The Chicory Cafe (Winner)

The Chicory Cafe in downtown South Bend did an absolutely amazing job with their version of the pumpkin spice latte. After tasting the beverage, I wanted to high five whoever created the recipe. Upon first drinking the latte, I noticed how perfectly the different flavors were integrated. The unique flavors of coffee, cream, and fall spices came together like magic. This combined with a perfectly calculated temperature gives the Chicory Cafe the winning crown. Another dividing factor of Chicory's variation is the amazing texture of the foam; it wasn't too heavy and it wasn't too light. Depending on what kind of budget you are on, the latte from Chicory is moderately expensive at \$4.01 after tax. Nevertheless, this is a small price to pay for possibly the best pumpkin spice latte you have ever tasted.

Starbucks

Surprisingly, I was less than blown away by the pumpkin spice latte that Starbucks has to offer. I expected much more from such a widely recognized and appreciated establishment. Starbucks made the drink fairly tasty, but not \$4.25-for-a-tall tasty. The drink was simply lacking in distinctive flavor, for what it was worth. A pumpkin flavor was clearly present, but it didn't have the zing I expected of it. Once again, I definitely enjoyed the drink, but it did not live up to all of its glory. If you have money to spend and like the Starbucks cups, then go ahead and spend your money there. If you want the best bang for your buck, go elsewhere.

McDonalds

A word of advice from me is plain and simple; don't go to McDonald's if you want the full pumpkin spice latte experience. McDonald's doesn't nearly do such a drink any justice. The flavor was extremely generic, with little to no pumpkin flavor. I found the latte to be quite bland and flat while lacking in foam. Essentially what you get at McDonald's is coffee watered down with too much milk. I recommend saving your fall craving for later and spending your \$3.00 elsewhere.

JOHN ADAMS DRAMA SEASON

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

The John Adams Drama Department, JADD, intends to start off the year with another entertaining play, following last year's rendition of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." JADD President Taylor Waldron says, "This will for sure be the strongest theatre season that JA has seen in a really long time." Their upcoming play, "Night of the Living Dead," features a desperate group of individuals taking refuge in an abandoned house when the dead start to rise. Senior Ben Ibrulj, portraying the mastermind of the group, tries to take control of the situation, but when the dead surround the house, the group begins to panic. The dead gradually find their way into the house, picking off the living one by one. This play is worth attending because of the detail and hard work put into the performance. Waldron says that this play is "the most detailed play [JADD] has performed and will include zombies, tons of cool special effects, a great set, and is a wonderful Halloween treat." The costumes and makeup are expected to be very intricate, creating a realistic atmosphere. "Night of the Living Dead" is also unique because it is JADD's first seasonally themed show. Stay tuned for the exact dates that this exciting production will be performed on, sometime in November.

JADD is also planning a holiday show: a rendition of "A Christmas Carol." "A Christmas Carol" follows the classic story of a bitter old man named Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge's journey of becoming a better man is developed throughout the play through the visitations from the Ghosts of Christmas Present, Past, and Yet to Come. As a rendition of the original "A Christmas Carol," the script will be completely written by students. Most of the play will be performed at nursing homes, but JADD also hopes to perform it at least once at Adams. The proceeds they earn from this performance will all be donated to a worthy cause. JADD also has a spring show in the works, so there are plenty of opportunities to see this group in action.

If you are interested in acting, working backstage, or getting involved in theatre in general, then JADD is perfect for you. They are always looking for help and new members, and they offer volunteer hours for any help. The potential of the theatre group this year promises that the shows will be astounding, so be sure to watch for updates on their shows throughout the year.

TOWER ROCK
is on November 7
from 7-11 PM. Come out
to hear the talent that Ad-
ams has to offer and
support *The Tower*!

MOCK ELECTION

ABBY MYERS - REPORTER

It's November 2016 - election time across the nation - but why does that matter to students at John Adams High School? As high school students, it may seem like we have little say in politics and government, and many of us just don't care, but students in Mr. Kingston's government class are hoping to change that. This election cycle, Kingston's class held a mock election to see what presidential candidate students at Adams prefer.

In preparation, the government students made promotional posters and held election registration sessions during lunch hours from October 5-19. The class campaigned for leading candidates Republican Donald J. Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. The election was held on Tuesday, November 1st during all lunch hours. Each student's individual vote counted toward the "Electoral College" votes in his or her 4th hour teacher's department. Each academic department (ex: the English department) acted as a state/member of the JA electoral college. Votes were then totaled to determine which candidate "won" each department and "electoral college" votes were divided. This election was very similar to the real election process in the United States that eventually determine the next president.

But why? Why should students care about or want to participate in a presidential election? Kingston has an answer: "[The student election allowed] the young people of JA to have their voice heard." Since the country's youth seems to have little input in American government, students were finally able to express their views somewhere. Many seniors will be able to vote in the actual election on November 8, and this was a good way to promote civic

duties and reinforce the importance of voting. When asked whether this student-based election could continue in the future, Kingston stated "It is a lot of work," and mentioned what a tremendous undertaking it is to organize a detailed mock election like this for his government students.

GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

NIKI HAKIMZADEH - REPORTER

With the start of the new school year, many new JA clubs have also began. Among the mix is the gay-straight alliance club sponsored by Ms. Twietmeyer and Mr. Geisler. The group was originally formed around ten years ago by Mrs. Hernandez, and has gone by several different names including "RAJA" and "Safe Space". The group had an initial turnout of about 25 to 30 students at the first meeting and hopes to use their large numbers to work in the community, specifically right across the street at the LGBTQ Center. The two plan to partner up and work together as a group to help one another.

Gay-straight alliance gives its members a welcoming environment to meet new people and build friendships. The group has been welcomed by the JA family with open arms. "There has definitely been encouragement. I've spoken with my colleagues about putting up signs and they have been really okay with it," Twietmeyer said. "The students said that for the most part it's a pretty positive, welcoming atmosphere here [at Adams] for LGBTQ," she continued. Twietmeyer highly recommends joining the group and believes the best part of the club is the support and bond between the students in the group. She said, "Giving students a place where they can meet other people, whether they are LGBTQ that are like them, or if they are straight and just want to support, or students that are LGBTQ seeing other students that are straight supporting them, that's what students have said they wanted and I think it is really one of the biggest benefits."

Anyone looking to join the gay-straight alliance can contact Ms. Twietmeyer in room 1829 or Mr. Geisler. The club meets several times a month and are searching for more members!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: ANA MARIE BRODEN

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

Athletics are a key part of the structural makeup of John Adams. For the fans, athletics provide a sense of community and a common purpose. As for the athletes, their sport defines who they are on and off the field, court, and track. For senior runner, Ana Marie Broden, her sport is her break away from school, work, and the many other stresses of senior year. "School is rough, so join a sport", is the advice Broden gives to her fellow eagles. For the entirety of her four years at JA, Broden has been a varsity runner for the girls cross country team and varsity distance runner for the girls track team. During her freshmen year Broden qualified individually for semi state, and now has qualified again, as a

Left to right: Andre Scruggs, Lane McDonald, Savino Rivera Sr., Ana Marie Broden, and Matthew Byers



team, with her fellow varsity runners. Not only is she great at cross country - in track Broden placed 4th in the city meet for the mile race.

All athletes possess some sort of motivation for their sport. For Broden, she says, "I run so I can eat anything I want and because I don't have enough money to afford clothes if I get any bigger- it is also fun to a certain extent." While she admits this motivation is a bit comical, it really does push her to be as strong an athlete as she can. At the start of the 2016 season, Broden ran at a time of 23:40 for her 5k and has shaved that down to a 22:08. Broden's overall personal record (PR) is a 19:27 from the start of her freshman year. "While yes, my time has slowed since freshman year, I've had more fun at cross country since letting go of competing with my freshman self," Broden said. As far as track, Broden says her times have remained more consistent. She credits this to having more experience with track. "I've been running the 1600 (mile) since fifth grade so I'm just more comfortable with it. After all, it's the same thing every time." This differs from her experience with cross country where the courses are always

changing and the conditions are somewhat unpredictable. "Most of the races for cross country are in the woods so I'm challenged with mud, fallen trees, poison ivy, and other people's dogs and children running feral through the course I'm supposed to be focused on." She compares this to track saying, "I can see my competition the whole time on the track and count down the laps on my hand."

For Broden, being an athlete has been apart of a greater overall journey in her life. Before cross country, Broden says she struggled with body image, had been battling an eating disorder, and had a struggle with depression. "Very quickly, I realized that not eating, not sleeping, dealing with school, and running could not all balance together. My coaches and my parents encouraged me to find healthier ways to cope with the many stresses I was dealing with, and still continue to deal with," Broden admits. In the last four years,

"There's something about crying, hysterically laughing, and screaming through tough runs that just brings people together."

Broden has grown and developed a more positive, healthy standard for her life. "In finding my recovery through running, I've encouraged others to also try any sort of physical activity to cope with whatever they're going through," she says.

Through long practices, tough meets, and team camping trips, Broden says she's made a lot of memories. She says her favorite memory is, "running in the pouring rain and falling in the mud with Lane McDonald", a junior on the team. Cross country has also given Broden what she says are some of the greatest friendships she has ever had. Broden says, "There's something about crying, hysterically laughing, and screaming through tough runs that just brings people together. Even if you have differences with someone, you're both united by the fact that you're doing something that feels awful together." Broden mentions how close she has become with teammates she never expected to know much about. "Lane is one of my best friends and we became this close solely from running," Broden said.

After graduation this June, Broden hopes to attend and continue running at either Indiana University Bloomington, Purdue University Lafayette, or Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Broden wants to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work to ultimately become an art therapist. Broden hopes to end up living in San Francisco, California where she will foster and adopt kids alongside her fostered retired racing Italian Greyhounds. Marathons and ultra marathons, specifically the Barkley Marathons, a hundred mile race through Frozen Head State Park, in Tennessee, which no woman has ever successfully finished are all amongst Broden's future goals. "It's one of the hardest races and since it's beginning in 1986, only 14 people have ever finished," she says. Broden thanks her parents, the Couches, a teammate's family, and Coaches Savino Rivera Sr., Matthew Byers, and Andre Scruggs for giving her "a great experience that will last a lifetime."