



THE PROTESTS THAT MADE AMERICA GREAT

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The recent Women's March on Washington, which inspired countless sister marches across the country and world, mobilized millions of people who wanted to stand up for both the rights of women and of many marginalized groups of people. Adding up all of the Women's Marches across the United States, it may have been the largest peaceful protest in American history.

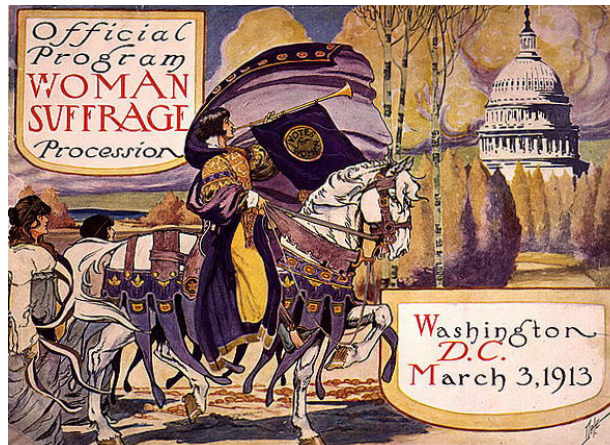
However, not everyone recognized the march as necessary, or even valid. Its critics wondered what the marchers' specific, concrete goal was, and many pointed out the obvious: Donald Trump will be President of the United States regardless of how many marched against him. Some even went so far as to call the march "embarrassing."

The first amendment eloquently grants every American the right to peacefully protest. And while this fact is mostly uncontested even by the most "embarrassed" Americans, protests have been proven to not be pointless. They bring about some of our most cherished freedoms and serve as beacons and examples for future dissenters.

The following are some of the most memorable protests in American history - demonstrations that all of us, as Americans, can look back on and be reminded of the value and historical importance of unflinching dissent. None of these protests brought about life-changing legislation in the blink of an eye. None of them altered public opinion in a string of chants. Yet all of them live on in our memories - and why, if not because they represent the unyielding power of the people?

Boston Tea Party (1773)

Yes, the original American protest before there even was a United States of America. In protest of the British Tea Act, which gave the East India Company a monopoly over colonial tea



sales, Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty threw 342 chests of British tea into the Boston Harbor. As the first significant act of defiance by the American colonists, it pushed the Americans closer to revolution.

In recent years, a conservative grassroots group known as the Tea Party took the event as inspiration for its name. The Tea Party has had an immense impact on the internal politics of the Republican Party, and some of this election cycle's presidential candidates were Tea Party conservatives. It has been responsible for many peaceful rallies and marches in the years since 2009 and serves as an example of how one protest hundreds of years ago can still serve as a profound inspiration for future generations.

Woman Suffrage Procession (1913)

Women - half of the population and half of this nation's great potential - garnered one of America's most cherished rights through countless peaceful protests. While much of their effort was based on petitions and other forms of lobbying, marches were central to the movement. Seven years before the suffragettes would see their goal achieved, around 8,000 women marched on Washington, D.C. on the eve of President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration with the intent to "march in a spirit of protest against the present political organization of society, from which women are excluded." The women were harassed by mostly-male onlookers who were in the capital for the inauguration.

This march - and the national attention it drew - served as a watershed moment for the movement. In 2020, the centennial of women gaining the right to vote, when the United States



Dollar is set for redesign, the Procession will be commemorated on the back of the ten-dollar bill along with many of its participants.

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)

This march was one of the largest rallies for human rights in United States history, demanding equal civil and economic rights for African Americans. It was at this rally that Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. Other famous civil rights leaders such as Rosa Parks and John Lewis were present.

National media coverage gave the event a voice much larger than the crowd on the National Mall, and people across the nation heard the speeches given. This march is considered instrumental in bringing about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other laws that began to level the playing field in terms of segregation and voting rights.

All of these protests, as well as protests regarding the Vietnam War, AIDS awareness, LGBT rights, and countless other causes, proved to the nation and its leadership that the groups in question would make their voices heard and heeded. Their examples live on in our memories and in our protests, from the yearly March for Life to the impromptu protest at JFK airport on Jan. 28 regarding the so-called "Muslim Ban" executive order.

In recent years, rioters have detracted from the protests they claim to be a part of, but the essence of peaceful protests remains a core part of being American. Keep these protests in mind as more protests come into the national spotlight.

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mariah Rush

ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kaity Radde

MANAGING EDITOR

Alice Goulding

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kaity Radde

REPORTERS

Casey Carroll

David Engel

Brendan Hayner-Slattery

Alicia Koszyk

Kennedi Kyle

Hunter Melanson

Abby Myers

Kaylan Parker

Taylor Waldron

ADVISOR

Samantha Lewis

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Tower is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Letters to the Editor must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Letters to the Editor must be sent to slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us, or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenhams Dr.

Editorials are written by the Editorial Board of *The Tower* (comprised of Mariah Rush, Kaity Radde, and Alice Goulding) and are designated as such.

The Tower thanks the *South Bend Tribune* for printing services.

We at *The Tower* also request that readers consider donating to help pay for the printing & production of our newspaper. Your donations will help the growth of a voice for the local community; your help and contributions are greatly appreciated.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR REGARDING THE
WOMEN'S MARCH, COURTESY OF JA SPANISH
TEACHER MRS. HERNANDEZ

WHY I MARCH

When I was in college, my roommate had a poster of this quotation by Protestant pastor and Nazi concentration camp survivor Martin Niemöller:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

This simple quotation struck me and stayed with me for years, coloring how I look at and interact with the world. It informs how I treat my students, my colleagues, and those around me. It leads me to speak out when I see an injustice and to not back down in the face of personal discomfort. It was one of my guiding thoughts as I joined millions of people around the world who stepped out for the Women's March on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

First, I marched for women because I am a woman, and I cannot abide someone telling me what I can and cannot do with my body. I marched because I am a survivor of sexual assault, and I cannot tolerate a society where assault and rape are not seen as real and punishable crimes.

Then, I marched for mothers because I am a mother to two beautiful mixed race children who fear for their father's security as an immigrant. I marched because I am the wife of a wonderful man who walked 2,500 miles to provide a better life for his family back home. I marched because it should not have taken us ten years of marriage to be able to get his permanent resident card.

Then, I marched for public school education because I am a teacher, and we are called to provide a safe, secure, and inspiring place for all of our students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, immigration status, or political affiliation. I marched because good, quality education should be free. I marched because I want our students to live in a world that is sustainable and healthy. I marched because I want them to have the same rights that I do, both civil and human. I marched because I want to see my students become adults who contribute to the whole world as global citizens, who reach out to investigate, create, and recreate to provide for everyone, not just for some.

Then, I marched for all of us because I am a Christian, and I am called to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with [my] God" (Micah 6:8). I believe that we are called to love and support each other and to raise up the downtrodden. I believe that we are called to open our hearts and doors to people who are not like us, to listen to each other, to embrace our differences, and to move forward together as brothers and sisters.

I marched because, in the past, I have been too afraid to speak out, too comfortable in my life. Over the past several years, I have become more and more uncomfortable with the injustices I have seen. The America I remember, the "kinder, gentler nation" of my youth, has always had its troubles, but it has always found its strength in its people, who stand up for each other and who rise up together. In 1952, President Eisenhower attributed 19th century French diplomat and historian Alexis de Tocqueville as saying, "America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." We will find our greatness together, standing up for one another, speaking out about injustices, and rising up together for the good of the nation. This is why I march.

THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE AND WHY IT'S BACK IN THE NEWS

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

A topic of debate in recent years has been the Keystone Pipeline, an oil transportation device slated to run from Canada to Texas. The project would create 40,000 short-term American jobs and modestly decrease our dependency on foreign oil, another controversial issue. People who support the construction of the pipeline primarily tout these two benefits. Opponents of the plan cite environmental concerns, including the possibility of spills and the emission of greenhouse gases produced by the extraction and use of the oil. Former President Barack Obama denied TransCanada, the corporation behind the pipeline, the permit to begin construction. He contended that the pipeline would not reduce America's dependency on foreign oil or lower oil prices, and he recognized the environmental costs.

President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order to resurrect both the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines. The Dakota Access Pipeline was famously protested by the Standing Rock Sioux Native American tribe and other environmental activists. The tribe opposed the pipeline because it was slated to run through sacred burial grounds and was a potential contaminant to the tribe's water sources. Obama finally blocked its construction after months of protest, but he was too late in doing so. Trump's order instructs the Army Corps of Engineers to "review and approve [the pipelines] in an expedited manner, to the extent permitted by law." Many of the environmental regulations prohibiting the pipes from being built cannot be undone with an executive order, but Trump can grant a permit to TransCanada to begin construction. The Keystone Pipeline was not a major theme of Trump's campaign, and many are wondering why he decided to take action in his first week of office.

Trump, a former private businessman, has investments in many corporations and enterprises. One of these is a \$100,000 stake in Phillips 66, which owns a quarter of the Dakota Access Pipeline. He also owned stock worth between \$500,000 and \$1 million in Energy Transfer

Partners (ETP), the primary developer of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Trump sold the ETP shares, but he still possesses his Phillips 66 investments. Whether Trump signed the executive order due to personal interest, job creation, reduced energy dependency, or a mix of all three, the decision will likely be protested by environmental and climate activists the world over.

THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE MEDIA: THE RELATIONSHIP THAT PROTECTS ALL AMERICANS

OPINION

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*"The opposition party"
"Fake news"
"Failing"*

These words describing the press come straight from our new commander-in-chief's personal Twitter account, and that's hardly beginning to cover the insults White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer hurled at journalists after claims that he had lied about inauguration crowd sizes (these claims later proved to be indeed true). Instead of Democrats being the only party the Trump Administration actively despises, the so-called "opposition party" now joins the list of President Trump's enemies.

Despite what Mr. Spicer has said himself, President Trump has divided a line between his supporters and Democrats and the media, a far cry from his inclusive inauguration speech in which he declared that the people were taking the government back: "Where was all the outrage from Democrats and the opposition party (the media) when our jobs were fleeing our country?" he wrote in a tweet following the outrage sparked from his executive order "Muslim Ban," which banned immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries from coming into the United

States for ninety days.

Whether or not you agree with his politics, a concerning factor of this administration that needs to be given attention is this administration's treatment of the media.

Traditionally, the media and the White House have worked hand-in-hand to deliver news about what is happening in the most important house in the country as accurately as possible. Although the news' job is to also uncover any misdeeds or secret policies the country may need to know about, this relationship has worked fairly well over the years. With the rise of social media sites like Twitter and Facebook, the White House press corp and other media's roles have been slightly diminished over the years.

What kind of world is it where the media, a valuable tool to let the people know what is occurring in their country and government, is the opposition party of the White House? What kind of world is it where, instead of focusing on fixing the "problems" in our country, there is a war on the media? When President Obama did not pull troops out of Afghanistan like he promised, who would hold him accountable? We can't forget the media's role in one of the biggest scandals in American political history - Watergate. Without Woodward and Bernstein's investigative journalism, who would have uncovered the White House's corrupt dealings? Even here at Adams there have recently been claims of a "liberal bias" in this very paper, even though opinionated articles are clearly marked as such. Why is the media being attacked in political battles when what we should be focusing on are the real issues that the media covers?

Regardless of your political affiliations, one thing is clear - without the media, the American people can easily be manipulated into believing whatever the current administration would like us to believe. It is up to journalists to uncover the truth, to point a finger at the important events that are going unnoticed, and to work with the White House in an effort to build on the trust given to the people in the highest office in the land. Before something truly terrible happens to our democracy, we need to take a pragmatic look at what may happen to one of the most crucial pillars of our society if this war on the media is continued. The media should not be looked down upon as an entirely new party against the administration to be dealt with - instead, journalists and the Trump Administration need to work together to - yes - make America great.

OSCAR NOMINATIONS

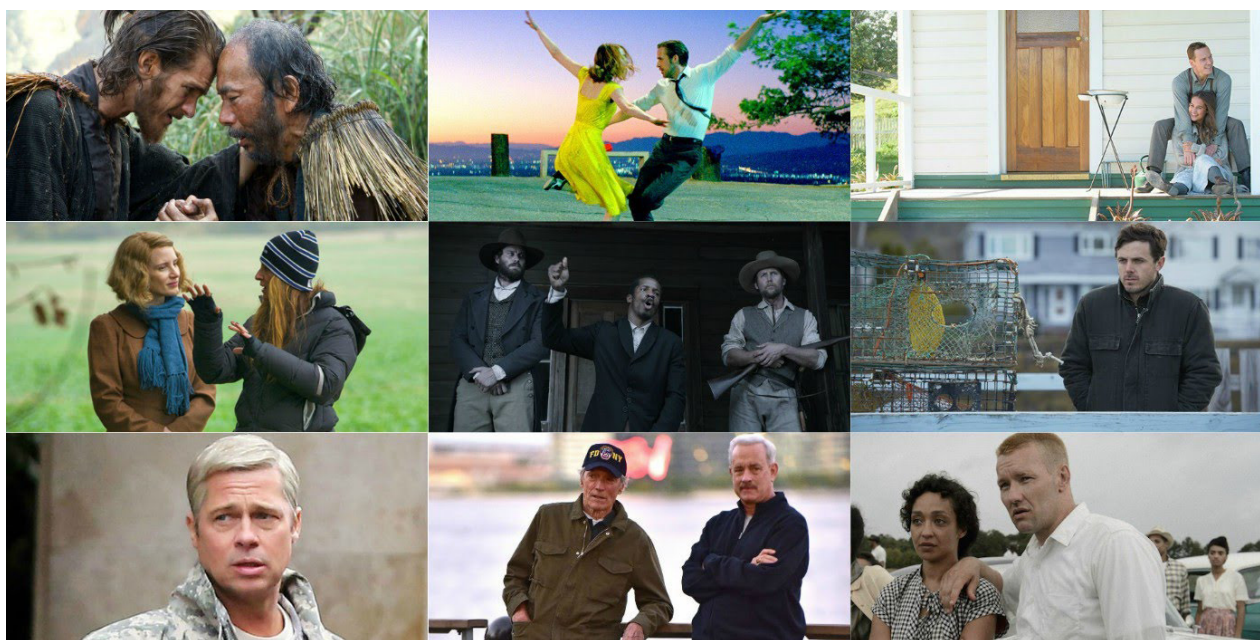
OPINION

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

The Academy Awards are not just the climax of the three month long awards circuit that A-list actors and directors embark on, but the peak for many of their careers. Getting nominated for an Oscar is like making it to the Super Bowl— it's a big deal. While stars are certain to stun on the red carpet, and, given the tone of the speeches at both the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the show will most likely to skew political, the night is ultimately a celebration of 2016's best films, actors, writers, cinematographers, and sound mixers, to name a few. A celebration of the most prestigious veneration a person within the Hollywood elite can have bestowed upon them, The Oscars never fail to impress.

This year, a whopping nine films, which all vary in genre, plot, and tone, were nominated by the Academy for Best Picture. From a female linguist deciphering an alien language with the hopes of uniting international – and interstellar – communities ("Arrival") to three brilliant African-American women turning 1960s NASA on its head as they also take on space, as well as workplace discrimination ("Hidden Figures"), stories featuring women – whether by virtue of history or for the sake of it – solving problems that men couldn't tackle were recognized by the Academy. "Hidden Figures" isn't the only historical piece on display; "Hacksaw Ridge" tells the grim story of a pacifist doctor charged with aiding wounded soldiers in World War Two, while "Fences," originally a play, details the life of a disenfranchised black man trying to support his family during the 1950s.

A Western ("Hell or High Water") and a musical ("La La Land") were thrown in for good measure, along with a larger than life film based on an Indian man's true story of family and self discovery ("Lion"). And while some of the aforementioned films are inspiring and wonderful to behold, others are more painful: "Moonlight" follows Chiron, a black and gay impoverished man living in Miami through three stages of his life, as he challenges notions of masculinity and identity, an uncomfortable but necessary tale that deals with intersecting minority groups and the stigmas they hold; "Manchester by the Sea's" cool and damp setting of coastal New England



serves as the perfect backdrop for a story about death and male kinship.

"La La Land," directed by Damien Chazelle and starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, was nominated for 14 awards, tying with "Titanic" for the most nominations ever received for a single film. With its lavish sets and whimsical musical numbers, "La La Land" is the popular choice for Best Picture, while Emma Stone and Damien Chazelle are both frontrunners for the Best Actress and Best Director awards, respectively.

It makes sense that the Academy of Motion Pictures – comprised of 17 different branches of film artists – would favorite La La Land, a story that glorifies the audience it most wants to please – Hollywood. It is a musical written about and for the film industry, making it the most appealing – and digestible – film for those judging. The film was fine; Gosling and Stone are no dancers, and at points the film seems to revel in its own greatness a bit too much. If the Academy were to choose a film for its technical cinematic quality, the obvious choice would be "Manchester by the Sea," whose tragic plot and subtle dialogue complement the beautiful scenery and other artistic elements – from music selection to camera choices – made by Director Kenneth Lonergan (who also, by the way, is my personal pick for Best Director). Were the Oscar to go to a film with a social and political message, "Moonlight" would be a shoe-in. However, seeing as both are independent films, and neither gained the pre-Oscars awards momentum that "La La Land" did, the award most likely will go to the film whose tagline is 'City of Stars.' Casey Affleck, nominated for Best Actor for his

work in "Manchester" and Mahershala Ali, who blew audiences away with his supporting role in "Moonlight" are the favorites to win in their respective categories, so each film will ultimately share the spotlight in some capacity.

Unlike last year's Oscars, made famous on social media with the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite (not a single person of color was nominated in any of the acting categories), a record six black actors are nominated in acting categories. Many media sites were quick to announce that inequality within the film industry had been resolved because of the nominations, but such a sentiment is rash and fails to acknowledge real-time aggressions against minority groups. Detractors on social media thought that the Academy had "overcompensated" for the backlash last year and nominated undeserving people of color. Viola Davis, black actor and activist who is the favored contender for the Best Supporting Actress Award responded to these naysayers, saying, "I think that every nominee from Naomie Harris to Octavia Spencer to "Hidden Figures" to "Fences" to "Moonlight" to Mahershala Ali are up there because they deserve to be there. They're not there because of the color of their skin. They put in the work." While The Academy is making strides to be more inclusive, it still has quite a way to go before becoming a more equitable organization; as of 2016, 91 percent of Academy voters are white and 76 percent are male.

You can tune into the Oscars at 8:30pm on February 26, 2017.

SPLIT

OPINION

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

"Split" is the newest movie release from famous thriller director, M. Night Shyamalan, who is the creator behind "Signs," "The Sixth Sense," and "Unbreakable." Released on January 20, "Split" became the #1 movie of the weekend box office, earning over \$40 million dollars alone. The movie centers around three girls being kidnapped by a man who has 24 personalities.

The movie gets straight to the point as we learn about the main protagonist Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy) who is known to get in trouble at school and is different than the average student. While at the mall one day, two friends that go to Casey's school, Claire (Haley Lu Richardson) and Marcia (Jessica Sula) see Casey waiting for a ride. Claire's family then offers to take Casey home. While all three girls wait in the car, a strange man gets in and all three girls are taken to a windowless room in an unknown location. As they are trying to figure out where they are, they soon learn of their abductor's name which is Kevin (James McAvoy). From that moment on, Casey, Claire, and Marcia learn that something is off with Kevin due to his many quirks.

The film also focuses on Kevin's therapist, Dr. Karen Fletcher (Betty Buckley) and her relationship with his 24 personalities. Everyday she meets a different personality of Kevin who are all played by him, only he puts on a new identity each time. Out of all of Kevin's personalities, Dr. Fletcher gets to meet Barry the most. This "alter" personality is of a sketch

artist that has a strong Boston accent. It is in these appointments that Dr. Fletcher notices that Kevin suffers from DID syndrome (dissociative identity disorder).

While he is away the girls make many attempts to escape, but they can never outsmart Kevin. While still stuck in the same enclosed place, the girls get to meet some of Kevin's other personalities. There is Patricia, who is a kind British woman who becomes a mother to the girls; Hedwig, who is a 9 year-old boy who

is obsessed with Kanye West; and Dennis, who is a OCD psychopath. Later in the film Kevin shows the rest of his personalities that include Orwell, who pretends to be this intellectual philosophy professor and Jade, who is supposed to be a diabetic teenager. Out of Kevin's alteregos, Hedwig is the one that comes to visit the girls the most and is the only alter ego that really gives them a chance to escape. Every visit Hedwig makes, he repeatedly tells them "someone's coming for you." The film later addresses that of that someone called "The Beast."

The plot continues to jump back to Dr. Fletcher's progression into understanding Kevin's disorders. She soon learns that there is one personality that Kevin hasn't show yet, but knows it's coming soon. As Dr. Fletcher continues to see Kevin's personalities turn into a bad spiral, she soon finds out how terrifying Kevin and his multiple personalities really are.

While I have enjoyed many of Shyamalan's classic thrillers, "Split" disappointed me at the end. The majority of the movie kept me off the edge of my seat and did contain some humor from Hedwig. However, the film tended to jump a little too much between the plots that surrounded the characters of Kevin, Dr. Fletcher and Casey's past. Overall, "Split" is a good movie to see, but Shyamalan may have missed his mark with this one.



SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Adams HS Newspaper, The Tower. Come in to the Chipotle at **1251 Eddy St. Suite 101** in South Bend on **Thursday, February 16th** between **5:00pm** and **9:00pm**.

Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Adams HS Newspaper, The Tower.



If placing an order online during your fundraiser, please note you must choose the pay in-store option and inform our cashier of your participation before paying. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

HALLWAY PROCEDURE: SHOULD WE BE SURPRISED?

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

Two weeks ago, Principal Seitz interrupted third period to deliver an abrupt announcement. Seitz informed the students and faculty of JA that there is to be “no student in the halls without a pass” and that “any student caught in the halls without a pass will face detention or suspension.” This mid morning broadcast sent both students and teachers into a mental frenzy fueled by general confusion about the hallway policy at JA and what sparked Seitz’s announcement.

Looking back to last school year, the hallway policy put forth by administration at the beginning of 2016 stated students were to be escorted by security guards to and from restrooms and offices during the class period. Principal Seitz says that the previous policy, “became too much of a management issue on [administration’s] end.” This policy was discontinued and voided from this year’s hallway expectations, however, the startling announcement two weeks ago reinforces an already existing expectation that has been set by administration since the beginning of the school year. According to Seitz, “Nothing has happened or changed security wise, nothing happen with safety, we just looked at the [attendance data] and if we can cut down on kids roaming the halls and reduce single-period absences,, attendance numbers will continue to rise.”

Attendance has been the most frequently expressed initiative the administration has put forth this school year. After SBCSC implemented Credit Recovery Intervention (CRI), Adams’ administration has enforced and prioritized the importance of attending and staying at school. According to Seitz, “we’re at an overall 89 percent attendance rate.” While this number is up from last school

year, at an 85 percent attendance rate, Seitz would like to “see it somewhere around 92 percent ideally.” Cracking down and enforcing an already existing policy is one measure Seitz believes will lead JA to that goal of a 92 percent attendance rate.

“Students may not always believe this, but every decision that I make, every decision the faculty makes, is in the best interest of the students,” said Seitz. In his three years as principal, Seitz has encouraged many policies that were previously lacking in enforcement. In the last three years, the number of fights and overall safety issues have dropped by 79 to 80 percent. “[What I’m most proud of is that] I think that we’ve helped create an environment where students are comfortable [at school] thus allowing them to focus on academics,” said Seitz.

SKI CLUB

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

While many people dread the seemingly eternal winter months of snow and cold, the members of the John Adams high school Ski Club fully embrace it. After being without a ski club for years, John Adams has finally renewed one with the help of facilitator Mrs. Freel, a guidance counselor at Adams. The JA Ski Club meets every Friday at school and rides a bus to Swiss Valley Ski Area where the skiers -or snowboarders- can take on the slopes with their friends.

Despite the abnormally warm winter the Midwest has had this year, the club has managed to pull off a great year with skiing three out of the four past weeks. Students can join the Ski Club for the price of \$180. This may seem like a high price, but \$180 is in fact cheaper than what it would typically cost to go alone for seven sessions at Swiss Valley. Actually, Ski Club members receive a \$5.00 discount on lift tickets, as well as safe transportation.

Located about one hour away in Jones, Michigan, Swiss Valley is the most diverse ski

area with a fairly close proximity to South Bend. Consisting of three unique “intermediate” runs, a beginner hill, two terrain parks, and an “expert” or black diamond slope, Swiss is sure to suit just about any skier or snowboarder. The staff works around the clock at Swiss to ensure fresh powdery snow on all the runs, regardless of the adverse weather conditions. The slopes, in combination with the comfortable and warm lodge, inexpensive cafeteria, and attentive ski patrol staff, makes Swiss the perfect place for JA ski club.

In addition to a great price and transportation to Swiss Valley, new skiers and snowboarders can take lessons for free from the knowledgeable instructors at Swiss. Sophomore at JA and first time skier Stanley Rozenblit explained, “I never skied before, but the helpful instructors at Swiss Valley helped me learn some of the fundamental skills to skiing.” Rozenblit continued, “Only halfway through ski club I was able to go from not being able to put on my skis to safely conquering one of the hardest hills Swiss has to offer.” Seasoned skier Olivia Wheeler, also a sophomore at JA, said that, “It is a great way to meet new people and make friends that love the same activities as you.” With all this being said, Ski Club is an amazing experience for novice and skilled riders alike.

The season will be wrapping up within the next month, so students can no longer sign up for this year’s Ski Club. However, next year Ski Club will once again be taking on winter in full force.

If anyone happens to be interested in the wonderful winter fun that is Ski Club, please contact Mrs. Freel at mfreel@sbcsc.k12.in.us. We look forward to seeing you on the slopes next year!

SUPER BOWL LI

FALCONS V. PATRIOTS

OPINION

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

Super Bowl LI, a matchup between the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots, took place at Houston's NRG Stadium on February 5, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. The actresses made famous for their portrayals as the original Schuyler Sisters of the Broadway musical "Hamilton," Renee Elise Goldsberry, Phillipa Soo, and Jasmine Cephas Jones, kicked off the game by performing a beautiful rendition of "America, the Beautiful." The 'sisters' also took the opportunity and added "and sisterhood" after the line "crown thy good with brotherhood... from sea to shining sea."

Super Bowl LI then commenced after the memorable coin toss by Former President George H.W. Bush, which the Falcons won, giving the Patriots the ball. The majority of the game was disappointing for Pats fans, as it was dominated by the Falcons', who have only been to two Super Bowls. In the first half of the Super Bowl, the Falcons took the lead with a 28-3 score. Late into the second quarter, the Falcons led 21-0; 28-9 to start the final quarter; and 28-20 at the two-minute warning. The game picked up when the Patriots overcame a 25 point deficit, taking the game into overtime. The Patriots ended up winning Super Bowl LI with a 34-28 score. The 31 unanswered points in the amazing comeback cements the Patriots' legacy as the greatest NFL franchise of the 21st century.

The Patriots broke many records during Super Bowl LI. They overcame the largest deficit and played in the first overtime game in Super Bowl history, leading to Quarterback Tom Brady winning his fifth ring. Brady also set the Super Bowl record for passing yards with 416 yards. Brady also placed in the fifty biggest comeback lists with four insurmountable comebacks. Both the memorable and lucky plays of the Super Bowl LI definitely made February 5, 2017, a night to remember.

The halftime show was performed by Lady Gaga and was a performance to remember. There was speculation that Lady Gaga, an outspoken advocate for LGBT and women's rights, would use the opportunity to voice her dislike of President Trump on Sunday night. Instead, the pop star performed a gymnastic set that showed its sentiment through song. She then announced the details of a huge world tour, the icing on the cake for her fans. While standing on top of the roof of the stadium and having the American flag illuminated in the sky behind her and sang "God Bless America," as a subtle message of inclusion and unity in a deeply divided United States. She included "God Bless America" and part of the "This Land is Your Land" to express her thoughts on the nation's recent issues. She then swung down from the roof to the stage on cables and performed a choreographed thirteen minute set of her greatest hits. After her poignant opening, she performed her older hit songs: "Edge of Glory," "Poker Face," "Born This Way" - perhaps a jab at the Trump administration - "Telephone," "Just Dance," "Million Reasons," and ended the show with "Bad Romance."

The exciting game between the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots combined with the amazing performances throughout the night made Super Bowl LI one of the best yet.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: SAMMI JANKOWSKI

KAYLAN PARKER - REPORTER

Samantha Jankowski, known by her friends as Sammi, is the starting point guard for John Adams High School girls varsity basketball team. Sammi has been playing basketball for about seven years. When she was in the sixth grade, she decided that she wanted to become more active, so she picked up a basketball and has never put it down. Throughout the years, Sammi played travel basketball for the Arena Heat where she developed her game. When she played for her travel team she traveled all over winning different basketball tournaments throughout the Indiana area. Sammi said, "I love playing basketball and when I played with my AAU team I got to travel to Chicago and other almost every weekend."

After going to Corpus Christi, Sammi attended Saint Joseph's High School for her freshman year. During her time at Saint Joe, Sammi played for the junior varsity team and dressed varsity. At Saint Joe, she did not feel comfortable on the team and she wanted to go to a school and play for a team where the chemistry was unbreakable. Sammi said, "Adams was the right choice because the team is more like a family rather than just a basketball program." After her Freshman year, Sammi made a life changing decision to transfer to Adams.

Over the summer, Sammi attended open gyms with the team. She only knew a few people that she played with before that was on the team. Finally, after participating in the open gyms for a while, she became a little more comfortable when talking to her new teammates. When the actual season started Sammi adjusted well to the new surroundings and was the leading scorer on the team where she also scored 38 points against Oregon Davis in a game the lady eagles won. Sammi proudly stated, "that day I just felt like I could not miss a shot and my teammates gave me the ball every time I was open."

Now that it is Sammi's senior year she has new expectations and that is to win the State championship. The team is currently 15-7 with a winning record and on Tuesday January 31st they will be playing Mishawaka in the first sectional

game. Sammi is really confident that her team can go all the way. She recently stated that, "My team WILL win the sectionals this year. There is no team that has the same skill level as me and my teammates, we all contribute to the wins and we jell together easily on and off the court."

After the season is over, Sammi will be focused on where she is going to college. Currently, she has not made a decision on where she is going, but she has two schools in mind the University of Tampa or IU Bloomington. Unfortunately, this will be her last year playing basketball, which is why this sectional win is very important to her and her teammates.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: MIKE GREEN

KENNEDI KYLE - REPORTER

As Mike Green begins to reflect on the previous three years he has played varsity basketball, he realize how special these years have been. The love and passion he has for the game is expressed through his performance on the court. Senior captain Mike Green hopes to leave the underclassmen basketball players with something that will live on for years, and that is a state title.

Basketball to Green is like breathing. He started playing the game at the tender age of 5 years old. Since that age, he has always dreamt of playing in the NBA. Like all dreams, there is always an important negative flaw that could stop you from reaching your goals, and for Mike that flaw was his height.

Green did not let negative feedback as such stop him from growing in the sport that he loves. Mike said, "Isaiah Thomas is 5'10" just like me, and all his life he has been told that he was too small and would never go to the NBA. Now he plays for the Boston Celtics, so anything is possible if you put the work in." Along with professional NBA player, Isaiah Thomas, varsity coach Milt Cooper is someone who has influence his game remarkably. The fourth year varsity basketball player cherishes the bond that he has with his 'brothers,' he goes on to say that everyone is very close which is sometimes rare to see.

One massive hurdle Green had to overcome was filling the shoes of his older brother

and former Adams varsity basketball player, Roosevelt Green Jr., also known as Lil Rosey. Mike said, "I remember people always saying 'you would never be as good as him.' But it was just more motivation to complement my game." Green also mentioned about Rosey, "He worked me out everyday. I asked him why are you doing this, his response was because I never had somebody to work with me besides dad who pushed me so now in pushing you because I want you to be better than I was." This was another source of fuel to put in Mike's tank that made him a better person and player.

Now that senior year is nearing its end, Green is weighing his options as far as college, but he plans to play in college. He will leave Adams with his career high of 35 points and a wonderful example of a pure leader. He has been blessed to have several basketball offers such as Saint Joseph University, Ancilla College, Jamestown University, Manchester University, Earlham University, and Bethel College. His main focus after high school is to assure that his family is good and to always work harder than others on and off the court. Mike would like to encourage all students, staff, alumni, basketball lovers to come and support the Eagles. Some upcoming games are February 4th against Michigan City, February 7th against Saint Joseph, and February 10th against Mishawaka.

If any student or staff member would like to express an opinion in *The Tower*, we encourage you to submit a Letter to the Editor.

For details, see the Editorial Policy on page 2.