

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



Thursday, March 15th, 2018

STUDENT-PRODUCED * SINCE 1940

Dear Tower readers: remember, if you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, we are always accepting them. See details on page 2.

March For Our Lives Walking (and Speaking) Out

CLAIRE STOWE - REPORTER

With the Parkland, Florida tragedy still echoing in our minds, events both locally and nationally have been organized to show solidarity to victims of gun violence and to urge for a change in gun legislation. After the shooting, many student survivors began and participated in many forms of activism, including organizing protests and speaking out to politicians. The March for Our Lives, organized by these Parkland students, has received national attention and has spread to many schools and communities throughout the country. Part of this movement was the National Walkout Day, March 14, which Adams participated in.

Adams is one of these many schools. The newly-formed Social Action for Student Safety [SASS] group organized a walkout March 14 at 10 AM, just one of the many that happened simultaneously across the country. Several hundred Adams students participated. The walkout was supported by the administration and those in attendance faced no consequences, as long as they stayed on school property. The walkout featured several speakers from the community, including Lynn Coleman, Chasten Glezman, Liz Anderson, and Angela Tanner. Leadership board member Zoe Gezelter commented, "There were far more people than we expected - and we were super impressed with the people that came. [...] They were more respectful, motivated, and educated than many of the adults in our community."

SASS leadership board members Logan Reimbold-Thomas gave an opening speech in English, Rebekah Amaya gave an opening speech in Spanish, and Kaity Radde gave a closing speech. They were quoted on the cover of the next day's South Bend Tribune, showing that they were seen and heard by the larger community.

Reimbold-Thomas and Amaya both called for policy change and civic action by youth, saying, "We want assault weapons bans, and bump stock bans, and mandatory background checks, and waiting periods. We want change [...] and we will not rest until we get it."

Radde had a similar message in her closing, calling on students to register to vote and continue using their voices: "As we have demonstrated this

morning, we are here, we are educated, and we will not be intimidated into silence by anything, least of all those who value guns over human lives. [...] If we don't act now, we will have to act later."

Across the country, students involved in activism have been receiving some negative responses. Many adults have been criticizing students attempting to speak out by calling them "unqualified" and "uninformed" - the Adams walkout was specifically called "dopey" on Twitter. This is an obstacle which the national walkouts are ready to tackle and to overcome. "Nationally right now, young people are receiving a lot of backlash because people don't think we're very aware of what we're doing, but I think the whole point of having a walkout that is organized by students and is for students is that we do know what we're talking about," Amaya says. "We want to be vocal about these issues because we are tired. Enough really is enough, and we need to stand up for what we



believe in."

Since the Parkland shooting, the government's idleness and lack of action has been magnified by these protests and walkouts, which have been focused on urging the government to take action in changing gun legislation. Amaya and Lochmondy believe that the actions of the students are going to help force the government to take a stronger stance on gun issues: "Kids are not afraid to stand up. We're not going to sit back. We want to be involved in legislation that affects us."

The politicians of the country have not been taking any actions to protect us. They have not been using any of their power to protect our schools, the primary places where safety should always be guaranteed. "Being safe in a school is not a privilege, it's a right," Amaya says. Furthermore, politicians need to see that if they want to retain their positions, they need to understand the influence that we, as students, are beginning to have and the

power that we are beginning to wield. They need to finally begin to make changes to accommodate us.

"We are the next generation of voters, a lot of us are already registering to vote. We are the voters that are either going to be keeping politicians in office or taking them out," Amaya said. However, even for the students not eligible to vote yet, there are so many actions to take part in. "We need to inform the kids that aren't able to vote that they can still write letters and can still do all sorts of things to make sure that their voice is being heard. You're not too young to be using your first amendment rights," Lochmondy said.

Lochmondy and Amaya also hope to strengthen school security measures simultaneously to showing solidarity and instigating change. "Nobody really follows a lot of the security policies here, and that's a big reason why we have so many security issues, and why threats are even more scary. We know that none of the policies in place are going to prevent anything from happening or keep us any safer," Amaya said, hoping the walkout will also influence change within the school. "There's no point of IDs if no one is going to check them, there's no point in having security guards if every single person is going to be let in," Lochmondy commented similarly.

Adams was joined by many schools across the community walking out on March 14. Penn High School organized a large walkout, as has Washington High School and Clay High School. The administration of the catholic St. Joseph High School told the students that they were not allowed to participate, however there were several students who still planned to walk out.

Contrary to many beliefs, "this isn't a partisan issue. It's about human rights," Amaya comments. Amaya and Lochmondy are adamant that the March For Our Lives movement should not be considered partisan or confined to one side of the political spectrum. "This isn't far-left versus far-right, it's about the safety for our school," Lochmondy said.

The March For Our Lives movement is only the first step in making the changes that need to be made. John Adams Social Action for Student Safety encourages everyone to continue speaking out, writing letters and making calls to politicians, and joining their student-led organization to become more politically involved. We need to get involved, stay involved, and make the changes we need. We need to show the country that we will not let other things be prioritized over our safety.

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

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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 jnowicki2@sbcsc.k12.in.us, or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenhams Dr. Letters to the Editor for Issue Twelve must be submitted by March 23.

Editorials are written by the Editorial Board of *The Tower* (comprised of Kaity Radde, Casey Carroll, and Alicia Koszyk) and are designated as such.

The Tower thanks the *Herald-Palladium* 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

10 Things You Should Know about Gun Violence and Control in America

CARA LOCHMONDY AND AMARA BALL

The walkout on Wednesday, and the events occurring throughout our country since the Parkland shooting, have raised a lot of questions about gun violence and gun laws. We created this list to help lay out the facts.

1. Walking out will not affect your admission status at most colleges, and your high school cannot punish you any differently than if you were skipping class for any other reason. This is why no one got punished for walking out on Wednesday, and why no one got punished for walking out for DACA in September.

2. Students have First Amendment rights because, during the Vietnam War, Mary Beth Tinker and her friends wore armbands to peacefully protest the showing of deaths on TV. The school board tried to stop the group, but the Supreme Court ruled that they did have those rights, and today we have those rights as well.

3. In order to buy a gun in the United States today, the only requirement is that one passes an instant background check that includes criminal convictions, domestic violence and immigration status. Other restrictions vary by state.

4. Roughly a third of American gun owners buy guns without a background check, which federal law does not require when buying directly from a private seller.

5. In most countries around the world, the process to obtain a firearm is much more difficult. Typically, the first step is to join a hunting or shooting club. Most countries also require each individual to take courses and pass a written exam on firearm safety. There are also extended waiting periods, re-

sulting in it taking months to obtain a gun.²

6. In Australia, there was a mass shooting in 1996 which left 35 people dead. After that, Prime Minister John Howard said "We have an opportunity in this country not to go down the American path." They immediately changed their gun laws, which now require each individual to join a hunting or shooting club, complete a course and pass a test on firearm safety, create firearm storage that passes all requirements, pass a background check (which might include authorities interviewing family members), apply for a permit, and then wait 28 days before being able to purchase a gun. To this day there has not been another mass shooting in Australia.

7. According to FBI data from 2013, incidents in schools and businesses represent 7 out of 10 active shootings.

8. The Gun Control Act of 1968 says guns are not allowed to be given to: criminals, a person on the "wanted" list, someone addicted to substances, a mentally ill person, or an illegal immigrant. However, the majority of mass shootings are caused by people who fall into one of these categories, especially the mentally ill category.

9. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, there are 88.8 firearms for every 100 people in the United States, ranking the US highest on the list. Second highest is Norway, with 31.3 firearms for every 100 people. The United States, then, has 283% more firearms for every 100 people than the second leading country.

10. While Parkland and other school shootings are inexcusable tragedies, it is impoverished communities that are disproportionately affected by gun violence. Parkland, Florida has the money and resources to start the revolution needed to avoid something like this happening again anywhere else, rich or poor.

We ask that you do not take this information lightly- if it makes you angry, upset, scared, or feel any other emotion, channel it into efforts to get things in our country changed. As young people, it is our job to make this country better for future generations. We should not have to come to school, the mall, the movies, or to work in fear of losing our lives. We need to protect our people, and we need to make gun laws stricter.

Mock Trial State Recap

SIERRA WEAVER - REPORTER

The Indiana Mock Trial State Competition was held on March 3 and 4. The competition was comprised of three rounds held on March 3 and one round and a championship round on March 4. The competition is set up as a tournament. A team's placement and opponent for each round is determined by a number of things, the main deciding factor being wins. There were 24 teams from twelve schools in the 2018 competition. Of these twelve teams, seven were from Adams. Adams had three teams that placed in the top 10. Birden of Proof (junior team) placed third, Third Syndicate (senior team) placed fourth, and Case Closed (senior team) placed seventh. In addition, Blind Justice (sophomore team) placed eleventh, Gucci Ghosts (sophomore team) placed 15th, Scape Ghosts (senior, junior, and sophomore team) placed 19th, and Interrogreats (freshman team) placed 21st.

Being able to compete at state is determined by regional competitions. Indiana holds three throughout the state. State is a much different experience than regionals, as told by Niki Hakimzadeh, a member of Third Syndicate, who said, "At state you get to be in the courthouse, you feel like you're in an actual trial, [...] against good teams that actually qualified to make it there." Mia Utayde, another member of Third Syndicate, followed this up by saying, "You get the real experience when you're in an actual courtroom." Anna Guzik and Coco Castellanet, members of Interrogreats, spoke more towards their experiences as freshmen. Anna Guzik stated, "If you go when you're a younger team, you know what to expect in the future, so as you get more serious about it, you can stress less about the minor details of State and worry about doing well." Coco Castellanet stated, "It's really great to learn from more experienced teams [...] It's a great experience! Even if you get destroyed by older teams, you get to see what State is like." Indy Brown, a member of Case Closed, explained why the state competition is such a great experience overall, "You see all your work pay off. Within two days, you see everything you've worked on for months just

finally pay off [...] We all get really into the case, so it's really fun."

The experience of State is one of the largest parts of the competition, but of course scoring is also very important. When discussing placement, everyone seemed generally happy about their performances at state. Niki Hakimzadeh stated, "This year was really our best year. Our performance was amazing. We can't change what the results are, but there's nothing more we could've asked from anyone on our team." Mia Utayde explained, "Everyone was very content with how we performed. Whether or not we got the place we wanted, we're still very happy with how we did." When asked about placement, Indy Brown stated, "At the end of the day, I couldn't have asked anymore out of any of my teammates or myself [...] If we all went up there and gave the best trial of our lives last round, that's all I could ask for." Ethan Lindley, a member of Birden of Proof, said, "We were pretty happy as a junior team with how we did. There was some controversy with the scores, but we're not taking it too harshly."

The scores were released a day after the competition ended and caused quite a controversy. Ethan Lindley explained this by stating, "They counted it [scores] up by point differential, rather than points. Point differential is how much you win over other teams, rather than the actual sum of all the points. It's against the rules actually." He also discussed how it would have been difficult to change, "The issue is that they structured the whole competition and also a few regionals that way [...] I think they should've done something, I'm not sure what they would have done though. Besides that, we really enjoyed our experience and just tried to have fun." Just looking at the fourth round, the error in scoring most definitely affected who played in the final round. Niki Hakimzadeh also talked about the scoring, "The whole thing was incorrect, the entire competition was scored that way. They would've had to redo the whole thing." Indy Brown talked about scoring the scoring system overall, "Some of the smartest people in the state of Indiana can't figure out how to score a mock trial competition. I think it's weird how they did it and I think they need to come up with a better system [...] to ensure that everyone gets put in the right spot, and with all the controversy this year [...] If they came up with a better system and stuck through it the

whole weekend, it would be better for everybody."

Through all the scoring and placing discussions, it seems like everyone had a good time at state. The experiences seem to be what people hold on to the most and having the experience of state outweighs any sort of scoring mistakes.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Patrik Bauer

SAMI MIRZA - REPORTER

The aptly named John Adams Mock Trial, Third Syndicate, is led this year by one of the mainstays, Patrik Bauer.

Bauer has competed in Mock Trial all four years at Adams. Third Syndicate was one of the few teams that qualified for the state competition their freshman year, although they placed 24th out of 24 teams. The following year, Third Syndicate placed third at State, which is impressive for a sophomore team. Junior year led to another third-place finish, which was capped off with a victory in regionals. When asked about his feelings on this year's results Bauer said, "No place would have made me more happy. It's about consistency." Third Syndicate placed third again this year.

According to Bauer, "Over the last four years, some aspects feel undeserved and some feel deserved." He also added that "success in Mock Trial tends to be arbitrary." The sentiment is understandable, given the scoring system for Mock Trial. Each individual element of the team's performance is scored at the discretion of the scoring judge. One judge might give an 8 or 9, where another may give 10 or a 7. While this may not seem like much, a single point could decide a ballot, and a single ballot could decide the state champion.

When asked what advice he had for new Mock Trial members, Bauer had the following: "If [they] do it, they shouldn't follow the mold of what's commonly accepted as 'good' Mock Trial. They should try to be as renegade as they can be. It's about what appeals to people, not fitting a mold." Appealing to people is the bread and butter of argument and persuasion, and appealing to the jury is the bread and butter of lawyering.

Oscars Recap

ANNA TARNER - REPORTER

As the snow melts and flowers bloom for spring, in comes The Oscars season. This year's awards brought up themes of feminism, inclusion, empowerment, and being accepting of the differences in everyone, as shown through Keala Settle singing the award-winning ballad "This is Me," from the musical The Greatest Showman, which came out this past December. She sings "When the sharpest words wanna cut me down/I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out/I am brave, I am bruised/I am who I'm meant to be, this is me." She, along with countless others that night, preach that our differences are things to be proud of.

As alluring as they are, articles on "Best and Worst Dressed of the Oscars" in places like People magazine, aren't really what this night is about, (although some stars did make eye catching appearances in their wardrobe choices, like 89 year old Angés Varga who attended clad in Gucci pajamas). The Oscars award stars and creators of films from all over to celebrate their accomplishments in making great films. Jimmy Kimmel hosted for a second year in a row, and although he received some backlash for his feud with Donald Trump, he still, managed to make us all laugh, and handed out some well-deserved awards. The Shape of Water grabbed a few awards with "Best Picture" award, "Best Director" was awarded to Guillermo del Toro for the film, as well as one of the stars, Sally Hawkins, receiving runner up for best actress to Frances McDormand for Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri. The animated film "Coco" also won several awards such as "Best Original Song" and "Best Animated Picture."

Overall, The 2018 Oscars ratings weren't as high as previous years, but they still, as always, managed to pull attention for the awards presented for this past year's films.

The South Bend Civic Theatre's Production of "In the Heights"

JULIANNE GROWHOWSKI - REPORTER

Starting on March 9 and showing until March 25, the South Bend Civic Theater is presenting the famous Broadway musical "In The Heights" at the Wilson Auditorium in downtown South Bend. "Different, unique, and enthusiastic" is how this musical is described by audience members and is definitely not one to miss whether you are usually a fan of musical theater or not.

The musical highlights and describes the Latin culture and community in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City in the year 2008. One of the main character's names is Usnavi and he is a caretaker for the aging Cuban lady next door, referred to as Abuela. He expresses his big dreams of winning the lottery and escaping to the shores of his home, the Dominican Republic. Meanwhile, Nina, a childhood friend of his, has returned to the neighborhood from her first year at college with surprising news from her parents that she lost her scholarship and dropped out. Nina's parents have spent their life savings on building a better life for their daughter. Throughout the play there are some love connections that eventually fall out, but, all in all, this musical showcases what it is like to be home for this group of close-knit neighbors.

The South Bend Civic Theater is locally known for putting on great per-

formances with the talent of local musical theater performers. One of the cast members in the musical is Rachel Thomas, who has been involved in the performing arts practically her whole life. Her sister, Theresa Thomas, went to a performance this past weekend and was blown away by the professionalism of the local actors and actresses, stating, "The set for this show was very professional and well done. All of the actors were on the same level and they were exceptionally good and well trained." Also commenting on the overall vibe of the show, she says "I enjoyed it a lot and the energy it brought was real and enthusiastic!"

The 30 actors that make up the cast of "In the Heights" are a "very diverse cast; racially and in terms of age and life status" Thomas told me in an interview. Some actors even came from Latin countries such as Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic which make the show more authentic and adds more character.

Make sure to look into this exciting and unique performance while it's here, because some shows have been sold out already!



State of the City

KAITY RADDE - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On March 13, Mayor Pete Buttigieg gave the annual State of the City address. The address took place here at John Adams High School's auditorium.

His speech packed the auditorium as he discussed the city's recent projects such as those combating homelessness and the Smart Streets program. The problems in our city were addressed, notably street crime and gun violence. Expressing confidence that South Bend can do the work to ensure the safety of our city, he said, "South Bend [can be] an exception to the national pattern" of increasing gun violence.

He received a standing ovation when he commended students and young people in the community for their activism in response to the Parkland, Florida shooting and the larger problem of gun violence. He called the movement of young people raising their voices like those at Adams' walkout and all of the National Walkout Day demonstrations on March 14 "a voice of moral clarity" deserving of support. John Adams Social Action for Student Safety sent members of their leadership board to view the speech, and they appreciated Buttigieg's support of not only this specific cause but also of young people becoming more civically active.

He also discussed upcoming projects that will further improve South Bend, such as the extension of access to city wifi. There will also be technological improvements to other public departments, such as the street department, to begin to close the "digital divide."

In short, a major takeaway was the mayor's point that "our city's momentum is extraordinary. We have a lot to celebrate and we have our work cut out for us." Buttigieg's words helped to renew and enliven the community's determination to improve our city while appreciating the progress we have already made and are currently making.

Jazz Band Competition

SETH KIRKPATRICK - REPORTER

Recently, the JAHS Jazz Bands, both one and two, have received highly scored awards at both of their competitions. On March 3, John Adam's Jazz Two participated in this year's ISSMA contest and came back with a gold medal, making both the director, Ms. Zolvinski, and the students, pleased with their performance.

On March 10, Jazz One went down to Fort Wayne to perform in the Northrop Jazz Competition.

Northrop is one of Indiana's best jazz bands, winning a multitude of awards throughout a total of 45 years, and this contest has some of the most strict judges in the state. To their surprise, Jazz One received a gold rating from each of the three judges at the event. This was both beneficial for the students and first year director, Ms. Ronfeldt.

Many schools performed at

this event, including Northside, Jefferson and Northrop High School. John Adams arrived to the competition with 3 songs prepared. This included Blue Rondo A La Turk, La Suerte De Los Tontos, and Brass Machine. Each of these difficult songs were practiced rigorously by each of the students, down to where each individual musician came to a peak of articulation.

The competition frightened and struck nerves in many people, including the soloists. This included Elizabeth Mellor, Danny Shemesh, Mya Thomas, Seth Kirkpatrick, and an eighth grader, Reed Metoyer. However, even with the terror of missing a beat, or a note, each of the soloists received high scores from the judges and did very well individually. After performing, the school held a clinic, hosted by a professional jazz band called, Farmland Jazz Band. The band's theme, as stated in the name, has more of a country vibe to it, yet it took old fashioned 1920's jazz songs and played them beautifully. The brothers, Ed Renz and John Renz both had great pointers for how to play solos during pieces, and demonstrated great musical ability on the clarinet and drum set.

At the end of it all, the Farmland Jazz Band performed for all the competitors, and to not too much surprise, the small band of seven was able to "out jazz" all of the 20 member high school jazz bands as well as giving each student inspiration and a visual on what to achieve for. At the end of their performance, they invited all the students onstage to play "When The Saints" in a jazz format with them. It was a very warm and happy moment for the competition as a whole, as each student showed of their talent while playing the song.

It was an honor for John Adams High School to represent South Bend in this competition, and with the gold rating that the school received, it allows the students to be even more excited for the next year.

Tune in to the NEW **JOHN ADAMS SCHOOL** Podcast -



RADIOTOWER

Link:

soundcloud.com/jaradiotower

Hosted by:

**Seth Kirkpatrick
Claire Hargis
and Matthew Carbonaro**

Congratulations to the
February Hernandez Puzzlers
winner,

Sam Burns

MRS. HERNANDEZ'S PUZZLERS

March 15, 2018

Name: _____

Grade: _____

THE RULES: All students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate. We are an equal-opportunity awarder.

1. Finish one or more puzzlers to the best of your abilities. You may **not** use any Internet-abled device to search for the answer. Use your brain instead.

2. Turn in the completed puzzler(s) to IB Mrs. Hernandez's office 2117 (blue folder outside the door) with your name and grade on it (or just name, faculty) within two weeks of publication date.

3. All puzzlers that are completed will be entered into a drawing once a month for a TEENY TINY PRIZE. All correct answers will be entered for a drawing once a quarter for an EVER-SO-SLIGHTLY LARGER PRIZE.

SUDOKU

Each puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid containing given clues in various places. The object is to fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

3			7	4			6	1
		6	1	9		3		
	2				3			
		3	6			9	4	
	6	4			1	5		
			8				5	
		7		2	5	1		
5	8			7	4			3

Source: websudoku.com

LATERAL THINKING

Answer this lateral thinking puzzler.

A farmer has to get a sack of corn, a chicken, and a fox across a river. The farmer is only able to bring one of the above items along with him at a time. The only problem is if he leaves the fox alone with the chicken, the fox will eat the chicken, and if he leaves the chicken alone with the corn sack, then the chicken will eat the corn. How does the farmer get all 3 items across the river safely?

Source: iriddler.com

LOGIC PROBLEM: Research Papers by Shelly Hazard

Johnny had a research paper due at school right after the holidays. He felt a little better when he discovered that his best friends also had papers due. They were in different classes this year so didn't see each other much in school, though they spent virtually all of their time outside of school together. They weren't too surprised that they all had research papers due. The odd part was that each paper, from their different classes, was due on a different day of the same week. Determine the full name of each friend, which class subject each paper was for, and what day of the week each research paper was due.

- 1. The history paper was due on Wednesday.
- 2. Curtis didn't have a last name of Parker.
- 3. The Russian language paper was due the day before Mr. Garret's paper and three days before Johnny had a paper due.
- 4. The boy taking the English literature class wasn't Jeremy North. The paper for the economics class was due on Tuesday but it wasn't the paper that Will needed to turn in.
- 5. Nathan, whose last name wasn't Setmire, didn't have a paper due on Monday.
- 6. Jeremy's paper was due two days after Mr. Parker's was due, but the day before the boy whose last name was Wright had to turn in his physics research paper.

First Name	Last Name	Class Subject	Day of the Week

Source: unipuzzle.com