

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



Thursday, October 13th, 2016

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B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S GROUP

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

The Brothers Reaching Out To Help Evolve Respect in Society (B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S) organization at John Adams is a group that was established with the intent to raise the morale of black male students. Over the last few years, the group has grown in racial diversity and has become an organization that accommodates other minority groups as well as some caucasian students. The group is led by a handful of male students who hope that by encouraging one another to succeed and motivating each other to reach their highest potential, they can disprove the negative stereotypes associated with black males and other minority groups. Senior leader Colin Daniels is extremely proud to be a leader of such a positive group. Daniels describes B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S as a group that was "formed around volunteering throughout the community and throughout the school." Daniels continued, "I feel like our mission is to change the stereotypes surrounding black males, those stereotypes that seem to be accepted throughout the world. We really just try to battle those stereotypes."

The B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S group looks to one another for motivation and strength. "Within the group we have really great conversations. We know that we are going to be challenged," Daniels said. "I feel like the biggest problem is people don't want to admit that they are challenged. They want to believe that everything is fine. The first challenge is admitting that something is wrong, that there are problems, and then you identify them and then you try to combat that." The group meets a few times a week to have open conversations about the struggles they face individually in their lives. The B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S group acts as a support system, something that the members can look to for help and peace. They discuss problems ranging from grades to serious home-life struggles are able to

be shared in an open, accepting space. Daniels wants the community to know, "B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S isn't just a way for kids to get out of class. Even though these kids are getting out of class, we're working on something that serves a greater purpose. For some of these kids, it's their only place to really shine...These are skills they can use for the rest of their lives. They really get to use their voice."

The group emphasizes their space as being a place where kids can be open and confident in their voice - specifically a place for kids who may not feel comfortable enough to speak up in class or voice their opinion in an IB classroom that is predominantly white. It is clear that racial diversity within the IB and AP programs at John Adams is very low- in fact, in many IB classrooms the number of minority students can be counted on one hand. Daniels and the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. group hope to see the number of minority students in higher level academic programs rise. "In the group, we have black males in IB, guys that play three sports, guys that are leaders. We would like to see the number of students like them grow," Daniels said. There is no logical reason as to why the lack of racial diversity in IB and AP exists. According to Daniels, what it comes down to is the inherent feeling of intimidation that is instilled within minority students from the get-go.

In the past year, the nation-wide Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has impacted the country, but its media coverage has been clouded by the presidential election. In class, more time is spent discussing the nominees' recent quotes rather than acknowledging the truly historical movements happening in this country. "As far as a movement like Black Lives Matter, that movement started just from small groups just like

ours. A kid in the group brought up how the movement could really impact history, but it can only go so far without a leader or someone to be the voice of the movement," Daniels said. The B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S group fights to discourage the stereotype of the violent, black male. The BLM movement has gone without a named leader and because of this, many sub segments of the movement have become violent, perpetuating a stereotype many groups are trying to discourage. "Once a spokesperson exists, a strong, peaceful movement can exist...rather than riots, and it can be peaceful, that's something that would be good for this country...but see the problem lies with political leaders failing to acknowledge the movement," Daniels said.

Some citizens have publicly challenged Black Lives Matter via social media and criticized the movement for being too exclusive. Opposers of the BLM movement have recently created a new movement- All Lives Matter. "The group pays deep attention to issues like this," Daniels said. "We agree that yes, all lives do matter. We're saying that black lives matter also. Black lives are what matter right now." Daniels gives an analogy as to what this statement looks like in our country. He describes the movement as functioning like bones in the body. "All bones in the body matter, right? Well, black lives are like a broken arm, and if you break your arm, that's the bone that matters right now. And while yes, the rest of the body is still functioning, you won't be the same and you won't be as strong until that bone is mended and fixed."

To join B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S., contact Colin Daniels. Follow the group on Twitter @jahsBROTHERS. For the link to the full interview with Colin Daniels, go to @taylor_sumiko on Twitter.



THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

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TRADE: HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW?

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

In this particularly polarizing election season, there are several issues that have increasingly divided the two major political parties and the nation as a whole. These include the economy, immigration, gun violence, and national security. There is one topic, however, that has recently been beleaguered and vilified by candidates such as former Democratic contender Bernie Sanders and Republican nominee Donald Trump. Free trade deals, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) have come under much scrutiny by the public and the candidates. In fact, one of Trump's main attack points against Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton on the debate stage was centered around her support of NAFTA and the TPP. Although this is a frequently debated and highly controversial issue, many people don't realize the advantages and disadvantages of free trade- or even what it consists of.

Free trade simply lacks tariffs, regulation, and restrictions. In theory, proponents argue that free trade will foster economic growth by increasing trade worldwide and competition between multinational corporations. In addition, prices will decrease because of the lack of tariffs. When NAFTA took effect in 1994, oil prices plummeted. Trade also increased fourfold across North America. The TPP includes measures to curb wildlife trafficking and environmental abuses in the countries involved. The Republican Party has traditionally supported free trade, but Democratic politicians such as presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama have introduced such deals as NAFTA and TPP, respectively. President Obama drafted the TPP to write the rules and standards for trade in the Pacific. He predicts that if we fail to take action, China will dominate trans-Pacific trade. To more conservative politicians, free trade fits with the idealistic free-market approach of fewer taxes and less regulation.

Opponents of free trade, such as Bernie Sand-

ers, Donald Trump, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, disagree with claims that free trade creates more jobs and more prosperity. The majority of countries in the TPP have extremely low, if any, minimum wages. This means that American workers will have to compete with other countries where laborers make much less. Due to the zero-tariff characteristic of free trade, companies will unapologetically outsource jobs to places like Vietnam and Mexico, leaving the American middle class behind. Throughout his primary campaign, Sanders incorporated free trade with his tirade against corporations and wealthy elitists. He claimed that these deals were written, in part, by corporations so they could ship jobs to lower-wage countries.

Trump has also made trade a cornerstone of his campaign. He is not entirely opposed to free trade, however; on his website, he advocates "renegotiating the terms of NAFTA to get a better deal for American workers." It does not call for scrapping the deal completely. Donald Trump strongly dislikes the TPP, calling it "a death blow" for manufacturing in America. Critics of TPP also point to some nations, such as Brunei, Vietnam, and Malaysia, that possess poor human rights records, yet are still able to participate in the partnership. This leads to skepticism about how much free trade helps humanity as opposed to giant corporations exploiting vulnerable workers.

Secretary Clinton has supported free trade in the past. She supported NAFTA in the 1990's and once branded TPP "the gold standard." As part of her 2016 presidential campaign, she proposed two objectives for any prospective free trade deal. First, deals would be required to raise wages and protect workers. Second, they would have to strengthen national security. Once the TPP was finalized, Clinton opposed it because it did not meet her standards. With regards to NAFTA, Clinton is on record supporting it until 2004. She opposed it in 2008 running against President Obama, but has discussed it very sparsely in 2016. This reluctance to confront trade may cost Clinton among millennials, who rallied around Sanders in part because of his adamant opposition of free trade.

Regardless of which candidate wins this election, trade will likely be a large, legacy-impacting issue for the next president. Look out for discussions on trade in the upcoming debates - it may just shape the next administration.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During each presidential election season, the debates between the candidates are highly anticipated. This election cycle, the debates are even more relevant. This election is different from any ever before, with the highly covered billionaire business-man and Republican nominee Donald Trump and the potentially first female president, former Secretary of State and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. The season of presidential debates kicked off in September, proving even further that this is truly an election to watch - the first general election debate broke previous records, attracting 84 million viewers according to Nielsen.

However, one specific debate is often overlooked: the vice presidential debate. This debate is crucial to the very essence and purpose of debating - these are the candidate's chances to sway voters in their favor. On October 4, Tim Kaine, running mate to Hillary Clinton, and Mike Pence, running mate to Donald Trump (and notably, governor of Indiana) faced off for the first (and only) time at Longwood University in Virginia, where Kaine is a Senator.

This location is prominent for another reason - at the start of the debate, Pence thanked "Longwood University" for hosting. With that began a long 90 minute debate filled with highs and lows for both vice president candidates.

Tim Kaine, former mayor of Richmond, Virginia and current U.S. Senator, started out the debate relatively strong, answering questions regarding Hillary Clinton's character and presidentialism with clear, strong answers. Faced with questions about her trustworthiness, Kaine seemed unbothered. "Hillary Clinton has been focused on helping others for her whole life... it's always been about putting others first, a sharp contrast from Donald Trump," he said. Kaine, who has a son in the military, like Mike Pence, said he "trusts [Clinton] with [his son's] life." He also appeared to have a firm grip on policy, naming Clinton's plans for the economy and police reform with ease. According to Kaine, their plans for the economy (dubbed the

"you're hired plan") include: investing in clean energy jobs, investing in our workforce (debt-free and tuition-free college for families under \$125,000), raising the minimum wage, promoting small business growth, and tax cuts for the middle class.

Although Kaine handled answering questions clearly and concisely, handling Pence's answers about Clinton and himself were a different story entirely. Within the first few minutes, Kaine interrupted Pence numerous times during Pence's time to answer, primarily when he believed Pence was lying.

Numerous times, the two men talked over each other until the audience was unable to even comprehend what was being said. At one point, the moderator, Elaine Quijano, was forced to interrupt them, saying, "Gentlemen, the people at home cannot understand you when you speak over each other." Unfortunately for Clinton supporters, Kaine seemed unable to replicate Clinton's calm attitude from the first



presidential debate. Instead, he appeared to convey the very same temperament that Trump had during the debate. He seemed to be operating defensively, interrupting Pence at every insult hurled towards the Clinton-Kaine ticket. Kaine appeared to go after every accusation Pence made, essentially taking the focus away from what really mattered on that debate stage: the issues and how each candidate plans to solve them. However, Kaine stuck through the debate, and ended on a high note: "...I think it's fine to be a Democrat or Republican or independent, but after Election Day, the goal is work together. And Hillary Clinton has a track record of accomplishment across the aisle that will enable her to do just that when we work with the new Congress in January."

Pence, governor of Indiana, had the exact opposite problem. He appeared poised and calm for a majority of the debate, but he eventually joined Kaine and erupted into chaos, talking

over the moderator. At one point, Pence was a minute or two over his allotted speaking time. Besides the constant squabbling, Pence gave the impression that he knew what he was talking about, despite the fact that whenever he was asked to defend one of Donald Trump's infamous blunders, he avoided the question entirely and instead changed the subject. Therein laid Pence's greatest problem - he was unable to properly defend his running mate.

In response to accusations based on Trump's statements, Pence shut them down by insisting that the claims were "nonsense." He spent most of the night talking about his own view on policy rather than what Trump intends to accomplish. Pence criticized Clinton for saying there is implicit racial bias in everyone and went on to defend police officers. "Stop seizing on these moments of tragedy," he said. "Enough of this seeking every opportunity to demean law enforcement." Pence also called the last eight years a "disaster" and "not safe" under President Obama, and he blamed "terrible foreign policy" on Hillary Clinton. He also insisted that Vladimir Putin was a better leader than President Obama.

In contrast to Clinton and Kaine's plan to improve Obamacare, Pence said that Trump will "repeal Obamacare" and "have a plan to get this economy moving again just the way that it worked in the 1980s.... and that is by lowering taxes across the board for working families, small businesses and family farms." Toward the end of the debate, the ever-contro-

versial topic of abortion arose. As many know, Trump once called for a punishment of women who received abortions, but he took his statement back soon after. In response to Kaine's claims that Trump will only punish women who receive abortions, Pence said that "he's not a polished politician like you and Hillary Clinton....things don't come out exactly as he means them."

With that, Pence offered the most defense and explanation of Trump of the night. In his closing remarks, however, Pence was much more hopeful and clear: "When you hear [Trump] say he wants to make America great again, when we do that, I truly do believe the American people are going to be standing taller. They're going to see that real change can happen after decades of just talking about it....the American people are going to stand tall, stand together, and we'll have the kind of unity that's been missing for way too long."

GERRYMANDERING A DEBATE: REPRESENTATIVE WALORSKI'S DEBATE SCANDAL

ALICE GOULDING- MANAGING EDITOR

With all eyes turned to the national presidential debates and election in general during these past few weeks, it's easy to forget that locally, and statewide, there are numerous elections taking place. In South Bend alone, voters can engage in elections on the local, congressional, senatorial, and gubernatorial levels.

Unlike previous years, this election cycle has significantly leveled the playing fields for incumbents and their challengers. With two of the most polarizing and disliked presidential candidates in the history of the Electoral College, the number of projected straight-ticket voters - people who elect to vote for all candidates of the same party as opposed to individually selecting each candidate - is much smaller than 2012 or 2008. A registered Republican who might have previously selected the "Republican" option, allowing him to vote for all candidates of the GOP, might not be so keen on Donald Trump, which could lead him to question all the other candidates who identify themselves with the candidate.

This is the climate that incumbent Congresswoman Jackie Walorski (R) finds herself in as she vies for reelection against Democrat Lynn Coleman. First elected in 2012, the same year that the majority of Hoosiers voted for Romney in the presidential election, Walorski was, and still is, a polarizing candidate. Running on an extremely conservative socioeconomic platform, she clinched her first re-election in 2014. Now, with hopes of becoming a three-term Congresswoman, Walorski finds herself in

“Should Walorski be concerned? Absolutely. Does this concern warrant sly maneuvering on her part? Absolutely not.”

a campaign that is “surprisingly close” to that of Coleman’s, according to Politico.

Should Walorski be concerned? Absolutely. Does this concern warrant sly maneuvering on her part? Absolutely not.

In 2008, when Walorski unsuccessfully challenged then-Congressman Joe Donnelly for his seat, she was forthright in her criticism of the process, believing that the two debates agreed upon by the Donnelly campaign were not enough – she wanted a total of eight – for her to get her message to the people in our district. “We need to have as many debates as possible to make clear the differences in our records,” Walorski stated at the time, not willing to go down without a fight.

Flash-forward eight years, and you’ll find that not much has changed in the relationship between incumbents and their opponents. In fact, one could argue it has only regressed, as fewer and fewer incumbents, at least on the local level, seem to take notice of their challengers.

Coleman, like Walorski in ‘08, has proposed numerous dates and locations for debates since the primaries in March. However, until this month, Walorski remained silent on the matter. Last week, Walorski announced that she would be willing to take on Coleman in a one-on-one discussion - but only under her conditions.

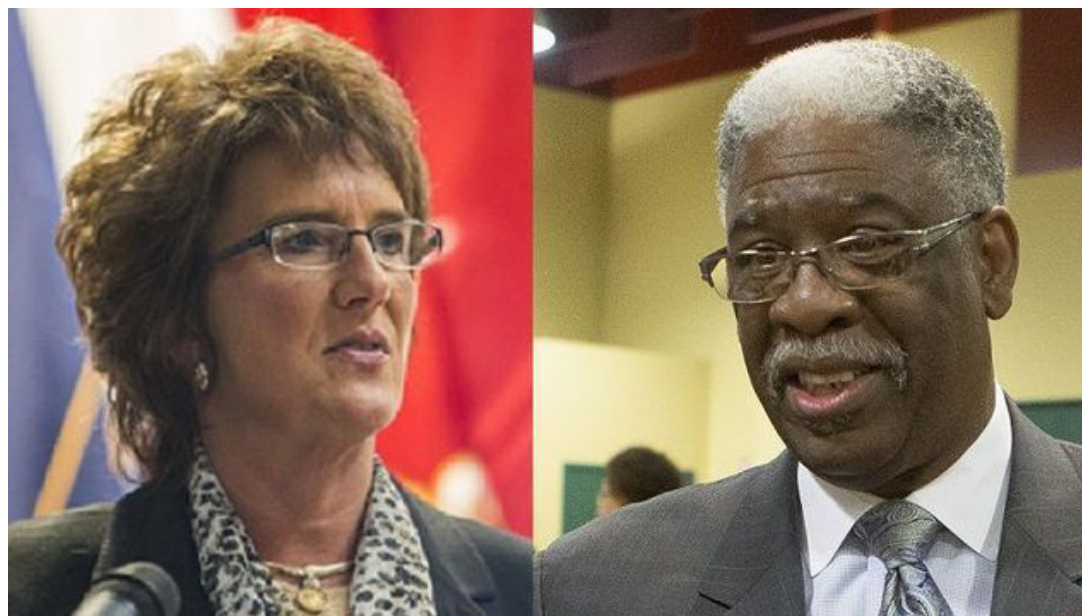
First, these conditions required the debate to be broadcasted solely on the radio, never to be viewed by prospective voters. Second, she requested that the debate be held in the small and loyally Republican county of Wabash, at the Indiana Farm Bureau offices, a company who has openly endorsed Walorski’s campaign. Third, the debate will be moderated by former State Representative Bill Ruppel, a Republican who served in Indiana’s House of Representatives alongside Walorski for six years.

As if Coleman wasn’t already at enough of a disadvantage in this setting, the debate will be broadcast by WKUZ, a radio station whose viewers primarily reside outside of the 2nd District – the district for which the two are campaigning for – and whose satellite signals will not reach St. Joseph or Elkhart counties, the most populous in the district, and the two that Coleman has the best chance of winning.

This is the only chance that voters will get to hear the two candidates argue head-on about issues that matter to them, and most won’t get the chance to hear it. Walorski would have been better off denying Coleman the chance at all rather than subjecting them both to what is obviously a Republican-led and Republican-controlled debate.

In 2008, Walorski would have been up in arms over a situation such as this. But this time around, with the threat of losing looming now more than ever, she seems to have reconciled any commitment to her former morals, turning instead to career politics. She has gone out of her way to ensure that the vast majority of her constituents cannot actually tune into the debate, leaving us all to wonder if she has truly lost sight of why she ran for office in the first place, or if she is finally beginning to realize how disastrous this election cycle could be for Republicans everywhere.

If you would like to try to tune into the debate, it can be heard on channel WKUZ (95.9) on November 1st at 7pm.



HALLOWEEN FILMS

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

With the excitement of Halloween comes classic Halloween activities; trick-or-treating, dressing up in costumes, and going to parties are just some of the fun of the season. However, one aspect of all holiday seasons remains - movies. Movies are the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit. This Halloween, unwind with a festive movie or two.

KIDS

"Hocus Pocus" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas"

"Hocus Pocus" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas" are two perfect Halloween movies for families and people who believe horror movies are hard to stomach. "Hocus Pocus" (2003) is a movie in which three Salem witch sisters are resurrected on Halloween night. Throughout the movie, two teenagers, a young girl, and an immortal cat work toward a common goal: to end the reign of terror the witches have imposed upon mortals everywhere. The movie has telltale signs of being made in the 90s, giving it a comical quality and a family-friendly effect. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993) is a darker, more eerie Halloween movie. Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, has lost interest in scaring people and decides to channel his energy into reigning another holiday - Christmas. Realizing that he has made a mistake and that he needs give Christmas back, Jack rushes to save Santa and the rag doll he loves. Both "Hocus Pocus" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas" are amazing Halloween movies that are perfect for Halloween



fans of all ages.

CLASSICS

"The Exorcist," "Halloween," and "Scream"

You can never go wrong with classics. "The Exorcist" (1973) features a young girl who is possessed by the devil. She is tested multiple times and receives many procedures and medications for her "condition." Her mother, convinced that there is something more going on with her daughter than what can be medically treated, hires two priests to undertake exorcising the demon from her. This movie is astounding but highly disturbing and should only be watched if you're prepared to be scarred for life. "Halloween" (1978) features Michael Myers, who, at the age of six, killed his sister and was sent to a mental hospital. Fifteen years have passed and Myers has returned to Haddonfield, his hometown, with one intent: to kill. There are also nine other movies in the "Halloween" series. "Scream" (1996) is based on Sidney, a girl who is attempting to cope with her mother's mysterious murder, and her horror-movie-obsessed friends are stalked by an anonymous killer who seems to be holding on to the past. Besides its hair-raising qualities, this movie has comical aspects. All three of these movies involve violence and gore; viewer discretion is advised.

IN THEATERS

"Blair Witch" and "Ouija: Origin of Evil"

There are also films in theatres that with certainly put you in the Halloween spirit. "Blair Witch" tells the (fictional) story of three filmmakers who hike in the Black Hills to film a documentary about the Blair Witch, a local legend. They disappeared, but their footage was recovered and is put on the big screen for those who dare to watch. "Ouija: Origin of Evil" is an upcoming horror film set to come out on October 21, 2016, and it will surely make you sleep with your lights on. A widowed mother and her family create a scam based off of séances. When they discover a Ouija board, karma calls and Doris, one of the daughters, is possessed by a spirit, causing the family to rush to save her. These films are sure to lead to a frightful night out.

JULIO'S CUTS

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

On Sunday, Sept. 25, local South Bend teen Julio Rodriguez was driving downtown when he noticed a homeless man in need of a haircut. Rodriguez pulled over and gave the gentleman one, and he explained, "I just woke up on a Sunday and I just felt like doing something nice." He didn't stop there - the next day he and his friend, Zach Fozo, went out to do the same thing. On the corner of Bronson and Main St., they set up shop to cut as many homeless people's hair as possible that day. According to Rodriguez, "That day we [gave haircuts to] at least 20 homeless people." Rodriguez's story became viral on Twitter after his interview with WNDU. "[The story] went on to WNDU and then CNN. All the feedback I got from that day made me feel good and I've noticed my goal was to give back so that other people could give back too, is already completed."

Rodriguez and Fozo are currently in barber school together to get their licenses. After that, Rodriguez would like to open his own shop in South Bend. However, Rodriguez says, "I am definitely going to do this again. At least once a month." Rodriguez then gave the advice to "not be scared or feel weird about giving good deeds. Don't do it to be noticed because that is not what it's about. Do it from the kindness of heart. It's about spreading the love to each other especially in times like this."



HAMILTON'S CONTINUING SUCCESS

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

How does the musical about America's most dynamic yet well-hidden founding father find its way to fame, fourteen Tony awards, and a host of records to boot? *Hamilton*, the biographical musical about Alexander Hamilton's tumultuous and quintessentially American life, managed to do just that. The musical was written by musical genius Lin-Manuel Miranda, who put over six years of his life into writing the show. From the hip-hop and R&B music that would seemingly be incongruous with the time period of America's earliest stages to its color blind casting, it was destined to pleasantly surprise and captivate audiences across generations and political ideologies. It translates the American Revolution and the early stages of building the young United States to modern language, often relating to today's issues, and gives the "characters" - historical figures - tangible humanity, relating these people who can easily seem outdated or obscure to the lives of people today.

A testament to its uniqueness and quality, much of its fanbase has never even seen *Hamilton* in person. Its success has gone and will

continue to go beyond the show itself. The book *Hamilton: The Revolution* offered a look into the workings of Miranda's brain as he wrote *Hamilton*; as for the future, the *Hamilton Mixtape* is slated for release sometime in November, and the PBS documentary *Hamilton's America* airs on October 21.

The *Hamilton Mixtape* will feature guest artists including Busta Rhymes, Alicia Keys, Chance the Rapper, Jimmy Fallon, and others. Some of the artists that Miranda says he based characters on (for example, Busta Rhymes served as inspiration for Hercules Mulligan, a close friend of Hamilton's) participated in the *Mixtape*, surely a satisfying link in the show's circle of life. Miranda, who starred in his own masterpiece as Alexander Hamilton, explained that the *Mixtape* - not a Broadway musical - was his original idea. Now, the idea will take shape as a compilation of covers, remixes, songs that were cut from the final version of the show, and inspired-bys, including a rap battle about slavery. Miranda and other original cast members will not appear on the *Mixtape* because he wants it to remain inspired by the show rather than a continuation of it.

Hamilton's America, the PBS documentary, charts the entire lifetime of the musical, from its conception to its current success. Among other things, the documentary features widely ranging footage including Miranda interviewing President Obama, composing songs in Aaron Burr's bedroom, and freestyling with Renee Elise Goldsberry, the actress who portrayed Hamil-

ton's sister-in-law Angelica Schuyler. The aspect of the documentary that is expected to please fans even more than the intimate look into the making of the show, however, is that it features multiple live performances with the original Broadway cast, many of whom have since departed from *Hamilton*. Although only portions of each featured song are included, it will be the first glimpse of the beloved musical for fans who haven't seen *Hamilton* live.

Miranda, now an international celebrity, hosted Saturday Night Live on October 8. In introducing

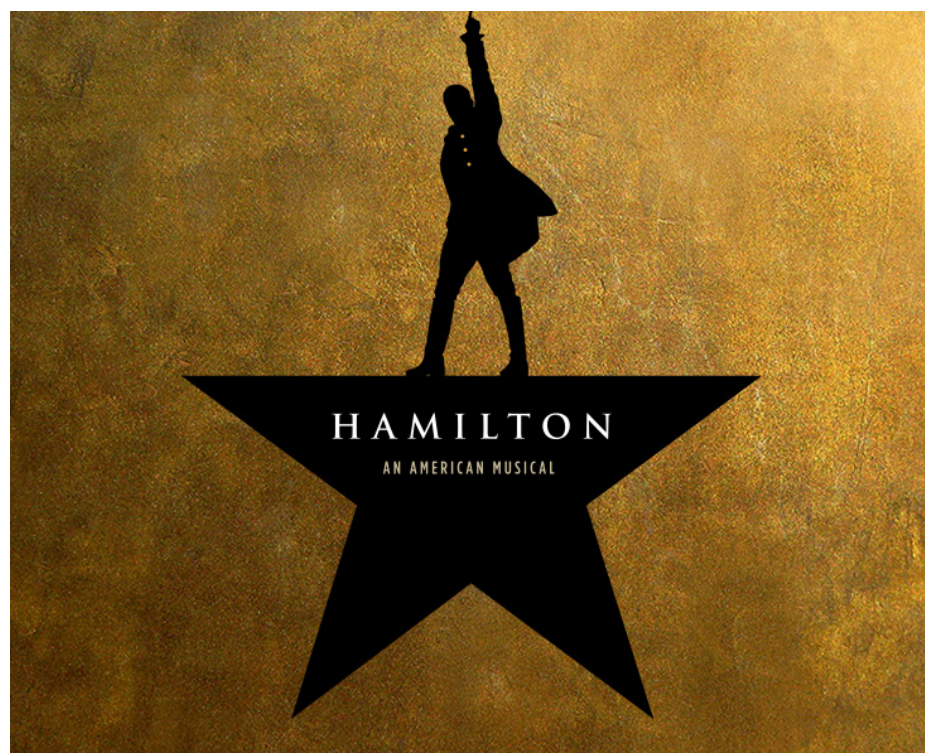
Auditions for *The Tower's* second annual TOWER ROCK

will be held in the auditorium on October 18 and 19 at 3:00. Please sign up in advance in Ms. Lewis's room (1831) or send her an email at slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us.

(Any questions you may have should also go to Ms. Lewis's room or email.)

himself, he ironically explained how *Hamilton* was an escape from our current election cycle: "It's about two famous New York politicians locked in a dirty, ugly, mudslinging campaign - escapism." He then remixed one of Hamilton's most iconic songs, "My Shot," replacing the lyrics about Alexander Hamilton with consistently funny lyrics about himself, the election, and the night ahead. The lines that earned the biggest applause from his remix? As he walked backstage, pointing at the wall of former SNL hosts, he said, "Tonight I'm finally earning my spot / On this wall, in this hall, and I'm gettin' a piece of it / Like Miley, Schumer, Tracy Morgan, and this piece of ..." trailing off as he pointed at a picture of Donald Trump, then quietly singing "he's never gonna be president now" from another Hamilton song, "The Reynold's Pamphlet," before returning to his remix.

Hamilton's topical relevance to this uncertain period in our nation's history is, at the very least, striking. Maybe that is why its cast and soundtrack have skyrocketed to fame beyond that of most Broadway shows - and why people around the world can't get enough of the musical about the bastard orphan who played an integral role in building America. No matter the reason, Miranda's growing relevance and the upcoming *Hamilton* byproducts have made it clearer than ever that the non-stop Miranda is not throwing away his shot.



PLANNING MORP

ABBY MYERS - REPORTER

As autumn is beginning in our area and October has arrived, many students at Adams are busy preparing for MORP. Often called the opposite of prom, MORP (the word prom backwards) is a Halloween themed dance held annually and hosted by the junior class. MORP is just one of three school-sponsored dances that occur throughout the school year. The dance also serves as a supplement for our school's lack of a homecoming dance since it takes place in early fall. This year, MORP will be held on October 19, the last day of school before fall break, from 8-11pm in the Adams cafeteria.

This year's junior class have been busy preparing for the big night by making decorations, determining a theme for MORP, and making promotional signs that many have probably already seen in the hallways. Junior student government co-secretary Indy Brown explained, "We are planning decorations, preparing for the costume contest, and discussing tickets." Leading up to MORP, the junior student government has hosted meetings every Tuesday to prepare for the dance. This year, the theme for MORP will be a total Halloween costume party. As always, since MORP is a Halloween themed dance, students are encouraged to come in some sort of costume to celebrate. An annual tradition at the dance is to have a "best costume" award for students who are voted by their peers for having the best costume. The junior student government is hoping to host a fantastic night for all students who attend. "It's really the only dance of its kind that we have at Adams and I know everyone's going to have a great night!" said junior student government co-secretary Naomi Freel. "I see it as a way for the school to give kids a safe space to hang out and just let loose," agreed Brown. In addition to a good time, MORP also serves as a major fundraiser for the junior class.

Many students at JA are looking forward to attending the event and have high expectations. Traditionally, the night has been a fun-loving dance filled with a lot of laughter and fun memories. As a result, many students are expecting the night to be eventful and fun—making expectations high for the dance. "The year I went to MORP I had a blast. This year, me and my sister are going to have fun because we love dancing," said JA junior Chris Vreugdenhil. Others are excited to see the costumes and spending the night with close friends. "I'm excited to see everyone's costumes!"

exclaimed Freel. Regardless, MORP will certainly be a night to remember for all involved!

Tickets for MORP will go on sale from October 11-19th during all lunch hours. The cost is \$5 for presale and \$7 dollars at the door.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

There is an abundance of clubs and extracurricular activities at John Adams High school, many of which you may already be familiar with. One that is unknown to many, however, is ISO. ISO, the initialization of the International Students Organization, is a great club to be involved in for anyone looking to broaden his or her perspective of the community and the diverse people in it. Don't let the name fool you; ISO is for all students at JA, not just international students.

The group meets every Tuesday at 3:00 in varying locations. The committee discusses the upcoming events and goals with the rest of the members. Discussion topics include fundraisers, food drives, volunteering, and college trips. All members are encouraged to participate in volunteer hours. In fact, two or more hours are needed to attend the college visits. There is a college visit to IUPUI and Butler coming up on October 20. For Hispanic Heritage Month, the club is holding a food drive. You may bring nonperishable items to your first hour or to the meetings if you wish to donate.

The overall goal of ISO is to bring people of different cultures together and to encourage diversity throughout both the school and the community. According to senior Gisella Morales, "ISO is a family of people of diverse backgrounds who aspire to go out and learn, and take advantage of the opportunities [in the community]." Because of ISO's involvement in the community, "the stigma attached to diversity has begun to change," Morales explained.

One weekend each month, there is "bonding time." This is a great opportunity for club members to interact and get to know one another. Bonding time is normally spent doing fun activities such as jumping at Skyzone. Due to Halloween this month, ISO is having its annual Haunted House night on Friday, October 21.

If you are interested in joining ISO, contact Savino Rivera Jr., visit his office at school, or just show up to one of the meetings after school on a Tuesday. The members of ISO would love to have you!

GUEST SPEAKER JASMINE BROWN ON THE EFFECTS OF AMERICAN SLAVERY

SYDNEY GRANLUND - REPORTER

Following the completion of the film *12 Years a Slave* and the book *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, teacher and Notre Dame graduate Jasmine Brown enlightened Mr. McCown's IB English 11 classes on September 27 with a presentation about slavery and its effects on society today. Mr. McCown invited her to "bring a different perspective to the topic," she explained. Brown's goal was to "speak so that African American students can identify with some of the issues that remain in their community, too. I wanted them to know where they stem from and how we need to correct them." Brown cleared up the misconception that only white people took part in enslaving African Americans. She also showed how the loss of culture, connection to African history, and the splitting of societies still resonates today as African Americans continue to struggle to find their own identity as a group.

Brown highlighted the immorality of the slave trade and slave treatment, shedding light on the harsh details that are frequently glossed over. Brown pointed out the many negative side effects of slavery, but she acknowledged a few benefits as well. "Racism and discrimination are not as bad as it used to be," Brown admitted, "but it has a long way to go." She stated that the chance to stand up for human rights was given through slavery. The Black Lives Matter movement, for example, has been created to stand up for these rights that African Americans have been denied for hundreds of years.

Brown hopes that students realize the effects of slavery "still ring true in our present society." She continued, saying, "Sometimes history holds some dark skeletons that are sensitive subjects. We should not shy away from them, but rather discuss them so that we don't make the same atrocities happen again." Brown concluded by acknowledging the strength of this generation and its "ability to change the country, the ideas, and the future." Brown provided hope that with education and discussion, racism and discrimination will be eradicated. JA thanks her for an eye-opening presentation!

FOOTBALL SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JACK DRISCOLL

NIKI HAKIMZADEH - REPORTER

As the regular football season comes to its end, many players are preparing for the long, grueling offseason that will prepare them for next year. However, for some players, this will be their last time playing for the Eagles. One of those players is senior captain Jack Driscoll, who plays both Tight End and Defensive End for our varsity team.

However, this is not where football started for Driscoll. He explained, "Football has been a big part of my family for as long as I can remember... My brother and I would go out on the front lawn and play for hours." Driscoll recalls watching Notre Dame football with his dad on Saturdays when he was younger, and eventually, he "fell in love with the game." Jack's first experience playing on a team was with the local Pop-Warner league as soon as he was old enough to join. After a while, Jack and his brother, Liam, decided to join a friend's independent team coached by Jim Bendy called the "American Eagles." Driscoll has happy memories from this team and his coach and said "[it was] definitely the reason [he] continued to play football."

Jack has been playing for the football team for his entire high school career, starting varsity his sophomore, junior, and senior year. He played right tackle his sophomore and junior year. Out of all of their wins, Driscoll said the most memorable was their win against Mishawaka last year for the first time in 23 years. "That was a very special moment to share with my teammates," he said. Jack also mentioned the victory against Northridge in the opening game this year as something he will remember for a long time.

Driscoll also makes sure to motivate all of his teammates, from the freshman team to the varsity team. He said, "A recent special moment was when the JV team beat Clay in overtime. All of the varsity players showed up to cheer on our teammates, [and] it was exciting." As a captain, Driscoll has significantly influenced the team, not only with his skills on the field but also with his leadership skills off of the field. The new head coach, Antwon Jones, appointed him as a team captain before their first game this season.

"I want the underclassmen to feel like they can beat anybody with enough hard work and dedication."



In his four years at Adams, Driscoll said the player that has influenced him the most is his little brother Liam, a junior here at Adams. Jack said, "[Liam] works extremely hard and I'm really proud of him. He makes me a much better person and football player." Jack noted how close he has become with his teammates, "I've become one with the [team] ... They have taught me hardwork and dedication." Along with all of the time spent on the field, Driscoll and his teammates have made unforgettable memories off the field as well. "Spending time with my teammates outside of practice is something I will always remember. They're a really great group of guys."

With many schools already looking at him to play football in college, Jack hopes to continue his football career. It has become a part of him, and he said, "Football is one of the greatest things to ever happen to me. I will always cherish the things the game has taught me and the relationships I've built from it." His goal for the remainder of the season is "to play to our fullest potential as a team." Jack has confidence in his team this year and believes their hard work will result in a long tournament run. Looking back at his time at Adams, Driscoll said, "It's hard to single out a specific memory... every single practice, every game, every time we are together something hilarious happens... but I am going to miss the people the most."

Driscoll has left his mark on the team by putting in his best effort to help the team succeed and by leading by example. He wants to leave a legacy of success at Adams for his underclassmen teammates and future Eagles football players. He hopes to inspire the underclassmen and the rest of his team to believe in themselves. He said, "I want the underclassmen to feel like they can beat anybody with enough hard work and dedication."

LEFT: Jack Driscoll; RIGHT: Liam Driscoll