



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.

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Adams' Voices on Gun Control

SETH KIRKPATRICK - REPORTER

There are many topics that seem to have a sense of frustration, urgency, and intensity attached to them. One of these major topics is gun control. Due to recent events in Las Vegas, and the everlasting debate on gun control, I decided to talk to teachers at Adams to gain insight on what their thoughts were. The two teachers I interviewed were Ms. Caponigro, a Spanish teacher, and Mr. Ebright, an English teacher. Both people had strong opinions on the matter.

Ms. Caponigro states she's had the same views on gun control since long before the Vegas incident and then added, "When there are so many people dying, there is clearly an issue." She continued by stating that, "As an American citizen, I am giving up some of my rights to the state so that they are protecting me [...] and I think they can do a better job of that." She then proceeded with what should be done, stating there needs to be "stricter gun control" and "more common sense with regulations." She added, "guns are regulated to some extent, but we need to think about how those regulations are being manipulated" In Vegas, she said, "Paddock was following the rules, he still ended up killing dozens of people," and we need to think about "what we can do to make sure that people following the rules don't go off like Paddock did."

When asked about the current gun policies in the United States, she said, "there's not enough." She spoke about having stricter regulations relating to who can have a gun through more thorough background

checks and regulating what guns are sold. I asked her about whether the Second Amendment is outdated due to being written in the Revolutionary era. She answered with, "I don't think it's outdated [...] people interpret it in different ways [...] I prefer the collected interpretation - the Second Amendment exists so that we are protected from a strong and unjust government and therefore we should be allowed to have militias with well regulated arms." She also discussed how the Second Amendment does state there should be well regulated arms and militias, and how as of right now we don't have either but instead "crazy people running around with guns."

Mr. Ebright also has mixed opinions on the matter. He starts off with how the topic is very subjective and how there are both responsible and irresponsible gun owners. He said, "I myself am a gun owner and my brother, who is NYPD Counter Terrorism, is a gun owner and relies on guns for his job." He then spoke about the fact that he's talked to his brother and other police officers and how "it is obvious there aren't responsible gun owners." When asked about the current gun ownership regulations he states that "from what I know, some of the background checks could definitely be more thorough [...] especially in terms of mental health evaluation."

He also said that gun ownership regulations varies from state to state and how there should be "more federal regulations." He then compared the regulations for guns



in Michigan and Indiana: "In Michigan, one needs to take a class when it comes to gun safety. In Indiana for a carry permit it's simply filing paperwork and paying a fee [...] The class is optional, and I don't think something like that should be optional. [...] People need to know how a firearm works before they become an owner of it." When it came to the Second Amendment, he was short yet quite explanatory with his response: "Some of the founding fathers believed that the Constitution should be amended and changed and adapted as society evolved. I believe that the fundamental rights are definitely not outdated, [but] I do think there needs to be some discussion on how we handle new technology, which they could not foresee."

The debate of gun control will always be heated, especially when events like those in Las Vegas continue to happen around the country and world. Both sides on the topic are legitimate and valid, at the end of the day it comes down to how we as citizens react to the freedom of ownership for these items.

THE JOHN ADAMS

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The Tower is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Letters to the Editor must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Letters to the Editor must be sent to jnowicki2@sbcs.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 Five must be submitted by November 3.

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

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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.

United States Leaves UNESCO

SAMI MIRZA - REPORTER

In yet another controversial foreign policy move by the Trump Administration, the White House has decided to remove the United States from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], effective December 31, 2018. This decision is the latest in a series of policy changes that have steered America in an increasingly isolationist direction, from the first travel ban attempted in January of this year, to the hostility directed towards North Korea in the tweetstorms that have defined this presidency since even before the president's inauguration.

Before any sort of discussion takes place as to the significance and impact of this move, one must first understand what UNESCO is, and what it does. UNESCO was founded, alongside the rest of the United Nations, after World War II, in an effort to prevent such a global conflict from occurring again. UNESCO itself focuses on protecting and developing educational, scientific, and cultural projects and facilities.

Perhaps most famous of its features are the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, designated locations that hold some sort of cultural or historical significance to the human race as a whole. Among them are the Acropolis in Athens, the Great Barrier Reef off the eastern coast of Australia, and the Statue of Liberty. UNESCO lobbies to protect these sites, often appealing to member nations to do what they can to preserve these sections of our collective history. It also provides support for educational efforts in developing countries, and runs the International Baccalaureate we have all come to love (and hate) here at

John Adams.

But even an organization as simple and good-natured as this cannot escape the scrutiny that comes with both domestic and international politics. Israel has long criticized its efforts to internationally recognize Palestine as an independent state, a matter complicated by UNESCO's 2011 admission of the state as a full member. Continued United Nations pressure against Israeli settlements in what many consider Palestinian territory culminated in an official condemnation and a formal request to end those settlements a little less than a year ago.

These actions have spurred complaints from both Israel and the United States, who call such censures anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. The split that the White House announced was most likely spurred by UNESCO's decision earlier this year to name Hebron, a town in the West Bank, a Palestinian world heritage site. This defies any claims that Israel might have on the area, an affront not easily remedied.

While Israel's choice to leave is not entirely unexpected, the United States' was. America has stood by Israel since 1948, providing it with support within the international community. With the Obama Administration standing by as the UN Security Council censured the small nation, many Republicans and conservative Americans lobbied in favor of protecting them. This idea, however, was never before articulated to the degree of leaving an international organization together in protest. Even considering the radical nature of President Trump's political ideology, removing the United States from an active role in a Non-Governmental Organization [NGO] without any sort of clearly defined political agenda and with an aim of goodwill seems excessive in the eyes of much of the world, especially other member nations.

Blade Runner 2049 Movie Review

Movie remakes are cropping up left and right, and the 1980s *Blade Runner* is no exception. The following are two reviews - one from the perspective of someone who has seen the original, and another from someone who has not.

HEATH WEAVER

Blade Runner 2049 may be the greatest, most honest sequel ever produced. Notwithstanding, it is more enjoyable to see the sequel if one has seen the original *Blade Runner* from 1982.

The original, directed by Ridley Scott, was a science fiction movie with noir elements. Los Angeles from 2020 is depicted as an overcrowded wasteland where live things do not exist beyond humans. In fact, there are even genetically created adult humans called replicants created as slaves with five year lifespans. The theory behind their short lifespan is to prevent the replicants from developing feelings, which would make them harder to control. These replicants are illegal on Earth and the government seeks to "retire" them using police officers called blade runners. The original uses limited dialogue and considerable sound gain when the vast cityscape of LA is portrayed. The original begs many questions involving personhood and consciousness. Are replicants persons? Are they more than human? Are they less than human?

Fast forward 29 movie years and 25 real years and we get the sequel. In the sequel, the two main characters from the original, Rachel (a replicant) and Decker (a Blade Runner who may or may not be a replicant) produce a child. This is of serious concern to the government as it would mean the replicants can become self sustained as a community. The sequel's main character is Agent K - a replicant Blade Runner. K is sent to find and kill the offspring of the replicant Rachel and Deckard.

Once again the movie contains noir ele-

ments of LA during the year 2049 and the visuals are stunning given the advancements in film technology. Also, the considerable sound gain for the score is replicated. The dialogue is once again minimal. All this causes an intense film experience that the fans of the original will love.

In addition, the same themes of personhood and being human are brought to the fore. Is K (later named Jim by his holographic love interest) a person with rights, is he more than human, are replicants deserving of the same status as humans? After all, they are genetically human - they just did not have a childhood upbringing. There are also questions about memory and whether they can be trusted as something real.

I was fortunate enough to see this movie with my daughter, Sierra, who had not seen the original. She enjoyed the movie but thought it was too long. However, if one has seen the original, I suspect they too will come away thinking this was one of the best sequels ever produced.

SIERRA WEAVER - REPORTER

In 1982, the original *Blade Runner* was released. In 2016, production for a sequel began. The sequel takes place several decades after the original and was released on October 6. *Blade Runner 2049* is an entertaining movie with a good story but a long runtime that makes the film feel slow and boring at times.

The film takes place in 2049, where engineered humans, known as replicants, are used in society as slaves. The movie follows KD6-3.7 (K for short), who is a replicant working as a blade runner, someone who tracks down old replicants and "retires" - read: kills - them. K is sent to retire an old replicant on a farm, when he finds a box containing the remains of a replicant who died during childbirth. K is ordered to find and retire the child, in order to avoid conflict in the future.

The plot of *Blade Runner 2049* was intriguing throughout the film and the movie itself was shot beautifully. The plot provides a mystery that viewers become more invested in as the film goes on. The twists in the movie are unpredictable, making for great reveals. While the film is entertaining at most parts, its runtime is extremely long and parts of the film are slower than needed.

The runtime of the film is two hours and forty-four minutes. Any movie this long has a high probability of being slow at times, and *Blade Runner 2049* is no exception. The first hour of the movie is slow and used mostly for introducing the characters and further developing the dystopian world of California. While this is necessary to understanding the film, the hour could have been condensed to less time easily without ruining the film.

Even with its slow start, *Blade Runner 2049* is an enjoyable film with an intriguing mystery. The characters are well-developed and the visuals are stunning. The movie is worth seeing for its entertaining story, characters, and gorgeous shots.



Secessionist Movements Worldwide

ZACK VEAZIE - REPORTER

The world is currently undergoing a massive political upheaval due to separatist movements raging throughout many regions of Europe, Asia, and America. Currently, the countries most likely to form out of these movements are Catalonia, a wealthy region of Spain with its own language, government, and police force, and Scotland, part of the United Kingdom with a rich history of independence.

Catalonia had an illegal referendum on October 1st. It was here that 92% of people voted for independence, making it obvious that there was a significant portion of the nation that wanted independence. They desire independence due to the fact that Spain is a relatively poor nation, but a significant amount of the wealth it has is from Catalonia. Without Catalonia, the Spanish economy is crippled. Catalonia is a region with nearly a thousand years of rich history, and they feel they are putting more into Spain than they get in return.

This sort of attitude is also seen occurring in the United States. California and Texas, although their independence has little support, are economically rich states within the United States, and supporters of the Californian independence movement constantly point out that, if independent, California would become the sixth largest economy in the world. This attitude in Catalonia has led to their serious consideration of declaring independence.

Scotland is another nation which wants independence. As a part of the United Kingdom, Scotland has also had a rich history. In 2014, Scotland had an independence referendum where 44% of the nation voted for leaving the United Kingdom, but they were not successful. Now, with the United Kingdom leaving the European Union, there's a second push for independence. Scotland mostly voted to stay within the European Union, but England and Wales wanted out. The vote for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union was successful. This caused

Scottish people, who wished to remain in the European Union, to seek independence.

Another significant nation that wishes for independence is Kurdistan. Kurdistan is a region in the middle east that takes up North Iraq, Northeast Syria, South Turkey, and Northwest Iran. Kurds are the largest ethnic group without a state and have been fighting for independence for years. Currently, many United States backed groups fighting ISIS are fighting for independence, causing tension in the region. There was an illegal referendum this September, causing Iraqi forces to make several arrests.

While Kurdistan seems like a distant, obscure, middle eastern nation, there is also a nation that wishes to be independent that hits a little closer to home. Quebec is a region of Canada that is heavily influenced by French culture and is seeking independence from the nation. The United States have extremely good relations with Canada, and White House documents from Quebec's first independence referendum have revealed that they would not immediately recognize the independence of Quebec if they voted for independence.

Whether or not you agree that these nations should be independent, it is crucial that we know about these separatist movements, for all we know these events could lead to reshaping the world and how we think about it. And, for all we know, perhaps separatist sentiment could rise in the United States.

PSAT: The Light and the Dark

RYAN DOWNEY - REPORTER

Every year, the unfortunate sophomores and juniors of every high school in the United States are forced to sit in a classroom from 7:45 am to 12:00 pm to take the PSAT. The motivation for people to take this test is to practice for the real SAT and to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship, which annually grants about 8,200 scholarships to students. Makers of the test claim that it is to prepare students for the SAT, which students usually take their junior or senior year. The appropriate way to use the content and

questions of the PSAT is to find the student's weaknesses and points that need improvement to gain a better score on the permanent SAT. However, students have found a way to make the information from the questions stick in the heads of all of the participants.

The people that take the PSAT have been blowing up Twitter and iFunny with "memes" for the past few years. In recent years, students have been making memes about the questions on the PSAT that are considered quite humorous due to CollegeBoard's (maker of the PSAT) extraordinary questions and content. Examples from this year's test cannot be shown or else the CollegeBoard will void the distributor's scores, because every student signs a contract on the answer sheet agreeing that they will not share any information about the test. The contract is taken very lightly by the students, though. The light side of the PSAT is that the student cannot fail it and that is explained in the test information. Students have taken that information and ran with it as they create memes and puns based on the questions and instructions of the test. Teachers would like to remind students that any discussion or posts about these questions can be discovered by CollegeBoard and the answers will become void. The PSAT, because it is not an actual test for college admissions, cannot be used against the student.

PSAT rules: "You can't talk about the test outside of the classroom, because you signed this contract"

Everyone:



John Adams Sports Sectional Update

ALICIA KOSZYK - MANAGING EDITOR

VARISTY FOOTBALL DEFEATS ST. JOE

The long-awaited Homecoming game ended in a victory Friday night as Adams defeated St. Joe. Halfway through the game, Adams was in the lead with a score of 13-7. In the last quarter of the game, Eagles Quarterback Eric Williams scored another touchdown, ending the game 19-14. The Eagles head into Sectionals on October 27 against LaPorte at School Field.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SECTIONALS

The Girls Volleyball team headed to Sectionals October 12. Adams went against Penn in the opening round of sectionals. Unfortunately, Adams lost to Penn and they ended their season 14-19.

GIRLS SOCCER

The Girls Soccer team ended their season against the top-ranked school, Penn, 6-0.

BOYS SOCCER

Heading into Sectionals, the Boys Soccer team had good game against Penn. Adams tied up the game halfway through, but Penn scored two more goals. In the end, Adams lost to Penn 3-2.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

The Girls Cross Country team won third place at Sectionals and placed fourth at Regionals. Senior Lane McDonald led the Eagles with a time 20:10 in fourth place. Now, they are advancing to the IHSSA Semi-State at New Haven.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

The Boys Cross Country season ended at Regionals this year. The team improved

throughout the season. Overall, they ended the season with a positive attitude as they faced some of the best teams in Northern Indiana.

BOYS TENNIS

Heading into Sectionals, the Boys Tennis team lost at Sectionals against Marian 3-2.

77th Annual Homecoming Success

JULIANNE GROHOWSKI - REPORTER

After all the hype during Spirit Week, the Eagles took home a victory for Adams' 77th annual Homecoming! The Eagles defeated the Saint Joe Indians 19-14 in an exciting game that leaves the football team's record now at 3-6.

The evening began with a parade from Adams to School Field. Each class was represented in a car bear-

ing the same decorations from their hallway that they had decorated for Spirit Week. Along with each class, the L.O.V.E. and I.S.O. groups were also shown in the parade.

The most awaited part of the whole night, the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen, took place during half-time. The six couples walked onto the field and while doing so, each person on the court was recognized for their own achievements. After much anticipation from the Adams community, Regan Yoder was crowned as Homecoming Queen and Donnell Williams as Homecoming King. The seniors voted for the king and queen during their English class on Friday.

The 77th annual homecoming for Adams was a big success overall, and was hopefully a great time especially for our seniors to remember as their last homecoming as an Eagle.

