

## That's debatable

Saudi dissident and U.S. resident Jamal Khashoggi was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, sparking outrage worldwide. Now the question is what should the U.S. do in response.

### U.S should act swiftly to protect democratic rights

After roughly 20 days of speculation surrounding the alleged death of esteemed Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Saudi Arabia has finally admitted he is dead. Dead, not murdered.

Last week the Saudi government said Khashoggi, a frequent critic of Saudi leaders, left the consulate unharmed. Now they claim he was in fact killed after an alleged altercation with unidentified people in the consulate in Istanbul where he was last seen.

These weak attempts by a dictatorship at covering up a heinous crime should not be taken lightly or go unnoticed. We should not assume that an administration riddled with ambiguity is innocent in the slightest. We should not be mulling over hypotheticals. In the world of government, leaders should be looking for the facts and concerned with the life of others, not the protection of power-hungry monarchs.

In order to avoid repeated injury by the Saudi government, avoid the bs and get to the bottom of this mystery, we must continue with this investigation, get the facts, and take action against the murderers of Jamal Khashoggi.

■ Camryn Teder

### U.S must impose economic sanctions against Saudis

How should the United States of America respond to the senseless killing of a U.S. resident?

Bluntly, the U.S. should sanction the Saudi government. I'm not saying we should send tomahawk missiles into the heart of their country. But when journalist protection is such a problem in our society, we can not and should not let it go on without reaction.

Now although the decision on how to properly sanction Saudi Arabia is a little above my pay grade (of \$0), the U.S. could focus on Saudi Arabia's massive oil reserves. We could place tariffs on it, or cut down on consumption. Either way, the U.S. has to do something quickly because the longer they wait, the more countries think it's ok to silence journalistic expression.

■ Ben Wallace



Editorial Cartoon // Joey Watts

# Smoking away your future

Last year we came for your JUULs, and that clearly hit some students below the belt based on your reaction. So in our never-ending battle to fill your head with knowledge, this year we're coming for your cigarettes.

We know many of you will be triggered that we're calling out your stupid life choices, but at the end of the day, facts don't care about your feelings.

There was a time cigarettes had almost been killed off. People had realized the health risks and were making efforts to quit, alternatives were popping up everywhere and even the "cool" factor of cigarettes disappeared as smokers were ostracized from airports, football games and restaurants. Young people turned away from tobacco and turned towards vaping and JUULing.

Smoking is still bad for you and new evidence shows that JUULing is too.

Smokers are twice as likely to develop heart disease as non-smokers, four times more likely to have a stroke and 25 times more likely to develop lung cancer.

Smoking is also known to cause 12 different times of cancer including bladder cancer and stomach cancer. Life expectancy is 10 years shorter for smokers than non smokers,

and smoking is also known to weaken bone marrow.

Smoking shrivels the blood vessels, which can lead to strokes, and also cause erectile dysfunction. Smoking is also a financially destructive habit, smoking two packs of cigarettes a day will cost an average of \$400 a month, even if you only smoke one that's \$200, which is still more than most people spent on gas monthly.

So there's your refresher on why you should put down the cigs.

Now before you dust off your JUUL, we've got some new knowledge on why that's probably a bad idea too. One JUUL pod contains as much nicotine as a whole pack of cigarettes: translation, that's bad for your brain. Nicotine inhibits brain development and leads to addiction. Nicotine also has been linked to type two diabetes and chronic bronchitis. JUUL pods contain ultra fine particles that are inhaled deep into the lungs and cause lung damage.

The rise of JUULs and the return of cigarettes are a troubling sign in the world today. Young people have always been rebellious and made stupid decisions in high school. After all, you have to live a little bit and have a good time while you're still young so you avoid a midlife crisis. Many of our parents broke the rules

and partied in high school and college too and they turned out fine. After all, those pictures in health class they show us of teenagers wheezing in hospital beds and cars reduced to twisted pieces of scrap metal are only there to scare us into behaving. The chances of something bad actually happening are slim to none, right? Unfortunately, that's not true. We all know people who have lost their lives due to binge drinking, drug addiction and substance abuse.

Even if you smoke, JUUL and binge drink every weekend and nothing bad has ever happened, you are always running the risk.

And we are not the same as our parents. They may have broken the rules when they were our age, but the substances have changed. Light beer has been replaced by shots of vodka and weed, sometimes cocaine and heroin. The concentrations of alcohol and nicotine we are consuming is only increasing, and the risk factors are going right up with it. Enjoy your teenage years, have a good time, but for the love of God, don't submit to nicotine, binge drinking, or substance abuse.

The health risks associated with nicotine and tobacco products are simply not worth the risk. Endangering your life just for a temporary high is simply not worth it. You should be able to enjoy life without nicotine or tobacco.