

Brian Honicky

2050 National Security Council

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

I have been an active member of my school's Model UN club for two years. Over the past two years I have attended two major conferences and learned valuable skills such as writing position papers, thinking quickly in order to make split-second decisions, and public speaking. I am currently the club's Vice President. I have experience in a General Assembly setting and have also practiced mock crisis situations.

2. What do you think will cause the next major global conflict?

I think that the next major global conflict will be caused by the current turmoil and unrest between Israel and Palestine. Nothing effective is being done to calm the tensions between Israelis and Palestinians, and the casualties that have been recorded show some of the worst violence in the area in years. Eventually, if measures are not taken, the conflict will escalate and eventually become a global issue.

3. What is your favorite utopian future and why?

My favorite utopian future is the one portrayed in the 1997 film *Gattaca*. In the science fiction film, the society has the technology to record every human's genome, and to design infants to have particular traits or specific qualities. Everyone is assigned a place in society based on their genes, so life is highly objective with little freedom. To me, this is one of the most interesting forms of utopian society that I have seen. The movie explores the idea of perfection down to a genetic level, an incredibly interesting concept. It is about a man's journey to overcome his genetic imperfections, and how the society is structured when genetics are the biggest priority. I think that it had such an impact on me because I feel that it could be possible for our society to one day reach these levels of technological advancement.

4. What is your favorite dystopian future and why?

My favorite dystopian future is that of Disney and Pixar's *Wall-E*. Although on the surface this movie may seem like a children's movie full of pretty colors and fun robots that will only entertain kids, it has genuine layers of depth and several powerful messages and criticisms of the world we live in. First, it is a commentary on the gluttony and over

consumption that humans are capable of, especially seen today in celebrity culture. The humans aboard the spacecraft Axiom, engrossed in their video screens, are not too far away from what the world could truly end up like at the rate that our dependence on technology is increasing. Secondly, it has a powerful message about the careless way humans use up natural resources and do not care for the environment. The Earth has become a wasteland, and although the humans seem content with their lives, it is easy to see how corrupt society has become.

5. Is it easier to imagine the end of the world or the end of capitalism? Briefly imagine one of them.

It is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism. The expansionist nature of capitalism makes it hard to imagine its failure, and in my opinion the end of capitalism could almost mean the end of the world. When I imagine the end of the world, I see what would most likely be the result of advanced warfare or an arbitrary force of nature like disease or plague.

6. Where will you be in 2050?

In 2050, at 53 years old, I will hopefully be living a content life pursuing a career that I am passionate about. I could be on a moon colony trying to separate from the overpopulated Earth, or in an underground refuge quarantined from the strain of Ebola that mutated to become airborne in the famous plague of 2016, but wherever I am, I plan to be doing something that I love.