Name

APUSH

Period \_\_\_

Current Event #1

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Date: October 6, 2015

This article is from the NY Times dated October 6, 2015, titled, “Workers Removing the Ten Commandments from Oklahoma Capital.” This article is about a monument that was erected in 2009 – and a new one January of this year that the Oklahoma State legislature and then governor approved to have. Oklahoma is Republican based. The removal of the monument is from public grounds and will be moved to a private property – which to some is more appropriate than public government land. This Ten Commandments monument has stirred a lot of controversy within Oklahoma.

This article has a lot of relevance to the U.S. today because of the different issues it brings up. First, the religious issue; Oklahoma is a Republican based state, who has a strong Christian public. Religious tolerance of Christians these days seems to be less and less – and perhaps Oklahoma wanted to show their beliefs. Second, the separation of church and state issues; since the founding of our nation, the idea of keeping church out of government affairs has been the cornerstone of our government. People do not believe that church has a place in government, and vice-versa. Thomas Jefferson even wrote about keeping church and state separated in his Virginia State Constitution in the 1780s.

This new is relevant to our community in the Bay Area because this area has a very strong voice of keeping religion neutral. San Leandro actually, it seems, doesn’t tolerate much religion. For example, San Leandro, the city sued a church – not wanting the church to have property within the city, so that the church can build bigger. The city lost that case… but the church lost too because they were never able to build. However, there are people who are faith-based here, and may want to see some revival in their community.

This news affects me because, being a Christian woman, I believe in the ten commandments – however, I too think that there is an appropriateness to where we should have monuments. I worship at my church, but keep it separate at work. Also, there are laws that prevent any conversations about personal beliefs. I just find it weird that religion cannot be expressed, even when our country was founded on it. But that’s just my opinion.