

## **Cheating Your Way Through High School: The Wave Staff Opinion**

As we know, cheating in high school is a popular trend. According to Wikipedia, studies show that 76% of students cheat at least once in their high school career. Studies also show that 92% of the students, who cheat, get away with it. Every student and teacher has a different opinion on whether or not cheating is wrong.

*The Wave* staff has come to our own consensus. We share the general opinion that cheating is the easy way out, and will not benefit you in the end. If you are one of the many students who cheat on a regular basis, you are only hurting yourself and eventually your mischievous ways will catch up with you. Along with being dishonest, you will not learn anything in the process. For juniors and seniors, college is right around the corner. Unlike high school, studies show that 83% of the students who cheat in college are caught and face major consequences.

As you might have read in our front page story, cheating

here at MHS has become a bigger issue over the years, but are we now accepting it? Is the American society become more tolerant? Are you saying it is ok for you and your friends to cheat? Ms. Clark wants to know, is that thinking ok?

If you do not cheat in high school, you will benefit by having good study habits for when you advance to college, which will help you learn the more difficult material better than if you cheated your way through high school.

High school is a big part of our lives so make the best of it. Live it to the fullest, and try your best. The staff in room 233 is only trying to help.

## **Obama vs. Hillary: Changing History**

### **Megan Staff Writer**

There has been a recent influx of news surrounding the Obama vs. Hillary controversy, the two contenders fighting for the Democratic candidate in the 2008 presidential election. What makes this particularly interesting is that if Hillary wins the election in 2008, she will be the country's first female president; if Obama wins, he will be the nation's first African American president. Of course, a Republican could win (unfortunately, it doesn't look like that will be the case).

Barack Obama (not to be confused with *Osama*) attended Columbia University, where he earned a degree in International Relations and then attained his law degree from Harvard Law School. His father was from Kenya and his mother from Kansas. During his childhood, he lived in Hawaii, Indonesia and New York. After college, Obama put law school on hold and moved to Chicago to become a community organizer responsible for improving low-income, high crime areas. He

soon realized that it would take "a change in our laws and our politics" to "truly improve the lives" of others. He served on the Illinois State Senate for eight years, and his first law passed in the Senate allows citizens to track their tax money online. His wife Michelle is also a lawyer; they have two daughters, eight-year-old Malia and five-year-old Sasha.

Hillary Clinton grew up in a middle-class town in Illinois, and started her political career as a Republican. She attended the all-girl Wellesley College in Massachusetts, where she was elected by her fellow scholars to be the first-ever student commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony. She then attended Yale Law School, married Bill Clinton and moved to Arkansas, where she ran a legal aid clinic for abused and abandoned children. She was twice named in the Top 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America, and in 2000, Hillary was elected as a United States Senator from New York. Although she disagrees with the way our government handled the situation, she doesn't regret

her decision to vote in favor of the war in Iraq in 2002.

"I don't regret giving the president authority because at the time it was in the context of weapons of mass destruction, grave threats to the United States, and clearly, Saddam Hussein had been a real problem for the international community for more than a decade," she said in an interview on CNN.com (and I agree with her). She has stressed the rebuilding of the area targeted by the September 11 attacks, including compensation to small businesses and victims' families. She is a strong advocate for universal health care. Despite the famed Monica Lewinsky scandal (which led to his impeachment), she remains steadfastly married to Bill. They have a 26-year-old daughter, Chelsea.

Being a Republican, I would like to see neither of these candidates prevail in the 2008 election. If faced with a Democratic victory, I would rather see Obama take the cake; Obama is a very honorable man. Though it has been readily

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# Why is MHS So Blue?

## Students and the Cold Winter Months

**Ashley**  
**Staff Writer**

It is as though someone poured a gross ton of blueberries, 300 drops of sapphire food coloring, and a gallon of Frost Glacier Freeze Gatorade into the blender that is Middletown High School and hit “puree.” The result? A melodramatic, yet wholly shocking, interior decorative scheme that has every color wheel in the fine arts department squelching. It has every Sherwin-Williams within a hundred miles pulling their contact information from the Yellow Pages for fear of being stripped of their supply of “robin’s egg,” “royal,” “denim,” “cerulean,” and “navy.” In fact, the Blue Man Group is huddled in a foxhole somewhere north of Bahrain, eluding the prospect of becoming the new centerpiece on the table in the senior lounge. The lockers of MHS give *Bear in the Big Blue House* serious competition, and I am finally fresh out of relevant pop-culture references.

But seriously, MHS, why so blue? Just because spring equates to New Englanders actually starting to forget that the sun exists doesn’t mean that you can’t put a completely unwarranted smile on your winter-chapped lips. Just because we’re all being given homework up to our eyeballs, doesn’t mean that you can’t be jolly. And really, spending long nights huddled over your geometry notebook, not quite sure if you are doing the correct proof set?

Priceless! No, really—there is no amount of pay in the whole world that would make me retake geometry.

“Senioritis has really kicked into full gear,” explains Chelsea, senior (duh). “I tend to wear blue jeans a lot more often to represent my feeling blue about being in school.”

Chelsea isn’t the only one who is having a tough time distinguishing the line that separates the blue in her brainwaves from that on the walls, as I too have been feeling rather glum. If I was Aaron (Wave Staff Writer), I might make some snide comment exemplifying my dismay about the 87<sup>th</sup> season of *Project Runway* being switched to the 7 AM slot on Food Network; but in all seriousness, as I write this, all I can feel is a looming downshift of boredom.

Between sloshing through the hallways like a blue whale in a Jell-O pit, trudging through essays like a smurf through a lagoon of busywork, and studying my bedroom ceiling more meticulously than I do my vocabulary words, I barely have time to submerge from this boredom. Some might say that this is a personality flaw. Others might sympathize.

Ms. Renee Bissell looks around at the walls and says blandly, “I find it boring. There used to be paintings on the walls, but now they are gone.”

She calls the color scheme “institutionalized,” which is entirely de-

pressing and entirely appropriate. School *is* an institution, learning *is* becoming objective, and I *am* turning blue on so many levels just writing this for you. You see, the azure tiles have pillaged my motivation, drive, and energy and left me lonely and lethargic, a would-be empty tumbleweed if not for a confused jumble of who (am I?), what (is this?), and where (are we going now?).

Indigo carpeting combines with the unflattering fluorescent light bulbs to drive in the meaninglessness of the truckloads of unimportant scholarly obligations with the overtones of monotone, 45-minute lectures that sound like Charlie Brown’s teacher on loop. I mean, that’s delicious and all for the first seven months of school, but I am willing to bet that we have all developed selective hearing to some of the goings-on in our classrooms. With only two months until graduation, all I can do is cross the days off of my MHS-issued, *blue* agenda book.

Enough about me. I’ll leave you with a charming insight from Spencer, sophomore.

“It looks like a painter blue up all over the school.”

Funny ha-ha or infuriatingly punny—you be the judge.

## Obama vs. Hillary Continued

accessible for him, he has never used the “I’m a black man” spiel to incur votes. I just don’t trust Hillary; there are several shadows of doubt (rather large ones, actually) hovering over Hillary’s head that make me wary of her. These range from alleged anti-Semitic and racial slurs to accusations of concealing a “murder” to her undying love for Bill to her intense dislike of homemakers, to the famed Whitewater controversy. Oh, and she talks to herself (this of course referring to her imaginary conversations with a deceased First Lady).

I think being associated with Bill might bring her down a little bit. See, Bill lies, and has affairs, and lies about having affairs (“I did not have sexual relations with that woman”), and this might hurt Hillary because she’s married to him. Currently,

this doesn’t seem to be a problem, as Hillary has a considerable margin between both Obama and John Edwards.

In the lead for the Republican nomination by far is former NYC mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

To the juniors and seniors who can vote in the upcoming election, I implore you: If you are voting Democrat, vote for Obama, and eliminate all possibilities for real estate scandals or ethnic slurs.

## Anna Nicole Smith: An Unfinished Life

**Jessica  
Staff Writer**

No matter who or where you are, we have all heard about the death of the former *Playboy* model Anna Nicole Smith. Born and raised in Texas, she was the blonde bombshell who married a ninety year old billionaire when she was only twenty-six. Throughout her life, she was a Playboy Playmate, a reality TV star, a former Guess model, and a mother of two. She was recently in *The Wave* for the death of her twenty year old son Daniel, and now, she is appearing again for her own death.

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 was a sad and shocking day for those who knew and loved her. I remember talking about her earlier in the day, then coming

home and finding out that the ex-model had died after collapsing in a southern Florida hotel. I thought it was sad, especially since her baby daughter, Dannielynn, was now without a mother. Most people wish to have their deceased ones rest in peace, but for Anna Nicole Smith that seemed to be impossible.

Ever since her marriage to the octogenarian billionaire, Anna Nicole has been having problems. The rumors started with the assumption that she married the billionaire for his money and ended with questions about her sons death. The latest problem on her plate was whether or not her body should be buried in the Bahamas or Texas. The Bahamas is where her son Daniel is buried and Mexia, Texas is where she was raised. Her mother insisted

she be buried in her hometown of Mexia, but if I was Anna Nicole I'd want to be buried next to my child. Others believed she should be buried in the Bahamas next to her son, too.

"I think Anna Nicole Smith should be buried in the Bahamas because that's where her son was buried. And I think that's somewhere she really wants to be buried, next to her son Daniel," sophomore Cherell said.

All the drama about where she should be buried was unnecessary. I feel sympathy for Anna Nicole's mother because all she wants is for her daughter to be buried in the place she grew up in. But most mothers would want to be buried next to their child and I believe Anna Nicole Smith is no different. Being buried next

to her son was what she would have wanted, according to her boyfriend Howard K. Stern.

On Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007 her wish was granted. Anna Nicole Smith was laid to rest next to her son, in a custom-made gown and a pink rhinestone blanket covering her coffin.

Finally, a funeral. It shouldn't have taken this long to lay the model to rest. If she wanted to be buried next to her son in the Bahamas, then it should have been taken care of right away. 'Ridiculous' is the only way to describe the battle about her burial site. Now, if they could only decide on whose custody Dannielynn should be in (Howard K. Stern's or photographer Larry Birkhead's) Anna Nicole Smith may finally be able to rest in peace.

Have an opinion? Want to see your work in print? Want it to be in this space?

*The Wave* wants to hear it! We welcome readers' views. Our Letter to the Editor policy is as follows:

- Letters must have the writer's full name
- We may shorten letters and correct spelling and punctuation errors
- Letters should be no longer than 450 words.

E-mail letters to me at [evdcheer@cox.net](mailto:evdcheer@cox.net) or *The Wave's* account at [themhswave@yahoo.com](mailto:themhswave@yahoo.com) or give your signed letters to Ms. Clark in room 229.

