

History in the Making Inside the Upcoming Election

As you all may know, 2008 is a big year when it comes to politics. This upcoming presidential election will go down in history as nominees Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama have both made this race memorable. At first, when Democrat nominee Hilary Clinton was in the race, she could have become our very first woman president if she won, but Obama succeeded her. Obama himself has created a buzz not just in our country, but in other countries as well. If Obama wins the November elections, he will be our first African-American president.

Now, if McCain wins he would be our oldest president in his term by being the age of seventy-two and with his Vice President choice, Sarah Palin, would become our first female Vice President. As you can see, no matter who the winner is, the outcome of this election will be history in the making. There is a need for change and change is what we will be receiving no matter what. The beliefs of each political party will interfere with the United States stability. Even though you may not be the voting age of eighteen, try getting involved, as this race will be one of the most memorable events of this year or maybe even

many years to come.

Just like when the nineteenth amendment was ratified to allow women to vote in 1920 and the importance of the civil rights movement, it has taken our country over fifty years to have a change either from the typical male or Caucasian dominance in the white house if the result of the election is either nominee. Hopefully McCain or Obama can bring positive change to our country. Now, when it comes to the war, people in the

OUR VIEW

United States either find the war in Iraq to be a good or bad judgment on our countries part, but no matter your opinion on the issue, the outcome of this election will also interfere with our current status in the war.

When it comes to the war, Obama has stated that if he becomes president, he will pull military force out of the Middle East. McCain, a Republican like our current president, feels we should continue the war. When publicly speaking, both nominees make good points. We feel that whoever wins it, will benefit our country in the long run, and they will continue to make the United States a wonderful and powerful place.

Does Raising the Driving Age Raise the Amount of Responsibility?

Alicia P

Staff Writer

Will you be driving soon? Well if you were born in 1993, I doubt it! Due to the number of deaths to teenagers that are behind the wheel, Rhode Island along with a lot of other states, will be raising their drivers license age to 17 ½ or even 18. As you can suspect, teenagers that fall under that age category are not at all pleased with the new law. I must say I also do not agree with this new age for driving.

That is because it's not fair and along with a lot of other people, I don't support it. At this age in a typical teenagers life, they are busy cramming everything into every minute of every single day and believe me we are pretty busy. So, how would the state expect a busy working parent to go pick up their child or children and chauffeur them to everything they want to do after school? Many people are involved in after school

clubs and sports and this can create problems for the families affected by this new law. By raising the age, it is putting pressure on parents to cart around their kids longer than they should even when the child is more than old enough and responsible to drive.

Here at MHS, our students have too been affected by the raising of the driving age. Even though we are a high school that already has juniors and seniors that have their license and permits, we also have a student body full of sophomores and freshman who don't appreciate the new laws.

"I don't think it's fair, why did they have to raise the age at our year?" said Stephanie T, a sophomore here at MHS, who doesn't think it's a good idea to raise the age because it concerns her on how she is going to get around next year. A lot of students went along to agree with Stephanie saying it's not fair and it should-

n't be done.

Another student here at MHS, Jackie D, who even though she already has her permit said, "It's not fair how they are going to raise the age. I know what it feels like not to have a ride and having to walk."

So at Middletown High School it is pretty obvious that this law is not at all supported. I believe honestly that the driving age should indeed stay the same. High school students need to learn to have independence and responsibility. By raising the age you are in fact enabling them to cling to their parents even longer. So even though you may believe that making 17 ½ or 18 the age to drive solo, I believe it should remain the same to help promote our independence.

Three Cups of Tea: Was it A Good Book Choice?

Andrew S
Staff Writer

Either you liked it or you did not, the book “*Three Cups of Tea*” by Greg Mortenson was a reading requirement over the summer. They were many issues when it came to this book, but one important issue that a lot of students including me had was that the book started off being too bland. It had great accurate facts and you could learn a lot from his experience. However, it wasn’t a type of book that I would have wanted to read. We should have read a book that was more interesting and one that grasped the reader’s attention. Last year the seniors had a choice of reading, “*Harry Potter and Deathly Hollows*.”

The Harry Potter series are interesting books to read. It’s all on fantasy and magic, which grabs the readers attention and makes them believe that they are actually there. There are a lot of books out there just like Harry Potter. “*Three Cups of Tea*” could have been a book that we as a school could read in a History class. That’s because it’s based on the history of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the horrific day of 9/11. Reading over the summer should be about fun and we shouldn’t have to read a book that is uninteresting to us. The summer reading books should be interesting, but also our grade level.

The summer reading testing that happened on the first

day was terrible. I personally did not like the idea of taking the test on the first day. The first day should be about settling into your new classes. The tests should be given out maybe on the third day we are back. The test could have been easier for all students, but it wasn’t. The reason I think it wasn’t was because the book lost the readers attention because so many events were happening in the story. This is why I think we should read a book of our choice and on the third day we can take the assessment. I believe the test grades would improve if we were able to do this. Not to mention the students would be a lot happier.

In addition, according to Barnes and Nobles book stores, it would be in the best interest of the school to alert local book stores about the book list. Therefore, the bookstores would have enough copies for each student. This will help the students as well so they don’t have to go out of their way to find a book. In addition to that, students that have siblings at the school can get one book. So there can be enough copies for all the students, because Rogers and Portsmouth High School had to read this book as well this summer. This is how I think as one school we can improve the summer reading at Middletown High School and schools all around Aquidneck Island.

A Positive Change That Was Made

Sara A
Sports Editor

Advisory has been around at MHS for four years now. The point of advisory is to get to know one teacher that you could go to for help or pretty much any thing for the next four years that you are at MHS. In the school year of 2007, advisory changed from 15 minutes everyday to an hour every three days. This time was to be used for students to get help from teachers and for clubs to have their meeting during this time. This school year, we started off once again not being able to leave advisory and the student body was upset.

However, our new dean of students, Mrs. Colleen Larson and others evaluated advisory after the first few weeks and decided that students could leave as long as they had permission from the teacher who they wanted to go to during advisory.

Now that they have evaluated advisory, I feel that they have made a good decision. Students can continue to get the help they need from teachers during this time. Also, different groups can meet. Another thing that students can do during this time is check out the career center in the library for information on colleges.

I am the president of SADD this year and I find it very hard to have meetings after school because many students are involved in sports and many have jobs. Now that we are allowed to leave during advisory with a pass more students will be able to

attend more meetings. Club participation is a good thing, especially on college resumes.

I do understand that at one point last year advisory time did get out of hand with students roaming through the halls with out passes and attendance not being done properly, but I feel that this year it will work if students get passes before that advisory day and if they are only allowed to go to that one place.

Got an idea you’d like to
share or an opinion you’d
like to voice?

Email *The Wave* at
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New School Year Equals New Students

Elizabeth H
Staff Writer

Coming to Middletown High School was a difficult change for me. My last school was four floors, had more than 1,200 students, and was pretty easy to navigate the halls despite the school being much bigger. Now, here there are about 630 students, with two floors, and in my opinion it is definitely much harder to navigate through the halls because since MHS is small, the hallways are crowded, making getting to class more difficult.

"Coming to Middletown High from South Dakota was a dramatic change," said sophomore Jessica S. "I came to this school not knowing anyone or anything that goes on, but I have made many new friends that are very kind."

While the adjustment was hard, the people I have met so far have definitely made it better. The first day was certainly the worst. It was like a stereotypical first day of school from a movie like not knowing where to sit at lunch and not wanting to sit alone. Also, not knowing where you are going while everyone else looks like pros getting from class to class, and sitting through

classes listening to everyone talk about how excited they are to see each other and you not knowing anyone.

"It was awful," said freshman Kayla S. "I was nervous that people wouldn't like me. I'm not like anyone else here."

It was difficult finding people to talk to. It seemed as if everyone else already knew each other and nobody was interested in meeting anyone new. Soon enough though I found people who

"Middletown really knows how to accept new students because of the navy base right near by..."

I can eat lunch with, and now call friends. It was hard to make this move, especially as a sophomore going into a new school not knowing anyone, but the teachers and students that I have met so far have made the transition so much easier. MHS does make an effort to make everyone feel comfortable at school, whether you're new or have been attending this school for three years.

"Middletown really knows how to accept new students because of the navy base right near by," commented Jessica. "They are used to new students coming in all the time."

Students here at MHS know how to make students feel accepted and if you're a new student like me, you just have to give it time.

The Attitude Towards Passing Your Classes

Krystal P
Editor-In-Chief

Senior year is supposed to be your most enjoyable and memorable year, but that only applies to those who passed their courses. If you're an underclassman, don't think that just because you may have three more years here at MHS that you can afford to fail even one course. Not only will it bring down your overall GPA, it will make your years here more stressful. Most importantly, when it comes time to apply to colleges, you will find that you have limited choices due to your overall grades.

Last year, when I was a junior and had to pick classes for my senior year, I wanted to choose classes that were more laid back, but since I had failed important classes that were required to graduate, I couldn't. Instead I am now retaking some classes. If I could go back to those years where I slacked I would have put forth more of an effort.

When I review my transcript, I realize I could have done more to pass with at least a "D" in the subject, (although you should always aspire for a higher

grade, of course.) If I had never failed any classes, not only would my cumulative GPA be higher, but I would not be retaking a course that is similar. Retaking a course is not exactly fun. Take that from an upperclassman who is in a class in which the majority of the students are freshmen.

Do you honestly want to struggle to graduate? I feel that those who do not make any effort should really think about their future. Even if you are one of those students who dislike school, wouldn't you want to graduate on time? I know many people who have failed their whole entire year and they now wish that they had done their work because they are now working much harder to graduate on time with their class. In the long run, this turns out to be more stressful than just trying really hard the first time around.

Some individual's attitudes towards school have drastically changed because they had not cared before, but now they do. That's because they realize they will not graduate with their friends. Homework is a huge component of your grade, so make the time to do it. You will be glad you did a couple of years down the line. Don't let homework be the reason why you

fail a class.

Start this year out on the right track. Make sure you do your homework, participate in class, ask for help when needed, and study hard because your life after high school can be impacted by your performance during your high school years.

Attention Seniors!

If you haven't signed up for SATS already, sign up by November 5th, 2008 for the December 6th testing day!