Are you willing to sit by and let someone else speak for you? One of the underlying principles of our country is the fact that the voters hold the power vested in the government. Throughout the centuries our country has been in existence, the laws regarding who can vote have changed considerably. This change never came easy. There was a lot of moving and shaking involved to ensure that our democracy would be both representative and pluralistic. In the 1800s, the Constitution was amended to allow people of all creeds and colors to vote in elections. In the 1920’s, it was amended again to allow women to vote in all elections, federal and state. In 1971, it was amended yet again to ensure that Americans over the age of 18 would be eligible to vote without regard to their age. Yet, despite all of this action taken to ensure our most basic civil right, voter registration among young people is at all time lows; not just in Pennsylvania, but in the United States as a whole. It’s truly unfortunate that some people neglect their civic duty to vote, not only because it makes our Congress and state legislatures under-representative of young people, but makes it impossible to elect a President who truly represents the views of the public at large. In a recent survey of students at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, a whopping 44% of students are not registered to vote and of those who aren’t currently registered, only 25% stated that they intend to register for the November election. Many of these students report not voting due to a lack of interest, or because they felt that the political system has no bearing on the events of their day to day lives. Everyone should know that this misconception is entirely untrue. The political system and the government touch every element of our lives. If you take out federally subsidized loans to pay for your education, the government can and will readily adjust the interest rate, changing how much you pay. If you drive your car down the highway, you’re driving on roads that were probably paid for with federal money from the 2009 stimulus act. If you work, the political system affects how much tax you pay on your earnings. Plainly put, everyone has an interest in making sure their government representatives...
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Buzzed vs. Texting and Driving, is There a Lesser Evil?

Distracted driving has become a routine part of life. Texting, listening to loud music, earbuds, driving after a few drinks, who knows what else you guys do, but we've all been there. We've had our close calls, just dodging that mailbox, swerving out of the way of oncoming traffic, or slamming the breaks before squishing the neighbor's cat. At a sight of relief or the occasional face-palm usually follow and we tell ourselves, “stop being stupid” but come next week, we're probably reliving the same moment. Why do we keep this behavior on repeat? How can we justify it? Some say “it was a quick text, it's not like I was drunk” or the famous, “It was only two beers.” But, is there a lesser evil? It is one form of distracted driving worse than the other? Student Jillian O'Connell, 22, weighed in on distracted driving. “I think texting can be worse, you're too distracted. After someone has a few drinks, (still under the legal limit) they’re really concentrating, maybe a little paranoid. Obviously, I think both texting and buzzed driving are bad, but texting just seems more distracting.” Student Chelsea English, 19, says, “Neither is better. It's very irresponsible, and it irritates me. It's not fair to other drivers. When people do these things they can kill other people.” Penn State Wilkes-Barre Senior Kenneth Blond, 22, also had an opinion on distracted driving. “I think both are bad, but if I had to pick I'd say texting is worse. When you're texting, you're eyes aren't even on the road. I’m definitely not saying buzzed driving is a good idea, though.”

Well, what does law enforcement think? Chief Nick Lohnman of the Duryea Police Department has seen firsthand how different forms of distracted driving compare. “They're both equal (texting and buzzed driving), both take your attention off the roadway. Nowadays it seems like the same people that are buzzed driving are the ones that are texting, too. Texting and driving is definitely more frequent, everyone has a cell phone now, but I'd say they're equally dangerous. I wouldn't say loud music or earbuds are really a problem. In my 12 years I haven't seen an accident caused by music or earbuds. I think texting is much more of an issue.” When it comes to buzzed vs. texting and driving, there's no clear winner in the best way to wreck your car and court. That's why we want to know what you think. What's your take on distracted driving? Let us know about your experience today.

By Julie Haller
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Anniversary of Occupy Wall Street: An update

On September 17th, enthusiastic protesters gathered together in New York City’s financial district at Liberty Square, immediately home of the Occupy Wall Street movement in support of its 1st anniversary. Participants had rallied not just in recognition of the OWS anniversary, but also in hopes of reigniting the flames of protest. Last year OWS inspired protests worldwide with tent-cities springing up north, south, east, and west on the globe. Since then, however, many of the movements have unfortunately lost momentum.

In an act to halt that momentum, NYPD arrested over 180 people on Monday the 17th. Though naysayers claim that the decline in participation is due to political setbacks, the increase in police action will prevent the Occupy Wall Street movement from ever gaining power again. People in the midst of the action beg to differ. Nick Pinto of New York News confidently reports “Despite police repression and a perpetually dismissive media, the animating grievances that brought people to the park last fall are only more acute, and the number and resolve of people who want to do something about it isn’t diminishing.”

So will protest movements like Occupy Wall Street re-emerge on the advent of this year’s Presidential election? Can disgruntled citizens rally together to fight against economic inequality and other injustices?
Penn State Takes Steps to Accommodate Students During Voter ID Law Dilemma

Penn State, perhaps in an attempt to prove it can and will step up and “do the right thing” has come forth with a solution for its students to combat the new Pennsylvania Voter ID Law.

The PA Voter ID Law which is currently being kicked back and forth between the Commonwealth Court and the higher-up Pennsylvania State Supreme Court is controversial in that it mandates, for the first time, that in order to register to vote and ultimately vote, every PA resident must have valid photo identification with an expiration date.

The law itself was quick to draw much opposition, but it seems the timing of the law just months before a Presidential election is even more troubling for many. This law will potentially disenfranchise up to tens of thousands of Pennsylvania residents, mainly minorities and students, and leave them with little to no time to combat the restrictions recently placed on them.

We can (and did, in the case of The Revolt) debate the motives behind this new law. We can even bring forth evidence of elected officials flat-out stating the consequences and desired outcome of this new law, “Voter ID, which is going to allow Governor Romney to win the state of Pennsylvania: done.” (said by PA House Republican Leader Mike Turzai)

While I personally believe there is no doubt that this law doesn’t just disenfranchise potential Democratic voters, but was actually specifically designed to do just that, I’m happy to say that my school is taking action in assisting students in obtaining the proper identification.

Penn State ID cards have come equipped with an expiration date since May 7, 2012. For those students who were issued a Penn State ID earlier than May 7, 2012 without an expiration date and plan to use their Penn State ID to vote, each campus has designated a specific station to pick up an expiration date sticker to add to the Pennsylvania Voter ID card and make it a valid and acceptable form for voting.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre students can pick up their expiration date sticker at Police Services located at 111 Hayfield House.

While we were sending The Revolt October issue to press on October 2nd, 2012, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Judge Robert Simpson ruled that the controversial Voter ID Law will not be enforced for the upcoming presidential election in November.

Written by: Jennifer Shubilla (js3355@psu.edu)

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The Golden Age of Cartoons

Do you remember exploring the lab with Dexter? Fighting off scary monsters with Courage? Sitting in front of your TV shouting “Cartoon Cartoons!” before one of your favorite shows came on? If you answered yes to all of those questions, you used to watch Cartoon Network. The channel that all of those memories came from.

When happened 20 years ago? It all started in 1986 when Turner Broadcasting acquired the rights to classic cartoons such as Popeye, Looney Tunes, and Tom & Jerry. When shown on some of the channels such as Turner Network Television (TNT), the cartoons became popular with a large audience both young and old. In 1991 Turner Broadcasting purchased the Hanna-Barbera animation studio gaining the rights to more classic cartoons such as Scooby Doo, The Flintstones, The Jetsons, and The Yogi Bear Show. By this time, Turner Broadcasting’s cartoon library had grown to 8,500 hours’ worth of cartoons, so on October 1st 1992 Cartoon Network was launched as a 24/7 broadcast of all those classic cartoons. It became the second channel to rely on cartoons for an audience; Nickelodeon had been running shows such as Doug, Rugrats, and Ren & Stimpy since 1991.

It wasn’t until a few years later that Cartoon Network began to air original programming, with The Moby Show and Space Ghost Coast to Coast premiering in 1993 and 1994 respectively. Also in 1994 Cartoon Network Animation Studios was founded, its first project being What A Cartoon! - a half hour segment consisting of several 6 minute animated shorts by independent animators. Many of the classic Cartoon Cartoons shows we grow to love as children were spinoffs of some of those animated shorts, the first being Dexter’s Laboratory which premiered as its own series in 1996. Later in 1997 Johnny Bravo and Cow & Chicken became full series, followed by Powerpuff Girls in 1998; and Courage the Cowardly Dog and Mike, Lou and Ogg in 1999.

Ed, Edd, and Eddy was the only original Cartoon Cartoon show not to originate from What A Cartoon! Here’s another fact you probably didn’t know, a short called Larry and Steve from What A Cartoon! was done by Seth MacFarlane, and this cartoon would later evolve into Family Guy, with the two title characters bearing a strong resemblance to Peter and Brian Griffin.

If you were to tune to Cartoon Network today, you wouldn’t see any of these classic shows with the exception of Ed, Edd, and Eddy which is often shown in re-runs. Most of the classic cartoons we’ve come to love are now shown on Boomerang, a sister channel to Cartoon Network that specializes in showing classic cartoons. Although traditionally animated shows are still shown on Cartoon Network, it has expanded its programming to include live action shows, computer animated shows, even shows that combine all 3 such as the trippy show The Amazing World of Gumball. Most of these new shows lack the humor and enjoyment that the old ones provided, but that’s no surprise considering what they have to live up to.

To those of us who grew up in the golden age of Cartoon Network, any adventure Jake and Finn have in Adventure Time will never be as funny as watching Johnny Bravo walk up to a girl, flirt with them, and get punched in the face. So let’s take Cartoon Networks 20th birthday to reflect on all the cartoons we grew up with and for old time’s sake: if you ever see one of those classic shows on TV, celebrate the anniversary and shout “Cartoon Cartoons!”

Written by: Jon Suski
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The “People’s” Playlist

Cody Gate:
Dope Boys by The Game
All Day/All Night by Cassidy
Ethan Rosenstein:
People are Strange by The Doors
Monster by Kanye West
Roving Gambler by Dierks Bentley
Amanda Attewicz:
Peacock by Katy Perry
Oh Love by Green Day
Gangnam Style by PSY
Desire Mitcham:
Titanium by David Guetta
Let Yourself Go - Green Day
One Thing by One Direction
Dana Buons:
Ice Monster -Minus The Bear
Alyx Kechler:
Say It Ain’t So - Weezer
You Don’t Know Me - Ben Folds
Jennifer Shubilla:
Little Talks - Of Monsters and Men
Benjamin Pizziello:
Siberian Breaks - MGMT
Julie Haller:
Ice Monster -Minus The Bear
Ayly Kechler:
Say It Ain’t So - Weezer
Jennifer Shubilla:
Little Talks - Of Monsters and Men
Proudly serving the 47% who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them.