

New Driving Restrictions are Unjust

Marissa Kayton
Staff Writer

Imagine, if you will, that you're alone with a friend when something happens, like they cuts their hand deeply and are in need of stitches. Calling an ambulance would be a waste of money (that you don't have) and a waste of good hospital help that could be used for those who actually need it. So you do the dignified thing and drive your friend to the emergency room yourself. Now imagine that you've also recently turned sixteen; you're pulled over because you look too young to have a passenger, and you find yourself in trouble with the law for simply being a good person.

Why? Because you're driving under the hottest new driving law to sweep the nation. The new driving law basically states that someone who is under the age of 18 and has received their license will be issued an intermediate license, under which three new restrictions are given.

For the first six months that the new driver has their license, they are not permitted to have any passengers below the age of twenty unless they are a part of the driver's immediate family. After that, up until the driver is eighteen, they are not permitted to have more than three passengers under the age of twenty.

Until age eighteen, the new driver is not permitted to drive between one and five AM unless they are with a licensed driver that is over the age of twenty-five.

Under the new law, there are three violation levels. First violation: the driver is is-

sued a warning letter. Second violation: the driver's license will be suspended for six months or until the age of 18, whichever is shorter. Third violation: the driver's license will be suspended until age 18, and a letter will be sent to their parents.

These penalties do not include the obscene fines that may be applied, however. Sophomore Patrick Kravitz recalls an

incident awhile back when his brother, senior Matt Kravitz, was driving with a friend in Hillsboro one night, and was pulled over because he didn't have his lights on. When the officer noticed the passenger and license, what would have been a simple warning or minor fine turned into a horrendous \$450 ticket. Patrick recalls that, "under the law, Matt's passenger caused his license to be invalid. That's what most of the ticket was."



Teen drivers

don't have to be pulled over for another offense, though. Nineteen-year-old Chelsea Burley was once pulled over because she, "looked too young to have a passenger in the car with her." Luckily, Burley was not violating any laws, but that doesn't stop the fact that many teenagers are being pulled over.

The intermediate license was created so new drivers could avoid injury and fatal collisions

age, then the student driver would have more time behind the wheel to gain experience. The permit could then be held for maybe a year and a half or even two, and the required number of driving hours could be increased. This extra experience could help students learn how to drive through all types of weather and road conditions, and teach them to be more responsible drivers once the art of driving is familiar to them.

In addition, this new law discourages carpooling, which leads to many other problems. The most obvious of these is extra pollution in our already suffering environment. For every five hundred teenagers on the road, only about one hundred need to be. That's five times the pollution. It's also five times the wear on the roads (concerning only teenage drivers under this law), which enforces the need for road repair, which in turn, causes more taxes. Finally, the discouragement of carpooling creates traffic, something that's already a problem on the highway system.

Also, if these restrictions are placed on a new driver, how is that driver to learn how to drive well under those conditions? This is something that we've been taught never to do: procrastinate. All we're doing is pushing the lesson of driving with friends a little while into the future. Postponing such lessons don't make them any easier to learn; we have to learn how to deal with these driving conditions at one time or another. As far as I'm concerned, this law only makes eighteen the new sixteen.

Mission Statement. *The Paper* is published by the journalism class of Camas High School, sanctioned by the Associated Student Body. The purpose of *The Paper* is to inform and entertain the student body, giving them the opportunity to express their ideas on a wide variety of topics. Editorial opinions expressed in *The Paper* are not necessarily the opinions of the administrators, advertisers, faculty, staff, and/or school board. "The View" is agreed upon and written by staff members.

Advertising Policy. *The Paper* reserves the right to refuse advertising to anyone it deems inappropriate for our audience. We will not accept advertising that is libelous, factually inaccurate, malicious, and/or obscene. We will also not accept advertising that is derogatory with respect to gender, race, religion, age, and/or sexual orientation. We reserve the right at any time to discontinue advertising; advertisers will be refunded the difference.



Letters to the Editor. *The Paper* will print all letters to the editor, space allowing. Letters may be edited for style and length. All letters to the editor must be signed and must have contact information. Letters to the editor must be turned in at least one week prior to press week.

All issues are reviewed by the staff advisor and CHS administration prior to publication.

The Paper Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Katie McKie	Staff Writers: Dilvar Abdullayeva, Caitlan Burley, Kelly Green,
News Editor: Mary McDonnell	Tyson Gregg, Tahna Jones, Alex Justrom,
Features Editor: Cassie Pomeroy	Marissa Kayton, Emily Lasselle, Louanna Pierson, Ashley Smith,
Opinion Editor: Katie Repman	Mandy Trembly
A&E Editor: Jesse Campbell	
Sports Editor: Bobby McManus	
Business Manager: Richie Sooy	
Advisor: Alex Parker	