

Freedom comes with strings attached

SHELMI LIANG
Staff Reporter

New adults are greeted with new rights, but also new responsibilities. A 17-year-old shoplifter might be lectured and driven home in a police car for a first offense. But at age 18, you face arrest and possible jail time. The juvenile justice system, which puts greater focus on rehabilitation, will no longer handle your case. Instead, you will face adult penalties.

You can smoke, vote, get married, drive without restriction, adopt children if you wish, sign legal documents, stay out late, go to most clubs and join the military without parental consent. Can your parents still tell you what to do? Legally no, morally yes. If you still live with them, you still have to follow their rules. However, they have no more legal responsibility for your welfare. This means that you could come home and find all of your stuff on the front porch.

Turning 18 does not exclude you from school rules. Administrators can search your locker, backpack or car without a search warrant as long as they have a legitimate reason. In some schools, you can sign yourself out of class. Back in 1998-99, WHS students abused this privilege by forging doctor's appointments and not coming back to class. Washington no longer acknowledges this privilege.

"One student had 93 off grounds passes, which was excessive," attendance clerk Nancee Reck said.

This effect resulted in negative consequences. In that year, the school lost ADA (Average Daily Attendance). The school does a monthly count of the number of periods students attend. The state then sends money to the school depending on the number count.

Adulthood is exciting with all the freedom. But it also comes with responsibilities you must carry out.



Photo from VERONICA BONFIGLIO
Veronica Bonfiglio and junior Brent Bonfiglio pose in front of house. Veronica introduced a new drug for NBIA patients like Brent.

NBIA | New hope for student

From page 1

are caused by an unusually high level of iron in the brain.

Veronica is part of an online support group for people with NBIA. A man in Iceland posted a press release about a drug in France that, although used to treat a different disorder, can cross over the barrier into the brain and help reduce iron levels. After doing research, the Bonfiglios decided to pursue this option.

In order to be able to use the drug in the United States, a doctor needed to make a compassionate use case for Brent to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that this drug, Deferiprone, was the only treatment that could help him.

Veronica found a doctor at the Children's Hospital in Oakland who uses Deferiprone to treat a different disorder. They weighed the risks and benefits and decided it would be best to

go through with it. It took a lot of paperwork for the doctor to make a compassionate use case to the FDA as well as at the hospital level.

Brent was the first child in the United States to receive Deferiprone for his condition. He started treatment in November of 2007. To date there have been no side-effects. The drug has helped stop the disease from advancing in his body as well as



alleviating the current symptoms.

Since taking Deferiprone, Brent has regained more coordination, balance and trunk control.

"These gains can be noticeable in the little things that we take for granted like being able to sit without back support [or] hold a cup without dropping it," Veronica said.

He is also able to walk better, still with assistance, but with more ease. His speech has become clearer and he is able to use his video game controllers again.

Students fail to recognize their rights

JUDY WU
Staff Reporter

Teenagers have more rights than most people think. Teenagers have the right to an education, free speech and a safe environment. They also have the right to a legal counsel and trial by jury. Authorized figures can

order teens to answer questions but teens don't have to answer.

Teenagers are also entitled to go through a juvenile

court system instead of an adult court system. They become a "delinquent child" and have to go through rehabilitation, which means parents may have to pay a fine or the teenager might have to go to juvenile detention.

There are projects, like the Algebra Project, that fight

for different student rights. The Algebra Project is a national, nonprofit organization fighting for every child's right to a quality public school education. Teachers and parents are working to achieve this goal by using better educational research and building an alliance to create changes.

"All students should have the right to a good education. They should be exposed to the same opportunities despite their social status," government teacher Elizabeth DeWitt said.

Teenagers are guaranteed most of the rights in the U.S. Constitution, but certain rights such as their freedom of speech are limited.

In *Morse v. Frederick* (2007), the Supreme Court ruled it was legal for the principal to punish a

“Challenging the government makes America the free and just country it is.”

Elizabeth DeWitt

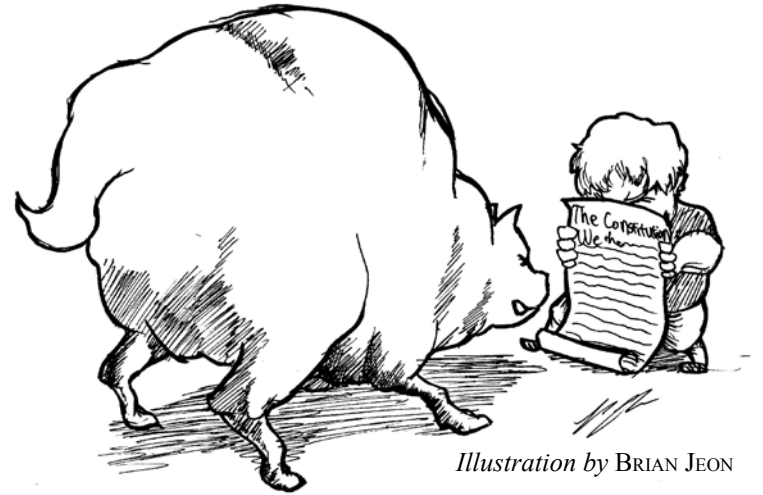


Illustration by BRIAN JEON

student advocating an illegal drug off campus.

Supreme Court case *New Jersey v. TLO* (1985) decreased students fourth ammendment rights and legalized search and seizure of students' belongings as long as there is reasonable suspicion.

Safford Unified School District v. Redding (2009) ruled that the school crossed the line of reasonable suspicion when they made 13-year-old Savana Redding

strip down to her underwear for giving her friend four Advil pills.

There are limitations on teenage rights, but teenagers can and should stand up for their rights.

"Students trust the government more than their instincts on their rights. Students should be able to challenge the government when their rights are being violated. Challenging the government makes America the free and just country it is," DeWitt said.



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