

New driving laws to benefit students

Texting while driving bans help prevent accidents



RENEE LEHR
Associate Editor

Illinois has recently passed new laws that will be in effect Jan. 1, 2010. The new laws state that “a person under the age of 19 years who holds an instruction permit or a graduated license may not drive a vehicle on a roadway while using a wireless phone except in emergency situations.”

Any person of any age may not use a phone while operating a vehicle in a school zone or construction zone, but devices such as a blue tooth and hands free ear pieces are allowed. A ban has also been placed on “electronic messaging.” Electronic messaging includes electronic mail, text messages, instant messages, or accessing the internet. Illinois will be the 17th state to ban texting while driving. Although there are many concerns, Illinois is not banning cell phones in general. People are allowed to use phones while traffic is being obstructed or

when their car is in park.

While many students are upset and are quick to complain about these rules, I am relieved. Like others, I am often texting friends, making calls, and playing music in my car. Simply knowing the risks is not enough to keep people away from their phones, especially teenagers.

Texting and driving is something we have come to accept. Like many people, I am not a dangerous driver constantly texting. I only text when I get to a stoplight or a stop sign. I have learned when I need to stop and when I can get away with using my phone. I know the consequences, but they do not affect me. Many teenagers feel the same, and most will admit to texting because they can get away with it.

Having new laws in place is something we should all be thankful for. Using cell phones while driving is a proven danger to ourselves and others, and it is a choice that we have gotten to make. Now, Illinois is making the choice in attempt to protect both individuals and the community. Cell phones are helpful in emergency situations. Other than that, there is no need to use cell phones while driving. Instead of immediately complaining about the new laws, we should accept them and be grateful for having something to keep us safe.

Holiday spirit arrives earlier than needed

Christmas spirit overruns the season



JAYME JOHNSON
Writer

November is about crisp weather, leaves changing color, and Thanksgiving, not Christmas. Every year companies begin advertising Black Friday in November earlier and earlier. It is getting way out of hand. The television station ABC Family introduced their annual “25 Days of Christmas” special this year with the *countdown* to the “25 Days of Christmas” beginning Nov. 8. Shopping centers began to play Christmas music in mid-November. People were surrounded by holiday cheer and it was only November. This was all too extreme.

The advertisement of Christmas shopping

and sales so early takes away from the spirit of the season. It used to be that the Christmas season began the day after Thanksgiving or the beginning of December. Advertisements are coming out so early, and by the time it becomes the “normal” holiday season, people have grown tired and annoyed and just want it to be over. Also, because the Christmas ads come out around Thanksgiving, people may be overwhelmed by all the excitement of the two holidays. One holiday at a time, please.

What ever happened to Christmas being about family and togetherness? Christmas has become a holiday for the industries. It is all about the gifts and the lowest prices. It does seem logical to begin advertising Christmas sales a few days before Black Friday so customers know what is going on, but to begin after Halloween is uncalled for. I would like my holidays to stay in the order they are supposed to be: Halloween, Thanksgiving, then Christmas.

The Aegis

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