

Why Vote?

Because All the Cool Kids Are

By Kevin Quirolo

Albany High School, Grade 12

There are people who smoke cigarettes *because* they are eighteen and they can. It does take ten minutes from their time on earth every cigarette they burn to a stub, but it is something that only someone who's eighteen can do so it's cool. Why not vote instead? Come on, don't you want to wave something in the face of your little brother or sister and say, "Look what I have, that you can't have." Make it your completed voter registration form. Think you need something to impress that girl or boy who is the object of your desire? Don't smoke cigarettes! Tell them you vote. Say, "Would you like to go to the ballet with me? I've completed my ballot."

Plus, it's free. Completely. In fact, it's *so* free that it's illegal for you to pay for it, thanks to the 24th amendment. If there was a box of candy that said "FREE: Please take one" you would take one. Not only that, you would take the entire box and stuff it as casually as possible into your backpack. Well there is a place I know of, your local library or post office that has a similar box, only it is full to the brim with voter registration forms. Take one. Take them all and distribute them to your friends. You'll be the coolest kid at school, and you won't have to pay that outrageous tobacco tax.

You have nothing to lose. There are no taboos, stigmas, or superstitions associated with voting. You won't have seven years of bad luck if you vote; you might have four years of bad luck if you don't. Walking into a voting booth is not the same as walking under a ladder. You will never vote on a Friday the thirteenth because Election Day is always on a Tuesday, the most bland day of the week.

If someone punched you in the face, would you just stand there? Simply step back with surprise and then assume the same position? No. If someone managed to sneak away with nearly half of your hard earned pay check, would you just stand there? Well, you don't have to. Stick it to the man, register to vote and make your indignation heard throughout the white capital building.