



The Verdict

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Mary Goodell

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A Word From the President

George Bernard Shaw said, “Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

After having served as President-Elect during my junior year, I had a laundry list of changes for the Academy of Law and Government. Previous administrations ignored the disorganization in our governance. They were content to have a few students make all of the decisions, remaining stagnant.

My agenda for the Academy this year was based on a few key principles: increasing student involvement, improving structure, and ensuring the enrichment of our school and community. From day one, every member of my team has hit the ground running with zealous plans and initiatives.

The Executive Board started the year by ratifying a new set of Governing Bylaws, which function as the ALAG Constitution. From that point, we established four new

committees: Public Affairs, Community Service, Recruitment, and Fundraising. These new additions serve to turn decisions on specific matters to you, Academy students. Increasing student involvement, we know, will depend on how much you are willing to give.

In an effort to immerse students even more in the democratic process, we held the first-ever elections of class representatives. Underclassmen directly elected their Executive Board delegation. Freshmen and sophomores launched campaigns, gave speeches, and cast ballots, all with roaring success.

The Courtroom Refurbishment Initiative was put into action. A new podium was purchased, as well as new counsel’s tables. Modernizing the ALAG Courtroom is essential to maintaining the professional atmosphere of our law lessons.

New field trips are in the works, including one to the Police Museum

and Hall of Fame, an exemplary display of history and interactive simulation. Our historian, Michael Cocomazze, is putting together a mock car accident for the week of prom. A similar project has been done before in an effort to discourage drunk driving, but Mr. Cocomazze’s revamped initiative is set to be the biggest in Atlantic history.

What separates the 2015-2016 Executive Board from previous ones is our sense of duty. We understand that a program like ours may become commonplace in a 21st century education. What we do in ALAG today may very well be a standard for all academies and programs tomorrow, and we do not shrink from this responsibility. We embrace it.

It is an honor to serve as your President. I look forward to what we will accomplish in the second semester.

-Devon Morris, President

Current Events Corner

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES:

- ◇ February 8th
- ◇ March 14th
- ◇ April 11th

FIELD TRIPS:

- ◇ Universal Studios Security Tour
- ◇ Police Museum and Hall of Fame

ACADEMY EVENTS:

- ◇ Pasta for Pennies Deadline: February 28th

New Academy polo and t-shirts are in the works! ALAG would like to thank those who contributed their artistic designs.



Next Democratic debates: Feb. 11th, March 9th



Next Republican debates: Jan. 28th, Feb. 6th, Feb. 13th

Iowa Caucus: February 1st
New Hampshire Primary: February 9th

Opinion: The Constitutionality of Police Surveillance Devices



**Should certain privacies
be sacrificed for security?**

Dissenting Opinion:

We live in an era in which technology grows faster than the question of morality. In law enforcement, many new devices border infringement of privacy. Two controversial devices at the center of this issue are Stingrays and Range-R's.

A Stingray is essentially a fake cell phone tower police can use to find the location of a cell phone. This in itself is not very harmful; any cell phone provider could do the same thing. However, Stingrays also allow the government to locate an individual, get data from your phone, and even record calls.

When law enforcement now use Stingrays, a general warrant is provided. General warrants, which are typically difficult to obtain, provide for any and all searches of property and technology. This exception to the law is inherently unconstitutional and infringes upon the Fourth Amendment.

Range-R's are devices with radar signals that can penetrate just about any

building material besides metal, allowing law enforcement to be able to "see" inside buildings. These devices should be held to the same standard as a normal search of a property, which would require a warrant, but this isn't happening.

The invasion of privacy is intensified with Range-R's, since the scanner can be used by police at anytime to peer into most buildings. Without the technology, warrants are almost always required, with the exception of threat to life or destruction of evidence.

Stingrays are known to be owned by 58 different law enforcement agencies, that span 23 states and the District of Columbia. This number is not an accurate depiction because many police departments do not release this fact to the public. Range-R's are known to be owned by over 50 law enforcement agencies, although L-3 Communications, the manufacturer of the Range-R device, have said that over two hundred have been sold to agencies.

At right: Mr. Hartman demonstrates forensic techniques



Assenting Opinion:

When any controversial topic is magnified by the news media, our reaction as citizens is to gain as much information as possible so we may develop an opinion about it, which is virtuous. When it comes to matters of privacy, we as a society tend to instinctively assume that our privacy is being violated.

Both of these tendencies can be problematic when it comes to police practices. Range-R and Stingray are two devices used by law enforcement which have

raised a substantial amount of privacy concerns.

The Range-R is not able to "see through walls," as some critics have claimed. It is able to detect motion inside a building. This device saves lives of officers who plan to carry out a search warrant and does not violate anyone's fourth amendment rights.

The Stingray devices, despite common misunderstanding, are not able to access data like photos or emails from anyone's phones. Any communications content that is intercepted to further

Both of these devices are extremely dangerous to the concept of Constitutional freedom to privacy. As the technology develops, it will undoubtedly encroach further on the rights of citizens. The solution to this problem is in progress; federal lawmakers have drafted bills that will prevent local and state police departments, as well as the FBI, the US Marshals Service, and the DEA, from using them without a strict and thorough warrant.

Written By: Kale Osborn

criminal investigations is destroyed thereafter, so it is not harvested and/or misused by anyone.

It's important to remember that the police are acting under the umbrella of judicial review just like any government agency, and that when it comes to stopping violent crime and capturing malicious perpetrators, the police's goals may trump our privacy concerns.

Written By: Scott Kelley

Presidential Election 2016



In Brief: Wall-to-Wall Academies

An anticipated change may be coming to Atlantic High School in the future. Academies instill curiosity in careers, engage students, and reach subjects otherwise untouched in the public education system. If every student was a part of one, the improvement would be immeasurable: graduation rates would increase, as would learning gains and grades. Students would enter careers with a wealth of knowledge in their passions. This is the philosophy of wall-to-wall academies.

A common concern with the W.T.W. Academy system is the natural indecisiveness freshmen have going into high school. Certain measures would give freshman flexibility in their choice. If put into action, freshmen would be allowed to spend their first year deciding on an Academy.

Our previous principal, Ms. Marcks, began to put this plan in action. New programs in aviation and education, TESA and TLC, respectively, were implemented. With W.T.W. Academies, they would have the ability to grow as ALAG, AEMS, and AAA have.

Our principal, Mr. Tager, along with Academy coordinators, made a trip recently to a Nashville high school that follows the program. In a previously ailing inner-city district, they met expectations in graduation rate and student performance. The system has a proven success that could be a game-changer in our school. Though the projected pilot year is 2017-2018, even those graduating this year take pride in the promising horizons for Atlantic High School.

Written By: Mary Goodell

With President Obama's eight year incumbency coming to an end, candidates are vying for the title in one of the most publicized elections in our time.

The right started out with an astounding seventeen candidates, though there are currently three frontrunners. Donald Trump has led the national polls since his campaign announcement, with Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) gaining momentum, and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) coming in third.

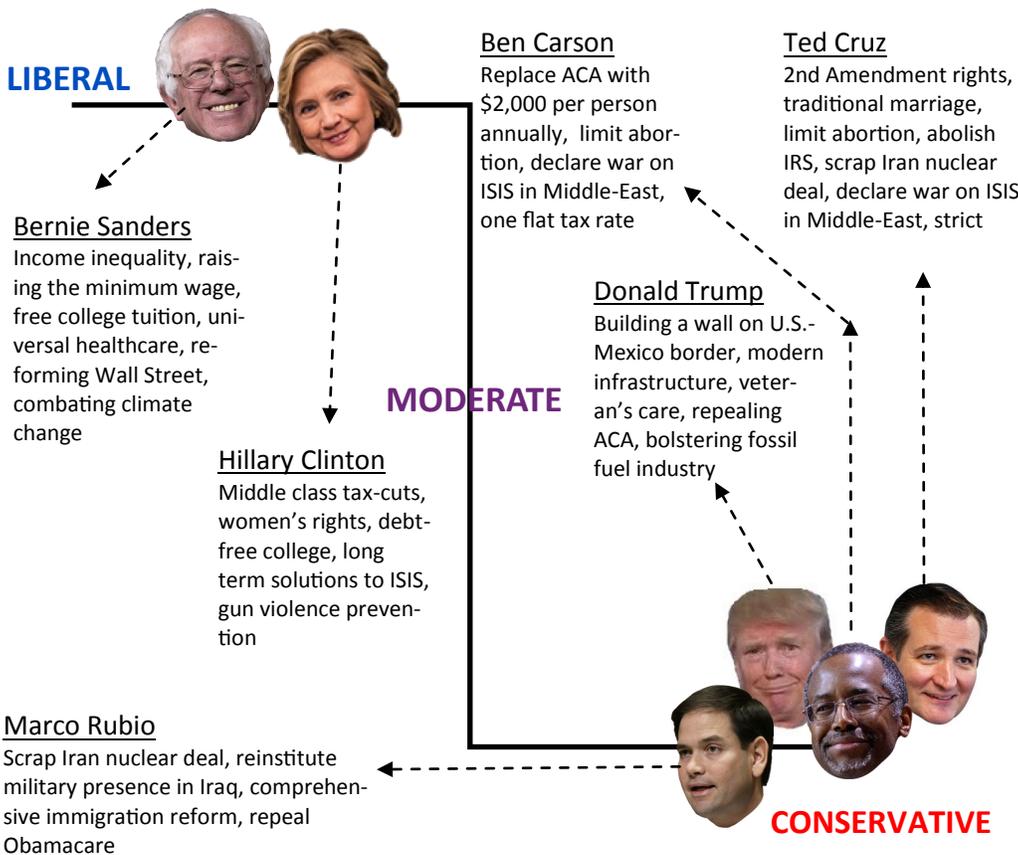
The left has had a more centralized distribution of candidates, with Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) in a see-saw of leadership in the polls. Governor Martin O'Malley (D-MD) has had marginal success with Democrats, but remains in Democratic debates.

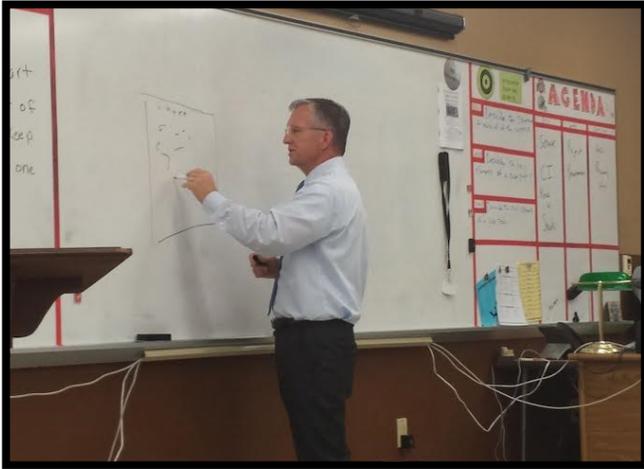
Primary elections and caucuses will be held in the next few months to determine which of the hopefuls will be the nominee for

their Party. The Iowa caucus will be held February 1st, and the New Hampshire primary will be held on February 9th. March 1st, familiarly known as "Super Tuesday," will hold primaries in fifteen states and territories. Those who are at least eighteen years of age on March 15th will be able to vote in the Florida primary. Primaries are a vital part of elections; the entire general election voter pool should participate, as a citizen of the United States.

This election will hopefully be a turning point in ameliorating problems in American society. It will be an intriguing election; voters are transitioning to a Democratic trend, but the results of this election are proving to be anything but predictable.

*Written by
Mary Goodell and Bella De Moraes*





At left: Guest Speaker Jake Johannsen, current City Manager of Port Orange, former Military Liaison to Vice President Dick Cheney



At right: The soon-to-be refurbished ALAG courtroom judge's bench and counsel's tables

ALAG Joins Student Leaders Coalition (S.L.C.)

The Academy of Law and Government is proud to announce that we have joined the Atlantic High School Student Leaders Coalition! Created by the Vice President of the SGA, Thoren Perego, the Coalition aims to minimize lack of communication between clubs, Academies, and honor societies and to concentrate our resources and ingenuity toward common goals.

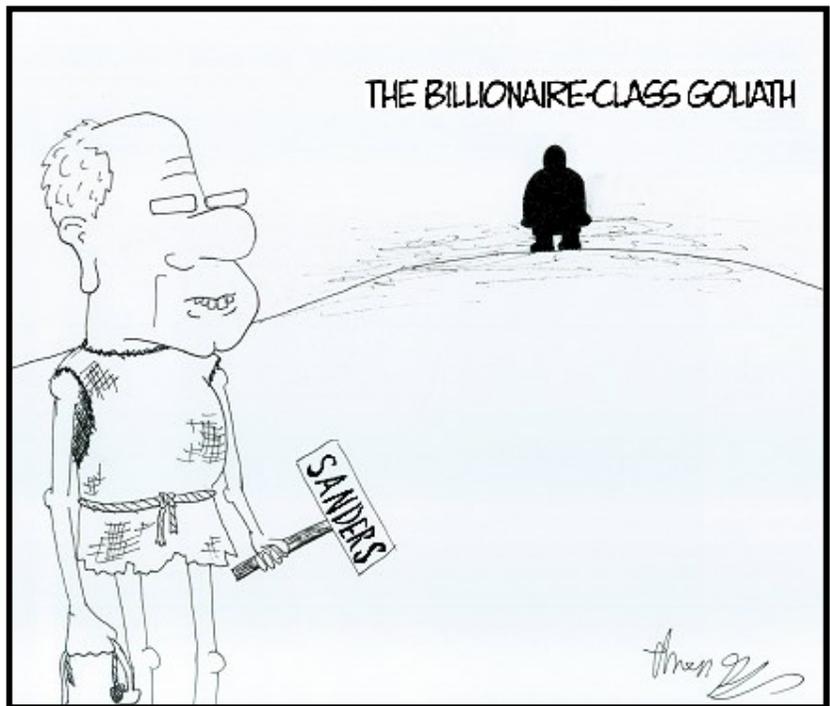
President Devon Morris and President-Elect Taylor Whiting were early proponents of the since-ratified Leadership Charter that will function as the Coalition's constitution. It will ensure timely and orderly school improvement projects.

The Coalition has already begun several initiatives that are certain to prove fruitful for both our school and community. At the direction of NHS President and *The Verdict* Editor Mary Goodell, the Coalition is seeking to provide supplies and cover for Daytona's immense homeless population. Mrs. Alves, the Atlantic Science Coach, has proposed a recycling program that would ensure paper products aren't lining landfills. FFA is currently assembling a detailed plan to beautify the school, with a focus on improved landscaping techniques.

Atlantic High leadership has never taken a more active role in school reform and improvement, and ALAG is pleased to be a leader in this effort!

Written By: Devon Morris

Political Cartoon by Thoren Perego



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THE VERDICT

Contact Editor-in-Chief Mary Goodell
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 or attend Monday Board Meetings