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Middleton: 1.8 Square Miles of Boring

Welcome to Middleton, Idaho! Never heard of it? No worries, not many people have. According to Middleton's Wikipedia page, it consists of 1.8 square miles, 2,978 people (as of 2000), and a male to female ratio of 97.9 to 100. The Middleton Chamber of Commerce website lists a fire department, five restaurants (though there are several that exist in Middleton which are not represented), and a veterinary hospital—among other things. Unless one enjoys arson, eating, or animals there really is nothing to do in Middleton.

Alright, I'll be fair. Middleton has a library, video rental stores, and a grocery store as well. It also has a shady bar—but that is an establishment to enter at one's own risk. It really is a stereotypical small town, but it is growing rather quickly; up to 9,672 in 2010 (Best Places to Live & Retire). The problem is that the population is growing much faster than the accommodations of Middleton. This has led to total boredom for most of the residents of Middleton, especially those who are too young to leave very often to find more interesting things to do.

With the lack of things to do in Middleton, an epidemic has swept the town. Rather than doing something productive, the teens of the community spend their time wandering the streets, generally creating mischief. While the teens who run amuck do not cause a huge amount of

issues, they are a nuisance to the town. What is it, then, that Middleton needs? I say that Middleton needs to muster up an army and conquer its neighbors: Nampa and Caldwell.

Some small-minded folks may claim that all Middleton needs is to become a place worth respecting. The citizens of Middleton would love their town if they made it worth loving by helping to develop it. There is currently a program in place to rebuild the sidewalks of Middleton. The idea is that Middleton will become a place to walk about, and enjoy the sights. The Public Library has also been working hard to bring prestige to Middleton. It has been working for years to expand their building and their collection, and has encouraged ordinary citizens to get involved. All Middleton needs is to take the time and effort to complete, and complete well, these projects. Once community members get involved, then pride will grow, and everyone can take satisfaction in having built their town up. These types of solutions, however, are laughable. Respect is to be earned in one fell swoop, not gradually built up. Before Middleton's citizens can be happy with their town, their town must do something worth respecting on a grand scale. Once Middleton has earned the respect of its citizens, it can earn the respect of the world.

Conquering Nampa and Caldwell would bring such respect to Middleton. It would show the world that Middleton is more than just a rural town in Idaho. Having a compulsory army would also give us somewhere to put those annoying teens. Some would argue that taking this sort of action is needlessly harsh. However, military action is the only way to give Middleton the opportunities it deserves.

Everyone needs, in one way or another, to make him-or-herself heard in the world. In a funny way, towns need to do the same thing. Most of the people who live in New York City are totally proud of that; they take pride in living in one of the most recognized cities in the world.

The same goes for someone living in San Francisco, London, Paris, or Venice. However, living in Middleton brings no prestige. It is only through the military might of Middleton's army that we could possibly gain that prestige. Showing the world that little old Middleton could overthrow two bigger cities would bring pride to all the citizens of Middleton.

Armies are great in theory, but one needs warm bodies to create an army. Thankfully, Middleton has a plethora of rogue teenagers wandering the streets at all hours. All one needs to do is conscript them into mandatory military service for the town. The physical training involved would ward off obesity in our teens, and also give them a sense of duty and discipline (Hedt). Middleton's army would provide a "structured environment," a place for wild teenagers to grow into decent members of society (Bright). In Sparta, boys started their education at the age of seven years-old—education that consisted mostly of military study (Sparta). Sparta was nearly undefeatable for most of its time as a military power, and consequently was one of the most powerful city-states in Greek history (Sparta). Middleton could easily become an equally strong military city, leading only to benefits. Of course, becoming as brutal as Sparta was would be inadvisable. Tossing out imperfect infants as they did in Sparta is inhuman—but gently asking the beaten citizens of the new annexes of Middleton to perform simple duties for the good of everyone certainly is not.

Another benefit of having soldiers who are young is that no one wants to harm a child. This is especially true with girls, which is why Middleton's Special Forces would consist mainly of girls aged 14 to 16. Despite the protective instinct many people have for children, girls at this age are the most vicious creatures on Earth—with the possible exception of wolverines. According to Family First Aid, a website dedicated to helping parents of troubled teens, teens who are bullied by their peers have problems that last long into adulthood. Teens have begun

killing themselves with horrifying frequency, often as a result of bullying. What we need to do is charter this need to destroy other people into something productive: the conquering of Nampa and Caldwell. As no school administrator has been able to come up with a better way to get rid of bullying, this would lead to solving that problem as well! Not only would there no longer be bullying, but there would be no way to stop such a cruel army.

One problem with attempting to conquer Nampa and Caldwell is that the denizens of those two towns outnumber Middleton greatly. While some surely won't care about being overthrown, a large majority may object. Caldwell had a population of 43,281 as of July, 2009 (Caldwell Idaho). In addition, Nampa had a population of 81,241 in July of 2009 (Nampa, Idaho). Together, they are nearly triple Middleton's population. This doesn't give Middleton much of a chance in a fair fight.

Luckily for Middleton, the fight would not be fair. Neither Nampa nor Caldwell has a standing army. Therefore, neither city would be prepared for the attack. As long as Middleton had a large enough army and attacked quickly, overthrowing the main infrastructures, both cities could quickly fall into chaos. By targeting police and fire stations first, Middleton's army could take out the first line of defense for protecting citizens and property. After the police and fire stations, the Middleton army would round up the citizens of Nampa and Caldwell. Political leaders would be separated from the rest of the group. Once everyone was gathered in a central location, such as the Middleton High School football field, the political leaders would be publicly humiliated to destroy any credibility as leaders they had left. Middleton would break out the Special Forces for that job. After using the girls' skills at targeting any weakness and getting others to agree with and join in such bullying, very few people would reject the new leadership

of Middleton. After all, they couldn't be expected to be content with a mayor who dresses like a total, like, tramp.

After the majority of Nampa and Caldwell had agreed to become a part of Middleton, elections would be held for new leadership. The citizens of both cities would have a choice of any member of Middleton's political system. Anyone who did not like the takeover would be relocated to live in a small section of Middleton, where they would be allowed jobs as laborers. Those who choose to cooperate would be allowed to return to their homes and jobs. However, they would own 30% of any income they make to Middleton. These funds would be used to create great monuments to military leaders, build up the Public Library and City Hall, and maintain the sidewalks to give Middleton the solemn and mighty look that it deserves, but does not currently have.

Once Middleton has conquered Nampa and Caldwell, all its problems would be solved. Middleton would no longer be ignored, but would be a power to contend with. The citizens of Middleton, indeed the citizens of Idaho, would look up to and respect our town; Middleton would be worth looking up to. Teens would no longer wander about causing trouble, but instead would make up a military force to be reckoned with. Once Middleton had outgrown Nampa and Caldwell, it would have added many new soldiers to its army, and could move on to conquer other cities. Soon, Middleton would rule the entire state of Idaho, and be moving on to subdue Oregon. With enough strategy, we could soon all be living in the United State of Middleton. Wouldn't that be worthy of respect?

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