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The voice of
Liberty High School
students



The Lion's Roar

2nd Place award-winner from the American Scholastic Press Association

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FREE

Testing is back, but it's SBAC



Students taking the SBAC, a new test for high school juniors.

Photo courtesy of www.pps.k12.or.us

By Emily Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Advances in technology take over everyday life, and the idea of a future filled with technology is becoming more of a reality. It has even begun to merge with our learning. The SBAC is a new test that will be given to the junior classes of high schools in eighteen different states. SBAC stands for Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and it will be given to students on the computer. It is estimated that the test will take four hours: two for mathematics and two for English Language Arts/ Literacy. A smarter balance field test was taken by more than four million students, including Mrs. Aldana's class here at Liberty High School. The change from pencil and paper to computerized test-

ing may affect the school's average testing scores. "They have the answer right on the paper, but for some reason, they enter the wrong answer into the computer... That will definitely impact scores for those students who have difficulty transferring data from paper to computer," states Mrs. Aldana. One change the SBAC makes from regular testing is the way the questions are asked. If a student answers a question correctly, the next question will increase in difficulty. But, if a student answers a question incorrectly, the difficulty will remain constant until another question is answered correctly. From the incorrect choice on a multiple choice question, the computer will be able to tell if the error was a miscalculation, if the student did not understand the concept, or even if the student did not get the correct an-

swer because of a learning disability. Mrs. Aldana also explains that, "for both Math and Language Arts, there isn't always one "right" answer. In fact, they often have to choose 2-3 right answers for one question. This is completely different from what students are used to selecting. This is a big change and it will take time for all of us to adapt." However, there will also be questions that are not multiple choice. A category of questions called "constructed response" must be completed by giving short answers or filling in words. "Performance task" questions involve an explanation for answers and logical thinking. This new way of testing will affect Liberty High School as well as many other schools in the United States. Education is changing as technology advances, and this test is just the beginning.



The students of Liberty Film Alliance and Mr. Pappas pose on the stage in Walnut Creek's Leshner Theater after the festival.

Photo courtesy of Savannah Spinola

Liberty High School shines bright at Delta Moon Film Festival

By Lauren Mennuti
Staff Writer

After putting in hours of work, and sifting through over 600 submissions, the Liberty Film Alliance held their 15th annual Delta Moon International Film Festival on March 6th, 2015. This festival was created by Liberty's own film teacher, Mr. Pappas, and was held at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, CA. This festival is composed of films that were made by students under the age of 19 from all over the globe. This festival gives young filmmakers the opportunity to show their hard work and get recognized for their talent. This year, LFA received film submissions from every continent (except Antarctica, of course.) The creator of the festival, Mr. Pappas, has dedicated a lot of time into making this festival something for everyone to enjoy. "Originally, it was simply a way to showcase short videos created by local students. The idea was that it would be a cool, fun way for students to show-off video projects to their peers and parents," he explains. "At the same time, they would be able to see what others students were producing." In addition, Pappas describes how he initially wasn't expecting the festival to become international and states how the dedication of the Liberty Film Alliance is what helps make the experience special. As for the importance the festival has on young filmmakers, Mr. Pappas describes how "Unlike an actor or musician, who can modify their performance on-the-fly based on the immediate feedback and response of their audience, filmmakers must operate purely on their own intuition and the belief of their vision." What makes this festival unique is that the filmmakers "get to witness

the impact their film has on an audience in the rarefied communal atmosphere that only a public screening in a large theater provides," he concludes. To prepare for the festival, Liberty Film Alliance spent hours of work watching and selecting the videos, making the programs, and preparing for the show. LFA treasurer, Bri Lucca states that "it was hard work, but it was a very rewarding experience." LFA director Luke Miles adds, "It was really interesting to watch films submitted from a number of foreign countries. It's also amazing seeing there are so many talented teenagers out there." In the festival, there were multiple categories in which people entered their videos. The categories were comedy, experimental, drama, PSA, and animation. These films cover an array of topics. Some are light hearted and uplifting, while others are dark and portray important messages. Though the Liberty Film Alliance chooses the films shown in the festival, judges who are in the film industry choose the winners of the festival. The festival featured films from multiple countries, however it also featured local films from Liberty, Heritage, and Freedom. The film from Liberty was a comedy created by seniors Jason and Ryan Harpole. Because the festival features films from so many places, the audience gets a chance to see the talent that young people have locally and internationally. Overall, the Delta Moon International Film Festival was a success. The night was a memorable one for the people in the club, Mr. Pappas, and the lucky teenagers who got their films shown in the festival. The Delta Moon International Film Festival is a great way for students to have the opportunity to get their voices heard from all over the world.

New science wing in 2016

By Madison Trimble
Editor

Science: one of the four core subjects high school students must study. At Liberty High School, science classrooms are scattered throughout the campus. That will soon change, however, with the construction of a new science wing. It has recently been announced that the construction of the new science wing will begin after graduation in June of 2015 and will be completed by November of 2016 at Liberty High School. "We are excited to begin work on a project for a new state of the art science building," expressed Mr. Walsh. This building will be placed where the "I" portables are right now. The "I" portables will be moved over to the "T" wing, which is located by Spruce St. There will be four chemistry labs and two general science labs. "The chem labs will be modeled after the 'E' wing," explained Paul Melloni, the building planner for the new wing. Due to this set up, "we will have some



An overview of the new science wing planned for construction beginning June 2015.

Photo courtesy of Pat Walsh

science classes in this building, and some will remain in the F Building." These new science classrooms will not only be day lit and energy efficient, but also quiet and spacious, which will be beneficial to the school as well as the students learning in them. Due to the great ideas and designs for

this new building, the "estimated cost is \$5,000,000," according to Paul Melloni. The new science wing will be a great improvement to Liberty High School and the education of its students. "We are grateful to our Board of Education and district staff for supporting this project," acknowledged Principal Walsh.

Think you can text and drive? Simulator puts LHS students to the test

By Shelby Conn
Editor

Imagine you are driving down the freeway when you receive a text message; you take one hand off of the wheel to pick up your phone, and while you glance down to read the message – BOOM! You just drifted out of your lane and hit the car next to you; all because you had to look at your phone for five seconds. Was getting into a car accident and risking your life worth the text message you read? This is what companies like AT&T are trying to put an end to. On March 9th, here at Liberty, students in driver's education classes got the privilege to participate in a texting and driving simulator presented by AT&T. Texting and driving is a serious issue, and there are facts to back it up. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more fifteen to twenty year olds die from car accidents than any other cause of death. In 2012, the National Safety Council discovered that over 200,000 car crashes were caused by texting and driving. At the texting and driving assembly/simulation, the Brentwood Police Officers stated that they have been noticing less DUI's among teens, and more distracted driving due to texting. The purpose of this simulation was to show the driving mistakes that are made when one looks down at their phone to read

and send a text. The simulation was set up like one of the racing games that are found at an arcade, and there was a fake phone attached to the car that would send messages to the student driving. Some of the common mistakes that the students made while participating in the simulation were: they would speed up or slow down when trying to send a text message; they would drift out of their lane, and even hit cones in construction zones. Nearly every student swerved, got honked at, or ended up crashing. All of these mistakes were a result of not giving their undivided attention to the road. Brentwood Police Officer, Mitch Brouillette, said to the group of students that "here you can get reset, but out on the street you can't." A special thank you goes out to assembly man, Jim Frazier, who partnered with AT&T to bring the texting and driving simulator to Liberty. For anyone who wants to check out an online simulator of what the driver's education students participated in, go to itcanwait.com. All teenagers and adults are urged to visit www.ItCanWait.com and join others nationwide who have taken the pledge to not text and drive. Lastly, AT&T has a driving app that everyone should check out; so that when you get a text message your phone will send an auto-reply notifying people that you are driving and that you will respond when it is safe. Let's be smarter, be safer, and put an end to texting and driving.



Sophomore Nate Silver participating in the texting and driving simulator on March 9, 2015.

Photo by Shelby Conn



Sweet Success

Mrs. Ghannadan's culinary students learned about the trade of chocolate-making during a March 7th visit to Rachel Dunn's Chocolate in Concord.

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A well known white hat hacker, Barnaby Jack, demonstrates a security flaw in ATM machines he aptly named "jackpotting".

It could happen to you: The deadly truth about hacking

By Richard Montalvo
Editor

When it comes to technology, you're a responsible user. You keep your smart phone locked with a pin or a pattern (and you make sure your friends aren't looking when you punch it in.) You keep decent passwords for your accounts online, and you even know what SSL is. Surely, you would never be at risk against a malicious hacker, bent towards gaining your financial information or, even worse, your personally identifiable information. But then, disaster strikes. Secret conversations with your closest friends have been scattered all over Facebook's dirty walls, revealing everything you didn't want anybody to know about. Your bank accounts have been cleaned dry. And, to make matters worse, the FBI is at your door: they think you're holding someone hostage. While this sounds like a scenario straight out of some sci-fi action film, it's not far from the truth: as a matter of fact, the aforementioned scenario only begins to touch upon the many, many things that can happen with our data (and even our lives) by merely choosing to use and depending on current-day technology the way we do. Beginning with the basics, our computers have many vulnerabilities. Just recently, Google had discovered a major security hole in Windows 8 and, after waiting for a grace period to pass

for Microsoft to fix it, released details about the vulnerability publicly. Unfortunately, Microsoft didn't patch it in time, and the flaw was pretty major: by fooling around with certain security keys, a program could upgrade itself to administrator-level. It was so major, as a matter of fact, many users complained about this vulnerability being released before Microsoft could patch it. "Automatically disclosing this vulnerability when a deadline is reached with absolutely zero context strikes me as incredibly irresponsible and I'd have expected a greater degree of care and maturity from a company like Google", a user claims on the page where the security vulnerability was disclosed. "It seems to me that the relationship between Google & MSFT's respective security teams is fairly poor. Seeing things like this certainly goes a way to explaining why." The fact such a vulnerability was made public is already pretty scary. But what's even scarier is that one can easily find a large wealth of such information on the public Web. Sites exist where such vulnerabilities are disclosed casually in a virtually countless number for virtually any program. Some of these sites even explain how these vulnerabilities are executed and even give examples. Fortunately, though, many such vulnerabilities have already been patched, so as long as you're running the latest version of all of your software, you should be safe – for now. But, not all companies

meticulously spot-check their software for potential security vulnerabilities like Windows. Medical companies are one such example, and a well-respected white hat hacker (they're the good guys), Barnaby Jack, dedicated some of his focus on finding such vulnerabilities. Through his time, he has found some shocking vulnerabilities that can be exploited for cheap with very damaging results. "With a push of a button on his laptop, he could have any [insulin] pump within 300 feet dump its entire contents, without even needing to know the device identification numbers. At a different conference, Jack showed how he'd reverse-engineered a pacemaker and could deliver an 830-volt shock to a person's device from 50 feet away – which he likened to an 'anonymous assassination.'", explains an article on Forbes by Tarun Wadhwa. This article could go on forever about every single thing wrong with our technology and their various security flaws. Antivirus programs can be easily fooled with just a few tricks in a malicious program's code, and firewalls are even easier to bypass completely. All of your insecure browsing data can be viewed easily and inconspicuously by anyone on the same network as you, and even our supposedly "secure" Wi-Fi networks are susceptible to being hacked to shreds. It's no wonder those who are looking for real data security turn to old-fashioned typewriters.

Pavement fills the runway

Street fashion taking the world by storm

By Rachel Macdonald
Staff Writer

Modern fashion has entered a strange era where street fashion is a style all about what you don't often see in the streets. Many of the components are taken from the camera ideal of a chic young teenager/adult. Elements from pop culture have often times run the streets, encouraging the facade that the streets run the culture. The truth is that only a small amount of people dress in any type of high fashion outside the world of a camera or runway. But for the people who do, it must be noted their artistic visions they take the care and time to construct. Defying a fad of misplaced yoga pants and animal print, these people are artists overlooked by many who have all but ignored their ability to be art in motion. For people who are passionate about fashion it has become a vital element of who they are. Portuguese fashion blogger Caludia (@holynights_c / <http://holy-nights.blogspot.com>) represents an uprising in the street fashion world. She explains how fashion is important to her personally, "I believe everything that requires creativity, imagination, sensibility, and expresses something is related to art. Since I'm not very social and I'm really shy, I use it as a way to communicate with others revealing a small part

of how I am." Caludia's style is very reliant on a black base she gives flexibility to the rest of her outfits and help to "accentuate different colors". This is becoming a very common viewpoint in the street fashion world. Especially in this strain of fashion. Her particular style "mixes elegant pieces with grungy edgy ones." There's question in what exactly makes this style what it is. The accessories, color palate, outfit construction, make up? Or perhaps all of it combined is what really individualizes this style and gives it identity. Caludia spoke upon the subject stating, "They are equally important to me. I can change my color palette and keep the same style because the construction of the outfit is similar, but other times I like to try different shapes or materials and it really helps to stay true to my usual colors, which is black, and that helps to maintain a specific style." Commenting on the make up specifically, she elaborates, "Makeup is really important and it can make or break an outfit. Too much makeup is the worst for me. I've really loved makeup since I was 4 years old. I ruined all my mom's lipsticks and nail lacquers." In terms of accessories, at least for Caludia personally, chokers are "completely in." The main point circulating the importance of each individual element's combina-

tion is the notion that you absolutely have to go for it. You must fully execute the look that you want to strut making it crucial to refrain from holding back. Possibly, the most important element to street fashion is being who you are and being brave in that sentiment. Caludia gave her two cents on the subject for anyone who would love to flaunt their style down the streets as well. "First of all, always stay true to yourself and only wear what is comfortable for you, but at the same time don't be afraid to try different styles. The thing is, that I'm not afraid of fashion. I'm passionate about it and really like to express myself that way. Use what you want when you want. I don't mind the looks or what others think." Street fashion is an effective way to be bold and look fantastic doing it. Caludia herself mentions being shy yet, when it comes to her closet, she is fearless. Her style is strongly admired by her followers on her blog and Instagram for good reasons. She has a unique passion for this art form and her efforts are noted and appreciated. People with fashion insight such as hers make the streets a more beautifully interesting place to be. Admirable and impressive Caludia will continue to work the streets of fashion setting an example for those around her.



A sight all boxing fans have waited a very long time to see: Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather face off at their first press conference. Photo courtesy of ringtv.com

Fight of the century Mayweather vs. Pacquiao

By Alex Einess

Staff Writer

The fight boxing fans have waited over 10 years to see has finally been put together. "Money" Mayweather (47-0, 26 KOs) will fight Manny "Pac-Man" Pacquiao (57-5-2, 38 KOs) on May second. According to ESPN, the much anticipated match that will be available on Pay-Per-View is estimated to gross \$400 million, which would make it one of the biggest Pay-Per-Views in history. This is no surprise given the fact sports fans have been clamoring for the match up for years. The undefeated Mayweather is coming off a convincing win in his rematch with Marcos Maidana. However, Mayweather looked unusually slow in the first fight with Maidana, and many had Maidana winning the fight despite the split decision that gave Mayweather the victory. Manny Pacquiao, on the other hand, has seemed to turn back

the hands of time since his devastating knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez in December of 2012. Since that fight he has not only defeated Brandon Rios, but has also handed both Timothy Bradley and Chris Algieri their first loss, winning by unanimous decisions. This leaves many wondering if Mayweather has what it takes to stop Pacquiao, or if he'll just become another ghost the Pac-Man can gobble up. But Mayweather has an impressive track record of stopping surging fighters dead in their tracks, as he has ended the winning streaks of countless fighters such as Canelo Alvarez and Robert Guerrero. No matter the outcome, the HBO-Showtime joint production PPV is sure to draw hundreds of millions of dollars and become one of the biggest nights in boxing history.

To hunt, or not to hunt?

By Troy Dias

Staff Writer

You are frolicking through a meadow when you see a deer. The deer stops and looks at you and you stop and stare at the majestic creature. When out of no where you hear a loud bang and the deer falls over. You then see two hunters emerge from the brush, retrieve the deer, and head on their way. To some people this is every day life but to some people this is an abomination to the rights of animals and their lives. There are many issues on this subject and there is no specific church teaching on this subject, so how do we know if it's right or wrong? Many people believe that hunting animals is a cruel and unnecessary action. A number of these people are in animal rights organizations such as P.E.T.A (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). On their website P.E.T.A describes hunting as the "slaughtering" or "maiming" innocent animals, also calling it "violent form of recreation that the vast majority of hunters do not need for subsistence." They go on to say, "Many animals endure prolonged, painful deaths when they are injured but not killed by hunters. A British study of deer hunting found that 11 percent of deer who'd been killed by hunters died only after being shot two or more times," said P.E.T.A to back up their claim. But of course being active in the fight to save animals "rights", they do public protest. For example, they disrupted the Westminster dog show because of course, it's a good idea to target the people who already love animals. In 2010, P.E.T.A acquired 33 million dollars in donations and an extra two million dollars from merchandise sales and other revenue for a grand total of 35 million dollars for their cause. But how much went to helping and saving the lives of the animals they care so much about? P.E.T.A says it has given over \$843 thousand in grants to researchers looking at animal alternatives. How wonderful, right? But if you do the math, only 2% of the money has actually gone to help animals. At the same time spending 17% (\$6 million) on fundraising to get more money. Research isn't cheap either, an \$800 thousand split among several researchers, as P.E.T.A has done, will not go very far. Although against hunting P.E.T.A is also against using or eating anything that comes from an animal. But not all people have these exact beliefs. Some people just don't like to hunt because it is just not their thing, feel guilt killing animals, or feel that it is not morally right. Taking a look from the side, the hunter. Hunters feel the killing of animals for food is part of everyday life, it is something the cavemen did to sur-

Opinion:
vive. Animals contain meat and that's exactly what humans need to survive. Hunters will even argue that it's a tradition, a ritual, or a bonding experience. Hunting is also an effective tool to help regulate the population of certain animals such as deer. The Department of Natural Resources says that "Man is the only remaining effective deer predator." Which means humans are the only real influence on the population of deer. This is regulated by something called a limit, which means hunters can only hunt a certain amount of that animal in one hunting session. If the hunter goes over the limit he is fined for his wrong doing and the animals he has obtained can be confiscated by the game warden. This effective method helps to make sure not to many deer are killed and not to little either. For example In 1900, only 500,000 white-tails remained. Thanks to conservation work of hunters, today there are more than 32 million. Almost every hunter follows a code of ethics, which is against poaching and other wrong and immoral acts. Poaching is legally killing, trapping, or capture of a certain species that is usually endangered. Hunters don't like wasting the animals they have killed and try to use as much as possible of the animal. "Some people like their meat from a factory, I like mine from the open field," said hunter Rob Dias. Some hunters prefer a gun instead of a bow because a bow usually makes for a prolonged death. With a gun it's one quick blast and they are dead, with the large majority of them dead from the first shot. Most hunters hunt with safety, a code of hunting ethics, and with respect to the animals and environment around them. Even though both of these make good points, I personally believe one side is right. I would have to side with the hunters because hunting is a part of our history, it is how our ancestors survived. While doing the research, most of P.E.T.A's facts were illogical, easily disprovable, or based on emotion instead of logic. The fact that they think we are violating the rights of animals is completely absurd because animals don't have rights. And the fact they we should treat animals equal to humans not because they are just like human, but rather because they're not. The fact that people use the excuse "You are taking another life" is also ridiculous. Plants are also living things too. So with that logic we shouldn't eat plants either because they are also living things and we would be hurting them, so instead we shouldn't eat anything and just starve. If you are thinking of going vegetarian for the fact that it is healthier isn't the case. Their diet isn't

always healthier than a diet consisting of meat. A healthy diet should be low in cholesterol and saturated fat and should include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein. Eliminating meat does not automatically make for a healthy diet. And if vegetarians and vegans don't want to eat meat, then cool, more for me. Animal rights activists feel also that hunting is barbaric and brutal and is terrifying and painful for the animal getting hunted. Depending on what method the hunter hunts with it's not barbaric because people don't go around hunting with giant clubs beating animals to death; It is a quick, clean shot through the head no pain at all. It isn't really even traumatic for the animal because they get hunted by other predators all the time; of course they will get terrified but eventually they will shake it off and forget about it. With hunters though all the animal hears is a loud bang, they stop, look up, and then sprint away if they weren't killed. Anti-hunters might say you are possibly taking away a mother from her baby. If you don't want to separate the mother and child then only shoot the male. It is usually pretty easy to spot the difference between the male and female of most species. For example shoot the deer with antlers because it symbolizes that it's a buck (male) and if it doesn't have antlers it's a doe (female) or a fawn (baby). So if you want the fawn to have its mother than don't shoot the doe. If the doe does get shot, then that's the way it is or you can kill whole family's, and not leave orphans. The last point I will make is that hunting is quite important to our society. Some people prefer eating or making thing from animals they have killed themselves, for example duck or deer jerky or mounting the head of a prized animal you have killed. I am in favor of hunters and the idea that hunting is perfectly fine too but I am against the idea of poaching. It is wrong to cause animals to suffer needlessly, but not because it is a violation of the animal's rights, like I said animals don't have rights; Instead, the immorality lies in the fact that torturing any living thing and delight of it suffering is an abuse of human nature. It would be wrong to hunt out of a desire to make animals suffer, but in general, most hunters seek to minimize the suffering of animals by using shots designed to make the animal's death as quick and painless as possible. When this fails and an animal is injured and is not killed, it is part of the hunter's code to put it out of its misery as quickly as possible. The hunting debate may never be resolved. The two sides will continue to debate the safety, effectiveness and cost, of hunting but both sides will probably never agree on the ethics of killing wild animals for food, trophies or recreation and may never agree on whether it's right or wrong.



Lady Lion Monica LaHaie going for the finish against Megan Vernoy.



Anthony Leslie takes flight, swatting the ball against Antioch High School.

Photos by Hayley Reyes

Liberty's varsity boys and girls slam dunk this season

By Hayley Reyes

Staff Writer

The game is coming to an end. Seconds are winding down and while you're going as hard as you can you come to a realization. This season is going to be over and you want to say that you gave it your all. Both Liberty girls and boys basketball teams can say they played their hearts out and ended the season strong. "My goals in the beginning of the season was making NCS and being the hardest working team. I definitely feel we met these goals and I'm so proud of our team," said by Monica LaHaie, who is a senior. There are two seniors on the girls basketball team who will be graduating this year. Monica LaHaie has played on varsity for her junior and senior year and Jordana Edwards also played her junior and senior year. The girls reached their goals and had an overall record of 18-9. Their league record was 5-5. The girls worked hard and had an impressive season. In the Heritage vs. Liberty game, Liberty

beat Heritage 50-44. The other goal they had was to make it to NCS play-offs. Their first game was against Santa Rosa and after battling they had lost 50-73. They had played hard and worked hard the entire season. The boys varsity team also had an impressive record. They ended the season with the overall record of 17-10, and their league record was 4-6. In the Heritage vs. Liberty game, the atmosphere was electric and both teams played exceptionally well. The boys also made it to NCS play-offs and played De La Salle, losing 26-61. The boys had a phenomenal season. There are 9 seniors that will be graduating this year. "We've come such a long way since the beginning, being a young team we really worked together and excelled this season," announced Kai Bohannon. These basketball teams had an outstanding season and a lot of them will be graduating this year. Hard work and dedication led them to do succeed. This was a season to remember.

Want to win tickets to the Van's Warped Tour?

Come visit our table in the quad next week during lunch! Dress up each day to be entered in our raffle for two Warped Tour tickets:

- Wednesday: Band T-shirt
- Thursday: Wear a newspaper hat
- Friday: "I Love The Lion's Roar"

He Said, She Said: When Measles strikes

Advice from the male and female perspective

Makeup versus no makeup? Our writers sound off

By Emily Lutes
Staff Writer

Almost every girl knows about eye-liner, foundation, primer, mascara, lip-stick, and eye shadow. An estimated 92% of women wear makeup every day; whether it is just foundation or all of the above. I, personally, love makeup, because it makes me feel great about myself and I also enjoy learning how to do new things with makeup. Makeup has a bad hype when it comes to boys; boys may say things like “makeup makes you look clownish” or “you’re completely fake”. I don’t think that wearing makeup should be to impress other people. You

should not wear more or less makeup to impress your friends, boyfriends, or parents. Another issue that is brought up a lot is how long it takes for girls to do their makeup. For me, it takes about fifteen to thirty minutes to finish applying everything and set it. I think that it is totally worth it because when it’s time for school or time to leave the house, I feel confident about how my face looks. Makeup is an amazing way to express yourself and to try new things, from different makeup styles for prom to everyday wear. Makeup is absolutely amazing, and I believe that girls should be able to wear makeup without being judged by anyone. If someone is happy let them be happy.

By Joshua Rush
Staff Writer

There is a girl with eyeliner and mascara on and she looks gorgeous! But there is a girl with no makeup on and she looks just as beautiful! It doesn’t matter if you have makeup on or not, girls look beautiful with or without makeup. Makeup, if worn too much on your cheeks, can make your cheeks look orange. Also, I don’t get why girls have to wear makeup whenever they leave the house. I simply do not under-

stand why girls take an hour and a half or even two hours to do their makeup for prom or homecoming. If they still look good when they don’t wear makeup, what makes it worth it to spend that much time putting on makeup? They do look great but I don’t think it should take that long to do makeup that you are only going to wear for five hours at most. Overall, I think girls would look good with makeup but if they don’t wear makeup, they look great too!



Endless amounts of blush, eye shadow, eye-liner, and primers being displayed inside a MAC cosmetic store.

Photo courtesy of Jane Mckay

The Liberty Union High School District

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Editorial Policy

The opinions and views expressed on this page are solely those of the authors, not necessarily the journalism class, its advisor, or Liberty High School.

The *Lion's Roar* gladly welcomes letters to the editor; they will be edited for the linguistic accuracy, good taste, and space. They may be up to 400 words in length, and are due no later than three weeks before publication to libertyslionsroar@gmail.com. The *Lion's Roar* staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.

By Faye Gilmore
Staff Writer

Taking into account that just last January fifty-two people visiting Disneyland ended up with measles, there has been a growing concern about the illness spreading. Measles usually lasts for about two weeks. Like chicken pox, it causes a highly-contagious and itchy rash. Some cases also record simultaneously-occurring cases of pneumonia (coughing) and ear infections. Once you get it, however, your body creates a “record” of sorts and you won’t get it again. This illness can be prevented by a shot, and because measles is classified as a highly contagious illness, there are rumors going around that measles shots should be mandatory in the US as it is in other countries around the world, like New Zealand. Some doctors recommend that high intake of Vitamin A can ward off measles without a vaccine, or at least lessen its impact (the sickness is more common and harmful in areas where there are higher instances of malnutrition). At any rate, the majority of measles vaccines are given to most children born

in the US when they’re still babies, and a booster shot around 4-5 years to increase immunity. If someone puts off the vaccine, or in the relatively rare case that getting one or both of the doses does not work, which is a three percent in the case of both doses and slightly more so for one, then they may get the sickness, but there is a high likelihood that they will get over it in less than a month. Once someone does get measles, however, they won’t get it again, scientifically speaking. For example, most Americans born before the 1950’s have already developed immunity to the disease by getting over it, similar to chicken pox. In addition to this, according to a study outlined on www.naturalmedicine.net, out of the 7,000 people who contracted measles in New Zealand in the year 1991, 7 passed away due to the illness. Things should not become an epidemic so long as the herd immunity is 85 or above percent of individuals being immune to measles, and considering the fact most individuals born before the fifties currently are, as well as the vast majority of others which have already vaccinated to some degree, one dose

or two, against measles, that leaves the small minority that which still may get the virus, out of which approximately 1 out of 1000, according to plain statistics, may become seriously ill. So, taking in to consideration the approximate 40,000 individuals who visit Disneyland daily, a little over a million per month, it makes sense that according to statistics 52 people might get measles over the course of a whole month. As to whether or not creating a measles shot policy is constitutional, the majority of individuals who do not take the shot do it for religious reasons as being protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution. Either way, the chances of a nationwide measles outbreak as things currently stand seems statistically very unlikely. Individuals who do not take the vaccine can properly prevent it by proper nutrition, consuming the recommended amount of vitamin A. They can also consider avoiding the consumption of fever-reducing medicines during the course of the illness, like aspirin, and staying warm; just as measles has been dealt with for people over the course of history.



A doctor examining a child with measles (indicated by the rash on the child's face).

Photo courtesy of <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/>

Police Brutality When our protectors become our abusers

By Scott Scruggs
Staff Writer

The people who make us feel safe and protected can also be the people that we are most afraid of. Why are we afraid of people whose job is to make us feel safe and protected? Over the years, too many cases of police brutality have been uncovered. What can we do about this? One of the most well-known cases of police brutality is the Rodney King case. A high speed chase took place between Rodney King and the police. Rodney King was on parole and suspected of drunk driving. Once the chase ended, Rodney King refused to obey police officers commands. At the time he exited the car, he got physical with the officers and then was tazed. He was then beaten with a baton and kicked. This incident took place in 1992 and it was a widely televised show of police brutality. Once the news broke

about the beating of Rodney King by law enforcement, one of the largest riots in history broke out throughout Los Angeles. Ultimately, two officers were found guilty and two were acquitted. One of the most recent cases of police brutality took place in Ferguson, MO. It was the shooting death of 18 year old Michael Brown by Officer Darrin Wilson. During the investigation into Officer Darrin Wilson’s conduct, the jury declined to indict him for the shooting of Michael Brown. This decision was based on eye witness testimony that Officer Wilson maintained department procedures. This did not sit well with the citizens of Ferguson. They believed that the shooting was racially motivated. This caused riots and havoc to break out in Ferguson. As recently as March 11, conflict and rioting continues. Statistics show that 43% of the officers surveyed agreed with this statement: “Always following the rules

is not compatible with getting the job done.” I believe that this might be true in some cases. It depends on the situation. I think that this would make a law enforcement officer’s job extremely difficult. In a study of police officers, one fourth of the officers surveyed said they’ve witnessed other officers harassing a citizen “most likely because of race.” In a survey done, 84% say they have seen more force used than necessary to make an arrest. In recent years, the issue of police brutality has been made more public because of smart phones and video. This has lead law enforcement and the public to insist on better accountability in law enforcement activity. One of the possible solutions to this controversy is to equip law enforcement with body surveillance uniform cameras. Law enforcement is split on this idea. This could be the first step in taking action to resolve the mysteries of police brutality cases.

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