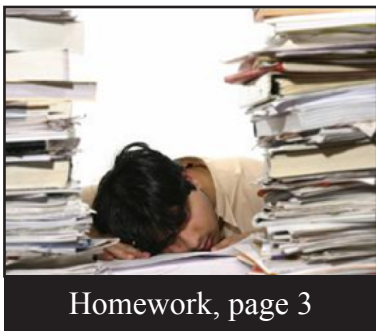




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The voice of Liberty High School students



The Lion's Roar

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

Liberty High School
850 Second Street
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Brentwood, CA 94513

Issue 1, Volume 23

November 21, 2014

FREE

Thanksgiving break takes a cutback



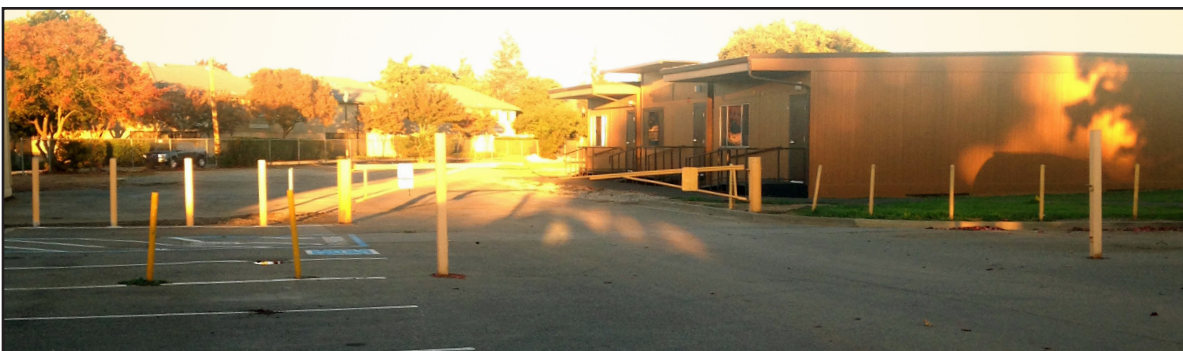
Picture courtesy of Cari Thompson.

By Emily Lutes
Staff Writer

The shortened Thanksgiving break is leaving students upset and wondering where those coveted days have gone. This year, Liberty High School has cut the Thanksgiving break from one week to three days, a move that is bothering many students and parents. A fellow student stated that the shorter break is mak-

ing him unhappy because he uses that time to go on vacation with his family, which he can't do now because of the reduced break. Many students look forward to enjoying a full week off in November to take a break from the craziness of the semester ending. Mr. Walsh explains, "This cutback is because of Veterans Day break. We have 180 school days each year, so it was the school board's idea to

cut this break to three days." While the Thanksgiving break is shorter, students do get an extra day off for Veterans Day, Monday, November 10th. Nevertheless, we will still be able to enjoy those three days off relaxing and filling up on a Thanksgiving feast. Make sure to take the time to be thankful for your family, friends, and Liberty High School.



The T-wing and baseball field area are where teachers are having to park.

Photo by Madison Trimble

Plague of parking problems

By Madison Trimble
Editor

Baseball fields are for playing baseball, but that is not all they are used for at Liberty High School. The baseball fields at Liberty are currently being used as a parking lot for teachers and staff.

Mr. Morris, Den 3 Assistant Principal at Liberty, acknowledged, "Parking is a huge issue on campus."

One of the causes of the parking issue is that some students have decided to park in the teacher parking lot. A reason for this is because students want to be closer to the campus in order to be on time to class.

"Students should be mindful that the staff has much fewer places to

park than students – we do have a huge student lot, where there are many spaces that go unused," indicated Mr. Morris.

Also, it seems as though finding a parking spot is harder for those teachers who have a 1st or 5th period prep period. This is due to the fact that the spots have already been taken by teachers who arrived earlier as well as by students who are out of place.

A teacher at Liberty, Mr. Wirgler, stated, "I get to school early before most of the spots are taken. We early risers always get the best parking spots."

In addition, the population of students at Liberty is growing, which will result in the hiring of more teachers. As a result of this growing

population, the "T" wing has been added to Liberty, which takes the place of many parking spaces that were once used by teachers. There is a limited land space for Liberty, so accommodating for this population increase will be challenging.

Finding a solution to this issue is explained by Mr. Morris: "In regards to finding a resolution to our parking problem, we are working with the district to create more designated spaces for staff parking."

For now, the school will continue making progress on keeping the students out of the teacher parking lot. The rest of the resolution to this problem seems to be a waiting game, and will be found with time and communication with the school district.



Red Bull's wings clipped

By Troy Dias
Staff Writer

It is hard to imagine that anyone who heard Red Bull's slogan "Red Bull gives you wings" would believe that the energy drink would actually give them wings, but that has recently been proven wrong. Benjamin Careathers, a regular consumer who has drunk this drink since 2002, sued the company Red Bull for false advertising, claiming that after ten years of drinking Red Bull he had neither grown wings nor had any enhanced athletic or mental performance.

According to BuzzFeed, a social news and entertainment company, "Such deceptive conduct and practices mean that [Red Bull's] advertising and marketing is not just 'puffery,' but is instead deceptive and fraudulent and is therefore actionable."

Red Bull just settled a false adver-

tising lawsuit, and now owes anyone who bought one of its drinks between Jan. 1, 2002, and Oct. 3, 2014, either \$10 cash or \$15 worth of Red Bull products. The settlement is planned to be finalized March 1, and repayment or the free products would follow within 150 days. Despite settling, Red Bull denied any wrongdoing in a statement: "Red Bull settled the lawsuit to avoid the cost and distraction of litigation. However, Red Bull maintains that its marketing and labeling have always been truthful and accurate, and denies any and all wrongdoing or liability."

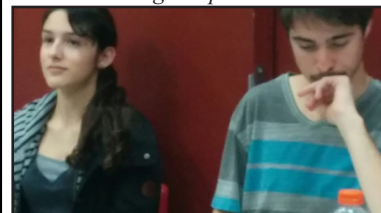
The company will also change future advertising just in case people continue to consume this energy drink with ridiculous ideas of the potential growing wings. Perhaps they might change their slogan to "Red Bull, the drink that gives you metaphorical wings."

P.O.P. goes *A Christmas Story*

By Ryan Freking-Ramos
Senior Staff Writer



Sound FX Artists Michaela Pippin, Ryan Graham and Danielle Reyes rehearse during 3rd period.



Kiana Gonzalez and Ryan Harpole serve as Student Directors for the production.



Leg lamp to be auctioned off after production. Must attend to enter.

Triple Dog dares, Red Rider BB guns, tongues stuck to ice covered poles, and leg lamps. What do all these have in common? None other than the 1983 holiday classic, *A Christmas Story*, being brought to you by the Parents of Playmakers, aka P.O.P.S., The show will be in the Allen E. Jones Performing Arts Center on Friday November 21, 2014 at 7:30p.m. Tickets are \$5 to the general public and \$3 to kids twelve and under. Show up for this one night only performance and have a chance to take part in an auction for your very own leg lamp. You're being triple dog dared to go.



Bart and Hailey Schneider, father-daughter duo, play as adult and kid Ralphie. Photos courtesy of Mrs. Dixon.

Breaking News

The holy grail of basement tapes: *Bob Dylan's lost recordings*

Picture courtesy of <http://theband.hiof.no>

By Rachel Macdonald
Staff Writer

Finding recordings of unreleased material from your favorite artists is like finding the Holy Grail, but better. Especially if it's becoming increasingly rare to have any new material to start with. The best part of Bob Dylan's "The Bootleg Series Volume 11: The Basement Tapes Complete" is that nobody had to get down and dirty to uncover these tracks because they were officially re-mastered and released on the fourth of November. The tapes are six CDs of 138 tracks. On top of that, they are releasing twenty new songs finished and perfected by a team of six talented musicians, according to *Rolling Stone*.

The original recording of the Basement Tapes took place in 1967 after Dylan's motorcycle accident in '66. The Band and Dylan were recording these legendary tapes in the basement of a house they called Big Pink. The recordings were nev-

er meant to be released but they began to leak and slowly get released. Robbie Robertson (of The Band) talked of them only "killing time" with the recordings of these tapes, according to Greil Marcus. It is obvious there is no structure to the recordings when one listens to them. They jump around music style and in many ways the quality is lacking. Some tracks have not been able to be saved due to their significant level of low quality. Even with low quality people haven't been able to resist the leaked songs from the tapes for years. When speaking with Liberty's Rock Music History teacher, Mr. Taylor, he exclaimed "The only thing bigger than this in Rock N' Roll is if The Beatles released an album of music they kept to themselves all these years." This is a very big deal and Dylan fans are going mad. They thought they had it all when in fact, there has been so much more waiting to come their way.

Along with the "Basement Tapes"

having been remastered, an album of never before heard songs was released November 11th titled "Lost On The River: The New Basement Tapes." Musicians including Marcus Mumford, Elvis Costello, Jim James, Taylor Goldsmith, and Rhiannon Giddens, and T Bone Burnett all banded together to finish and record twenty Bob Dylan songs he had handwritten and left aside.

According to *People* magazine, a documentary will be aired November 21st on Showtime titled "The Basement Tapes Continued" that documented the creation of The New Basement Tapes. Johnny Depp is also said to make a cameo due to his substitution for Costello on "Kansas City," according to *Rolling Stone* magazine. So if you've heard both "The Basement Tapes" and "The New Basement Tapes" and that's just not enough, you can tune in for the Showtime-documentary and get your fix.

Guardians of the ocean

Mrs. Hubbard spreads ocean and environmental awareness at lunch time in the quad



Liberty students (seen at left) prepare to go fishing for ocean awareness.



Students are shocked when discovering another student's win at game.

Photos by Ryan Frerking-Ramos



The step team performs a flash-mob at lunch in the LHS quad.

Photo courtesy of LHS Leadership

Stepping into the spotlight

By Ryan Frerking-Ramos
Senior Staff Writer

From styles like ballet, hip hop, jazz, and tap, people use dance to express themselves. But, now a hot, new rhythm has emerged from the feet of Liberty's Black Student Union members: the BSU Step Team.

Beginning in the early 1900's, the dance of step became a ritual for African American sororities in the United States. In addition to step shows and competitions on college campuses, today stepping can also be found in schools, churches and communities around the country. Step is also making its way into

new communities such as Latinos and Asian Americans.

The BSU Step Team was started by Senior Daja Moseby and some other contributors. They envisioned a group of fellow students who could come together and practice routines to honor their heritage in a family environment. The team practices Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at senior stage from 3:30pm-5pm and is broken up into two groups based on their experience.

To see the team perform keep an eye out for flash mobs, rallies, and their display at the winter dance recital in December. If you haven't seen them go for it. You're missing out.

New club a major catch for Liberty



The fishing club at Los Vaqueros Reservoir

Picture courtesy of Ryan Frerking-Ramos

By Ryan Frerking-Ramos
Senior Staff Writer

You're sitting around, hour after hour, anxiously on edge for a sign. You know they're out there, but you don't know where. Frequently growing impatient, you feel like giving up. But, you don't because you know deep down it's only a matter of time. The moment comes: tug goes the line. Springing up, your hands grasp the pole. With all your might, the crank turns in a counter clockwise motion. In eye sight there's the prize... a 15 inch bass. This is the moment every member of the Liberty High School Fishing Club wants to have on one of the club outings at various locations.

The Liberty High School Fishing Club was founded during the 2013-2014 school year by woodshop teacher Jonathan English, student Brandon DeVincenzi, and

some other interested students. Their goal was to create a friendly group of students who have the passion of outdoor fishing. During the course of the school year, the club goes out once a month on a Saturday morning from 7am until 2pm at various local spots, including Lazy-M-Marina, Lake Del Valle Regional Park, and the Oakley-Antioch Pier. Their supplies often include the basics, like a pole and tackle box, while having other things, like different types of bait, night crawlers and power bait, is helpful, depending on the species of fish trying to be caught. They had started out with about 20 members, but this year remarkably, the club over quadrupled in size to around 85 to 90 people.

Every student in the LHS Fishing Club wants to have that one memorable catch. They have done an outstanding job. If interested, see Mr. English in K1.

Campus Life

First person shooter games: free or paid?

By Joseph Sanchez
Staff Writer

First person shooters: a genre filled with million dollar budgets and Triple A gameplay. But there's a catch: they always require \$50-\$60 to own their game. But what if there were games that offered Triple A experiences but for a steal: for free? Well, companies such as Valve, Zombie Studios, and Ubisoft have done just that, and had great success. What makes them a success? Well for one, it gives anybody a chance to experience the game without having to pay money before they even truly experience the game. And second, when a free-to-play game is done right, the base gear they give players is actually viable and stands up even to the best. But, what's the catch to all of this? To answer this we have to dive into some free to play games and discuss their business model. Let's kick things off with Blacklight Retribution (BLR). When BLR is installed for the first time players are required to make an account for their service which is very frequent for free to play games. Then, they load and see their character on the main menu. The character customization has everything from helmets, body armor, boots, and over all armor color. Every piece of the character changed has weight, meaning the stats will change. For example, when one buys thicker armor, their health will increase but their stamina will decrease. And following the sheer amount of options with the character, weapons can also be customized with a vast amount of options. It begins by choosing a receiver, meaning the type of gun to customize, anywhere from various rifle types, shotguns, sub machine guns, and many more. Once the receiver is chosen there are an immense amount of attachments to go with the weapon of choice, with options such as red dot sights, ammo types, camo type, and weapon tags which affect the stats of the chosen weapon. Once the character ready and the weapon is chosen it's time to enter a server. When looking for a server there are the standard



Photo from "Blacklight:Retribution"

modes such as, Team Deathmatch, and special modes like Siege. Once a server is selected it's time to find out what kind of experience is expected in an average match. To even the playing field in game BLR introduces a unique aspect called Hyper Reality Vision (HRV). This allows people to see enemies, equipment and game mode specific info through walls. But that's not to say the game is perfect when it comes to balance. For instance, certain items players use that plenty of people complain about are the incendiary rounds, which when being hit by one, does damage over time, usually ending in the victim dying. But, with plenty of practice and overall more experience within BLR one can take out even the best of opponents. But, some people believe that money grants more power in game; but with BLR's business model that simply isn't true. For winning or losing a match, players get game credits called GP, which can be used to buy almost everything in the game excluding some versions of other equipments or certain items all together. But if you play and plan not to pay a dime you will be happy to know you can become very good and get your character to look how desired without paying any money. Now, there is currency one can pay for with real money that currency

being ZEN. ZEN allows early access to higher level gear, premade characters (exclusive to ZEN) and many more items early; there purchase model is to buy items with a certain period, 7 days, 30 days (exclusive to ZEN), and permanent. So overall, the business model is great for people who want a free experience, especially with the help of free trial weapons that come every time they level up, they can hop in and know they are entering an even playing field.

For the next free to play we have Team Fortress 2 (TF2). Unlike other free to play games out there, TF2 only requires a Steam account; this is most likely due to the game originally being a paid game going free to play in 2011. When searching for a server, players are greeted with an abundance of game modes such as Control Point, Arena, Payload along with many more. Once in game, one thing is obvious: teamwork is key and expect to be yelled at if you go "lone wolf" on the team. So when playing TF2 come with a fresh mindset because TF2 contrasts in comparison to other first person shooters. In TF2, in game, there is no sense of who exactly is premium or free to play, unless of course you look at their hat. This is because TF2's business model is based on cosmetic items and level based weapons. When

it comes to cosmetic items players can trade for what are called "unusual" hats which can only be traded but not be bought in game with money, meaning there is no in game currency officially. But, with the steam market players can sell certain items such as keys which can give up to weapons, hats, rare weapons, or unusual hats. To become premium, simply purchase anything from the Mann Co. store which can be as cheap as \$0.99. The benefits of becoming premium are more inventory space, the ability to trade and more. Overall, the business model of TF2 is very fair and there is hardly any sense of missing out when being free to play, so playing without paying is viable. But players may want to become premium if they plan on trading and collecting.

And last but not least on this list of free-to-play first person shooters, we come to Tom Clancy's "Ghost Recon Phantoms" (Phantoms). Like BLR, to play Phantoms, it's required to make an account for their service. Once players have an account and Phantoms is loaded up, they choose their screen name and avatar. Then they are brought to the home screen where they can customize their character. They get better armor as they progress through the ranks and to get cus-

tom ones they cost a lot more game credits. Also weapons can be customized to have attachments similar to BLR with attachments such as sights and laser pointers. Once ready to play, click on quick play, this may take the player to a game mode where they must defend or attack certain points on the map. Once in game, players will first notice they are in third person mode, but this quickly changes when zoomed in, which takes the player to first person mode. Once adjusted to the view it's realized teamwork is essential for success; players may hear teammates calling out enemies and their location, it's heavily looked down upon to go lone wolf, and like TF2, expect to be yelled at. Once experienced in combat and are done getting settled it's noticed how fair the game feels, the only time players seem to think it's unfair is if someone has equipment they don't have yet. The weapons given to players at the start are solid and even players who higher ranked use them. So this leads to the business model. The business model with their premium currency, allows players to get items early and get rare items. Overall, it's a great business model and for those who choose to go completely free to play this game is an easy choice.

So what's the verdict on free to play versus paid first person shooters? Well it boils down to this: if you want an experience where you are guaranteed everything in the game and want to know how to be invested into a game, go with a paid first person shooter. But if you want to get into a game quickly, get most of the gear available, and not have buyers remorse if you don't like it, free to play is for you. But all in all, the model of free first person shooters is a very successful business with the developers updating their games frequently to show support for the community, which keeps the free to play games alive with the respect of many people within the gaming community.



Photo courtesy of thepapertiger.com

Homework: too much, or too lazy?

By Emily Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Many students complain about their homework load. Some spend hours each night completing their homework while others just do not do it. But what is the truth behind the complaints? Do students really have too much homework, or are they just being lazy?

"I usually spend an hour and a half to two hours on homework," states sophomore Natalie Betschart. The National Education Association believes the amount of homework each year should increase by ten minutes. For example, a second

grader should spend twenty minutes of homework each night, a third grader would spend thirty, and so on. According to this idea, by senior year, students would be spending roughly two hours on homework.

In the article "Rethinking Homework", by Alfie Kohn, negative effects of homework are frustration, lack of time, exhaustion, and maybe even a loss of interest in learning. Kohn also explains that the relationship between academic benefit and amount of homework is weak.

Math teacher Mrs. Swenson said

that she thinks students who complain about homework need to manage their time better.

Students who are involved in extracurricular activities, such as sports or clubs, need to manage their time especially. Athletes must be able to handle homework along with practices and games. There are many ways to effectively manage ones time; for example staying organized, planning ahead, and prioritizing tasks. Although the homework load may seem stressful sometimes, students might be able to manage their schedules and spend less time on homework.

Free food for the hungry

By Faye Gilmore
Staff Writer

The first Thanksgiving in America took place not long after the Mayflower, an English merchant ship, landed on the coast of what is now present-day Massachusetts, bringing with it a number of pioneers and curious tagalongs alike. Though the first Thanksgiving featured dishes like fresh-caught cod, maize, and deer, nowadays in America alone an estimate of three billion dollars are spent on a grand total of seven billion pounds of turkey annually. It is also estimated that the Sunday after Thanksgiving is America's most busy day of travel; upwards of ten million individuals have been known to board planes or cars annually in previous years for the holidays. There is more to this day than meets the eye, however, and numerous people around the country do not have the resources to enjoy a traditional holiday feast with their loved ones, or who could ben-

efit from some good-old-fashioned friendly company this coming holiday. Fortunately, however, for locals of Brentwood who have yet to find a venue for this year's fall celebration, or who have some extra time and the desire to lend a hand, it is that time of the year again for the Veteran's Hall Thanksgiving dinner at 757 First Street in Downtown Brentwood. The event is currently accepting food donations at this time, as well as volunteers to help deliver meals to those who cannot physically attend. The event is scheduled to take place from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day, and more information about the event for volunteers and potential attendees alike can be found online at the web address: <http://sharphomesonline.com/free-thanksgiving-dinnercharity-opportunity-2/>.

Campus Life

So who was first... the chicken or the egg? What it is like to work at KFC

By Shelby Conn
Editor

Having a job in high school can be stressful, but it also gives students the opportunity to meet new people and to encounter and experience new things. Most high school students cannot say that they like their jobs, but I can. Working at KFC may not sound fun to most people, but to me it is. When I interviewed Blas Rubio, a senior here at Liberty who works at the KFC on Lone Tree, we both agreed that our favorite part of our job was the people that we work with. Co-workers are probably the most important part of any job, mostly because these are the people who you'll be working with almost every

day. When applying anywhere, always make sure that you get along with the people who work there. Even the unpleasant parts of my job, like cleaning the store at night, are fun because I get to hangout and clean with my co-workers. The people who work with me at KFC are my family; we give each other advice, we text each other outside of work, and we always support one another. Our job isn't always easy, but with each other's help, we always manage to get the job done. When interviewing Blas, he said that working at KFC is easier than he thought it would be. I have to disagree with him, but maybe that's just because I work at the KFC near Liberty and not the Lone Tree location.

I personally never thought about all the work that goes into making the store run. We even have secret shoppers that come in to evaluate our service. Before working here, I never would have thought that fast food places had secret shoppers; I always thought that secret shoppers were for retail stores only. Just because KFC is a fast food restaurant, doesn't mean that the employees can run free. We must be on time, have our shirts tucked in, no jewelry, and our hair must be in our hat. We also have different duties based on what we are best at. Personally, I am a people person; therefore my manager always has me at the front counter taking people's orders. Having a job in high school, no



The employees of the Brentwood Blvd KFC smile for the camera.

Photo courtesy of Mario Ampuero

matter where it is at, is a huge accomplishment. It teaches responsi-

bility, and gives students a chance to experience life in the real world.

From Norway to Brentwood: LHS exchange student Frida Smidt

By Lauren Mennuti
Staff Writer



Photo by Lauren Mennuti

Imagine going to school in a foreign country. From speaking a different language to adapting to a new school and place, there is a lot of adjusting to do when living in a foreign place. Liberty High School senior and foreign exchange student, Frida Smidt, is experiencing life in America. She has come all the way from southeast Norway to Brentwood, California for the 2014-2015 school year. As for how she ended up here in the bay area, "My mom was an exchange student in Castro Valley 30 years ago and has still kept in contact

with her host family," she explains. "Now I am living with my mom's then-host sister who happens to live in Discovery Bay." She cites her reasons for coming to America, explaining that it is a new, different place. Even though she has been to California around five times and had an idea of what to expect, she liked how American high school seemed and had an interest in it. When it comes to the difference between American high school and school in Norway, there are many. "In Norway school is just school. We don't have school sports, teams,

clubs, or spirit," she says. "We also don't walk from class to class every single period. We are assigned a classroom and the teacher would come to you. We also don't call our teacher 'Mr.' or 'Mrs.', we call the by their first name." The class she looks forward to at Liberty is Lion's Crew. Not only does she like the other students in it, she also likes how awesome Ms. Kohler is as a teacher. "I do cross country and I like it because I've never done anything like that before," she says, explaining why she chose to do a sport this year. "Even

though it's really hard sometimes, you feel so good afterwards," she explains. She also notes "that both girls teams are undefeated!" As far as American culture goes, she says she has many favorite American movies, ranging from teenage classic "Mean Girls" to "The Hunger Games." The best food she's had here in America is possibly In N Out Burger, Mexican food, or Asian food, though she does miss Norwegian chocolate.

Think your teachers know nothing about your life?

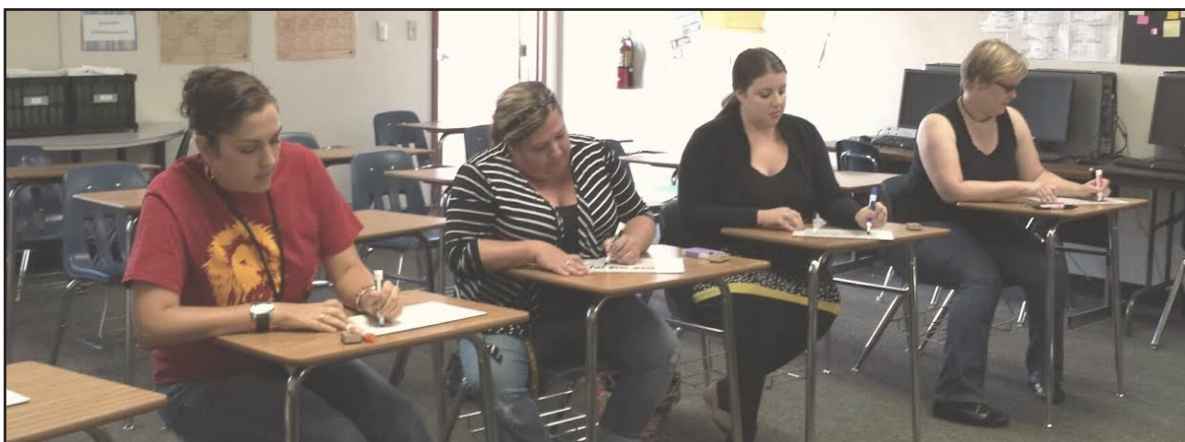
Think again

By Katie Peelle
Staff Writer

It is exhausting waking up every morning, dragging our butts to school, then taking tests on topics we feel like we barely know anything about. So what if the tables were turned? Well, we turned the tables when we brought in four Liberty teachers and quizzed them on pop culture. Most people would assume that teachers are completely oblivious to the new trends and that they would bomb this quiz, but surprisingly, they did pretty well. The four teachers brought in were Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Ceja, Mrs. Rodriguez, and Mrs. Holmes. The

topics varied from different slang terms, to celebrity news, dance moves, and popular clothing trends. We brought them in and had them sit in a line of desks with the students sitting across from them to record their answers. The teachers were each given a whiteboard and when they had the answer to the question, they would hold it up and see the students reactions. Pressure was on them to get the most accurate answer. Mrs. Rodriguez impressed all the students and the fellow competitors by knowing a majority of all the answers to all these topics. When asked who Kim Kardashian was married to, we got a variety of answers. Mrs. Hol-

mes answered, "Kanye West. P.S. They are both dumb." However, Mrs. Rodriguez answered, "Kanye West, and their kid is North West." She did her homework. When asked if they knew how to do the "Schmoney Dance", only Mrs. Rodriguez had the slightest idea. But Mrs. Tucker knew that "Swerve" meant, in her words, to "Move, Beezy." Mrs. Ceja thought, though, that the popular song "Chandelier" was sang by Taylor Swift instead of Sia. So this test shows that maybe teachers are more knowledgeable than we think. They might be paying as much attention to us as we are to them.



Mrs. Ceja, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Tucker, and Mrs. Holmes participate in the Q and A session.

Photo by Kristina Busch

The choice of a lifetime: how to pick the right college for you

By Rosa Robles
Staff Writer

Imagine you're going to an important event; you look in your closet for an outfit to wear, but which? Now imagine that event is life and the outfit is a college. There's 4,600 outfits are in your closet for you to choose from. Scary isn't it? How can one choose the right one? Narrowing is actually easier than one imagines, it's all on the type of person someone is. Choosing a college consist personal habits, time and location all which are a big factor in choosing colleges. For example, if you're a type to work better with a professor and a small class, choose a smaller class school. This will allow you to be more involved and create a connection with your teachers. Smaller classes also allow you to get to know your classmates and build relationships. These relationships could be used to make study groups and homework help which will boost grades and make you friends. Big class colleges are more for independent people. Classes might range from 100-200 students, which may or may not be to one's liking. Professors will have a lot of students to care for, so don't be surprised if he or she doesn't recall who you are. Don't be discouraged by this for the positive side is that you have a lot of possibility to gain a study buddy and larger study groups.

Another factor that may help you choose a college is time and location. A lot of colleges offer classes in the afternoon, which some say is the best since you don't suffer from morning drowsiness or night fatigue. Having a college close to your living quarters may help you not feel pressed for time, for having that pressure does add stress. Location is a very important because it affects your college experience. Choosing in state colleges is what most people do, but you also have the option to go out of state which will cost less than instate. You should also choose a college in an area you feel is comfortable and convenient for you. If you're not too keen on the bustling city, choose a suburban setting. But, if you're ready to head into the city life, remember to stay in rhythm. Colleges are all about what you would like to do, you don't have to stick with one like Mrs. Cappelli did, or have to attend eight like Mrs. Thigpen. Research as much as you can, and look for a college that fits your personality and rhythm, but you may always step out of your comfort zone and dive into a whole new unknown direction. College is that outfit you'll walk with through the gates of life. If the college fits, wear it.



NFL mediocrity goes too far for too many

By Alex Einess
Staff Writer

Ever since 1920, the NFL has provided a stage for some of America's best athletes. Year after year, incredible athletes come together to form teams that show audiences amazing feats of athleticism. This year, however, the NFL has disappointed many fans.

Many teams find themselves with more losses than wins as we approach the halfway point of the season because they have failed to perform well at a top level week in and week out. This has led to what may be perceived as great games, ending in last second field goals and overtime. But upon further analysis, the cause of those close games can be attributed more to poor play than anything else. Whether it be turning the ball over in the red zone or missing seemingly easy field goals, teams have failed to convert on many scoring opportunities.

Not even the defending Super Bowl champions are exempt. The Seattle Seahawks have not been the same powerhouse team this year, losing to the 3-5 Rams, then barely squeaking by the 3-5-1 Pan-

thers on a last second touchdown. Other teams have followed a similar path: the Browns beat the 6-3 Steelers 31-10, then promptly became the Jaguars only win when they lost 24-6.

So what could be the cause of this inconsistency? My theory is the talent in the NFL has become too spread out. Between the 2013 season and the 2014 season, many pro bowlers, such as Cowboy defensive end Demarcus Ware and Jaguar running back Maurice Jones-Drew, signed with other teams. This has led to the NFL having talent spread out among all 32 teams. While on paper this *may* seem like a good thing, it has led to a majority of teams not having the talent level to stay consistent every week. It has also led to teams who have accumulated talent, such as the Broncos and Patriots, to become clear cut stand outs.

Having all the talent in the NFL spread out has led to a decrease in the level of play and has left many NFL fans wanting more from a league that has delivered phenomenal performances for many years.

Girls basketball works hard and plays hard

By Hayley Reyes
Staff Writer

"This off season, our team has worked extremely hard in the weight room to improve strength, speed and agility. I'm already starting to see huge improvements in the players that have dedicated themselves to becoming a better athlete by working hard in weight room and on the track," announced Coach Josh Ellcessor. The Liberty girls basketball has been training hard this off season getting ready for league play and try-outs. There are a lot of girls returning to try-out as well as many new faces. They have been conditioning, using the weight room, and working on improving their game. In the summer, the girls varsity team played in the Delta College summer league and received first place.

Last year was Coach Ellcessor's first year coaching the Liberty girls varsity team, and he's going on his second year. Though this is not his first time coaching varsity. Josh

Ellcessor was assistant coach for boys varsity for three years, making that a total of five years coaching. In the previous season, last year's record improved from the year before and they are hoping for improvement more and more in the future. Introducing new defense and offense, the team is definitely showing they're getting better and playing great all together.

"Every team in the league has very strong players. The competition is high and we look forward to competing this season as a team," stated sophomore Kai Bohannon. Liberty is definitely looking forward to playing Deer Valley and Pittsburg. Coach Josh believes that Liberty has a strong chance at winning the league title by beating those teams and playing strong every game.

Coach Josh had said that the biggest strengths on the team are their experience from last season and their depth. The team had defi-

nately showed huge improvements last season and they are continually getting better. Their experience and growth together last season will definitely show in this upcoming season. As far as improvements, Coach Josh says they need to work on their offensive execution and recognizing opportunistic situations. He also believes the girls team needs to improve their confidence in order to reach their full potential.

"My biggest motivation this season is to keep improving and getting better. I would also love to have the team reach it's potential because I know we can compete in BVALS," stated Kai Bohannon. The team has high hopes to keep striving because one of their main goals is to compete in the BVALS. They definitely have the passion and dedication to make this season something to remember.



The girls basketball team takes a much-needed break from practice

Photo by Hayley Reyes

Upcoming Events

Boys Basketball

11/22 vs. Washington (away)
11/25 vs. St. Joseph (away)
12/02 vs. Livermore (home)

Girls Basketball

11/22 Tracy Jamboree (away)
12/02 vs. Dougherty Valley (away)

Boys Soccer

11/26 vs. Mt. Eden (home)
12/03 vs. Clayton Valley (home)

Girls Soccer

11/22 vs. Arroyo (home)
12/9 vs. Amador Valley (away)

Wrestling

12/2 Novice Tournament (away)
12/6 Newark Duals (away)
12/6 De La Salle Duals (away)

**The Honor of Your
Presence is Requested**

**Brentwood P.A.L.
(Police Activities League)**



The Brentwood Police Activities League (P.A.L.) is excited for the new 2014-2015 school year!!!

Current After School Activities:

- ❖ Youth Center Open Every Day till 5pm.
- ❖ Bowling
- ❖ Karate
- ❖ Mentoring (Big Brother/Sister)

Future Activities:

- ❖ Basketball
- ❖ Cross Fit Training
- ❖ Olympic Weight Lifting

(All Activities are free excluding the price of uniforms)

Anyone interested in participating in PAL activities or events please contact Officer Michael Rucker at 925-809-7766, or email at mrucker@brentwoodca.gov. We look forward to seeing you!

The World Series: the best prize ever



Bumgarner receives his new Chevy from spokesman Rikk Wilde

Photo courtesy of abc.com



Photo courtesy of www.nesn.com

By Sean O'Connell
Editor

The San Francisco Giants are the 2014 World Champions and they were clearly the better team. With a bullpen consisting of Sergio Romo, Santiago Casilla, and of course, the MVP of the World Series Madison Bumgarner, the Giants had the edge in pitching. Bumgarner is believed by many to be one of the best pitchers to play in any World Series. The Giants also have a lot of big hitters. With a line up including Blanco, Panik, Posey, Sandoval, Pence, Belt,

Morse, Ishikawa, and Crawford, the giants fielded a team that was hard to beat. Before the World Series the media was focused on the Kansas City Royals. They seemed to be unstoppable. They help on to beat the A's in the wild card game, then swept the Angels before sweeping the Baltimore Orioles to capture the American League Pennant. However, the Royals weren't able to go all the way. They hung on until game seven, when they hit a wall in

the form of Madison Bumgarner, the Giants ace pitcher and World Series MVP. One interesting fact is that the MVP of World Series gets more than a trophy. This year Madison Bumgarner also received a new 2015 Chevy truck with "technology and stuff," according to Chevy spokesman Rikk Wilde. However, it was recently recalled due to a faulty airbag. What about past MVPs? Have they been bestowed with lavish prizes

for their work and talent? The answer is yes. In 2011, MVP David Freese of the St. Louis Cardinals was given the keys to a 2012 Chevy Corvette. Additionally, the Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz was rewarded for his efforts with a custom-made MVP ring made of 14 karat white gold and rubies. What will be the prize for next year's MVP? Only time will tell if sponsors like Chevy will continue to shell out the big bucks.

Blood, sweat, and teachers: Alexis Gonzalez joins Liberty's PE staff



Photo courtesy of Liberty High website

By Noel Corniola
Staff Writer

Teaching is something that takes a lot of dedication and determination. For some having this be their career would be challenging; for others, this comes naturally, like Ms. Gonzalez who has been teaching for the past 11 years. "I love making connections with my students and being able to help them succeed in various aspects of their life." "It goes beyond the classroom and it's always nice when students return after graduation thanking you for your help or just stopping by to say hi," states Gonzalez. While in college, she majored in kinesiology with an option in teaching. She's been a teacher at other schools but this is her first year here at Liberty. She has taught dance and is currently one of the physical education teachers and loves it so far.



By Scott Scruggs
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Todd Scruggs

Liberty Lions water polo is more than a team; it is a family thanks to Coach Kurt Roessler of the Liberty Lions Boy's Water Polo team. After asking coach what made him decide to coach Water Polo for Liberty, he responded with "During the 2004-2007 seasons, my middle and youngest sons were playing for Liberty. I felt the team was weak and I didn't like the style of the current coach. I started volunteering at practices and by the 2008 season, I was the head coach." Coach Kurt has been coaching for Liberty for nine years. While coaching his sons in the first few years he said it was a little difficult. Kurt said that over time, his sons realized that he was working hard for the team and Kurt realized his sons were also working hard. Through this realization they gained a mutual respect for each other.

When asking Coach Kurt about his growth as a coach over the years he said, "Yes, I learned more every game. Each game I learned something new about my coaching style, the team and the players." We talked about the differences in teams over the years, and Kurt reflected that the teams have had up and down seasons, strong years and weak years, but the program has definitely improved over the years. I then asked Coach Kurt that if he had to pick a favorite year coaching Liberty Water Polo, which year it would be. He responded with 2010 for several reasons: This is the first team that he had coached the boys starting as freshman through their senior year, the team made it to NCS for the first time since 2001, the boys all had amazing grades, and he was honored as the BVAL, Bay Valley Athletic League, coach

Kurt Roessler: the boss of LHS water polo retires

of the year. Coach Kurt was asked if he had a favorite player. Coach said he's enjoyed most of his players over the years, but if he has to pick one, it would be a player from several years back. Kurt identified him as strong player that went to Fresno State and has ended up back here in Brentwood working for Brentwood Parks and Recreation. He said it has been great to see this kid go full circle. When asked about what the hardest part of coaching is, he expressed that bringing the team together is tough. This is a team sport and it's not always easy when everyone has different personalities. Lastly, he said "the parents...that's all that needs to be said." Understandably, parents can be difficult with differing personalities as well as opinions. When asked about this being his

last year coaching the Liberty Lions Water Polo team and what will he remember most, Kurt responded that this has been a challenging year, yet it has been a lot of fun. Kurt decided to retire this year because this team consisted of all seniors except for two players. This will be the last group of boys he will see all the way through four years. He still plans to volunteer for the team and plans to be on the pool deck as a referee. Next season, while not volunteering or referring, he will spend surfing, hitting the swells, but he will mostly spend time with his wife Robin. I asked him about what he will miss most about coaching water polo, and answered simply "the boys." For Coach Kurt's last game of the season, Liberty Lions Water Polo boys won their last game against Deer Valley.

"I have wanted to be a teacher since I was little," she said. "I came from a long line of educators so I grew up seeing how rewarding the job is." Out of all the different subjects you can teach in high school, physical education would not be on the top of everyone's list, but that wasn't the case for Alexis Gonzalez who has enjoyed sports and keeping healthy all her life. "I grew up playing sports and have played soccer and basketball at a high level so I wanted to choose a career that I would be able to apply my knowledge and would keep me around sports and nutrition." Once in a while no matter what career you pursue there is always going to be challenges. "One of the hardest parts about being a teacher would be not having 100% of your students succeed." "This, as a teacher is what we strive for and when it doesn't happen it's really heart wrenching." Teaching does take a lot of time and effort but changing a child's life is very inspiring for some. But, before one would decide to pursue this profession make sure that it is the right choice for you. "My advice to anyone who would like to become a teacher would be to be yourself, be consistent, and always put the student's best interest first." Teaching can be very hard at times but if you find the right school and the right subject your opportunities are endless. Her positive outlook on teaching will soon greatly impact the students here at Liberty High School.

Opinion

Ebola: a laughing matter?

By Richard Montalvo
Editor

It's late at night and you're the only one in your house, when suddenly you hear a firm knock on your front door. You get up and open the door as you meet, face-to-face, with three men in hazmat suits. In their gloved hands they hold three bags, one for each man. You feel worried. You've only had a slight fever and you've never been outside of the country, but could you really have Ebola? Their following statement, however, clears up your worries: "Trick or treat!" Believe it or not, you may have faced this scenario again and again on Halloween night, leaving you with a pressing question: Why?! I myself like to think that those who make costumes based on something serious like Ebola or terrorism make those costumes due to one particular response to fear:

laughter. It's been said that laughter can produce a chemical of sorts that acts as an antidepressant and anxiety-reducer. These costumes are made not made to make people facepalm the second they see them in an Instagram post or in the costume store: they're made as a coping mechanism to something serious.

But perhaps this can be applied further than just our Halloween costumes. All around school, it almost seems like Ebola's one big joke. Someone sneezes? Ebola. Someone wants to make a silly little doctor skit? Make sure the disease is ebola. Just making a joke in general? Ebola's a nice punchline. I don't believe any of it is done to offend or to be a "butthead", though: It's all done to cope with the fact that ebola is serious, and if it's not

taken care of properly, it could possibly become an epidemic.

We've probably all heard of some of the mistakes made along the way: Doctors are told they don't have to wear face masks. Confirmed Ebola patients are still allowed to fly on airplanes from within the US. A lady was put in a tent with a box for a toilet and only granola bars for food because it was possible that she had ebola. People still fly to and from the hotbed of these diseases. These mistakes make it more and more likely that Ebola's going to wind up being a "thing" in the US, and we all know that. So the best way for us to deal with that stress, instead of becoming paranoid, tinfoil-hat wearing, end-time-spouting people, is to laugh the stress away, even if it's possibly offensive.



Photo courtesy of thehappyhospitalist.blogspot.com

Opinion Poll

If you could rid the world of one thing, what would it be, and why?

By Tenia Lewis and Adam Dawson
Staff Writers

Savannah Golden (10): "Hunger, because people need food and we should all have the food evenly divided between the world."

Carlos Hernandez (11): "Hunger and poverty, because some people suffer a lot."

Sarai Peele (12): "Greed, because greed is what ruins the world."



Photo courtesy of inthemouthofdorkness.blogspot.com

Bad teacher: should teachers have to follow a dress code?

By Rajah Chavez
Staff Writer

You walk through the door of one of your classes and you witness a horrifying sight: a teacher that you would consider too old to be wearing short-shorts or even a low cut shirt, is wearing something you find to be inappropriate for the work place.

What were to happen if teachers started dressing like the students on the school campus? Dressing inappropriately would cause problems with students as well as parents. "If they want us to follow the dress code, they should follow it too" acknowledged a former student at Liberty about the topic of enforcing a teacher dress code.

As a student at Liberty High School, I do believe that the staff in the high school environment or even primary and secondary schools should have to follow a staff dress code. Take into consideration how big of a response that could cause from the student body. The student body is influenced by a lot of things, and teachers are no exception.

Most adult workplaces have a strict dress code in place. For example, many offices only allow jeans to be worn on Fridays, jewelry must remain small in size, and no flip-flops can be worn at any time.

While we can agree that we have not seen any teachers wearing

clothing too tight or too short, I think we could all agree that flip flops and jeans are a regular staple on the Liberty campus. Why is this acceptable? Teachers spent a great deal of time and money earning their Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Shouldn't they dress the part? The exception would be that certain teachers teach in a particular environment; like the P.E teachers, who need to be in much easier clothes to maneuver in, compared to the administration, who are dressed in office attire.

"(It's in) The eyes of the beholder," mentioned teacher at Liberty High School, Mrs. Ceja.

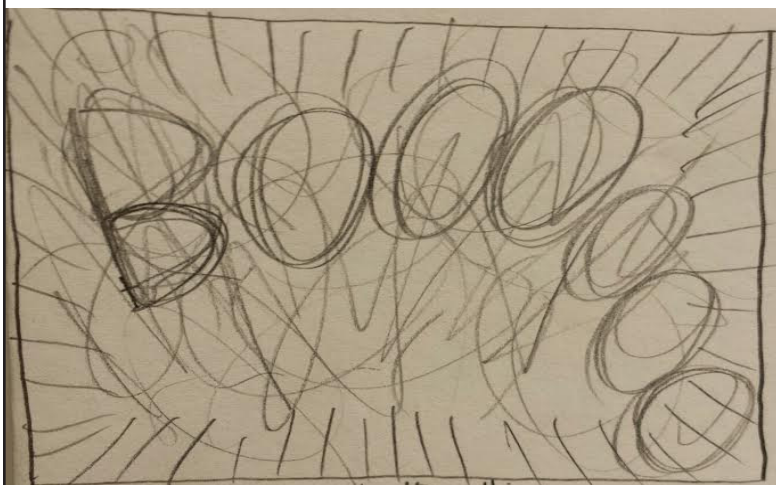
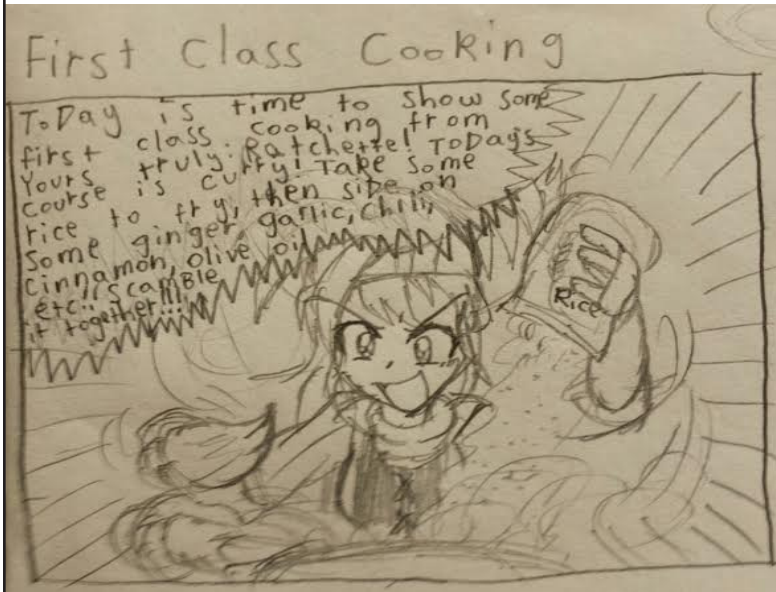
Just take a moment to think about a teacher at your school that is dressed professionally all the time. Then boom: they came to school wearing Ugg boots and sweatpants with a logo written across their backside. Students who want to rebel by not following the dress-code will take this opportunity to point fingers at the teacher, saying she was not an appropriate role model. This could begin to stir up trouble.

According to Mr. Beckstead, teachers should be able to dress as they please, "As long as it doesn't get in the way of the students learning." I guess we have to define what that really means.

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Original artwork and concept by Carly Henebury
Storyboard by Phil Fluty



He Said, She Said

*Advice from the male & female perspective
Guys versus girls on school dress code*

By Jasmine Folsom
Staff Writer

As high school students, most of us have been dress coded, especially if you're a girl. For female students, being dress coded is almost inevitable. If any of the staff here at Liberty High School were to walk through the Streets of Brentwood, they would see a limited selection of appropriate girls' clothing. The truth is, it's not our faults. I'm sure most, if not all, girls don't buy clothes because the clothes are inappropriate. We buy them because they are cute, and they are in style. The shorts in stores never reach past the finger tips on the

average female. Personally, I myself have been dress coded numerous times. For example, early last month I got dress coded because I was wearing a spaghetti strap tank top, with my sweater in my hand. It was extremely hot, and I'm sure every girl can relate. Now, what's the huge problem with tank tops? Our shoulders, back, and neck are not distracting or provocative in any way. It's anatomy that all human beings have in common. All in all, I think that the administration overexaggerates the need to dress code. It is understandable that one

might be dress coded for wearing a crop top, but being dress coded for a spaghetti strap tank top that covers the stomach and cleavage makes no sense at all. No guy is going to say "wow look at that shoulder". The administration needs to consider the reality of the situation; the style of clothing is not going to change, and no girl is going to come to school dressed in a turtle neck sweater in order to keep from being 'inappropriate' or 'distracting' to the male students.



AP Mr. Morris poses with the alternative to wearing inappropriate clothes

Photo By Shelby Conn

By Joshua Rush
Staff Writer

You see a hot girl looking at you wearing a crop top and booty shorts. She winks at you and blows you a kiss. You catch it and put it in your pocket and save it for later. But then behind her you see Mr. Morris ready to send her to her Den to get dress coded. You don't think that's fair; just because she looks good in her clothes doesn't mean she should be dress coded. These are the things that get me mad because it just isn't fair that because she looks good in her clothes she should get dress coded. I mean, that doesn't mean that a girl can have her chest or butt hanging out, but

they shouldn't get dress coded if they are wearing clothes that aren't too short or too tight. But, at the same time, I think that girls should have more self-respect for themselves because I think that some of them wear revealing clothes just to show off their body to other guys. To be honest, it just downgrades them because it makes them seem like they always want attention. I think that guys shouldn't look at girls in that way. It's just disrespectful. Girls need to wear the right clothes that just aren't too revealing because it just gives them a reason to get more attention. Girls

should be able to wear the clothes that they want to wear because it is free country and they can do what they want if it isn't against the law, of course. They are just expressing themselves and they choose to wear what they want to wear. I think it is fair that girls get dress coded if they wear clothes that show or reveal themselves too much. But I think that they shouldn't get in trouble if they wear clothes that they just look good in; not when they show anything. I just sometimes think that it just isn't fair but sometimes I do.

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