A Glee-ful evening

By Rachel Macdonald
Guest Writer

Excitement was pulsating from the crowd. So strong that it was as if there was a buzz in the air. If anybody had ever come close to the venue they would feel the energy from inside. As loud blended chatter filled the auditorium each person was waiting for the same person. Derek Nelson. On his first solo tour, Taking Chances. Derek played at select high schools across the west coast. So who is this Derek Nelson and how did these people hear of him? Derek is the lead guitarist on the hit television show Glee. Just like the show his performance was electric. The performing arts center was ¾ of the way full. The show opened with fog as the band entered the stage with Derek following after. Quite literally the crowd lost their minds, with screaming as far as you could hear. He opened with the song Take Chances which is the song his tour is named after. People were itching to leave their seats and run straight to the stage. After a good twenty minutes of an enchanting and engaging performance he had the house lights turned on. This way he could see all the people who came to see him. He also allowed everyone to run up to the stage and enjoy it like a real concert. Derek was truly charming and he connected to the audience. As one of the parents put it “He brought the audience in. I felt part of the show.” At one point two of our own Liberty students were literally part of the show. Derek stopped the show to call up Kayla Erickson and Gabriela Montaginos. Gabby had sold the most tickets and Kayla was the reason that the concert even happened. They both got signed shirts and a free CD. So how did Kayla even know to invite Derek Nelson to our school? How did that happen? Well it was completely by accident. She happened to stumble upon his You Tube channel which lead to his website, and from there she learned about the tour. “I just took a chance and sent in our school’s name. I honestly didn’t expect anything but I got an email the next day!” And to think it was all by chance. After a phenomen- onal show the crowd was begging for more. The hype was even more darastic than before the show had started. One particular girl was so filled to the brim with excitement and hunger for more that if she had spoken at a more rapid pace she would have broken the sound barrier. “OH GEE GEE! I’ve never seen a man be so much passion on stage!” she squealed. A favour- ite song that most of the audience shared was Sunday Morning. Rest assured this all carried on through the meet and greet. This entire tour was created to fund the arts pro- grams in schools and we wanted to know why Derek decided to do this. He tells, “I want to make sure high school programs have what they need. It definitely came through personal experience of playing music my entire life through high school.” We asked, “Are you naturally charming or do you plan everything ahead of time?” He re- sponded in laughter and followed with “Thanks. No umm... It’s the flow of the show. It just happens.” Again with laughter. Speaking of the flow of the show, when keyboard-ist Brian was asked about the pre- tour events he mentioned his first rehearsal was the first show. Glad everything worked out! Bryan also let us know that the band as is now was actually created when De- rick, Bryan, and bassist Jack were in college together. When speak- ing with Jack about the band he stated, “I started it. I introduced Derek to Brian.” He said this right as Bryan walked past, commenting “He likes to take credit for start- ing the band.” They both laughed and then everyone finished off speaking and closed up the night with warm goodbyes as the crowd slowly shuffled their way out. Interested in knowing more? Did you miss? Check out Derek Nel- son at deriknelson.com and be sure to give Brian a listen as well. It’s a full time composer whose music can be listened to by go- ing to brianhargrovemusic.com or soundcloud.com/b-theory.

Saving energy may not be working

By Richard Montalvo
Staff Writer

In these harsh economic times, everyone is looking to find some way to save a buck. The Liberty High Union School District is no different. They seem to take a rather strict policy on conserving as much energy as they can by doing thing such as turning off the electricity at night, installing solar panels, and even sending someone in before the school breaks in order to make sure every computer, projector, and alarm clock is unplugged so it's not wasting energy. But are these prac- tices doing more harm than good? Mrs. Simon can tell you all about an issue of her own; her air conditioner gives her the cold shoulder.“My classroom is cold most of the day. Even students complain. The heat turns on and will go as high as 70. Once it hits 70, however, the fan turns on and blows cold air. The hot air does not kick back on until the tem- perature goes below 68. It takes a long time for the thermostat to get down that low even though cold air is continually blowing.”Mrs. Si- mon’s cold classes might be a bit of a downer, but at the same time, students seem to be generally un- derstanding towards the school’s energy saving practices. Mauricio Balthorns states, “I feel like it’s a positive and exemplary system that all schools should follow. It’s saving the school money while at the same time saving the world.” So is there really a problem? Ac- cording to research and studies performed since the 1990s, even small changes in temperature can impact student per- formance. But, judging from popu- lar opinion, there seems to be noth- ing wrong with it. Students might complain that their classes are a little cold, but in the end it seems to be a necessary evil. With our en- ergy sources quickly running out, it seems like these sorts of energy- saving practices are measures we should take if we want to continue living comfortably years from now.
was an extremely attractive stake at the center. Because salt springs of 160 acres, with the hot springs on the site) saw potential in the springs in 1863, the Risdon family (although non-miners and served many purposes. In the early 1900s, the hotel has had several different owners and served many purposes. In the early 1900s, the hotel has had several different owners. The Meads developed and converted the land into a lavish hotel, which only lasted until 1901 before burning down. A second hotel was built in 1901 and had relative success until 1912, when it was also wrecked by fire. In 1913, a third hotel was opened. This time, the hotel saw a massive influx of famous and affluent visitors who sought out the rumored health benefits of soaking in the hot springs. Unfortunately, the hotel closed in 1938 due to unceasing lawsuits and the death of resort founder Lewis Mead. Only three years later (1941), the building became known as “Camp Tra-ny,” and a rusty barbed-wire fence marked the beginning of the trail. After a bit of trudging through overgrown paths and cow-pies, visitors will arrive at the site. Caution of a vigilant and irritable groundkeeper begins to sound preposterous when touring the property, as it is clear no one has tended to the dumping grounds for what appears to be a long time. The premises are simple, yet surreal: several palm trees line a crudely formulated border of the area, chunks of concrete carpet every room of the hotel, and no wall is void of eye-catching graffiti. The structure itself consists mainly of several derelict relics and two sweeping staircases that circumnavigate an elevator shaft, barren of any elevators. The hauntingly peaceful landscape is as immersing as its history would suggest.
Season’s greetings from the other side of the world

By Ale Velez

Christmas is right around the corner and coming fast! To celebrate, The Streets of Brentwood and their associates will be holding their annual Brentwood on Ice. This is a great local attraction in this little town. Surely, this will be a great family attraction and for friends as well. This is the perfect activity to get you in the Christmas spirit.

As seen in this photos, patrons come from far and wide to spin on the ice. Maximum fun capacity: unlimited.

The winter air seems to magically alter the appearance of the Streets of Brentwood.

Be sure to visit the Streets of Brentwood and revel in the holiday cheer!

All photos courtesy of brentwoodholidayonice.com

ATTENTION SENIORS:

The Local Scholarship Application is NOW available online at our school website! Please go to www.libertyunion.schoolwires.net and then to the Student Info Tab. Click on “College & Career Center,” then click on “Scholarships.” There you will find the 2013-2014 Local Scholarship Application. Please complete the application online, then print and submit all copies to Mrs. Perkins by February 7th. If you have ANY questions or trouble accessing the application, please see Mrs. Perkins in B-3.

The gift of life: organ donation

By Mallory Muniz

Imagine your life abruptly ending tomorrow. How would you feel about your organs living on in someone else’s body?

Currently there are more than 120,000 people in the United States waiting for an organ or tissue transplant. This massive number could be drastically reduced if more people were aware of the organ donating process. In fact, there were only 14,000 organ donors recorded as of 2012. Organs are scarce. Sadly, an estimated eighteen people die each day waiting for a transplant.

The first step to donating is simply signing up. Anyone—regardless of age or medical history—can register to be an organ donor. Signing up is not limited to getting or renewing your driver’s license; it can happen at any time. The process is as easy as answering yes or no. Those interested can find information online or by requesting a form available at most DMV locations.

Additionally, becoming a donor does not cost anything to the donors or their families. Should you pass under circumstances in which you suffer a severe brain injury or traumatic accident, hospitals are required by law to notify a local Organ Procurement Organization (OPO). The OPO will evaluate you based on your cause of death to determine if you are eligible to donate. If so, they will check for means of authorization and whether or not you are a registered organ donor. If, and only if, the OPO has authorization, the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) will match your organs with possible recipients based on a variety of factors such as: blood type, medical urgency, time on the list, and proximity. Once the match(es) are found, you will be brought into surgery and have your organ(s) or tissue(s) removed. Incisions are surgically closed and the process does not interfere with any post-mortem service, such as an open casket funeral.

Lindsey Chan, a seventeen-year-old senior here at Liberty High School, understands the significance of being a donor as both of her parents are. When asked if she has ever considered becoming a donor herself, she replied that she plans to be. “What better way to die than to save the lives of others in the process,” she said. “People will remember you in an honorable way, and you will take comfort in knowing that you improved someone’s life even after you are gone.”

To be an organ donor means that you are willing to part with the functioning portions of your body you no longer need to someone else in order to help them live better. What an empowering feeling to know that you might possibly save someone’s life.

Photo courtesy of donors1.org

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Photo courtesy of donors1.org
Transsexual student finds acceptance at Liberty High

By Elijah Mesina

Staff Writer

Imagine if your body betrayed you. If you were born one gender, but felt like you were supposed to be another. For one Liberty student this scenario has become her reality. “I used to play with dolls as a kid,” said Nikia Contreras, a Liberty High School junior who was born in San Leandro, California. Born a male, she felt she was suited to be a boy; she always did feminine things that society and her parents viewed as unacceptable. “I used to put a towel on my head to give myself a ‘feminine aesthetic’.” In addition, her parents had always told her that her behavior was not acceptable and she decided to act ‘normal’. However, Contreras eventually got tired of living a lie. She started putting on make-up and the more she put on, the more comfortable she felt. At the turn of her eighth grade year, Contreras went to Adams Middle School and had a lot of issues with her self-identity and how others saw her. Once she entered high school, she decided to come out as a trans-sexual woman. I say I’m a trans-sexual woman; the difference is that being ‘transgen- der’ is mental and ‘trans-sexual’ is physical... I’ve had work done.” When she was asked about how she deals with bullying, she said “It would be unfair for me to call them names, we can’t put each other into different categories.” She just shrugs it off and deals with the bullying.

Sleeping without Sandman

By Sam Cheshire

Staff Writer

The reason why you’re falling asleep while driving? It’s a disease sweeping the nation. It is infecting teenagers all over the world: about 30% of teens have insomnia and don’t even know it. Insomnia is a fancy term that defines the inability to sleep. There are some tricks one can do to aid ones insomnia. For example, making sure your room is dark; not using electronics and keeping a schedule are some ways.

However, sometimes this isn’t enough for the average teenager. When most teens cannot fall asleep, most people stay up or worry about not falling asleep which can lead to “I have trouble falling asleep,” Brittany DeFazio, a junior at Liberty remarks. “But I do not always feel tired.”

In addition, dealing with these problems can be a difficult thing to do. “I just deal with it.” Haley Schwitters, a senior at Liberty stated. But some people can’t just deal with it because it’s harder on their body and brain.

The body and brain are two of one’s best tools in life, but when they are damaged; your life could change for the worse. If you’re missing sleep, your grades could tumble or you could become cranky.

Being “cranky” can come from different things that happen in life, but the biggest thing is being sleep deprived or getting up too early.

“I’m tired all the time, maybe because I get up so early,” Haley Schwitters, a senior at Liberty said.

Sleep schedules are very important for your body and brain. Sleep schedules is like training your body for a marathon. You have to train your body if you’re going to get up early or late all the time. Your body can become tired or weak if not trained properly. It sounds crazy but it really does help.

Being tired, sleeping in or not finding a sleep schedule that works for you is just a few things that make insomnia much worse than it already is. If you think you have insomnia, you should really try to sleep earlier, take better care of yourself and don’t worry about not sleeping because it can take a toll on your body and even your life if it’s not taken care of and under control.

Meal just for Liberty students! If you have your student I.D. on you, they offer a meal: a plain beef hot dog, a bag of chips, and a Coke for only $0.50! This all comes together because the service as friendly as can be, the lady that served me not only helped me through their well put together menu, but did it all with a smile. The only vice I could have is the size of the dog, I got a plain cheese dog. And even though it was delicious, there were times when it felt like I was eating a piece of chewy bread, instead of an actual hot dog. Regardless, The Doghouse offers even more variety to the restaurant scene in Down-town Brentwood, which everybody should check out.

Chocolate Trifle

Ingredients:
-1 (9.8 ounce) package of brownie mix
-1 (3.9 ounce) package of instant chocolate pudding mix
-½ cup of water
-1 (14 ounce) can of sweetened condensed milk
-1 (8 ounce) container of frozen whipped topping, thawed
-1 (12 ounce) container of frozen whipped topping, thawed
-1 (1.5 ounce) bar of chocolate candy

Directions:
1. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions and cool completely. Cut into 1 inch squares.
2. In a large bowl, combine pudding mix, water and sweetened condensed milk. Mix until smooth, then fold in 8 ounces whipped topping until no streaks remain.
3. In a trifle bowl or glass serving dish, place half of the brownie, half of the pudding mixture and half of the 12 ounce container of whipped topping. Repeat layers. Shave chocolate onto top layer for garnish. Refrigerate 8 hours before serving.

Photo courtesy of Lill Pierce at 925-813-1320.

Distribution event at Brentwood Elementary

Directions:
Starting the second week of November, barrels and bins will be located throughout East County for donations of non-perishable food and new toys.

Dates:
- Friday, November 22nd, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- November, November 22nd – 24th, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Saturday, November 23rd – 24th, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Sunday, November 24th – 26th, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Donate:
Applicants need to show proof of identity and residence (Driver’s License or ID card and utility bill, PG & E, Phone, water or garbage, etc.)

Families:
Families in need can apply to participate at one of the scheduled sign-up events listed below. There are a limited number of participants and families are discouraged to sign-up early. All families must fill up prior to all sign-up events being held. Applicants need to show proof of identity and residence (Driver’s License or ID card and utility bill, PG & E, Phone, water or garbage, etc.)

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Contact:
For general information please contact Lill Pierce at 925-813-1320.

The Lion’s Café

A delicious meal right out on the savannah

By By Matt Albright

Staff Writer

A new hot dog place, aptly named ‘The Doghouse’ opened up in Brentwood across the way from The Game a few months ago. After months of passing it by, I finally decided to stop in and give it a try. And I am rather glad I did! The Doghouse, while having a rather colorless interior, none one less provides free internet, a large flat screen TV, and a open and spacious room for everyone to relax when they want to enjoy a good old fashioned American frank (or if you’re feeling rather non-Amer- ican, you can pick from their available sausages as well). They also, awesomely I might add, offer a WordPress.com
Let’s get fired up!

LHS students compete in off-campus cheerleading

By Kassidy Connors
Staff Writer

2,4,6,8 who do we appreciate? Cheerleaders! Many people think being a cheerleader is easy, but what they don’t know is competition cheer is a year round sport that requires more than a loud voice. Sarah Cisneros states, “You have to be good grades just to be eligible practice and compete.” She also says that it is important to always have a positive attitude, be respectful, and to always be loyal. Sarah cheers for Legends Allstar and is on level two. Their season has just begun so they have only had one competition and received third place. Legends Allstar’s next competition is in April. According to Sarah, like any other sport, cheer isn’t always easy. She says, “It is very difficult dealing with the stress of performing in front of so many people and working so hard to get one routine right for the next competition.”

Behind the curtain of protein

By Trevor Robinson
Staff Writer

Many people today think of protein drinks and supplements as some sort of quick way to fake protein to build muscle and reduce fat. But, this amazing nutrient does not just build muscle. Protein is also gives you energy throughout the day.

For example, although protein helps build muscle, it is also a necessary nutrient to help your body function. This amazing nutrient can help your body in many ways. How does protein affect muscle and the body? When you work out, you tear your muscles. This tearing opens up the gap in the muscle fibers, and the body tries to make the muscle grow again. To build muscle, you need to make sure you are consuming enough protein to support the works of your body. If you consume two little protein, your muscles will not be able to repair themselves and you won’t see growth.

Protein can affect the whole body. When you eat protein, it can help your body in many ways. For example, although protein can help build muscles, it also gives you energy throughout the day. The number that you get will vary based on your weight. For example, although you need different amounts, you could use this formula. The number of grams of protein that you need to consume after a workout. (Your weight divided by six) is the number of grams of protein that you need to consume after a workout. If you’re getting into protein and drinking powders and supplements as muscles, you should study the protein that you’re consuming. If you’re getting into protein and drinking powders and supplements as muscles, you should study the protein that you’re consuming. There are some really good protein bars and some that are not so good. You might want to ask why this is important. You want protein to make it so you don’t lose muscle while you are working out. Protein can help build muscles, it also gives you energy throughout the day.

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Calculating protein

Finding the right amount of protein is easy. First, take your weight. Then, divide that number by six. The number that you get will vary based on your weight. For example, although you need different amounts, you could use this formula. The number of grams of protein that you need to consume after a workout. (Your weight divided by six) is the number of grams of protein that you need to consume after a workout. If you’re getting into protein and drinking powders and supplements as muscles, you should study the protein that you’re consuming. There are some really good protein bars and some that are not so good. You might want to ask why this is important. You want protein to make it so you don’t lose muscle while you are working out. Protein can help build muscles, it also gives you energy throughout the day.

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Once a lion, always a lion: Liberty celebrates 100th anniversary of alumni game

By Mauricio Baltrons
Editor

One hundred years ago, Liberty High School students played a basketball game that would change history. Now, this was no ordinary basketball game. It was not a team scrimmage, nor a game against a rival school; but something much more interesting. One hundred years ago, those students played an epic game against old friends—alumni. This became known as the Alumni Game. Since then, Liberty has held on to that tradition of playing against past students in a match that leaves spectators riveted and engrossed.

"I think what makes Liberty's alumni game so special is the fact that it's always a competitive match, yet friendly at the same time," shared Nathan Scott, a previous Liberty Basketball player. "There's nothing abrasive about it; it's just pure fun for everyone."

Just as done in the past, there were three games played consecutively. First, the Freshman team took on current teachers. Those such as Mr. Walters, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Stanz were most noted on the court. Though the Freshman played their best, they lost 31 to 49. Next, the Junior Varsity team took on alumni ranging from 5 to 10 years past. Old faces like Matthew Webber and Demarcus Hall of six years past were there to pummel Junior Varsity in a 30 to 64 match. "It doesn't matter whether we win or lose the game, because that's not the goal of the Alumni Game. The purpose of the game is to welcome those who attended Liberty in past years and to be forever remembered that they are part of our family," elaborated JV player Kyle Metzler.

Lastly, Varsity basketball met the most recent alumni in the court. What was a closely matched game from the beginning turned into a two-hour-long saga. Alumni turned the tables towards the very end of the game and snatched a 23 to 36 win.

It's important to remember how much the world-Liberty-has changed in one hundred years. The basketball is much smaller, players no longer wear bright pink singlets, and the student demographics have fluctuated greatly. But even with all that change, Liberty can boast the time-tested quality of tradition.

Once a lion, always a lion:
By Mauricio Baltrons
Editor

On November 15th, Liberty hosted a soccer game for the Special Olympics. The stands were filled with students and fans alike, supporting the players on both teams.

"At one point the entire home side of the football field was filled with students and staff; it made my heart swell with joy. It meant so much to our kids to have everyone there: I am so grateful and proud to be apart of this Liberty family. You all mean the world to me, and I am thankful to save all in my life."

-Mr. Michael Mauro LHS Lifeskills Teacher

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Homosexuality has become a hot trend in our cutting-edge society. We see it in the form of teenage girls “experimenting” with bisexuality; young, hetero-sexual boys mockingly engaging in “homosexual activities”; a sudden cultural obsession and awe with gays and lesbians. Most can agree that after such a tiresome struggle to find a place in this rigid society, it was understandable for “gay culture” to then intertwine with that of the contemporary. Yet, it must be recognized that sexuality has become too sensational in our everyday lives. For speculation, sexuality—being gay, lesbian, or bi—has recently become the most prominent factor in a person’s life. I cannot stress enough that the amount of emphasis on those titles receive is absurd. In an effort to be accepting and understanding, the public has become too fixated on anomalous sexualities and has begun to patronize those who identify with them.

However, society is not the only one to blame here. Logically speaking, the LGBTQ community (we) does this to itself. Because it seems to be all we talk about, we degrade ourselves to a three letter word: gay. For that reason, one might think “being gay” is the only thing going on in our lives. Notwithstanding, gays and lesbians across the nation have been coaxed into becoming “the gay stereotype”, for that is what mainstream society expects and accepts of homosexuals. Gay men must be fashionable and haughty, while gay women must be masculine. Gay men, I contend that “gay characters” you would think they are about to have a fabulous brunch out on Rodeo Drive. As feminists would complain that Sofia Vergara sets unrealistic standards for women, I contend that “gay characters” set too uniform and demeaning of standards for homosexuals. It is ridiculous and unfair that gays should have to exemplify a clichéd “version” of themselves to be loved and adored by a society that is often unsure of its own sexual preferences. It doesn’t end there. Remember how I said we (gays) “degrade” ourselves? You were probably all like: Uh, no I don’t? Well, in 2004, a rather prestigious high school’s GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) in New York, New York posted a list of testimonies on their on-line forum. There is one particular testimony that reads (and I quote): “Ever since I started going to High, the only thing that was ever on my mind was my sexuality. It is who I am, nothing more and nothing less. People need to put a bigger focus on others who are being themselves”. Just so I do not come off as anti-gay, I will stick to the facts here: this guy attends the number one high school in America and all he has to say for himself is that he’s gay. Granted, the photo that accompanies the testimony depicts a boy holding a math book and a compass, still, the testimony itself does not constitute a proper representation of the smart, nice person he probably is. Probably.

In conclusion, it is simply time for the world to take a step back and look at what a foolish band of pariahs we have made ourselves. Not only have we taken “gay culture” and run blindly with it, but with stereotypes in general. Hipsters, bitches, slackers (boy, that word sounds archaic mentioning it now), jocks, nerds, outcasts,emos/goths,stoners,goodie-goodies,mean girls,indies,scenes,smart kids who pretend to be dumbs, gangsters, social-media addicts, toughs, artists, band kids, choir kids, performing arts kids—if this list is to be expanded, please let the next label read: “generally nice people with no defining features who just live their freaking lives”. (By 2040, we will have run out of ideas and really might have to use my example). Come on gays; is this what you want to be all your life? A scarf-wearing, chew-chewing, skateboard-skating tool who could never just be themselves? My advice is sweet and short: be more than just a title.

Not your usual chocolate chip

By Leo Dagle

We all love our comforting snacks even if we pretend we don’t.

Those of us who have a particular taste for sweet and salty edibles will appreciate Lay’s new blend of sweet and salty chips taste wonderful. They have the chocolate and potato thing down to a T.

Even with the occasional chip with too much or too little chocolate don’t seem to make the slightest difference in overall satisfaction.

The interesting part is that Lay’s seems to be targeting the female snacking market, according to Lay’s marketing director. Apparently there is some sort of large au-

LHS Teacher Poll

“What was the worst holiday gift you’ve ever gotten?”

By Madison Hughes

“A vacuum for Christmas from my husband.”

-Ms. Osborn

“A toiletry kit when I left for college, which looked pretty sweet and had some cool accessories. What was wrong, you ask? The nose hair trimmer had been used. So I asked my uncle and he replied, ‘I was curious how it worked, but I only used it that one time to try it out.’ Eewwwww!”

-Mr. Ortega

“From my husband. It was a custom-made ring to represent motherhood with my children’s birthstones. They were the wrong stones, wrong size, and altogether ugly. But I tried it on anyway and got it stuck. Then I had to hold my hand up and off my finger to get the ring off. UGH!”

-Ms. Flora

“My aunt gave me for Christmas a car visor organizer (cds, glasses) when I had no car...also in the box was car seats, car wax, and air freshener. I was 13...”

-Mr. Cornell

“A really UGLY holiday sweater. Orange! Who does orange for Christmas colors?”

-Ms. Abono

“A floor mode food processor with missing attachments and documentation.”

-Ms. Smith

Background photo courtesy of tutskiing.com
He Said, She Said
Advice from the male and female perspective
How do guys and girls view holiday gifts for significant others? Our writers sound off

By Matt Albright
Staff Writer

Price. That’s always a huge factor in Christmas gift shopping, while I always opt in to make gifts yourself—there are times when it’s just not appropriate. Christmas is one of those times. Now Bros. Guys. Dudes. I know why you would get an expensive gift, and now I want you to take those guy thoughts of your head and shove them somewhere else. This is Christmas, a time for love, family, and friends. Not stupid guy thoughts.

So, gift pricing should depend wholly on how long you and your partner have been together—you dang well get them something nice if you’ve been dating for a year, but you better not fork over a $100 gift if you been dating a week, cause, from experience? That just screams obsession, when you give her jewelry and you met literally two weeks ago you are basically selling “I can’t live without you” and, especially for teenage girls, they are afraid of commitment and will suck out first chance they get.

A certain ‘balance’ need to be struck, if you’ve been dating for a few weeks, between twenty and forty dollars is to be expected something nice, but not “oh my god I want you to be mine forever”. Like a stuffed animal, or some makeup. No clothing though. Only get girls a gift card for their favorite clothing store. Trust me. If you two have been together for longer than a year at max, that is usually when you can go all out. But at the most! $100 – $150, no more, no less. Getting them a $200 gift, even if you two have been together for a long time, can still be rather creepy for them to receive.

With that done, I give you a salute and pat on the back. Good luck!

By Brittany Freking
Lead Editor

Ladies do you feel like you are spending too much on your boyfriend for the holidays? How do you know?

People everywhere this year will be shopping for their significant other. I have heard from several girls they have already spent from $50.00 to $125.00 on their boyfriends.

In my opinion that is a bit excessive. I mean how do you know that you are even going to be together by Christmas?

What if they spend less than that on you?

What happens if they do not get you anything?

If I was shopping for my boyfriend I would spend a maximum of $45.00 because it is not too much, but it is not too little either.

The holidays should not have a price tag, it should be thought that matters.

A brief look at 2014 box office premiers
By Alec Douglas
Staff Writer

The year 2013 is coming to a close. The movies that came out this year were hit and miss. We had movies that were disappointing (Iron man 3, A Good Day To Die Hard, and The Hangover part 3) and movies that held up to expectations (Man of Steel, Gravity, and This Is The End). But now, the year 2014 looks to be an astounding year with movies that range from Action, Drama, Comedy, Sequels and Remakes.

Captain America: The winter Soldier is a movie that I was excited to see (even though Iron Man 3 left a bad taste in my mouth) but after I saw the trailer to this movie I was 100% hooked. The action looks great, the story looks like it is set deeper in realism than most other marvel movies, and the villain looks like a great threat for the hero to face. So I am very excited to see this movie on opening day.

Now, the movie I am definitely going to see is at midnight The Amazing Spiderman 2. I love heroes like Batman, Hulk, Captain America but Spiderman is my absolute favorite. When I saw the first Amazing Spiderman I thought it was better than the original classic 2002 Spiderman movie because I felt Peter Parker/Spiderman was written more realistic and relatable. The sequel seems like it will have a more emotional story concerning his parents. To me a movie can have good special effects and lots of action but if it doesn’t have a strong and engaging story the movie has failed.

Goofy and more story driven I am interested to see where this new chapter in the franchise takes moviegoers.

I think it is a series that has gone really far. Starting off as an ordinary summer popcorn fest about underground car racing and now to be a franchise about international terrorism and bank heists is really impressive to me. Even though I am excited to see the 7th in the series slated to be released in 2014, I feel as though this should be the last after the tragic death of Paul Walker as it would not feel the same as it did in the others. Paul Walkers charisma and action scene stunts (which he did on his own and without a stunt double) were one of the many reasons why I loved the franchise.

So here are some of the highlights of movies 2014. Some may be good or same maybe bad. I just hop that they reach their full expectations.

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