Is diet soda worth it?

Photo courtesy of nytimes.com

Seniors ditch day is all fun and games - until the school loses $6,914.86, which would be $450.39 per student.

If the entire senior class ditched, the school would lose $6,914.86, which would pay for:

- 203 trips to Santa Cruz and back
- 432 IMAX movie tickets
- 769 Netflix subscriptions
- 1,824 bags of Doritos
- 13,829 Jack-in-the-box tacos

The impact on the school that many do not think about

In addition to the loss of revenue, the school is wasting their money. Getting away from school for a day is probably a relief for each student, but what doesn’t cross their minds is how each individual senior contributes to the revenue the school receives.

Seniors effect this revenue because they each have their own ADA, which is defined as Average Daily Attendance revenue. ADA is calculated by the number of days a student attends divided by the total number of school days that year. This number is then multiplied by a particular amount of money, differentiated by state, which then results in the total ADA for that student. The average ADA at Liberty High Schools is $2,322.65 per student per year.

“This is a lot of money missed by the school a particular student attends divided by the total number of school days that year. This number is then multiplied by a particular amount of money, differentiated by state, which then results in the total ADA for that student. The average ADA at Liberty High Schools is $2,322.65 per student per year.” – Mr. Morris

The loss in money effects the school in a negative manner because now there isn’t as much money for items such as books and photocopies.

There are already limitations to the amount of copies teachers are allowed to make due to financial issues. Also, many of the textbooks are falling apart more every time that they are opened up. But each senior takes away from the money that could be put towards the remedies of these problems. Furthermore, the salaries of teachers are influenced by the yearly ADA and, since senior ditch day lowers this average, money is being taken away from teachers who don’t deserve it.

Liberty senior Rubi Mena stated, “I am aware of the money loss, but it’s been a tradition for so long that the school should already be prepared for such money loss. It happens every year so it’s not like it’s a surprise.”

It is evident that even though students are aware of senior ditch day effects school revenue, senior ditch day is a tradition that most likely will continue.

The school is accommodating these seniors for them to just not show up. Money is put into these seniors on a daily basis and the seniors bring money to the school when they attend. When seniors show up, they are paying for their own necessities in a sense, but when they ditch for a tradition, the school is wasting their money.

In addition to the loss of revenue, senior ditch day can put students at risk.

Mr. Morris explained how “school is a safe place” and when students attend school their parents can relax knowing their child is safe. Once the student has ditched, they are no longer safe and are at risk of danger.

Even though senior ditch day is a long held tradition, it does negatively impact the school more than most students probably assume and also may put their own wellbeing at risk. Therefore, this tradition should really be thought about and analyzed before students decide whether or not it is worth this negative effect they are causing.

The first female president, the third President Bush, or maybe even the first independent

By Richard Montalvo

Editor

Rev up your DVRs and tape up your mailbox, the 2016 elections are rapidly approaching us. This election, so far it seems like there is a wide range of candidates from all across the spectrum, from Jeb Bush to Hillary Clinton, Rand Paul to Bernie Sanders, and much, much more. With all of these names out there, however, one has to wonder where they stand and who could best represent America.

The impact on the school that many do not think about

Bernie Sanders, an Independent party senator from Vermont, has been described by U.S. News as “the real thing”, comparing his talks about redistribution of wealth, a real thing, to говорить, that Bernie Sanders would make a great president because he would be “the first independent party president, [and] he has ideals that help the working class and to better America.” Some even jokingly say that Kanye West should be president, as Mikaela Calios, another student notes. Not everyone has an idea, though, such as Wayde Musgrove states. “There’s not enough information yet to make an educated decision.” It’s difficult to say who should be president. All one can do is hope that whoever does become president helps this country instead of hinders it.
ah-chosing the right allergy treatment for you

By Ryan Frerking-Ramos

Senior Staff Writer

Red, itching, and runny… these are the three irritating “R’s” when dealing with allergies, but thank goodness there is one “R” that can defeat them: remedies.

There are many types of remedies when dealing with the seasonal symptoms. Some people like home remedies because they have been passed down by generations and are cheaper than running to the store to get over the counter medications. However, if those fail sufferers must likely will be going to over the counter medications, which can be helpful too. Ultimately, if all of those don’t work because a person’s allergies are so bad they look like they did thirty rounds with Rhonda Rousey or Floyd Mayweather, their best option is to consult a doctor immediately. Many home remedies have become very popular over the years and can be a first step in allergy relief.

A favored home remedy in the Brentwood-Oakley area is their local honey. They say, “A spoon a day will keep the sneezing away”. The honey is available at most fruit stands along Walnut Street near Marsh Creek Road and Camino Tassajara heading toward Vasco Road. It can also be found at Health Nut at 161 Chestnut Street in downtown Brentwood. If those household theories aren’t their forte or don’t work for the sufferer, then the next sense of relief would be over the counter medications. There are many types that have come out for this purpose like Zyrtec, Claritin, and Allegra. These are available at a neighborhood CVS or Walgreens store. If people are not sure which one to get they’ll need to ask a pharmacist for help. Most importantly, if the allergies won’t get up after trying these, then they need to consult your doctor.

Growing the small-town farming business through cloud technology

By Joseph Sanchez

Staff Writer

Companies such as Yahoo, Steam, and Apple are the modern day magicians: one second they’re in a garbage then the next they’re in an office complex, and just like a magic trick we wonder how it’s really done. And for Alvaro Ramirez, the CEO of eHarvestHub, he strives to be the next rabbit from the hat, the next magic trick, the end result being a problem to a very fragmented business process. It is not just an app for one thing but solves many problems and makes the supply-chain much more efficient.” Jose adds. eHarvestHub aims to remove the middle layer within the supply-chain to allow farmers to sell directly to the retailer through an eHarvestHub marketplace.

So where does the company stand currently? “eHarvestHub has built a traceability system to allow the farmer to track their product forward through the supply-chain.” Jose says. Now this is critical, as the FDA and most retailers are requiring them to be traceable or they cannot sell. So for the small to mid size farmer, eHarvestHub gives them what they need to go against the bigger farmers.

What obstacles is eHarvestHub facing currently? Jose explains that building up their systems fast is their biggest obstacle. Reading the market, knowing when to raise capital from Angel Investors and/ or Venture Capital (VC’s), are just some of the many obstacles tech start ups face and eHarvestHub is no exception. Contrary to other start-ups, the founders and the focus team are dedicated adults, they understand the market, which thus far has proven successful for eHarvestHub. Most of the tech team that Jose Sanchez works with has a background in building Wal-Mart’s and other companies supply-chain

Cornfest cancelled, causing cheerless children

By Emily Lutes

Staff Writer

Cornfest has been a Brentwood tradition since 1991. However in 2013, it was canceled, changing the summer for all of Brentwood residents. Cornfest was an annual 3 day summer festival which consisted of rides, vendors, fireworks, delicious local foods, and created many loving family memories and traditions. The Cornfest usually took place the weekend after the Fourth of July. Each year, Cornfest had over 40,000 people attending the event. In 2012, a Guinness World record was broken for the most ears of corn being husked at the same time, in one place. Over 650 people participated in the event to put Brentwood on the map again. Since this festival has been ended, parents, teens, and children have felt a piece missing. John Limas, a sophomore at Liberty shared, “I feel so left out because Brentwood is boring without it. Cornfest is what really brought the community together.”

Cornfest was canceled because of the loss of profits it experienced during its last two years. In 2013, the amount of people who attended Cornfest dropped by 40% and the festival lost about $49,000 in income. The main purpose of Cornfest was to raise money and split it with non-profit organizations. With an event that had over 800 hours of planning put into it with a large amount of lost income, it was not realistic to continue. The Chamber of Commerce letter from 2013 announced that Cornfest was being canceled in 2014 stated that “where does the community money in local organizations, Cornfest must bring in more money than the costs to put on the event. This year, that did not happen. In fact, this is the 2nd year in the last 4 years where expenses exceeded income. After careful consideration and agonizing dialogue, the Cornfest board has determined that there will be no Cornfest in Brentwood for 2014.” As of now, the future of Cornfest is unknown. If there is more funding for the event and more volunteers, there may be another event in the future. In the meantime, however, Brentwood has started other events to take place of Cornfest such as “Mighty Dog Motor Company Food Drive” which is in May. The Taste of Brentwood is a scavenger hunt to visit different restaurants in Brentwood to be put in a drawing for $100. Last year, another event to take place of Cornfest was the Harvest Festival. The Harvest Festival was a free, smaller scale event that consisted of music, food and a kids zone. “Cornfest was a great way to get outside and have fun with the entire community and there aren’t a lot of events where you can do that,” shared Calista Nelson, a sophomore at Liberty. After speaking to many Liberty students, it is extremely obvious that the student body misses Cornfest. Every student interviewed has gone to Cornfest at least once. Cornfest will be missed but never forgotten.
From Monrovia to Paris: LHS teachers from around the world

By Faye Gilmore
Staff Writer

It is reported that there are around 6,500 different languages in the world and around 196 distinct countries. That is a lot to experience, and for students who have wondered what it would be like to visit just a few of them (or who have plans to venture out with friends or family after graduating or during the summer), there are a few teachers such as Maude Etesse, who comes from France, who have sufficient experience abroad for the curious at heart. In case the reader is unfamiliar with geography, Liberia is located on the northern part of western Africa and is in smaller countries which are part of the African Union. However, because the depiction of the continent on most maps is somewhat skewed, Liberia is bigger than one would initially imagine. Ranking in as the thirty-ninth biggest country out of the fifty-four in Africa, it is actually about one-fourth the size of California and its capital city, Monrovia. Liberia was once home to the Monrovia Doctrine, which promoted a mindset that helped the US continue expanding westward, while meanwhile preventing invasions from outlying countries like Spain, after the Revolutionary War. Liberia is also home to Cape Mount, located in the country’s northwest region and recorded on average to have the most rainfall in Africa. On the other hand, France is a country nestled between Spain and Belgium, and its border shared with Spain hides a little-known fact. Andorra ranks 195th largest out of 249 flagged nations currently existing, and if you were to glance over a map of the region, an untrained eye would barely know it was there. The same applies to Monaco, which, despite its small size and location on the Mediterranean coast of France, is also a sovereign flagged nation. Readers might be familiar with Monaco due to its popularity with race car competitions, one of its past queens, popular American actress Grace Kelly, and its reputation as the second-smallest country in the world. Two things these micro-nations have in common include their French influence, being in terms of architecture and culture, as well as the language itself (though French is primarily spoken as secondary languages in both places). Aside from this, did you know French is also spoken in Canada as a dialect called Québécois? French is also spoken in many regions of Africa, and even in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, which is another one of Europe’s smallest countries. It comes to mention that next year, Liberty just so happens to be visiting Spain and France. Those interested may see Madame Etesse in room N-5 and inquire about specifics—just bear in mind that one may very well experience a bit of “flamenco dancing” as disclosed by Madame Etesse. It is anticipated to be a very entertaining trip, and for those who plan on going, keep an eye out for Monaco and Andorra—bink, and you just might miss it!

Are diet sodas really soda-licious?

By Troy Dias
Staff Writer

Diet sodas are carbonated drinks that, instead of using sugar, use artificial sweeteners such as aspartame. But how many people do you know that have actually lost weight from switching to diet drinks? Probably not many. These drinks are calorie free which should technically help people lose weight and prevent diabetes. However, any evidence of this being true is completely nonexistent. In fact, drinking diet soda has more consequences and a higher chance of these consequences actually occurring. Although diet drinks do not leave residue on your teeth, since plaque needs sugar to grow and companies use artificial sweeteners, there is a negative side. “Artificial sweeteners found in diet sodas have been found to increase sugar cravings because it is not a natural source of sugar and the brain continues to seek the ‘real deal,’” said Marissa Puleo, a registered licensed dietetician. Even though diet sodas sound bad, regular sodas also have their disadvantages. For example, too much sugar is linked to high blood pressure and risk factors for heart disease. The American Heart Association recommends limiting all sugars to no more than about 6 teaspoons of sugar a day if you’re a woman and no more than 9 teaspoons if you’re a man. A 12-ounce can of cola has about 8 teaspoons. Therefore, drinking regular soda is fine as long as you properly fit it into your diet. Considering all this information, which is healthier? Both diet and regular soda have pros and cons of their own. The only way to really determine which is healthier is to weigh the list of pros and cons and decide for yourself because each person is different and may have variations such as their diet, preference, or conditions such as diabetes. Even though one may be healthier than the other, in the end it doesn’t really matter which one you pick because they are both unhealthy. If you really want to lose weight you wouldn’t be drinking soda in the first place. Instead of trying to fix our already unhealthy drinks, try one of the naturally healthy drinks that already exist, such as water.

Orange is the New Black is an original series on Netflix.

The Nextflix best thing

By Scott Scruggs
Staff Writer

TV shows these days are all on the same topics. Most shows are either about a group of friends living in a big city or about vampires and ghosts. You might have heard of Netflix or your parents are subscribed to it, but did you know, Netflix has their own exclusive TV shows? Netflix exclusive TV shows are different and unique. Also, they have zero commercials. This sounds a lot better than regular TV. Netflix delivers programs via streaming video as well as regular TV. Netflix has their own exclusive TV shows acquired in over 40 countries and to increase yearly. Netflix can be seen in 1997. Their revenue continues to increase yearly, Netflix is available in over 40 countries and has received numerous awards for their original programming. They received the Academy Award for the original program “The Square” which aired in 2013. Netflix is becoming more and more popular. Is ABC, NBC and CBS a thing of the past? Netflix TV shows are the next best thing.

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Feminism: does it still represent equality?

By Lauren Mennuti
Staff Writer

Feminism is defined as the advocacy of women’s rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men. With such a simple definition, why do people get carried away with what they think it means and only listen to the stereotypes of feminism? When feminism began, women advocated for suffrage movements, or the right for women to vote. As more women became feminists and joined the popular movements, women gained more rights. Though women clearly have more rights today, they still do not have everything a man has and are still treated as unequal in many countries today. For example, feminism is needed because of the unfortunate statistics that women are only paid 77 cents to every dollar a man is given. As well as stating how a man has and is still treated like basic rights but are limited to a woman, it is necessary in our culture and world. Because feminism is being taken too far, it just becomes more apparent that it is the other way around and that they are the ones constantly spreading negativity and hate about a movement and belief they do not properly know the meaning of. Overall, the need for gender equality is extremely necessary in our culture and world. Because women are seemingly equal in America, does not mean that every problem regarding gender inequality has been solved. Even if the US did achieve gender equality, feminism is still necessary in our culture and world in other countries who do not even have a say or a right to speak about their feminism and all it has done and will continue to do for the empowerment of women.

The Lion’s Cafe
The smoke, the mesquite, and the sweet scent of meat

By Ryan Frekting-Ramos
Senior Staff Writer

The smoky meat, the secret sauce, and the right rub: these are the perfect ingredients for taking the top prize at a high stakes BBQ competition. Most BBQ enthusiasts know this, but it is especially known by Harry Soo and his team at Slap Yo’ Daddy BBQ. Starting in 2008, after seeing “The Bucket List” with Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson, Harry Soo made a list of things to do before he died along with his co-workers. He joined the California BBQ Association in March of that year and found many supportive mentors who encouraged him to enter his first contest. Aside from joining the CBA, he also joined the Kana’s City BBQ Society and gained a little equipment. He named it Slap Yo Daddy because in the south BBQ is so good you want to slap someone and he is a proud daddy. He also was featured on the TLC hit series BBQ Pitmasters in Season 1 alongside big names like former world champions Myron Mixon and Johnny Trigg, and smaller names like Lee Ann Wooden and Wood Chicks BBQ. Slap Yo’ Daddy is also a holder of many titles. "I was stunned to win Season One of TLC’s BBQ Pitmasters. I’m from California and was the fish-out-of-water underdog among the 7 teams of fulltime pro cooks which included three World Champions. I took my fair share of friendly jibes from the other top barbecue teams ready to show me how real BBQ was done since I supposedly hailed from the California land of tufu and artichokes. Boy were they surprised when in Episode Eight, I won the season finale in Texas cooking ribs against some of the best rib cooks in the world!” Their best competition categories include: chicken, brisket, and sirloin. “Our farthest competitions are in places like Hawaii, Canada, and London,” stated Harry Soo in an email interview. Are you looking for recipes? They can be found on his website www.slapyoddaddybbq.com under the recipes tab. They also have signature dishes, including hot n’ sizzling seared ahi tuna with a very tropical Maui onion dressing and smoky bacon wrapped pineapple rings. It takes very specific ingredients to be successful in a BBQ competition and we can all be inspired by the simple view of a movie. For more information, go to their website.

Virtual Enterprise: new class offering becomes a reality

By Ryan Frekting-Ramos
Senior Staff Writer

Coming in the 2015-2016 school year at Liberty High School, a new class will arise with mass impact, the Business and Technology Academies’ Virtual Enterprise course. The class will be a mock version of a real life corporation or product manufacturer. It is 100% student lead. At first, the class will do research of constant trends and business ideas that are profitable, and will then choose which sort of mock-business they want to run. This program is worldwide and uses a virtual online bank that gives them fake money. The class will be for seniors only that are enrolled in the Business and Technology academy. The class will be run by Mrs. Decker, who has business experience of her own. “I actually started a company in my garage making children’s furniture, custom stuff.” Over a five year period, Decker’s business got so big and busy that she had to move into a warehouse. Her furniture has been seen on TV in people’s houses. When her youngest was four she shut down her business and became a teacher, so she could be home for her kids more because she was traveling so much. This experience makes her a great fit to teach the class. The class received a $20,000 dollar grant. This will allow them to build a great virtual business or product and give the students the best possible experience they could ask for. Looking for more information? Go see Mrs. Decker in E-3 today.

The newest virtual enterprise is a class sponsored by a $20,000 grant. The classes will be offered online and will allow students to create their own virtual businesses and receive grants to help.

Want the latest and greatest info about what's happening on campus and beyond?

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Being an athlete, one of the best things that could happen to you is to get a college scholarship and have the chance to play the sport you love in college. For an athlete, the chances of getting an athletic scholarship are an astounding 2%. Few athletes will continue playing the sport they played in high school while transitioning into college. "It took a lot of practice and just working on my individual skill," stated Idara Akpakpa. Idara, a senior here at Liberty High School has just signed to attend UC Irvine next year. Idara started playing volleyball when she was in 7th grade for her middle school team. Needing to take her game to the next level, her parents put her in club volleyball, where her coaches had worked with her to continually make her a better player. All of these factors, on top of hard work, endurance, and perseverance, landed her a college offer and being a part of the 2% of student athletes getting a college scholarship. "I can’t wait to play with them for the next four years!"

Many athletes and parents expect their child to go on to college with the pressure of getting a scholarship at a young age. But in reality, the probability is very low. You must have exceptional grades, and excel at your sport and have the entire package. As the seniors at Liberty who got college scholarships did, you must work hard and be extremely dedicated.

By Hayley Reyes
Staff Writer

Photo by Ryan Frerking-Ramos
Future anteater Idara Akpakpa signs her letter of intent to play volleyball at U.C. Irvine
Mark Canha do it all?
Oakland As newcomer makes a promising start

Mark Canha... The name everyone will hear for years to come. The rookie from the A’s has had a great season since he has started. He has already had 22 hits 3 doubles and 3 home runs in his first 20 games against the Astros, Mariners, Angels and many more. He was a member of the Miami Marlins in 2010 and got traded to the Athletics in 2014, which the Marlins probably wish they hadn’t done. His strengths are the bat and the ball. He can hit like it was the first thing he did when he was born. His weakness is fielding. He isn’t bad at fielding, it just isn’t his strong suit. Most people are better in the field than at the plate but that’s what is so special about Mark Canha. People said that he is just going to be the next star on the Athletics. Fans are hoping he will have a good season and will be watching him until he retires. Good luck Mark Canha. As fans can’t wait to see what you will accomplish.

Young talent takes over 2015 NBA playoffs

Mark Canha; As fans can’t wait to see what he will accomplish, Mark Canha; As fans can’t wait to see what he will accomplish, Mark Canha; As fans can’t wait to see what he will accomplish.

Put me in coach: a profile on Dawnell Kent

Volleyball coach Dawnell Kent, center, rallies her team during a time-out.

By Joshua Rush
Staff Writer

Bill Gates once said, “Everyone needs a coach. It doesn’t matter whether you’re a basketball player, a tennis player, a gymnast or a bridge player.” Coaches are essential to learning new skills. Dawnell Kent is a volleyball coach at Liberty High School as well as a personal trainer. She works hard to live a healthy and active lifestyle. Kent didn’t choose to become a personal trainer. It chose her. While she was in college, she was in the gym recruiting and paid for her certifications and continued to pay for her education. “Originally I was just a personal trainer for fun, now I get paid to do what I love!” she exclaimed. She maintains her healthy lifestyle by staying educated on nutrition and health. The more she learns the more she wants to be healthy. Her clients push her to stay fit and make healthy choices because they look up to her and she wants to set an example. “Free time? What is that?” She jokes. Between training and coaching, Kent doesn’t have much free time. But when she does she spends her time with her daughter outside. Together they go hiking or they ride horses. She feels her daughter is a person who motivates her to stay healthy as well. “I have the most important person watching my every move.” Kent does admit that sometimes she splurges on her diet. She can afford to eat unhealthy every so often. Her “unhealthy” though is different than other’s ideas of unhealthy. Her splurging is usually on high-quality ingredients that actually include protein. She swears she would never eat fast food or anything that is harmful to the body. Working out can become a chore but Kent keeps it fun. She leads by example by enjoying every exercise she does. While working out with her clients, she plays good music, laughs a lot and encourages her clients to try new things. She also keeps the workouts competitive by challenging her clients. Kent has helped coach at Liberty for nine years and she believes her experience has grown tremendously. “My players teach me as I to them. I think being receptive to learning is one of the keys to coaching. If I could afford it, I would coach for free!” Every year, Kent works to make coaching her students and clients a learning and enjoyable time for everyone involved.

Staff Writer

By Katie Peele
Staff Writer

Liberty Athletics
Senior smackdown
Administration gets tough on graduating seniors
By Shelby Conn
Editor
We are seniors; and many of us are already 18; yet we are still being treated like a child who is told that he cannot have dessert until he finishes all of his dinner. As the end of the school year comes to a close, the school tightens the leash on seniors even tighter. They continually threaten us with some of the punishment of not going to senior ball or not walking at graduation. If we do not attend the necessary senior meetings then we face these harsh consequences. At one of the senior meetings a beach ball was confiscated for being thrown around the PAC; administration was furious. I think most of us can agree that they overstated just a bit; considering that following the beach ball incident they threatened to take away the senior “privileges” mentioned above from anyone caught with a beach ball. If you make one wrong move then it’s no graduation for you. It seems to me like the school doesn’t know how to handle this senior class, so they just plan on taking everything away until we obey. While I do understand that if students are caught doing something serious, like fighting or using drugs, then I do believe that they should be reprimanded; but if they don’t come to a meeting does that really deserve a punishment? What if you had a doctor’s appointment scheduled? Now if you are a freshman, sophomore, or junior reading this, don’t think that this won’t affect you sooner or later; because trust me, it will. Senior year should be about freedom and it should be our time to shine, but instead it is about meetings and filling out forms, forms, and more forms. I just hope for the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors that the administration finds a better solution to these problems. Now, I am not trying to start a student uprising; this is not the Hunger Games and we are not District 12. But I am suggesting that the school put their heads together and think of a better way to maintain order within the senior class. How about positive incentives? If there is anything I learned from Mr. Lopez’s econom class it is that incentives work. Maybe administration could bring breakfast snacks to these mandatory senior meetings; that would certainly motivate me out of bed in the morning. One thing I do know is that threatening teenagers does not work; if you tell us not to do something then it makes that something all the more tempting.

Avengers returns... but do sequels live up to the hype?
By Joseph Sanchez
Staff Writer
When someone you love says goodbye, you beg and plead for them to stay but you know within yourself what must be done. You give your final goodbyes and watch as they fade away. After waiting for up most of a year they come back, you would expect some change, some new qualities, a new person. But upon reveal, they’re the same, only their outfit has changed, but beneath those clothes is the same old skin, the same old heart. My point is, when something leaves you would expect their return to bring change not stay the same under a new suit. When stories end, their sequel should be meaningful something that continues a story, not relies on what worked before and not hide change under a sequel title. Thankfully not all movies are like this, but the ones that are, come as brutally obvious that they in fact not continuing a story just rehashing old tricks. Today on May 3, 2015 I saw Avengers: Age of Ultron, and I’m glad to say, it progressed the story of the Avengers in a great way. So to me it seems that we are going to see a lot of great movies are going to come out in the future. But with new movies coming the upcoming sequels, will they progress a story or just use what worked before? Now for some movies coming before is great because some movies have the “Return” effect, meaning an old character returns and a whole new story happens creating a unique story. For some movies, mainly comedies they don’t really have a deep story to continue so they use what worked and expand, which is fine but that’s why for me I don’t particularly get into comedies, because I like enjoying a deep storyline and being there for the ride. Perhaps my metaphor was just a bit extreme, but that’s how I see movies, and other writing as a person that you expect to see change after a while and that bring a very interesting story to tell. In the end it’s personal preference I can watch anything but I can only get invested in certain films and not work; if you tell us not to do something it makes all the more tempting.

Courtney Barnett
A new voice to the music industry
By Rachel Macdonald
Staff Writer
Most have agreed that by this point they’re sick of constantly hearing about “the next Bob Dylan”, but for once it’s almost accurate. When listening to Australian artist Courtney Barnett, through her deadpan vocals and stream of consciousness lyrics, one’s mind can’t help but wander back to Dylan. Barnett just released her first full-length album titled Sometimes I Sit and Think, Sometimes I Just Sit. Her lyrics are a wide range of funny, serious, witty, honest, and more. Barnett has a way of making the mundane enticing. Although the album features talent in every aspect, it is her lyrics that are the talk of it all. She is being praised for being the new “lyricist of the decade.” The album as a whole is very standout but the individual song that Barnett brings a sense of importance to. The album should be listened to as a whole. Although it is not necessarily one that follows different aspects of the same story throughout the songs, it does all connect in the way each individual song deals with aspects of life in a way the listener can only view it through Barnett.

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 libertysionsroar@gmail.com. The Lion’s Roar staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.
He Said, she said
Advice from the male and female perspective
The differences between male and female humor
By Emily Gonzalez
Staff Writer
A big part of why guys and girls are so different is because of their sense of humor. Don’t get me wrong, some of the funniest people I know are guys; but sometimes I do not think their sense of humor is funny. Guys crack jokes more often than girls, but some jokes are inappro-

Opinion Poll:
Senior advice to freshmen
By Tiana Williams, Devyn Bennett
Staff Writers
“Don’t mess up freshman year! It counts more than you think.” –Taylor Hewins

“Do your homework.”–Brittany DeFazio

“Don’t take on more than you can handle with sports, clubs, and classes.”

–Savannah Spinola

“Be on track to graduate.” –Garrett Pugh

“Stay on campus.” –Keanu Igou-Texeira

“Don’t let your grades go down; it’s very hard to make up credits.”–Melanie Padilla

“Don’t ditch, you will regret it!” –Angelo Bejarano

We are afraid: Let’s do something about it
our staff ponders campus safety

Brentwood: the quiet, family-oriented community; a place where you can see t-ball games every weekend, where many people leave their doors unlocked when they run to the store. Is this reputation an actual reality? Or are we living in a dream-land, where our visions of perfection are clouding our ability to see the problems right in front of our faces?

We come to school every day, not even realizing that we are trusting that the school will protect us from danger. But when that security is threatened by serious events, it’s the school’s duty to prevent it from happening again. Schools should be a place of safety where kids should not worry about being injured. With about 2500 students, and over 100 staff members, there is a lot of ground to be covered by only four campus supervisors, who are seriously overworked. Coming or leaving the campus is not hard for a stranger or student; with more than six easily accessible entry points on the campus. Student safety has become an issue in the month of May. We have had a multitude of incidents at our school: three of Liberty’s current students were assaulted by a person who is not a student here, yet that person was able to make it onto campus with a weapon; more unauthorized access occurred when a grown woman came onto campus at lunch to confront students about an emotional event that recently took place off-campus. Perhaps campus safety is an issue that needs to be discussed. Students may be against an increase in school security because they want privacy and freedom; many also believe it will cost more money that the school does not have. But how much is student safety really worth? Making the campus a safer environment will decrease the amount of violence that occurs at school. Precautions such as checking lockers will ensure that students do not have dangerous paraphernalia inside. It is a privilege to have lockers on campus and to have a campus that is built around student safety.

Also, hiring additional campus security, 3rd party or otherwise, should be a priority in a place that is completely open for anyone to enter, whenever they want. Teachers are playing the role of security more and more often these days; have they been trained in how to defend themselves? Have the campus monitors received training? The adults are just as much at risk as the students are. Finally, has the school asked the student body how they feel about this issue? It would be nice to see a community-wide assembly to gather concerns and ideas as to how to solve these problems. In the chaos of it all, one must remember that letting loose last from Pandora’s box is hope, and in spite of all that is happening, there is still the possibility that things may be improved.

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