

Leuzinger thespians take a bow after a another successful play production.

‘Ignorance Is Bliss’ at Leuzinger High

By Jonathan Lopez

“Ignorance is bliss”. Quite cliché is the phrase that so often is used to express how one may choose to be missing in reality only to see what one wants to see. The Leuzinger drama production team led by drama instructor Carrie Cox, expressed this theme on Thursday and Friday of December 9th and 10th, with convincing characters, amazing wardrobe, and an interesting story plot on how true love is acquired through the “bait and switch” scheme.

The plot of the play revolves around a young Princess named Camilla (Asia Mitchell), who is to be married to a man that desires only truth and honesty. In fear of his daughter’s future

in marriage, the King (Prentis Luster) decides to make arrangements for her to marry a man of his choice. To control who was to marry his daughter, he cursed Princess Camilla with the inability to appear beautiful until her wedding day. By preventing the Princess from marrying whoever, she would gain maturity and not end up like her mother the Queen (Dequita Childress) who was spoiled and everything the King despised. Sure enough with the inability to please the lustful eye, Princess Camilla would gain no luck finding a man worth marrying. The King and Queen now had to trick the latest suitor into marrying their Camilla. A familiar yet new way of parental control was taking place.

As many obstacles surfaced the characters’ lives, a steady growing relationship between two main characters (Labayen and Mitchell), fed the audience an authentic connection between the two that would soon grow into something deeper. Prince Simon (Labayen), and Princess Camilla now would encounter deep passion for each other that ignorance to external beauty could not separate them apart. Aside from the convincing character chemistry and interesting story plot, the play symbolized something between the lines; only through inner beauty love is found.

With a cast of Prentis Luster, Bianka Lara, Miriam Savedra, Dequita Childress, Asia Mitchell, Tatiuna Mims, Guy Labay-

en and Trevon Polk, the Leuzinger drama teacher cleverly portrayed this story through her interpretation and use of expression. “...I feel good, I feel happy”, commented Ms. Cox on the Friday evening show. As the end quickly approached, Ms. Cox said “...Catch the next play because we have a lot of talented students and great stories being told.” As Shakespeare would quote, “...All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players...” So next time you have the chance, get off the stage and become the audience at a Leuzinger dramatic play production.

Throughout the change of atmosphere from comedy to romance, “Ignorance is Bliss” was a play worth watching.

Leuzinger Students Run Los Angeles

By Kevin Diaz

Challenges are presented in many shapes and sizes, and it is up to the one being challenged whether he or she accomplishes it or not, for it takes not only determination but also commitment. Few challenges; however, compare to the one undertaken by the thousands of people at the start line of the annual Los Angeles Marathon, which is held on the third Sunday of every March. By crossing this start line, each one of these brave souls commit to finish the marathon, a 26.2-mile footrace that will push competitors to the limits of their endurance.

As of November 21, 2009, the decision was made that the course of the race extends from Dodger Stadium to Santa Monica Pier, making the race memorable to partake, for

the track bypasses famous places such as Los Angeles landmarks. While there are no qualifying standards, there is an 8 hour time limit for those desiring to obtain official results.

Among the daring souls willing to take on this challenge, stands a group of highly motivated students who desire to break all barriers, hence making a powerful statement that will forever resonate in our minds and hearts. The name of the organization that makes this possible is called Students Run LA (SRLA).

The goal of the organization is to motivate Los Angeles youth to set goals worth fighting for, to develop their character, and most importantly, to improve their health. SRLA tutors seek to shatter mental hurdles that preclude students from achieving their goals, and



Olympians for Life

encouraging them to adopt a “yes I can” attitude. SRLA began in 1986 when one teacher and six high school students started what was to become an entire organization consisting of 500 teachers and 3000 students involved in the program throughout the city of Los Angeles.

Initially, SRLA was limited to the LA Unified School District (LAUSD), but became an independent association in 1993. Leuzinger became the first high school outside of the LAUSD to join the organization in 1999. Its popularity in the school rose during the early years of the new millennium, training as many as 60 students; opposed to the 09’- 10’ season, which only accounted for less than ten individuals on the team. This was due to a lack of involvement from

our school representatives/ SRLA coaches.

Current Leuzinger SRLA coach, Mr. Romo, who had been an assistant to those who previously ran the program, desired to continue it and stepped in as the head coach. Mr. Romo has gladly undertaken the task of training the Leuzinger team for the L.A. Marathon. About four months into the program, the current Leuzinger SRLA crew has competed in five different races, each one more demanding than the previous. The difficulty level rises as the length of the race is extended and occasionally, so do the fluctuating slopes that

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Leuzinger High Donates Blood To The Cause

By Nancy Gonzalez

“Sign up to save a life” was a very significant quote at Leuzinger High School for a few weeks. The slogan was used as motivation in effort to get students to sign up for the school wide Blood Drive that happened on December 16th 2010.

Doctors and nurses from the UCLA medical school set up stretchers and medical equipment in the boys gym to prepare for the brave young donors here at Leuzinger. Cathleen Davidson, the woman that started the Blood Drive here at Leuzinger, was very passionate about having this yearly blood drive. Cathleen has been facilitating the blood drive donations since July of 2008; she has been helping out for almost 10 years. “This is my

job”, Cathleen stated. She participates not only because it’s her job but also because her own daughter is one of the many blood recipients that receives the donated blood.

For the first 50 brave students that were courageous enough to donate blood, they received an AMC movie ticket and a gift certificate to Baskin Robins. All other donors received an AMC movie ticket. The first student to donate blood was Erika Espinoza, the 2011 President of ASB. “I feel really satisfied that I donated blood again (Erika had donated blood first for the last year’s blood drive) and happy that I’ve done my part to help someone,” stated Erika Espinoza.

Over 150 students signed up to donate

blood, and of those donors, the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center received over 133 pints of blood. Although Leuzinger’s goal was to get 150 or more pints/ units, the only thing that mattered was that at the end the donations of our students and faculty saved an estimate of 390 lives. “I want to help save a life”, stated (Senior) Kim Williams. It was her first time donating blood. Williams explained, “It’s like I am going to the doctor.” Alejandra Ramirez added, “I am very happy that I donated blood and really enthused about the cause.”

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133 Pints of blood were donated during the Leuzinger Blood Drive.

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The Spirit Takes Over Leuzinger High

By Albina Rae

On December 3, 2010, the entire Leuzinger student body was brought together to demonstrate our school spirit. Students stormed into the boy’s gym to witness what all the hustle and bustle was about...a school wide rally! Most students did not know what to expect because it was the first school rally in years. With enthusiastic charisma the announcer got all the students excited for what was soon to come.

Sitting impatiently, all the students were curious to know just what the objects in the gymnasium were set up for. For a second, as the crowd tried to settle down, the announcer and a representative from ASB came to the center of the basketball court to explain just how the obstacles were to be used, the rally consisted of many obstacles.

The first contestants started off with ten spins in a chair, followed by a sprint across the floor to a stick in which they had to limbo under. Once having completed this task they jumped into a potato sack and hopped across the floor, trying not to slip and fall. Approaching the last station, the contestants had to hula hoop five times to complete obstacle course. As for the second contestants, they had to complete all of the same steps including two additional steps to complete the obstacle course. The extra steps required them to go to a table that had cream pies filled with gumballs and the contestants had to dig one out using only their mouths. Once that was completed, the contestants had to chew the gum just enough to blow a bubble and win the competition. Two students from each grade level were picked to try and win this race for their class. Representing the junior class, Kerian Winter claimed, “It was fun, fast, and exciting.”

For a few minutes the whole gymnasium was roaring with students yelling and students representing their classes. The next class competition kept the crowd excited as



contestants were chosen from the crowd to participate in a classic pie eating contest. The announcer came to the center of the court once more picked out four students; one from each class group to try and eat the pies in five minutes. All the contestants soon sat in a chair with an entire pie in front of them with their hands behind their backs and a stomach ready to consume. As soon as the race began, contestants dug their face right into the apple pies. There was not a moment of silence in the gym while all the contestants ate as much pie as they could.

The third and final challenge was just as exciting as the first two. The last four students were chosen once again, one from each grade. The contestants were each given five free throw shots to see who could make the most. As the contestants began shooting, the crowd went wild to distract the opponent players from making it in the hoop. When Shamere Williams stepped to the line the crowd went wild because he had a chance to win. He had to make it four times in order to win the entire game for the seniors. He had to make it four times in order to win the entire game for the seniors. Shamere being very competitive said, “I knew I would have competition when Eric stepped on the court.” Tension was in the air as his last shot went up and the crowd sat at the edge of their seats to see if the ball would make it through the hoop. After a concerted gasp in the gym the shot went in and the crowd went wild, as everyone jumped and cheered for Shamere’s victory.

Overall this class rally will go down in history as one of the best. Many students commented that they had a great time and it was very fun. As well, many students said it was “turned up”. Sophomore Dakaria King claimed, “I felt ecstatic and I wanted to do it again.”



Senior Corner

By The Torch Staff

Are You Ready For The Real?

As the end is in sight, seniors must prepare to embark on their solo mission without teachers and administration holding their hands telling them what is appropriate and what is necessary. Though their free will has been with them just as it has been with all others for all their lives, now they happen to be the ones responsible for their actions with no one else to blame and no scapegoat or institution to save them from themselves. Twenty four hours alone and a myriad of opportunities at their literal disposal, the departing senior class now moves into the next phase of American life if that be their choice, either choosing to go whichever way their heart guides them towards or falling victims to an influence and allowing it to decide their fates. Adventure or disappointment lies behind every corner with success as a promising concept for some or cheap thrills for others. Be it fate, coincidence, or some third force which decides

one’s ultimate place of rest, those about to graduate must decide what becomes of them before someone or something else does. “I think that the time that I will receive is time unwanted...” says Brandon Villarreal on losing contact with the social environment that he finds to be quite enjoyable. Seeing faces and experiencing what it is to belong to a collective vibe is what allows him to escape from the norm and live a life with others where things are comfortable and able to be grown attached to. The isolation that one receives as he becomes a part of the “real world” is what he finds to be the most troubling for everything that is to occur is so abrupt an undetermined. “It’s inevitable” he says,” it’s a part of growing up”; according to him there is nothing one can do to escape gaining responsibility for one’s life. As adolescents mature they attempt to find themselves in this world and live a life that is theirs. Brandon encourages, “it’s time to start the rat race,

don’t come in last place”. Others have differing opinions such as Robin Henning who on growing up says, “It’ll be a new experience, something I look forward to and hope that will maintain the peace that is within me.” He finds it to be fascinating that he will now be able to shape his world whichever way he pleases, creating his own subjective truth and building a life upon it. “It’s time to stop joking around and get serious about what I do.” Graduation is fast approaching and the world is more than ready to receive those that are prepared or not. Two polar opposites show the various ways that perspective alters choice and influences outcomes. The youth of today have a heavy weight upon them for they are overwhelmed with an idea that the day high school ends, a new life begins. In reality life begins much before then at graduation and high school is only a notch in a belt, a phase, and a transitory period. We are given free will since birth and it

is our choice to either abuse it or not, be knowledgeable of our gift or to be willfully ignorant. The graduating class, whether they are prepared to handle some unknown fate or not, must bear the reality of their situation.

Life is as life does.



Attention Seniors:

* Seniors that plan to attend community college in the fall, applications are now open. Please check up for upcoming workshops in the Career Center and sign up

*Seniors that applied to a four year university don’t forget to send your first semester transcripts. If you don’t send them in by the deadline, you can be eliminated from admissions process. Please check your emails constantly to be updating on deadlines.

*There would be no government classes next semester so make sure you pass them and remember that they are part of the graduation requirements.

*This years **Grad Night** for seniors will be at **Six Flags** on June 9. Prices are \$85.00.

***Prom** for seniors will be on May 15 at the **Disney Resort**. Prices of tickets are still being discussed.

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Tardy Sweeps Clean Up Bad Habits: If Your On Time, Your Late!

By Griselda Rubio

Monday mornings are great aren't they? Early breakfast, fully rested from the weekend, and oh yeah, the infamous six letter word to bring us back to reality: SCHOOL! Well, if you're a student who rests soundly during the night, wakes up and eats an early breakfast, then chances are you'll regularly make it to school on time. If not, then perhaps you have experienced a TARDY SWEEP!

Since the start of the 2010-2011 school year, the staff members of Leuzinger have reminded the student body of Leuzinger to have a timely arrival. To battle the rise of tardy arrivals, the school puts into effect the tardy sweeps, a program designed to get students to be more aware of the consequences of being tardy to school, as well as, to help them realize that being late to school will affect students with more than just a blemish on their attendance record.

At times there are inevitable delays that prevent some from getting to school on time. But tardy sweeps target the irresponsible students who choose to be late for reasons that are unacceptable in the real world. Unfortunately, these students make it difficult for the rest of the student body. With an enrollment of 2,600 plus students, Leuzinger has an average of 6.5% of students tardy each day; that's around 400 students tardy for at least one of their six classes!

Some of these students are first time tardy-offenders, but unfortunately, most are habitually tardy. Not only does this put a dent in students' attendance records, but it affects those who come to school and class on time. For example, a student who shows up to class after the bell will divert attention away from teachers who are giving the students who arrived on time, lectures and instructions for that day in class. It is our responsibility to listen to these teachers, yet we are fascinated by whatever reason to look at who's late to class.

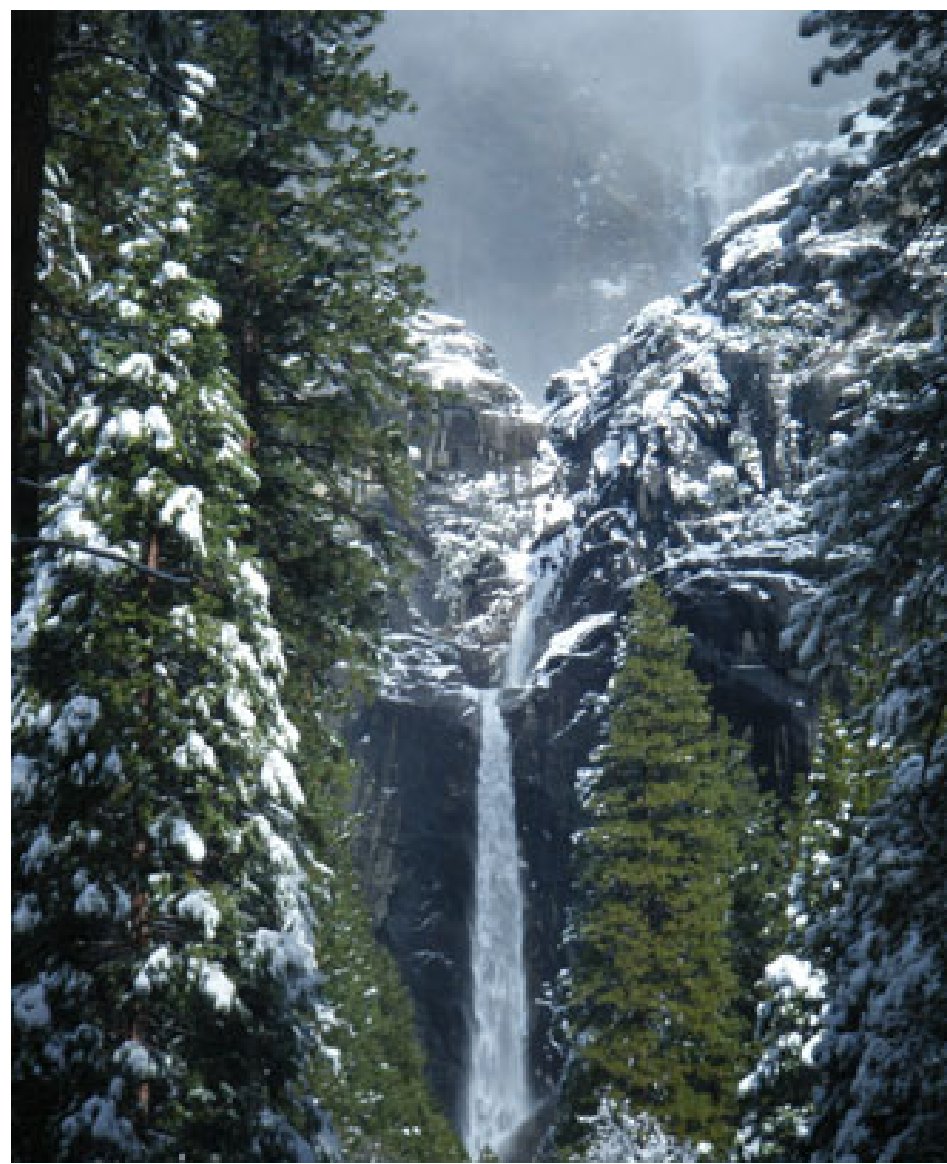
For those who are not yet familiar with the consequences of being late during the days of tardy sweeps, you could receive a truancy ticket or request for your participation in "Campus Beautification". If you are late to class and you receive the discipline of campus beautification, you will have to clean up the campus. The chronically late students will receive mandatory Saturday School.

The tardy sweeps have resulted in a moderate improvement of attendance and they are steadily changing student's views and attitudes of being tardy. Students question why tardy sweeps are needed. Mr. James, a Leuzinger Dean stated, "We had problems with students that didn't listen to us when we gave them warnings of being late. Just make it to class. If you're not in class when the bell rings, you will be picked up in these tardy sweeps."

Tardy rates fluctuate like the stock market; it's a system that has no exact science to how it works, but it is difficult to judge what the final count will be at the end of the day. On any given day the school could have a low tardy count and the pattern could last for a couple of days. Based on the habits of today's teenager, tardiness may be an issue in every school in America until the end of time.

Leuzinger's administration and staff makes it a priority to stress the mantra, "Come to school on time and ready to learn." We should all know this by now since we have been hearing it since our first day in Leuzinger.

We need to remind others that if you are late to school, or to class, you will suffer the consequences sooner or later. Be on time to school, and be early to class. There will be times to have fun and play games at a later time. High School is only four years. Is it too much to ask to be there on time so you won't lose a minute of free education? Besides, the habits you develop now will follow you into your adult life. You will stay broke if you think you can come late to work like you come to class; and if you're a boss, your business will fail if your employees constantly come late.



The ECA chases waterfalls at Yosemite Falls - Pure Beauty!

The ECA Appreciates The Beauty of Yosemite

By Omar Bucio

For the past fifteen years the Environmental Careers Academy (ECA) has given a selected amount of their members a chance to see the beauty of the outdoors. Thirty-five lucky ECA members are chosen and invited to take a week away from school to go to the beautiful Yosemite National Park. Over 3.7 million people visit Yosemite each year.

"It's incredible to see all the things we've been learning during class in action" says ECA Coordinator, Ms. Klein. She has been with the ECA for approximately nine years and loves to go and take her students on a trip that will create life time memories.

The students are able to go hike, explore forests and rivers, create their own experiments, and most importantly do their part to help the environment.

One of the main purposes of the trip is to motivate students to help the environment and show them how a small contribution can make a big difference. Many years ago someone decided to start a plantation of blackberry trees in Yosemite without knowing that it would have a very harmful side effect. These trees became poisonous and killed many of Yosemite's wildlife.

Throughout the week long trip, students help clean up the blackberry trees and help to stop any more innocent animals from consuming these hazardous berries. It is a life changing experience.

If you are interested in going on a trip like this, join the ECA by contacting Ms.Klein in room 7-6 before school or after school.

Egyptian Youth Revolt In The Name of Democracy:

By Jonathan Lopez

Egypt, known for its trademark pyramids and ruins of an ancient civilization, has recently been featured news on radio stations and shown on numerous television broadcast stations with images of protesters rioting, shouting, and crying out for democracy in Egypt. With a will to protest and question, the Egyptian civilians rose up against what they believed to be "unjust" and "tyrannical misuse of power". As the tension blew over, the Egyptians now celebrate the resignation of their ex-president Hosni Mubarak, and seek to follow a democratic government where the people have the power.

Following the assassination of the ex-president of Egypt Anwar el-Sadat in October 16, 1981, Hosni Mubarak gained power in Egypt winning every election which created his place at the head of the Egyptian government. Becoming president, Mubarak would remain in power for almost three decades. Although many may dispute his role as a dictator who ruled with an iron fist or a strict autocratic president with an influential political machine, Egyptian civilians held many counts of unjust actions against the government and its bureaucracy. Facing the laws passed by Mubarak's government, people began to feel oppressed.

According to the *New York Times*, after the Sadat's assassination, the government under Mubarak's authority issued an "Emergency law" giving the Egyptian police power by the law, to "arrest people without a charge, detain prisoners indefinitely, limit freedom of expression and assembly, and maintain a special security court". Having strong influence over Egyptian public life, the notorious Egyptian police, with the power to monitor elections



Thousands crowd the streets to celebrate victory.

and issue birth/death certificates, held the Egyptian population captive to their will. As tensions grew, Egyptians started to speak up and accuse the government of the mistreatment of their people. In the midst of strict rules to cases of torture and police cruelty, the appeals to the government grew and grew.

Although the government denies the accusations of cruelty and torture, Egyptian protesters hit the streets to protest when twenty-eight year old Khaled Said was beaten to death by an undercover cop in plain clothes.

According to CBS news, the authorities then sent out false stories stating Said died choking on marijuana.

A controversial photograph of Said's bloody face soon arose across the Facebook network, giving the Egyptian public the proof they were looking for. The Egyptian police had been abusing their authority for too long, so the Egyptian public came to the conclusion that revolution was the only solution to this mass dilemma.

With growing grievances against their government among the Egyptian popu-

lation, a spirit to revolt was born sending waves of protestors onto the streets of Cairo to embark on a goal to make their president Mubarak resign from his thirty year reign. On the beginning of January 25th 2011, tens of thousands of protesters swarmed the streets demanding an end to Mubarak's rule. Day in day out, these protesters were attacked with tear gas, rubber bullets, and on some occasions, torture from the riot police. Among the great opposition to Mubarak's regime, the Muslim Brotherhood, which became officially banned by Mubarak, directed its protest towards the Mubarak government as well.

On the other hand of the issue, Mubarak, an American-Israeli ally, helped promote American policy and peace in the Middle East concerning Israel and all its conflicts. As a major influence over Egyptian diplomacy, Mubarak supported the United States and their values. Although there was some corruption within Mubarak's bureaucracy, his ties to peace and America never ceased to exist.

The protests, riots, and revolution lasted a total of eighteen days. On February 11, 2011, President Mubarak stepped down from office handing over all his power to the Egyptian Military. This monumental event gave way for celebration and people filled the streets of Egypt. Seeking further reform to establish a democratic society, Egypt now faces a future of constitutional reforms and change to benefit the Egyptian people. The revolution did not come without a price. According to the *New York Times*, "More than 300 people are estimated to have died in Egypt during the turmoil..."

Speech and Debate is More Than a Game

By Robert Huerta

Eminent throughout our campus is a group of intellectual minds that seek to express themselves through the renowned activity that is "Speech and Debate". After a seven-decade hiatus, Leuzinger High School is proud to be the home of a new Forensics Team which is the official title for intellectual group of students.

Although our team has resurfaced and proven to be prestigious, it is a very small team, as it only contains about a handful of members in comparison to the dozens that make up the Debate teams that are located in the surrounding economically endowed parts of the Los Angeles County. In spite of their size, our team has recently received recognition for their efforts in the form of trophies and certificates for having performed in an exceptional manner against their opponents on the most recent forensics competition.

Triumphantly, Vice President Amy Ngyuen and President Allan Flores led their team to victory, which illustrates the range, and effectiveness of their abilities. Both stated that their reasons for maintaining the club are not out of external motivation or just to fill time. Instead, taking advantage of this fantastic opportunity has helped them to de-

velop themselves in various ways and over time this academic and extracurricular activity has become a passion.

The same passion that keeps them together has helped to create an amicable vibe within this collective that those that are within highly enjoy. Though humble, the team confidently announces their achievements in hopes of gathering more committed folks like themselves so that the name "Leuzinger High School Forensics" may have a prominent echo throughout the land.

The Debate team and their coach Mr. James are in a vigorous frenzy to recruit and deliver their message in hopes of riling up the spirits of our youth. To further applaud their efforts, school administrators have considered making speech and debate an elective class if there is enough student interest.

Allan also explained how being on a debate team is highly impressive and appreciated by those that review college applications. So if you are confident in yourself, like to argue, and seek fortify your chances of being accepted into college, the Forensic Team may be the perfect opportunity.

“Last Chance High”

Students Void of Credits Sent to Lloyde

By Nancy Gonzalez and Ramon Loza

Leuzinger has been experiencing some extreme changes. The administration has changed, the teachers have changed, the facilities have changed, and now, the make-up of the student-body is changing.

There have been rumors spreading that students are getting “kicked” out of Leuzinger due to the fact that they are low on credits and have bad attendance. Anthony Jimenez says “I think it’s unfair that they don’t get to graduate with their friends. They can make up their credits at adult school...I thought Leuzinger was where all the ‘bad’ kids get dropped off.”

Students are beginning to have the wrong idea about Leuzinger because a majority of seniors are getting kicked out of a so-called “last resort” school. “Well...I think that maybe in some circumstances it is fair; like if they have zero credits they should kick them out but there’s so many opportunities to make up credits.

Leuzinger being the “last resort” is stressing seniors into an extreme where they don’t want to try anymore. This kind of mentality that they can’t do better is making the students think less of themselves as they are being “kicked out”. Chris Pike expresses, “I think

it’s messed up because it’s basically saying that your not good enough so there’s no point to try anymore.”

Bree’shay “Spikes” Anders expresses, “I think if their concerned about how students are doing they



should use the freshmen’s as an example and kick freshmen’s that are doing bad and letting seniors who are trying to change their life stay. Seniors our future is here it’s now or never and administrators should know that it’s harder for seniors to find somewhere else to go then the under classmen who have more of a future ahead of them with more chances.”

What these students don’t understand is that they did have many opportunities to get their credits. Each year students have the possibility to receive a set of 60 credits, if students were to pass their

given classes they would not need to do make up classes and possibly be ahead in credits.

Students have many options to either get ahead in credits or make up credits with special courses like E 20/20, adult school or

schools like Morningside and Lloyd. These options also include 4 summer school courses that consist of eight classes adding up to a total of 40 possible extra credits.

The rumors of students getting “kicked out” are not necessarily true. Ms. Smoot confirms, “they weren’t kicked out just transferred.” Students had the idea that they where being “kicked out” for bad attendance. Luckily the attendance administrator Ms. Smoot made it clear that students were not getting kicked out of Leuzinger for bad attendance. Ms. Smoot added that Leuzinger seniors are

getting transferred to catch up on credits. “That’s all we want for you guys to get your credits faster,” explains Ms. Smoot. All that Leuzinger wants is for students to have a high school diploma.

Leuzinger is transferring students not because of their lack of attendance or to make the school look good, but because their credits where low. Dr. Smith explains, “Our mission is to get kids diplomas and into college” Dr. Smith explains how the students who were transferred had no chance in graduating, even with E 20/20 and night classes. Dr. Smith mentions that if the students were close to graduate they would have stayed and the school would have given them a chance to graduate with their class.

Students believed that their classmates where being “kicked-out” because of test scores; they believed the district wanted to make the school look good. Dr. Smith clears this up for us by stating, “no, seniors don’t take test, that isn’t going to make the school look better test are not the reason why students are being transferred.”

Students are not being transferred because the district feels like “kicking them out”, they are being transferred because it’s what’s best for the students.

“Tell Lie Vision”:

Does Television Control You or Do You Control It?

By El Lobito

Turn on the TV, tune in to the latest news broadcast on the radio, pick up the daily, so-called “unbiased” newspaper off of the friendly neighborhood market around the corner; another spoonful of fear into the mouths of many as terror strikes within these streets we call home. Another news story of violence that exists among our communities gives us something to fear. We come across these stories and digest without thinking, letting the fear of danger overrun our logical decision making, causing us to be nothing more but simple minds ready to be abused by any force. With meek spirits like that of a sheep, we are swayed into the constant flow of business and media where we are victimized to believe we are in need of what is suggested. Without even noticing, we are conditioned to believe there is a deep void within us that can only be filled with consumer products the media validates as the cure. These artificial products enter the world of man and create dependency

throughout the masses. The “Gatekeeper” of Truth (a.k.a. the Media or the “4th Branch” of the government) gives us reasons to fear and through our vulnerability, we are fed the doctrine of consumerism in which we practice on a daily basis. The fear pumped into us by the media makes us blind to reality.

The suggestive thinking the media promotes, detaches the individuals opinion from his or her grasp creating a new and artificial truth that the beholder accepts as their own. With the use of the three main mediums of information, (newspaper, television, and radio) and the new phenomena of the Internet, the media is the gatekeeper of information determining what is considered “fact” and what is considered a “false truth”.

As we begin to see more and more images of violence amplified through the news and newspaper, we begin to develop a “culture of fear” intensified by the political leaders and the same trusted media that stands for truth.

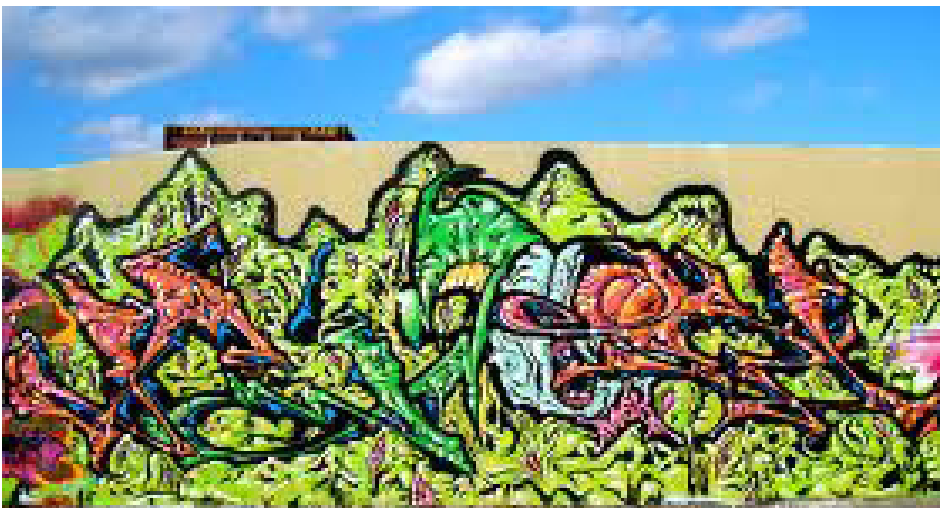


A Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics named Stanley Cohen calls this “media hype”, the “Deviancy amplification spiral theory”. This theory describes how the use of increased news reports on what is considered to be anti-social behaviors and/or “undesirable events”, affects the way society reacts creating fear among the individuals that rely on news for information. With the use of the Deviancy amplification spiral theory, the media flips a story portraying it to its audience as a growing epidemic that has no end. While the decreasing numbers of homicide in U.S.A. drops from a significant (9.8) rate in 1981, to a (5.4) in 2009, (US Bureau of Justice Statistics), the increase of violence shown throughout the media has not ceased to an end.

When facing a mass media controlled by only a few corporations, how then can a single bit of truth exist within the reach of the people? Many unknown individuals have tried spreading information exposing those who feel media mind control is “efficient and necessary”, but have failed at exposing certain truths. Most recently, in an effort to keep our government transparent, a web of networks called “Wiki spaces” funneled top secret government information to the computers of many causing the government to act quickly and shut down the operation. Are these individuals unseen vigilantes that stand against the injustices of a controlled media? Or are these people paranoid and “crazy” journalists as the media portrays them to be? For a country that stands for freedom, is it justified to allow the media to control this society through FEAR? Or am I just another delusional being with too many thoughts?...

GRAFFITI: Is It Vandalism or Art?

By Jonathan Lopez



Through the slums of inhabited concrete jungles, to the gritty concrete-paved alleys, to the highly illuminated advertisement billboards and interstate freeway overpasses, and even in the depths of underground water canals, it exists everywhere. While many consider the art a lifestyle, a reflection of self, an expression of youth, and an unheard voice of history, others consider it a root of conflict and trouble, vandalism, and tagging. Whatever the perspective, Graffiti has been declared a modern art form by most art enthusiast around the world.

Originating in ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome, graffiti was used as a means of expressing the views of those involved within every ancient civilization. For example, in the ancient city of “Ur” (modern day Iraq), the Sumerian architects that exist, contain royal tombs with mud

brick walls filled with “graffiti”. The ancient script and symbols that were written in colors across the walls symbolize names and labels that were written by the people who inhabited the civilization. By scribing deep into walls of marble and stone, this ancient graffiti reflects the culture of a distant history.

From graffiti in ancient civilizations to modern day graffiti in the cities, the art form continues to symbolize, cause commotion, and attraction.

Graffiti began to gain popularity in the early 1970’s as a political weapon for messages across cities. Stencils, wheat posters, and spray paint were widely used to advocate social justice and change. Graffiti became a tool for the voice of the people. The uses of the infamous spray paint can and paint marker became the chosen weapon of the vandal/rebel/leader/artist, making graf-

fiti something to be admired.

The birth of the Hip-Hop culture in 1971 deeply penetrated inner city life. As one of the core elements of Hip-Hop culture, Graffiti began to emerge as Hip-hop began to permeate the lives of the urban youth. In New York circa 1970’s through the 1980’s, the uprising of Emceeing, DJing, painting and b-boying, fueled the small flame of graffiti. Young urban individuals embraced this Hip-Hop culture with dance, beat, vocals and visual. Known artists such as the credited creator of hip-hop, DJ Kool Herc, used the graffiti element of hip-hop to help visualize the passion and power of the hip-hop music. At the time, many minority groups could not afford the “Disco lifestyle” that existed in the streets of uptown New York, so like a breath of fresh air, this fresh hip-hop fed the rebel youth growing up at that time.

What once existed as just a form of Hip-Hop, soon turned into a lifestyle for aspiring, and often times, misunderstood artist.

“Bombs” and murals are wide spread all throughout the world in major metropolitan cities such as London, Paris, Tokyo, Venice, Los Angeles, and of course New York. The “Graf” phenomenon represents the voices of those trying to get a message across. While several many believe it to be nothing more than common criminals committing vandalism, others believe graffiti to be a works of art.

Through the earliest Mesopotamian civilization to the present technology era, from urban minority neighborhoods in the South Bronx to the slums of Western Europe, graffiti with all its infamous influence on human life, remains as a lifestyle, a misunderstood art, a plague, and a reflection of oneself.

BLOOD Continued from Pg. 1

As students and faculty strengthened themselves at the Recovery Table, they were treated with care and given delicious cookies with some SunnyD, and mini juice boxes. (Senior) Bryant

Martinez shared his thoughts at the Recovery Table stating, “I feel really good now that the blood has been drawn out”. Some students felt the same after donating but for Senior Sharmane

Kinard, it was the opposite. After donating blood, Sharmane felt dizzy and off step but recovered minutes later.

The day continued on and more and more students came in to make the sacrifice.

Our senior class President Veronica Morales and Vice President Marisol Frausto were both asked, how do you feel about donating blood? Veronica replied, “This year I wanted to set a goal and it

was to help someone out and donating blood has completed this goal. Not only did I help one life, but I helped three”. Marisol added “I am happy that I saved three lives”. Leuzinger students made

a difference not only in the school but the whole world. On behalf of ASB “Thank you for your donations and always keep in mind, donating one pint/ unit save three lives”.

Teachers Display Talents At Faculty Talent Show

By Jonathan Lopez

On Friday, March 4th, the whole auditorium, jam packed of Leuzinger students from freshmen to the senior class, were spectators of a faculty talent show that showcased the many skills of their very own teachers from Leuzinger.

As the seats became full of anxious and excited students expecting to experience a memorable show, teachers who were on the schedule to perform sat patiently in the front row awaiting their moment to demonstrate to the school their talent. "I feel very relaxed. I am ready for this," quoted Physics teacher Mr. Hsu regarding the two Chinese folk songs he was to perform on stage. Although stage fright was no match to Master Hsu's bold hearted courage, the act of rapping was fearful to some. "I was nervous! My hands were shaking, and I was afraid I was going to forget ALL the words," stated Math teacher Ms. Evans.

The hosts, Jonathan Rivera, as well as Malee Mabandit, soon approached the podium and welcomed all the audience to an exciting



longed for evening.

Starting off with Music Instructor Mr. Cassio's guitar and singing, to English teacher Mr. Holmes soulful poetry, to the return of Mr. Cassio with Ms. Elliot performing a duet on the violin as well as guitar, the show continued on with a lot of positive feedback from the audience. Mr. Hsu soon went up introducing the audience to a new taste in music as he sang two beautiful Chinese songs. Like a mystic dragon gypsy casting its everlasting spell, the crowd was mesmerized. Upon this daze in awe, Ms. Cox then performed her act as she played guitar and sang "Leaving on a Jet Plane" by John Denver.



Being moved with such music acts, Math teacher Ms. Evans a.k.a. "Lady E-Rock", grooved with the crowd as she rapped Ludacris's "When I Move You Move". Dressed with a fly fur coat and big enough glasses to make a fly jealous, Lady E-Rock left the crowd chanting the song. Just like that. With much hype, Instructional aide Mr. Garcia soon performed the song "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz with a unique style full of originality and emotion.

As a break from all the music acts, Art teacher, Mr. Jennings introduced the audience with a live painting, with the power of Immortal Technique's instrumentals in the background, leaving the Leuzinger audience



amazed with the unique characters on the black canvas. After Mr. Jennings asked for money to give away the paintings, Mr. Romo came into play as he recited some of Shakespeare's poetry. Giving a personal poem to all those who listened, Mr. Romo then continued to demonstrate his soccer skills. Finishing with his performance, Science teacher Mrs. Mora went on stage to amuse the crowd with her karaoke and dance moves.

Following an eventful performance, Mr. Gavrilovic (Math), walked on stage and spoke briefly on the significance of the song as he then performed it with his ukulele. After such a performance, Counselor

Ms. Bolton danced her way up stage to boogie down to Run DMC's "You Be Illin'". Showing off her old school moves, host Jonathan Rivera even accompanied her to an all out Hip-Hop party. As the crowd cheered, the show was given way to the final performance of Math teacher Mr. Ho who began turning and scratching records all along side to Mr. Gavrilovic's beat boxing.

As the two would soon close the night, they managed to get the whole audience hyped up to an amazing finale. With the results meeting much expected outcomes, the faculty talent show was a show worth the time and cost.

Throughout the Leuzinger staff and faculty, there are many unseen talents as well as skills lurking beyond the naked eye. On Friday the night of the talent show, many of these talents were revealed to the audience, demonstrating what Leuzinger really represents.

Debate Over The 'N' Word Continues

By Patricia Jaramillo

There is a lot in a name. Names of people, places, and things, hold a lot of value because of the attributes or perhaps for the experience that caused the name to come about. As history has explained to us, the Europeans captured the people of the great kings and queens of Africa, putting them into bondage in North and South America. That was the beginning of the slavery era. For almost two hundred years, Africans were enslaved being called derogatory names such as "Nigger", which originated from the Latin word Niger, meaning Black. African slaves were freed by a document called the Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863. The word "Nigger" was then and is still frequently used to describe African-Americans. "Nigger" eventually evolved into the world "Nigga", which is mostly used by Blacks as a term of endearment to address and sometimes greet other Blacks. The word "Negro" is derived from the Greek word "necro" meaning dead. The Greeks thought the Africans had a preoccupation with death. The act of ancestral worship became known as necromancy or communication with the dead. The root word "necro" means dead. Another word for necromancy is magic. Many consider the religious practices of the ancient Yoruba religion practiced in Ancient African magic. When the Greeks returned home, they took their distorted beliefs with them and the world Negro evolved out of this great misunderstanding. The words "Negro" and "Nigger" were used interchangeably to describe descendants of Africa for much of American history leading into the 21st century. Today the meaning of the "N" word isn't as powerful as it once was. This is evident

when you can hear a Mexican calling another Mexican a "Nigga". Asians, Whites, Polynesians, and other Latino groups on campus have been heard using the word freely when addressing each other. In a documentary called *The N Word*, a rapper known as Talib Kweli said, "Our community has been using the word and sort of trying to redefine the context of it for a long time..." Leuzinger High Senior, Kaedion Wynter says, "I don't really get offended by hearing the 'N' word as much any more, but I don't like hearing it. Some people use it without considering how it may affect black people, especially after the terrible history we've had." There are those who want to stop using the "N" word and want to replace it with words that do not sound so vulgar. In the documentary *The N Word*, Super Bowl Champion, Michael Irvin claims, "We must take away the power the word has...you can no longer allow someone who doesn't know you, who may wanna trigger you, and say the word and you lose your cool saying the word especially as much as we say it..." In other words blacks, who use the N word with no filter, permit all others that hear the word being used so freely to freely use it themselves with out consequence. A Leuzinger High School student Luis Padilla says, "...it might be offensive to some because of the history of the word, but to me, people might be more tolerant now and don't care anymore". Ms. Davis, a Leuzinger High School teacher explains, "I think because people

See "N" WORD, Pg. 9

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: You Would Not Know How To Spell It Without A Teacher

By Patricia Jaramillo

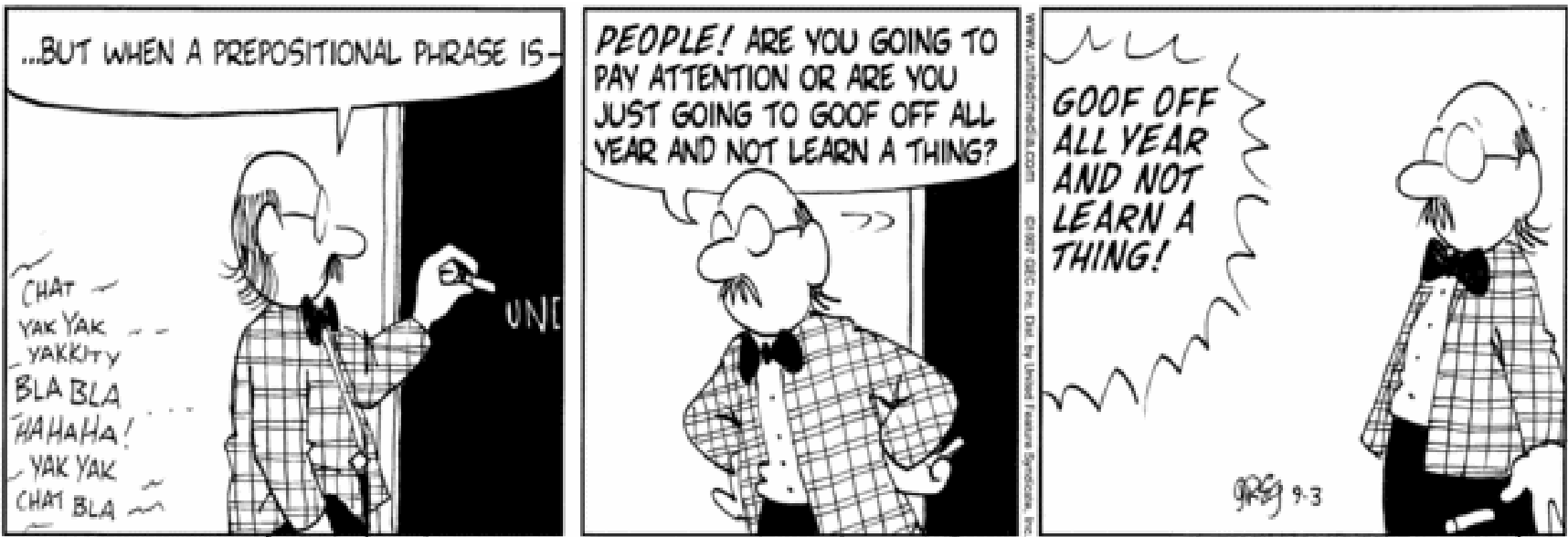
"I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me ...All I ask that you respect me as a human being". – Jackie Robinson

Respect is to be earned. Not one person is entitled to more respect than the next. To earn respect you have to show respect to yourself first, and then others. Presently, it appears that in this new generation, students have low levels of self-respect; therefore they have a difficult time respecting others, in particularly our Leuzinger High School Teachers. Teachers have always been there, trying to help us create better lives for ourselves. However, many of us constantly disrespect our teachers, not realizing that the same teachers they choose to disrespect can be their greatest allies or worst enemies during high school and beyond. Our first teachers are our mothers and fathers. However, in organized education, the first teacher was man and man as a teacher seemed to be more appreciated. Accord-

ing to teacherappreciation.info, Confucius (561 B.C.), an ancient philosopher and respected teacher of men was a teacher that was more appreciated and respected than any man before him. Many of the ancient schools of philosophy were for men and taught by men; therefore the question of respect for an instructor was not even an issue. Hundreds of years after our man-dominated schools of thought, women became involved in teaching. The creation of "dame" schools and Latin Grammar schools for higher education followed right after the first public school in Boston during 1635. I believe when women were allowed to become teachers, the respect for teachers started to diminish because women are thought to be fragile and soft spoken. However, it is clear that some of our best teachers are women. Women are natural nurtures which makes a difference in the style of teaching between men and women. As students, we should think

twice about disrespecting our female teachers. Imagine if your mom was a teacher and she had to come to school and be disrespected by students everyday. How would you feel? When men were instructors they taught the art of discipline therefore the students paid more attention. In the past, students would think twice about disrespecting a male teacher based on the man's physical stature and presence. As youngsters, we will always size up the opposition before we engage someone, especially on the street. There are people on the street many of us would think twice about saying or doing anything disrespectful to for fear of what may happen as a repercussion. But in school, it is easier for students to be disrespectful because they know the same things that could happen to them outside of school, will not happen during school because they are protected.

See RESPECT, Pg. 11



Arts & Entertainment

Leuzinger's Got Talent!!!

By Jonathan Lopez

As the teacher faculty talent show became another story to tell, the students of Leuzinger responded to their teacher's skills with some performances of their own. Hosted by the Class of 2012 juniors and its board members, the Leuzinger student body reveled in the chance to showcase their talent to an audience in the auditorium on Friday March 25th, 2011. Full of original performances and entertaining skills, the Leuzinger student talent show was something unique, far from the everyday norm here at school.

Kicking off the show with some recited lyrics, junior Charlie went on stage to perform a hip-hop song. Although the show started off a bit shaky, the hosts Charles Chime and Courtney Crockett, pumped the crowd up as junior Dimitri Mendez broke the speed of light with his fast paced dance moves.

Leaving the audience with a daze, the band "Dead on Impact" took over performing "City of Destruction" with their energetic drummer that was the pinnacle of a rebel rock star. Waving his drumstick around, their act was over and juniors Raven, Samone, and Jane began their performance as they danced together to an old school jam.

Digging all the performances so far, I felt at peace with the



environment around me, for I got swallowed by the energy and charisma of the audience as well as performers. Sitting lost in transition, the next band consisting of Leuzinger students Edwin, Eddie, Ramon and Jose, performed Mexican "Corridos" giving way for a large positive feedback from the audience. Pumped up from the authentic music performance, Leuzinger students Alissa Miller, To'Rae Bullock and Aliesha Hollinquest,



performed next singing a soulful song. Taking the show on a trip with a live music performance, Leuzinger students Steven, David E., David C., and Patrick, stunned the crowd with their ear melting solos as well as old school blues riffs. The skills demonstrated by the students was comparable to what the teachers displayed in the faculty talent show. Walking up on stage, senior LeShawn Lodge recited a



song in acapella form with his hands and body gestures telling the story. With such an eerie feeling, juniors Obed Lopez and Tracy Hernandez then performed Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven", as senior Kevin Vargas performed shortly after, Jimmy Page's solo. Feeding the audience with intricate sound waves roaring out the sound speakers, senior Taevion Morris and his crew, took over and performed Oukast's

"Roses". Outlining a whole fight scenario with dance moves, they moved the crowd. With so much energy, Leuzinger student Marie Kaveinga and her crew, soon moved in to demonstrate their dance skills stemming from the Pacific Islands. Her hypnotizing moves seemed to cast a spell upon the speculating audience and the Pacific Island males performed their act with aggression and passion.

The feedback from the audience was hectic as a new band took the stage to perform. Seniors in the band "Christian and the Christianettes", soon showcased their talent as they performed a variety of songs including "Razor blade" by The Strokes. After playing an encore, the group went off stage as Leuzinger student Nissy Selmon closed the night with a deep poem that left the crowd speechless. The story of a reflection of some eyes that have seen harsh realities roaming the streets in the concrete jungles.

From soulful poetry bringing the life out of nothing, to guitar shreds, to classic "Corrido" songs, the student talent show lived up to the impact of teacher faculty talent show just earlier before if not more. Truly, this was a historic and meaningful night for the Leuzinger Student Body.

IMAGES of CULTURE

MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT AT LEUZINGER HIGH



Leuzinger High School is a diverse environment with people from various different cultures. We should all be thankful for our own cultures and the opportunity to share and celebrate others.

Screening Room

Olympian Horoscopes

“Black Swan”

By Keren Lopez

“The only person standing in your way is you.” The words thrilling, scary, and beautiful perfectly describe this movie. Written by Mark Heyman, Andres Heinz, and John J. McLaughlin, directed by Darren Aronofsky, Black Swan is the story of a competitive Ballet Company in New York City, starring Natalie Portman as “Nina,” a shy and fragile girl who is a perfectionist and lives with her overprotective mother (Barbara Hershey). The company’s director Thomas Leroy played by Vincent Cassel, retires the star ballerina for the opening production of Swan Lake, and seeks to find a promising star. This is where Nina comes in, as she is the perfect fit for the white swan, who is just like her, fragile and innocent. At the same time she must portray the black swan, seductive and dark which is a better role for the new member of the production, “Lily” played by Mila Kunis.

Having been chosen for the main role of a ballet, Nina feels the pressure coming upon her. She begins to feel that she is being stalked, followed and overwhelmed. Her mother, a retired ballerina is an overbearing figure in Nina’s life, treating her like a twelve-year-old girl that puts upon her an enormous amount of pressure to be home on time and practice her ballet with ambition. Her director also adds fuel to the flame by being a sexual control freak as he directs the dancers. Nina struggles to be “perfect” and to get everyone’s approval although Lily stands in her way. She believes that Lily is trying to steal her spotlight

and they both intertwine in different ways. Nina soon finds her dark side, and slowly becomes the character of her role, the black swan, that starts take over her personality.



Beautifully composed and directed, Black Swan received three major Oscar nominations Best Picture, Best Actress Natalie Portman, and Best Director

Darren Aronofsky. It was released on December 17, 2010 and is Rated R for strong sexual content, disturbing violent images, language and some drug use.

Overall the movie was incredibly directed and amazing to watch. Others might have other opinions about

it, but the cast made the film astounding, portraying each role perfectly. Nina’s transformation from a timid, frail girl into a dark tenacious being was superbly played by Natalie Portman. Her talent of acting comes out so naturally that you feel as if it were all too real. The choreography of the ballet dances was beautiful and each ballerina danced so gracefully. The make-up and costumes added to the overall beauty of the film. Aronofsky places us inside the head of Nina, in which we begin to wonder is it just an illusion? Is it real? Is she being chased by a supernatural monster? Is Lily really trying to destroy her and her profession? Or is she just going mad? Aronofsky takes us to the world of a perfectionist; a world that is turned into madness and leaves questions unanswered.

The Future is Fast Upon Us!

Aries: March 21st – April 19th

If you thought that you two couldn’t get back together as friends, you may be surprised to see that your friend is missing you too and ready to forget the past and start out fresh. Do you feel like you know exactly what you want from your romantic relationship? That’s great but... don’t forget that there’s another person involved so they get a say in all this too. The challenge is to communicate and to listen instead of giving orders.

Taurus: April 20th – May 20th

Yes, you’re usually pretty cool but sometimes you can also be pretty stubborn. This week you’ll need to focus on keeping the stubborn side under control so that the entire group can get things done together as a team. Your friends are telling you one thing and they are telling you something else. Sounds like it might be time to find out who is telling the truth, who isn’t, and why. It may be tough but it’s better than being stuck in the middle any longer.

Gemini: May 21st – June 20th

Keep an eye on your money this week, Gemini! Spending what you don’t have is a very bad idea! Find a way to work around the empty wallet (without borrowing from anyone). If you’re having trouble saving the money in your room, ask your parents to help so that you won’t be tempted away from the goal of buying something really special. Just when you think you’re all settled romantically, someone new may come into your life this week who makes you question all that. Try not to freak out. It’s just a chance to take a deeper look at where you are and where you think you want to go without having to make any decisions.

Cancer: June 21st – July 22nd

You may feel like no one is listening to you but pulling back (and getting all “crabby”) isn’t going to fix anything. Find a way to make yourself heard in a positive way without tears or drama. Things are actually going pretty peacefully in your romance right now, Cancer, so enjoy it (and don’t waste any time wondering when it will all fall apart! If you do that, you won’t be able to enjoy any of it!)

Leo: July 23rd – August 22nd

That little bit of warm Leo fire is just what everyone needs right now! You’re feeling so positive that it makes everyone feel better just being around you. One of your gifts is the ability to bring joy into other people’s lives. You may feel like buying all kinds of things for your loved one, but is it really a good idea? Even if you have the money, the right kind of person is going to be more interested in just being with you and appreciating you for exactly who you are.

Virgo: August 23rd – September 22nd

If you feel like you HAVE to change something this week, why not do some rearranging in your bedroom? Especially if you spend a lot of time there (like doing homework...), you want it to be a place that makes you feel good. Even a few new pillows or rearranging furniture can give you a lot of positive energy and help you recharge. Is it time to move on, Virgo? That’s never easy so be as gentle and kind as you can. Once you’ve done it, don’t waste time gossiping or saying mean things about your “ex”. Just let it go so both of you can get on with your lives.

Libra: September 23rd – October 22nd

It’s okay to ask other people for their opinions as long as you’re the one making the final decision. Pleasing them isn’t going to make you feel any better about yourself, Libra. You may be feeling romantic and snuggly this week but they might not. Respect the fact that they may not enjoy PDAs at school. Others don’t either. If it’s really bothering you, ask yourself why. Is it because you think they don’t care enough... or because you can’t show off in front of your friends?

Scorpio: October 23rd-November 21st

If you’re not comfortable in a situation, you can get cranky and say things you might regret later. Making other people feel bad isn’t really going to make you feel any better, Scorpio. Figure out what’s really bothering you and try to fix it before you hurt someone. Not having a significant other right now is actually better than wasting your time on the wrong person and feeling miserable. Take pride in being yourself because you are completely amazing whether you’re attached to anyone or not! The best gift you can give yourself is self-respect!

Sagittarius: November 22nd – December 21st

If everyone has been studying 24/7, it may be time to organize a play day with your friends. It doesn’t have to be anything big - even a spa day at home or a picnic if the weather is good will give you all the break you need. If you feel all tangled up in some kind of romantic confusion, the best solution may be to get far enough away from it to see the big picture. It’s hard not to be impulsive but take more time to think it though and you’ll see that it’s better to wait.

Capricorn: December 22nd – January 19th

There may be some temptations but try to stay focused on your workout and health plan this week. Eating something that’s rich at one meal doesn’t mean the whole day is ruined. You can always focus on being healthy on the next meal. You can do this, Cap! You’re always the one who gives great advice so this week listen to your own wisdom. If you KNOW that person is not right for you, be brave enough to admit it. Believe it or not, there WILL be other people in your life - in fact, probably sometime between now and the end of the school year, you’ll meet at least one other totally loving person!

Aquarius: January 20th – February 18th

You like to be independent but sometimes it’s actually better to work as a team. Make your suggestions, but if the group decides to go with someone else’s plan, be gracious and make a total effort to help. You might find that there are things you didn’t realize you actually liked to do! Is your loved one being super-clingy? That is not the way to an Aquarian’s heart! Your independence is very important to you and you don’t need someone who is totally dependent on you. Do what you can to help that person stand on their own feet and be their own person.

Pisces: February 19th – March 20th

People who think of you as being all secretive and emotional may be surprised to find out that you actually have a great sense of humor! You can use your sensitivity as a way to sense what will make your friends and family laugh and smile this week.

Is this person the crush of your dreams? That’s awesome but... it’s also good to be sure they have their feet on the ground and a lot of common sense too. Having a dream crush is fun but sometimes you really just want a normal, regular, dependable person who is about the business!

Throwback Theatre

Classic Movie Review

“Stand By Me”

By Keren Lopez

“This is my age! I’m in the prime of my youth, and I’ll only be young once!” This is what the film “Stand by Me” is exactly about. The classic movie stars Wil Wheaton as Gordie, River Phoenix as Chris, Corey Feldman as Teddy, and Jerry O’Connell as Vern. This adventure-drama film was originally a novel written by Stephen King and Raynold Gideon and was later produced and directed by Rob Reiner in 1986. The story takes place during a summer in a fictional town called Castle Rock, Oregon, where four young boys who are best friends go on an adventure to find the missing body of a teenage boy.

The story starts off with a man who is recalling the memory of one summer he spent with his friends after finding out his friend died.

The main character, who is Gordie, is a young boy who likes to read and write but is rejected by his father after the death of his football-star older brother Danny. Danny always gave him more attention than his parents did. That summer he was having fun with his three best friends, Chris, Vern, and Teddy. One day his friend Vern overheard his older



brother talking to other teenagers about finding a dead body in the woods. Vern explains to his friends what he had heard so they

decide to go off on a two-day adventure to find the body. They encounter many struggles on their way but left the mark of many memories. Their adventure is non-stop laughing and hugs and full of shoulders to lean on as they encounter scenarios that will change their lives.

The acting was beyond extraordinary. Each boy made their role so real and revealed their talents in this film. They changed the mood of the story from sad, to happy, and to funny and often times inspiring.

They take you back to your own childhood with your best friends and make you relive those memories. The actors received numerous awards for their outstanding performances and because of them the film received several awards as well.

This film is entertaining for all audiences. Adults, teens and children can all feel apart of the movie; either to remember their own childhood, or just to enjoy the film. This film is filled with sad moments that make you want to cry but also funny moments that make the film upbeat and happy. I have personally loved this movie since the first time I saw it and would recommend it to anyone to watch.

Do People Still Talk To Each Other?
Text Talk Contributes To Illiteracy

By Ericka Fajardo

I was recently assisting my friend Melani’s mother, an elementary school teacher from Riverside, grade a stack of essays written by her many bright 6th graders. I reflected upon myself when I was the same age and I remember English being my absolute favorite subject and being overly dedicated to perfecting all my writing assignments. Of course that was seven years ago, and even in seven years plenty can change. And so as I sat there and skimmed through these papers, I was overwhelmed by all the shortcut grammar and lack of ANY punctuation. At that moment my heart chipped and broke as I saw an endless sea of “You” replaced by “U’s” and the combination of “UR” used to replace the homonyms of “YOUR” and “YOU’RE”.

Now, you may choose to believe me or not, but, I

prefer to spell out EVERY SINGLE word in my text messages and ensure that I use proper punctuation. It is my greatest fear to make a habit of using my cyber world lingo and reflect and apply it to my essays and stories. The abbreviated and shortcut texting world has no respect for grammar and punctuation and I personally would not dare to live in it. The ultimate question for all you text writers is WHY? Why do you willingly cut and crop your vocabulary in effort to save yourself time? It’s like an epidemic that is spreading rapidly and we are allowing it to take over our mental health. The funny part about it is that most of the abbreviations leave out one or two letters. Therefore, it may be an issue of laziness. Instead of telling someone to “text” you, some may write “txt” me; a dif-

ference of one letter. There are several other examples that can be reflected on. It is not just text messaging that we are willfully letting dumb us down; its televisions, magazines, advertisements, and even companies. “At my job we have to use so many abbreviations because it cost the airline so much money to spell out a whole word, and because of that I forget how to spell so many words when they’re not being abbreviated.” stated Malaysia Airlines Account Manager Claudia Martinez. Even the big business world around us is trying to look for loopholes in spelling and grammar and it is costing the working adults their literacy, “It’s all the shortcuts that they try to take, it really can’t be good for anybody.” I can only speak from the perspective of someone who detests the idea of short-

ened grammar and the non existence of punctuation. I hope that we can open our eyes and see that through this shortened language that we have created a dangerous future where we are volunteering for ignorance and simplicity. Remember, you think in words. A limited and shortened vocabulary equals limited and shortened thoughts. If anything, use your texting as an opportunity to practice proper spelling and punctuation. If you don’t practice writing in class and you don’t practice while texting, when will you practice? Last I checked, anything you want to be good at, practice is necessary.

Babies Are Having Babies:
Teenage Pregnancy Rates Rise

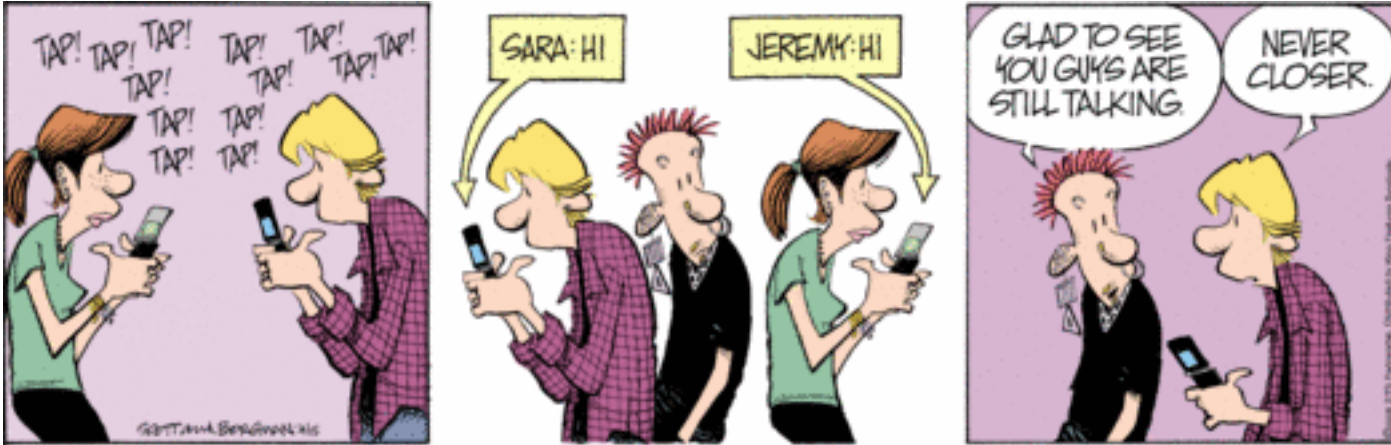
By Alma Ramos and Maria Ramirez

It started with a simple stare, a little giggle, and a Hi. Then the kiss came along, and a couple of months later we both new this was meant to be. We both said “I love you.” We were thinking in the moment but now we’re here waiting with no job and no where to live trying to figure out what to do, because nine months later we will be having our child. “I was scared; I didn’t think it was going to happen to me.” Zanab Saddat says a student at La Vida High School. La Vida High School is Leuzinger’s pregnancy/school program. This is the basic reaction girls get when they find out they are pregnant. Many of the teenage pregnancies are caused by misinformation and lack of protection. Teenage families are increasing at an alarming rate. It’s very common now to see a pregnant teenager, for this is an epidemic that must continue to be addressed. California ranks at number seven with the highest teenage pregnancies in the country, and ranked the fifth state out of the top ten states with the highest teenage abortion rate. 75,000 girls under the

age of 20 end up pregnant each year. Statistics show from the ages 15-19, 134 per 1,000 African American women; 131 per 1,000 Hispanic women, and 48 per 1000 white women, become pregnant each year. The United States has the highest teenage pregnancy rates out of all industrialized countries. Zanab Saddat began her own family when she became pregnant at the age of sixteen. As reality struck, fear gave way. Like many others, she never thought that it would happen to her and as she told her boyfriend, they were both scared. Neither of them had a job and nothing to provide for their baby so they decided to live together. As the months went by, they decided the best decision was for them to get married and try to provide a home for their child. On May 4th their child was born. “That was the best moment of my life,” Zanab claims. Then after she and her new family left the hospital they realized this wasn’t going to be fun and games. They have struggled emotionally and financially. Both are unemployed but have vowed to not give

up until they can offer their child a better life. “It’s hard to grow up together,” and “DON’T get married young,” advises the young couple. Many feel that having a child is ultimately the mother’s responsibility, for she is the one who has to nurture and care for their child. However there are responsible fathers such as Nicholas Montalvo, a student at La Vida High School who is a teenage single father. He and his girlfriend started to date and a month later she was pregnant. They both were filled with fright and had no idea what they were to do next. Both weren’t prepared and did not have a stable relationship, yet they took the responsibility and prepared for the arrival of their new child. After the birth of their child, they hadn’t yet achieved acquiring a stable relationship for themselves. While he was trying to look for a job, his girlfriend was out having fun with her friends partying, leaving their new born baby in anyone’s hands. After a difficult time, he realized she was doing their son no good. Nicholas decided to separate and take sole responsibility

for the child. Now, while she is currently attending leuzinger, he is doing his best to get his rapping career going so that he can support his child, as well as himself. Think in the future and not in the moment. Realize that sexual intercourse is not just fun and games for there are consequences that could potentially lead towards a troublesome future. The best way to stay safe is to accept abstinence and enjoy one’s self during these blossoming years of adolescence for there is no need to rush into an adult life filled with responsibility. Although having a child might seem attractive, the truth is that a baby is not a toy. Children are needy and helpless products of you that needs care and love to flourish in a healthy manner. Protection such as prophylactics or birth control pills are not a full proof way of avoiding bringing a child to this world, for there still exist a slight chance at conception. If you decide to become sexually active be aware of the possibilities.



MOTIVATION BEGINS WITH SELF

BY ROBERT HUERTA

Since acquiring a position that requires me to oversee my peers as they are a part of the production which we all have chosen to be a part of, I have been exposed to something so crucial and destructive towards any progress that if it lacks, undermines any success, and if it is present, gives life to an inert being. I speak of motivation and to see it absent from the expressions of anyone brings forth a question that I could not seem to answer on behalf of those displaying the qualities of one who lacks it. Why would one do anything, if it is not going to be done to the best of their abilities? All that one does is a reflection of themselves that they have either willingly or unintentionally allowed to become part of this external realm. So be it that those around whoever is producing said work will be exposed to what lies beneath the surface of the individual, for the opinions of others is not what is of importance or is being made important here. Instead the focus lies more on the conscious judgment that one makes of themselves and whatever it is that they

create. A person’s own critique is what allows for one to better shape what is being critiqued in that a self-analysis, allows for a sort of evolution to occur. With the inner self-struggling against itself, fueling a stride towards a subjective perfection, where one could be and at one point might actually reach becoming the ideal self. It is I who shall be my own worst critic for my own benefit. With that said, I have studied my fellow workers since I became aware of the incompetence that they so openly display, not to say I do not as well exhibit my inability to maintain a constant stream of efficiency, which shows the disregard that they have for what they do or apparently who they are. I have found that me attempting to assist those in need does nothing for something must occur from inside. Something true must compel the individual to act so that the action may be maintained, some divine force or inner strength that would allow those that lack motivation to reap the benefits of actually trying, of giving it there all for no reason in particular only to do it

“just because”. I see a sullen face or overhear a conversation completely irrelevant from the work that they have announced as theirs or have been assigned for the sake of the overall outcome which we work towards; A final creation that projects us in a manner that would highlight our message or messages in an appropriate manner. Can it be that the society that we live in is shaping our youth to become victims, stuck on some sort of device or source of immediate gratification to please them rather than giving them reasons to work for reasons that are meaningful and unlike transient objects, everlasting. This happening not only occurs within the classroom for I have seen it out in the world that is free from obligations, deadlines and scrutiny from the student body, where there is more at stake than a grade or a reputation and instead one’s livelihood is what suffers. The world around is remorseless and imposes itself and its realities constantly, so with a lack of motivation one is not likely to stand tall against the ever so powerful force. The scapegoats that

one uses in order to divert the responsibilities that come with being are the deteriorating factors that contribute to one not engagingly following through with what they are to do, for the attention is focused elsewhere rather than on oneself and what one is doing with themselves and their blossoming lives. Not for those that surround but for he who dwells inside is motivation of importance. I do not care whether my peers contribute to what occupies more than our time but as well our minds and our hearts, but rather I care about what it reflects of the person and what is to become of that piece of life that whatever entities be them celestial or terrestrial have brought forth. I see more that my brethren fall not because of another but because of themselves and their indifference towards themselves and the precious gift they have been endowed with. An understanding of what is occurring and a failure to act upon it or against it would only imply that the fool who has wrongfully taken power has complete control.

Should Classic Novels Be
Banned From Schools?

By Kevin Diaz

It is stated in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution that Congress shall not pass a law prohibiting the exercise of religion or freedom of speech. With this in mind, we come to contemplate the banning of books as either a direct violation of the freedom of speech that is granted by the First Amendment or as being justified and reasonable. Some feel censorship is justified, for the content of certain books may be full of “inappropriate or controversial ideas”. The purpose of banning books is to protect people, especially young children from being exposed to things such as profane language, explicit sexual content, or religious allusions. The number of books that are banned each year reaches the hundreds. These books range from classical novels, modern novels, and even children’s books. Once someone files a complaint about a book, it can ultimately be banned from schools and/or libraries. This may even lead

to disciplinary actions against teachers or librarians, and as a result some teachers simply opt not to teach the book and librarians will remove the book from public access. Considered to be a great American classic, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain is one of the most criticized books in American history for its use of “derogatory language and relegating African Americans,” with its constant use of the so called ‘N’ word, which is used over 200 times throughout the novel. The million dollar question hence arises: should this book be banned from schools or not? People who support the banning of *Huckleberry Finn* at schools claim that its language is highly offensive and that students should not have to read such a ‘degrading’ piece of literature. Furthermore, supporters of censoring “Huck Finn” also claim that the past ought to be left behind, and that African-Americans should not be reminded of the way their an-

cestors were awfully treated. While the past may be the past, it cannot be denied that racial issues are still a main concern in our lives. Burying things in the past and pretending that nothing happened is like saying the Holocaust never occurred. Some have gone as far as editing Twain’s book and completely eliminating the usage of the ‘N’ word and replacing it with the word ‘slave’. Allan Gribben, a scholar from Auburn University, has done so, believing that by eliminating the word, he’s eliminating a barrier. Mark Twain’s sum up his thoughts on the banning of his novel in its early years of publication by saying, “censorship is telling a man he can’t have a steak just because a baby can’t chew it.” In a sense, the audience needs to understand that the author’s intention of using this kind of language is to take us back to the times of slavery in which the ‘N’ word was openly used; this is the reality that our na-

tion faced at that time and banning the book does not make it any less compelling. English teacher Ms. Koo-ken believes that this book is not for everyone, and that it depends on the level of maturity of the reader, as an average high school reader might see it as a “racist book”. Even so, why would a book evoke such negative feelings when African American kids at school so widely and openly use the word itself?



There Is Life After
Parents Divorce

By Berlin Courter

These days it seems like more families than ever are breaking up for one reason or another. Back in the days families did everything they could do be together and stay together. As time moves on, and each generation changes, people seem to be parting ways at alarming rates. According to kidshealth.org, about half of the marriages in the United States end in divorce.

Not only is it hard on the two people getting a divorce, but the children, who are products of the union, are the ones who feel most of the painful impact. Kimberly Martinez, daughter of divorced parents commented, "At first it was hard on me, and made many things in my life go bad, but as time passed by it would get better and I started seeing things in a different way." Children don't often get a say on who they would like to live with when they are young. When speaking to Kimberly about her parents living arrangements she said, "At first I lived with my dad, but then I just wanted to spend equal time with both my mom and dad."

It seems like couples are going through divorces as quickly as they get married. The National Center for Health Statistics recently released a report which found that forty-three percent of first marriages end in separation or divorce within fifteen years. The cause may



be due to many people rushing into marriage, or simply getting married for the wrong reasons. For example, when a young woman that has not lived and matured I her own life gets pregnant, the first instinct is to stay with that person for the child no matter what the relationship is like. Many couples stay together because of the child, but is it really worth it if there is always friction? Another major mistake parents make is taking their anger out on each other in front of their children, unaware of the trauma this may cause.

When parents do finally part ways it becomes difficult for families during holidays and special events like games and graduations. Kimberly shared her family's holiday schedule explaining, "I spend one holiday with my dad and the other with my mom, taking turns." Choosing what parent to be with on the holidays may be a very difficult task for some and easier for others depending on the relationships.

Having separated or divorced parents isn't something that is easy to go through, but sometimes it's for the best. Some people may want their parents back together while others prefer the separation. No matter the preference, there is a deep impact on the children experiencing their foundations fractured. These are the hardships that many go through as they grow up; and although some have it worse than others, we all have to keep our heads held high and realize there is life to live outside of our parents' relationship. Let us take notes so that our future families will not suffer from the same problems that plagued our parents.

Smells Like A...
Lack of Teen Spirit

By Robert Huerta

Alongside a distinct few that stand out among the cluster of individuals that make up the Leuzinian student body are the majority who during the supposed week of spirit show no compassion for the activities that are intended to stimulate and maintain a sense of esteem in one's self as a part of the community that is the collection of students.

Ericka Espinoza, the revered president of the Associate Student Body, who takes it upon herself to oversee the entire functioning that occurs within the group, governs her peers with the intent of giving something worth giving to the students that attend Leuzinger High School. "Spirit Week is a way to bring people together, it forms a sense of unity between us in giving us something to look forward to, at the same time giving us something to be proud about..." Ms. Espinoza tells of how this year's program is different from prior attempts for it is said to be focused more on the involvement and satisfaction of the students than were the attempts of the past. Her efforts are to establish activities that are by the students and for the enjoyment of said students allowing for these individuals to participate in something that others as well may submerge themselves into, creating a platform on which one can bond with his or her fellow man. She said it best; "Giving the power to the people, offering them the choices".

Though the purpose of the candy cane and super hero days are unclear for a number of students, there are the participants that find reason to cooperate with said happenings. Amy Nyguen claims that in participating in what was that day's topic, she found it easier to conform with the actions that were taking place and use it for her benefit in order to have something from which she could use as common ground with her surroundings.

Even though renunciation of individuality takes one outside of their comfort zone and might end up being an embarrassing situation for some, which is one of the main reasons Ericka Espinoza proposed for the lack of student participation, the interactions are to the benefit of the students for they are the reapers of the socializing that occurs. They lose themselves in order to make friends or happy feelings. Though the loss of self into what is in their environment is only

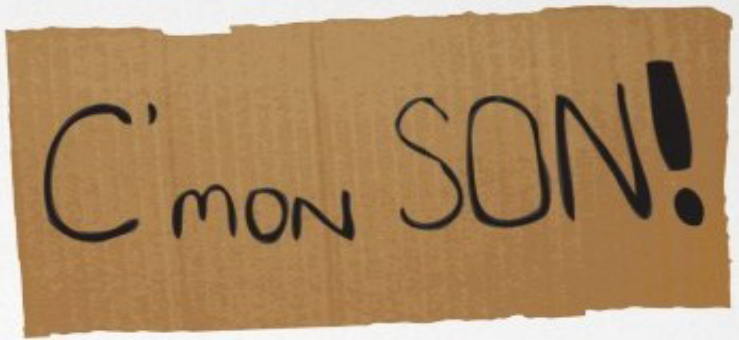
temporary, the smiling faces are evidence that Amy and her caped amigos jokingly spoke of themselves and took group photos; those who supposedly abandon themselves come back with more than they left.

Keevin Portillo, on describing his lack of understanding says, "I really do not see what it is that is being stressed in these occasions, it seems like a bunch of superficial smiles put on a bundle of frowns." The activities seems to him as meaningless and unnecessary for there are things which happen in the lives of all that are only interfered with by such unfruitful debaucheries. "Is this really the manner in which we are being taught to express such a glorious thing that is spirit?" According to Keevin, the topics require no depth and lack the capacity for one to express themselves individually as the topics create limits by which one must abide.

Yet to say that these occurrences bring no benefit is to not give the Associate Student body the credit which it so rightfully deserves. First off, for taking the initiative to organize the entire function for the benefit of the school and secondly for at least attempting to ignite a sort of flame in the hearts of their peers representing the solidarity of the union one has with the environment that is so persistent in the lives of those who attend Leuzinger High School.

I would rather say that there is a barrier or lack of connection that causes for a misinterpretation on behalf of the students for whom the spirited week is intended, thus causing less of an emotional impact on the minds of the recipients leading to a lack of appreciation. To sum it up, they do not see what they are being given and rather have what they think, and to have one's thoughts is to have nothing at all.

As a way of stirring up the monotone vibe that has afflicted our peers stemming from the daily grind of coming, being, and leaving school, the ASB goes above and beyond to provide for their familiar figures and in-still in them a meaningful and memorable instance within their minds of what it means to attend Leuzinger. The student's in response either ridicule or applaud their efforts, leaving no general consensus on whether the school benefits form said activities or not.



This column is "The Torch" tribute to the popular viral series, created and made famous by Legendary Hip-Hop Artist, Ed Lover. C'mon Son! adresses societies blatant ignorance. Whenever you see someone acting blatantly ignorant, look at them with a look that mirrors their stupidity and say, "C'mon Son!.. Dont forget to check out episodes of C'mon Son! on line.

1. Chicken Heads. Yeah you. "C'mon Son". Why is that we can hear you cackling when you are in the T-buildings and we are standing in senior square? "C'mon Son". Why must you be so loud? Is it because no one ever listens to you. Perhaps what you are saying needs to become more substantial, then you will not have to scream because what your saying is meaningful enough for people to want to listen. Oh yeah, cursing like a sailor is not cute either. "C'mon Son". Get your vocabulary up. What man wants to marry a woman that curses every other word. Act like your mother and grandmother set good examples of womanhood for you, and if they didn't, find a good example to follow. By the way, Video Vixens or Bad Girl Club members are not good examples to follow. "C'mon Son".

2. What up Cuz? What up Blood? "C'mon Son". Stop school banging. School is a place that will help you learn and improve your life. Last I checked, most gang bangers are really not trying to do much to improve their lives. So, their in lies the co-nundrum (look it up!). Either you are a gangster or a student. Make-up your mind. Besides, who are you banging on in school anyway? The real gangsta's are some where outside of these school walls waiting for you fakers and posers. Most of you are not built for the real thing anyway. Just because your daddy use to gangbang and was thoughtful enough to not involve you does not mean you can claim his set. "C'mon Son!"

If you would like to shed light on examples of blatant ignorance that you have witnessed, type it and submit it to the torch staff in Room 6-5.

"N" Word Continued from Pg. 5

don't know the history of why the "N" word was used and the damaging effects it don't realize it's a derogatory word; however, I also believe the connotation of the word has changed into common language and greeting."

No matter what name is used to describe a group of people, the bottom line fact is that we are all people with the same color blood running through our veins. There is no price on respect. It is much better to identify with being called the name your parent gave you. Whatever you decide to call yourself or someone else, just say it with respect and unconditional love for humankind.

Beauty Is In The Eye Of The Media

By Keren Lopez and Albina Rae

The recipe for beauty is to have less illusion and more Soul, to retreat from the belief of pain or pleasure in the body into the unchanging calm and glorious freedom of spiritual harmony. -Marry Baker Eddy

Day to day, young girls are bombarded with images of what a perfect woman should look like. As they look at themselves in the mirror constantly, subconsciously searching for "the look", their self-esteem fluctuates as they have to settle for what they have been blessed with. The Internet, television, movies, and magazines play a big role in setting the standard for the "Ideal Woman".

Girls wake-up everyday and fight the urge to pile-on pounds of artificial beauty known as "make-up," and it seems as though younger girls are becoming addicted to the use of make-up in order to look like the stars that the media glorifies. Yet the beauty displayed and enforced upon the world is not at all a reflection of the true beauty that lies within; and the irony is that make

We see on television and read in magazines how to get the latest fashions and be in with the styles in order to be accepted in society. Shows

such as "America's Next Top Model" feature an ideal image that is to be emulated. Girls strive to achieve the perfect overall look, just like the well-known actresses chosen for movie roles, and they don't seem to realize the trap that they are falling into.

Going to the extreme to look "perfect," girls pile on the make-up so much that in the end they are hard to recognize. Many times, girls feel that wearing make-up will attract a promising mate. All it takes is a bit of conformity, the loss of individual beauty, and a few consumer products to give them a life that is desirable. Edwin Sarti is one to disagree with this as he states, "to me personally, girls are more attractive when they have very little make-up on." His statement represents the general consensus seen by the common male on girls that stray from their innate beauty.

The world is a stage. We are in constant observation of each other. We always consider what others may think which may be the reason why we all look in the mirror from time to time to make sure we always look are best or at least presentable. This invisible force some refer to as "The Ego" drives us to please our observers, leading the eas-



Dr. Deneth and Mamie' Clark's doll experiment. When this black boy was asked which doll was better, he quickly choose the white doll. A clear example of the roots of self-hatred. Love Yourself for who you are!!!!

ily influenced to abuse the beauty supplies provided by the cosmetics corporations and validated through constant marketing and advertising.

At an early age, blossoming young girls are surrounded by superficial beauty. These same girls have grown up playing with Barbie Dolls and similar figures that represent this artificial image of what beauty is said to be. A social experiment involving dolls was done on young African-American girls, in which they were asked to choose between a white Barbie doll and a black Barbie doll. Questions such as: What doll is prettier? Which doll is uglier? And which doll would you most like to play with?, were asked in order to identify a particular preference. The responses given showed a preference towards the white doll with comments such as the white doll is prettier, better and more likely to be played with. Ironically the most despised and frequently rejected doll so happened to be the black doll. When asked what doll looked most like them, the young girls reluctantly chose the doll that they most heavily criticized. Clearly, this experiment exposed the dangers of promoting a standard of beauty that is exclusively one look.

There have been cases of girls of various minority races bleaching their hair, using cream to lighten their skin, and even bleaching their skin. There have also been situations in which girls of different races have tried to change their eye color blue or green permanently. On the Tyra Show, they have interviewed many girls who have attempted to do this but failed and left to answer why. Many girls exclaim that they would look beautiful with lighter colored eyes. Tyra has also interviewed young African American girls claimed that white girls are prettier and they would do anything to look like them. It was reported that one little girl went to the extremes of buying a Hannah Montana wig explaining that she would look prettier because the wig was blonde. Wanting to look as pretty as Hannah Montana, she wore this wig to symbolize how beautiful she could be if only she had blonde hair.

Girls have gone to extreme lengths in order to change their current image for one that better fits the set standard of beauty. Will we ever understand that beauty isn't what is on the outside but on the inside? Will girls ever value intelligence and virtue over just being beautiful??



The Men's Soccer Team poses as a family after one of their many victories.

Season of Highs and Lows For Leuzinger Soccer

By Stoney Penado

We are a school that is known to take pride in our athletics teams and constantly praise them for their efforts and hard work. They are the pride and joy of the LEUZINGER OLYMPIANS. One of the teams that put in much work and is slowly increasing their good reputation is our LEUZINGER boy's soccer team.

For the past seven years, the boy's soccer team has made it into the C.I.F playoffs and is hoped to take the

state championship this year. They planned to accomplish their goal by working hard at practice and playing even harder on the field.

The commitment that each player has for the team is what led them to success and what was supposed to take them to that state championship. The team has no doubt that they had the right ingredients to win the season tournament and enter the C.I.F tournament as the 1st place team in Bay League.

When asking the boys varsity captain, Angel Jimenez, if he felt the same way, he stated, "we can get 1st place by working hard not only on the field but at practice too. Our main competitors this year were P.V and Mira Costa, and by beating those two teams we really need to give it our best, go in hard, and give it our 110% to win"

Although Hugo Ramirez is a dedicated head coach to the leuzinger soccer team, he is also part of the Hawthorne

high school staff. Coach Hugo states, "After working so many years as a cougar staff I never felt the love and commitment of the cougar players as much as I do to the leuzinger players. It's been an honor being head coach of the Leuzinger soccer team and I'm still going to be the head coach until the day I retire from being the coach."

Every year Coach Hugo does so much for the team just to make sure that they can have the best of the equip-

ment. After asking Coach Hugo about the amount of effort and love for this team that he expresses, he stated "I put so much love and effort to the team because I see these players as my own kids. Every year I want to give them the best things I can give them." The Leuzinger boys' soccer team is full of joy and commitment and even a little bit of love.

Sports Editorials

Where Is The Love? Boys Soccer Team Feels Neglected

By Omar Bucio

During their entire season our varsity football team had a troublesome time flourishing in the South Bay and it showed with its record of one win and nine losses. This season, the soccer team has already surpassed the accomplishments of the football team according to their win/loss ratio. Even though they obviously had a superior record, the soccer team seemed to lack any significant recognition or publicity from neither the administration nor the student body during the season. Therefore, the question arises, why do certain sports get more attention and admiration than others from the student body, faculty, parents, and administration? Speaking from experience, I have played both football and soccer for Leuzinger High School and I was more acknowledged for my performance on the football team than my performance as a soccer player.

Varsity Soccer Coach, Hugo Ramirez claims, "The school does not show the same amount of enthusiasm for the soccer team because the administration is comfortable with the fact that we will win." The actual presence of the administrators at the football games gives the players a sense that they are being supported by school leadership. I have not seen an administrator watch

a soccer game or even come out to the field to talk to the coaches the same way I have seen them at the Olympian football games.

So when the next soccer player walks past you it might do him some good if you were so kind as to acknowledge his efforts and achievements which most look over. The soccer team seems to be widely known and respected by many except those which are closest to them, our student body.

Yet, it is to be acknowledged that soccer and football do not even come close in the sense of physicality. Soccer is a very tactical and intelligent game designed for timing and speed, but football is a game of courage, character, valor, and the ability to get back up when one is knocked down. I have learned to respect both sports for their uniqueness and mostly because I happen to proudly play both for Leuzinger High. One definite is that both sports teach life lessons such as to never give up, to keep fighting, and to be ready for anything. It is a struggle within me to do the best I can every time I step on the field. Whether it is while wearing a football jersey or a soccer jersey, my goal is to represent Leuzinger to the best of my ability at all times.

Goal!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Lady Olympians Are All Stars

By Alma Ramos



The Leuzinger girl's soccer team is getting ready to wrap up their season this February. Trough out their season they had their ups and downs.

Each game they gave it their best and had fun doing it. The team consists of around 20 girls. The team captains are Luisa Hernandez, Steph-

nie Torres, and Joanna Issac.

The teams have practiced every single day and gave it one hundred percent of their effort to get in the same competitive levels as the other teams. "They work hard and want 2 improve", said coach Antonio. The girls love soccer but they like to

goof off and play around.

Not only are they just players on a high school soccer team, but they have become good friends and build bonding relationships. The girls consider themselves not just a team. "When our jerseys go on were more than just a team, we become a

family", states Cesy Ortega, one of the most valuable players on the soccer team.

The girls had to say goodbye to all their senior players but are hoping that two or three years from now they can make something more of their team. The team will still be practicing throughout

the year to get prepared for their upcoming season. They hope they can improve, but win or lose they stay united as a family and no loss is big enough to tear the friendships and love they have created and feel for each other.

Lack of Effort Leads To Losses

By Robert Huerta

With it all said and done, our varsity soccer team survived the demanding season that unfolded before them, managing to win 14 games, tie 3 times and lose only seven of their games that happened to be in the actual season leaving them unable to qualify for the C.I.F championship. Although only three of their wins were not in the pre-season, the skilled group of boys managed to end the season with all their limbs intact and the support of Olympians like Bonifacio Lopez who said, in critique of his home team, "I don't care if we aren't champions this year or if the record which they have acquired for themselves is not the best, I know from seeing the expressions on their faces as they played and the anguish in their eyes as they lost that it was not all in vain."

Having support and an esteemed coach such as Hugo Ramirez, the varsity soccer team had a foundation to become a prevailing force, but it was their inability to

play as if they gave it their all, which was what stifled their success. As Angel Jimenez put it, "Our team possessed the skills, it's just we didn't have the heart." He mentioned how his coach told the team that they would not succeed with only 60 percent effort on their part, and obviously Coach Hugo was right. Not to say that their performance was anything but exceptional, the Olympian soccer team deserves credit for trying.

The season now over and the lessons learned, the team now remains with their accomplishments or lack thereof to show how a lack of motivation and a lack of commitment shall lead to a mournful outcome. The highest respects to those who gave it their all and as well to those that have an unconditional positive regard for their home team; with time and a new perspective this years outcome might be overshadowed by one to come.

There Is No “I” In Team, But Olympians Deserve Recognition For Their Individual Efforts

Published By Torch Staff
Courtesy of Coach Grant

2010 Football All League and Team Awards

We had over 80 in attendance at the first Football Awards Banquet in many years. 30 - 40 parents and family members were in attendance.

We announced our team awards and the 2010 members of the All Bay League team. 8 players were honored, on the all league teams.

Seniors Jabari Mathieu was the Top vote getter at Defensive Line and was considered for Defensive Player of the Year. Ivan McLennen was 1st Team LB, Omar Bucio was the 1st Team Punter.

Second Team members were Tupea Kaolo (Sr) DL, Irahan Avila (Sr) DB, Anthony Williams (Jr), Running Back ,Tevin Posey (Sr.), Offensive Line, Courtney Crockett (Jr.), Wide Receiver

Varsity Team Awards:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Most Valuable Player | Jabari Mathieu (Sr) |
| 2. Leadership Award | LaRon Barnes (Jr) |
| 3. Defensive Player of the Year | Ivan McLennen (Sr) |
| 4. Offensive Player of the Year | Anthony Williams (Jr) |
| 5. Offensive Player of the Year | Courtney Crockett(Jr) |
| 6. Special Teams Player of the Year | Omar Bucio (Sr) |
| 7. Offensive Lineman of the Year | Tevin Posey (Sr) |
| 8. ToughMan Award | Devin Christy (Jr) |
| 9. Scholar Athlete of the Year Award | Peseti Tukutau (3.9 GPA) |

Junior Varsity Team Awards:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Most Valuable Player | Jamari Hicks Fr |
| 2. Lineman of the Year | Tevita Haupeakui Jr |
| 3. Most Improved | Dekari Paschel So |
| 4. Most Improved | Luis Cruz Fr |
| 5. Offensive Player of the Year | Marcus Mitchell So |
| 6. Defensive Player of the Year | Shawn Ellis Fr |
| 7. Rookie of the Year | Javier Rivas Fr |
| 8. Most Determined | Robert Corona So. |

Leuzinger Senior (2010-2011) All-Star Games Participants

January 16th – Annual Daily News East West High School All – Star Game
at College of The Canyons

Tevin Posey – Center
Tupea Kaolo – Defensive End
Omar Bucio – Punter

January 22nd 46th Annual South Bay Lions All-Star Game
at Mira Costa High School

Jabari Mathieu DE

January 29th Sports Scholarships USA City vs Southern Section All Star Game
at Birmingham Charter High School

Jabari Mathieu DE
Ivan McLennen – LB / FB
Omar Bucio – Punter

National Award Recognition

Omar Bucio – Nominated for the ESPN – Rudy Award
Jabari Mathieu - Nominated for the Old Spice Player of the Year Award



We are the champions my friends, we kept on fighting to the end. We are the Champions, We are the Champions...

Lady Olympian Basketball Wins Big This Season

By A Torch Contributor

The Leuzinger Girls Frosh/Soph Girls basketball team won the Tustin Christmas Classic over the Christmas Break. The eight team, four game tournament, was played December 27th to 30th at Tustin High School. The Lady Olympians beat Riverside Centennial in the championship round, 41-35. The relentless guard play and timely scoring of Monica Luna and Tanae Aubry was a constant throughout the tournament. Luna and Aubry’s speed and tenacity caused havoc for their opponents. Center Arielle Enriquez was a force inside the paint with her scoring, rebounding and shot

blocking. Alexis Casterjon, Luna and Aubry played every minute in all four wins. Casterjon’s defensive skills, cutting of the opponents fast break, and having the knack of being in the right place at the right time was especially supportive to the team’s championship. Lost for the tournament to a sprained ankle in the opening moments of the first game was power forward Stephanie Cluney. Due to a knee injury, Danielle Hickman was only able to play in the opening game and the championship game. Without Hickman’s rebounding and scoring the Lady Olympians would not have been champi-

ons. Dessalina Martin played an important role coming off the bench. Unable to play in the tournament was Courtney Simmons. Monica Luna was voted Most Valuable Player of the tournament and Tanae Aubry was selected to the All Tournament team. Earlier in December the Frosh/Soph Lady Olympians won the consolation championship in the Gahr High Tournament. Arielle Enriquez made the All-Tournament team. With these young Lady Olympians constantly growing and developing, the future of women’s basketball at Leuzinger High School is bright.

RESPECT Continued from Pg. 5

Many students feel as if they can say anything to teachers and nothing will happen to them worst than being suspended. The disrespectful also feel as if the institution will protect them from any teacher that may choose to react with the same type of disrespectful energy the student is putting forth. Some of the things that are said by students to teachers would probably not be said in any other environment outside of the school. Often times, disrespectful students who lack attention at home and in school tend to act out to gain the attention and admiration of their peers. But for the most part, their peers are paying attention, but they are paying attention to how stupid the person looks as they make fools of themselves and the families that produced them. When students disrespect teachers they do not realize how immature it looks, and how embarrassed the teacher may feel. Corporal punishment in the United States was outlawed in public schools and it seems to have resulted in students losing respect for their elders. Back in the day if you did something bad at school the whole neighborhood would know and you might get smacked five times before you got home to receive your punishment. Clearly, students that disrespect elders have no fear of repercussions from the community or their parents. In fact, if they disrespect their teachers and other elders, chances are they are disrespectful to their own parents. If people don’t respect their parents, it is probably very difficult to respect anyone else, including themselves.

In addition, students who are disrespectful to teachers are misrepresenting their parents, making it seem as if their parents did not raise them to respect their elders. Throughout history, it has been an unwritten law that elders are to be revered and respected because they hold the wisdom of past generations. However, at this point in our society, the media has promoted children to act older than they actually are. Therefore, students feel as if they are on the same level as adults. But what students do not understand is that as youth, we are still developing control over our emotions, and most adults that do have control do not speak to each other disrespectfully, even when engaged in a legitimate argument. Students take advantage of teachers who are foreign or who seem to be just a little too nice. Ms. Martin, an English teacher at Leuzinger said, “Most students are respectful in their own way, but sometimes you get students who are jerks”. Although she should probably be repulsed by the jerks in her class, she adds, “in the past I would have taken it personally and been angry, but now I just feel like the students have problems and I’m just the target. It’s not my problem”. She may be one of the few teachers who see the situation from this perspective. If you are having a horrible day, do not take your frustrations out on the teacher. Just keep in mind why you go to school, and remember your teachers are there for to help you, not hurt you. We all should learn to respect one another and be cautious of our behaviors.

SRLA Continued from Pg. 1

one may encounter while running. Completing each one of these races is no easy task, hence Mr. Romo has scheduled a weekly training program, which involves staying after school three days a week and running distances ranging from three to ten miles depending on how close the next competition is. The hard work and commitment towards training for and eventually running the L.A. Marathon does not come unrewarded, as the well-renown Nike shoe company has provided each member of our team with a pair of brand new running shoes to further encourage them. Furthermore, Mr. Romo claims that all previous Leuzinger student runners have not only finished the marathon but also have graduated from high school. In a sense, the previous could be considered as an incentive to the latter. “If they can complete a marathon, graduating high school should be a piece of cake.” Anyone who desires to become part of the SRLA legacy next year can consult with Mr. Romo, who is also looking for further support from teachers and parents. Through this activity, he hopes that students build confidence and realize that “they can do anything they wish and that all is possible.”

Food For Thought

By Robert Huerta

On the way to one’s ultimate destination, we allow ourselves to be afflicted with influences from birth till the tomb. The individual remains in a realm where what it consists of, imposes itself unto him/ her. Constantly there are forces that permeate into the consciousness of one and dwell within, eventually becoming integrated into the inner collection of thoughts and emotions. I ask, is the voice that I hear, mine? A barrage of subjective views and actions overwhelm the senses as we partake in the rituals or actions of impulse that occur over time from our waking moments, to the instance before we enter an unconscious state. Each of which, having been shaped by someone in particular who is either the actual one who had introduced whatever concept is being relayed at some point or the one who relaying the concept at this point. Yet whoever had once been the creator no longer holds any authority for as one is distinct from all others because of the way in which one perceives. He or she who is being introduced to said subject matter now holds the authority in that they are able to then shape or distort whatever it is that makes it into their mind. Though he who is mimicking or interpreting

MAN
OVER
MAN

BY ROBERT HUERTA

According to our contemporary system I am not able to control the mind which supposedly lacks the ability to accept the situation that is this collective existence, I cannot stand responsible for the place and instance which I claim (my body) or the effects of its interactions with all else and so the “I” is not taken into consideration as it is lost in the submission of individuality for the sake of equality, justice, and comfort. Order is what politics seems to enact be it through the means of an intangible force known as the social contract and so for us not to stand liable for others and what they may bring we denounce our freedom and the in-born right to withstand in order to allow one if not all to receive and endure the absurdity that accompanies our waking moments and that of our coexisting beings. We give up the consequences to our actions as a means of leveling out the unknown factors with those that are assumed as being present. The sole man steps back so that he may be amongst his brethren. But, this is no novelty; the governing of man has been a conquest since man himself became aware of his own being and how he himself has had to bare the fruits of his own efforts and whatever particular content which should present itself. In no way can one escape the presence of dominance for the individual strives to dominate himself against the sea of influence that the world imposes on any, and so one must choose which influence he is to fall under, be it that of his own will, the will of others or the will of that which has no distinguishable aspects, which remains itself unable to be used for it is empty and unable to be drained for it is always full (the nothingness that is absurdity); in other words, the will of the abstract which has varying characteristics depending on one’s perspective. Yet the conquering of what it is that surrounds that man who knows the presence of said beings has just as well been a law since the moment that man open his eyes to the unsuspecting world beneath him and heard his

has the ability to mold something into something else, he is only doing it from a reference thus illustrating the question which I first asked, is the voice within one’s mind theirs, or is it a sort of deviation from another’s mouth? If so, would that make the individual nothing more than an imitator, a façade, a liar, for what he does is only a reflection of someone else. Whether the influences that invaded our minds have commandeered and we have become nothing more than products or whether they are what allow us to be, it seems to me that our feelings and the way we feel those feelings as well as our thoughts and what we think of our thoughts are what create some sort of space for us to be what we want to be, ourselves. Bringing forth truth and allowing us to limit the amount of control and influence that the external has, our subjectivity enables our stride towards individuality, actualization, and freedom to be. So just as whatever comes against us or to us has a channel into our self through the senses, those same senses are what create a channel out which allows us to realize for ourselves what is truth and what is not.

THE TORCH
LITERARY CORNER

Your My
By: Howard Robinson

You’re my heaven, you’re my hell
You’re my devil with whom I dwell–
You’re my heart’ you’re my eyes,
You’re my soul that never dies

You’re my mom, you’re my dad
You’re my joy who makes me glad–
You’re my all, you’re my everything
You’re my beloved human being–

You’re the blood in my veins,
You’re my love who keeps me sane–
You’re my cause for my every breath
You’re my reason to defeat death–
You’re my friend, you’re my enemy–
But most o all– your my mommy....

This Is Not Sonnet #09

By: Jefferey A. Figueroa

An unspoken secret of cupid is love
A love that should not be secluded,
like the sun and its flower
Although heaven is paradise in the clouds above,
Life with you is paradise
below the clouds in every hint of sand, in every hour

Feeling disconsolate like the mountains
under the shadow of the day– the night;
Frozen by death’s delightful, bitter breath.
I do not sleep but dream of a drifting,
lovely star’s light that has gone but never left.

Between the sacred silence and sleep,
a rose lays to die.
Dying to be resurrected by the touch of your hands
in these thoughts of you–not deception
A lonely drop of water from the seven seas
may never touch those pedals nor trees; I cry.

Forsaken I be, but love knows no end
only it’s everlasting odyssey–the inception.
Though I cannot touch thy pearl, excessively
like a hawk I search for thy love and thee
For thou is my love and Vi Sono Belli.

The Soul of a Dreamer

By Kevin Diaz

My querulous soul ceases not to complain
For its one quixotic desire seems unreachable

My prolific dreams that never cease to surge
Will they become true?
Do dreams have the propensity of being fulfilled?

Forget my dreams
My querulous soul ceases not to complain
For its one quixotic desire seems unreachable

Tell me a story Mr. Raconteur sir
Will I succeed?
Should I even try?
That’s my quandary

My pugnacious soul will stop at nothing
For fight I must

I must take a prudent step
Let’s just go right at it
Let’s see what happens!

My will power is no provincial joke
I can do it!
Fear I musn’t!

Failure is acceptable
Giving up is unforgivable
Eternal rancor will prevail in my soul, if I should retreat

PERSONA
BY ROBERT HUERTA

What is it to be trapped in the persona that one has created for themselves? Is it to lack an understanding of what it is to be and all the faculties that come along with ones life, or is it a dependency that comes about through experience reliability and comfort. Is it better to stick with the familiar and lose sight of the benefit that comes along with stepping outside ones comfort zone? When one cannot escape the life one has led than does not that individual become a prisoner of their past? Trapped by the idea of the self that has proved to be true in the past all due to a confidence built up because of the appraisals or notice of others. To be all that one has ever been is effortless for it happens continuously but to live in accordance with the current state of here and now requires thought. Do not mistake these words for some sort of speech given to applaud subjectivity, it is merely a fool pondering the meaning of a question asked to him and the extent to which said question steers or

penetrates his life. To be is to be free but to have been and to continue being is something and its contradiction, is it not? If I look around I think of how so many personas stand out in a non-verbal manner, that is to say are openly seen and have probably been predetermined and therefore can be defined as a kind of exhibition. Then I ask, if I continue to be what I have been, am I not lying to myself and to the world of who I am now and who I have become with all the knowledge I hope to have acquired from the experiences that I have had. Am I not only a fraud, a hopeless captain of a sinking ship whose actual end in existence is unknown? To think and to act in accordance with those Thoughts, I feel as though one can liberate themselves from following the path that is so clearly defined and instead control themselves and ponder what it is that is next. Instead of how shall I maintain what already defines me I ask how can I define this?