

Construction renews

by Danika Lyle
News Editor



This summer, voters said yes to Measure E, giving the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District a \$99 million dollar bond for improvements to the LGHS campus. Over the next few years, LGHS will use the money for new buildings, astro-turf, and general repairs. Many students have already been complaining about the inconvenience of losing the front lawn.

Although some students feel uneasy about the effect the construction will have on student life, these construction projects are going to benefit the faculty, the town, and students of LGHS for years to come.

As you have probably noticed, the construction has already started on the front steps and the walkways. This project is long overdue because not only were these steps a hazard, but the walkway was constantly flooding with water when it rained.

Many students have had to relocate for lunch because the lawn is fenced off, but it is a perfect way for students to meet new people, eat somewhere new, or take advantage of open campus. There are many places to go off campus and tons of people you've never talked to; now is the perfect time to do both.

Another project soon to begin is the placement of astro-turf on the fields. This project is going to save the school a large amount of money on labor. Each year LGHS has to spend money on mowing, repairing, and watering the fields. Installing turf is going to save money, save athletes' shirts from grass stains, and save kids with grass allergies from itching. Also, due to the unevenness of the grass, the fields cause many injuries and slips. The turf will not require constant watering, which is very beneficial for conservation in the drought. During the winter when rain is frequent, the field is constantly filled with mud which causes many falls. Getting turf will eliminate mud and the possibility of serious injuries. The majority of schools in our area already have turf fields, so by practicing on turf at school, our teams will be better equipped when they play games at the other fields. The project will be winding down in December, although the turf will take one to two months to set in and take root. The fields should be ready to run on next semester.

One of the biggest projects the bond is going to cover is the construction of two new buildings. The two buildings are going to be for music and general education, and each will provide dozens of new rooms for students. The increase in real estate constructed in Los Gatos means that there will be a rise in amount of students, therefore a need for more classes. The new general education will allow LGHS to expand and for our class sizes to stay relatively small.

All of these Measure E projects are going to improve this school and lower maintenance, make sports safer, and make the school more beautiful. Although the actual construction will be a slight inconvenience at times, the product will be well worth it and will last for many years.

LG Construction is a disruption

by Dakota Rogers
Sports Editor



Since the construction of new buildings and facilities were alluded to during Mr. Autrey's welcome speech at the beginning of the year, ripples of controversy and doubt have passed through the halls of LGHS. It wasn't until Aug. 27, when the entirety of the front lawn was

closed off to allow for construction of the front steps, that students were able to validate their dislike of the project. However, this was only the beginning of a wave of change coming to LGHS.

Measure E recently passed by Los Gatos and Saratoga voters and allocated \$99 million to the Los Gatos and Saratoga Union High School District. LGHS plans to use this money to renovate and repair classrooms, build a new wing of classrooms, install turf on athletic fields, and upgrade the front steps.

The immediate impact of construction on LGHS can be seen in the fence blocking off the front lawn, displacing the many students who normally enjoy that space during lunch time. Since construction won't end until the end of the first semester, students have retreated to the crowded enclosure of the quad or to the sun beaten pavement in the parking lots during lunchtime.

The construction has also required the creation of more parking spots for staff members. These "new" spots have been taken from the junior parking lot, leaving only half of the total spots available to students. These newly assigned staff

spots are often empty when students arrive to school early for parking, and empty when they return to their cars after school. Even though these parking spaces are meant to give more parking spaces to staff members, they are evidently not being utilized. Students have and would take advantage of these parking spaces

Future problems introduced by the project will include construction noises, which disturb the learning environment, as well as even more removal of parking spots to accommodate the new wing of classrooms. Furthermore, the replacement of LGHS athletic fields with turf will make the fields temporarily unavailable, hampering practices for LGHS's sports teams. Practices and games will have to be moved or cancelled, causing huge inconveniences for both coaches and players.

While these inconveniences may seem minor, students at LGHS have taken positions opposing the construction. Many students have already made formal complaints to administration, but have heard no response. They have seized our parking spots, hindered our ability to learn, and halted our sports, all without publicizing an explanation for the students. They have failed to explain why these changes need to be made now, during school hours, or at all.

While the bond was on the election ballot on June 3, 2014 and approved, construction on the steps was not started until hardly a week after school began. Instead of major progress being made during summer while LGHS was empty, construction begins now, and nearly 2,000 LGHS students are inconvenienced in ways that could have been avoided. Scan the QR Code below for more articles on construction.



K. Hinsche



<http://goo.gl/mTe7IS>

Scan the QR code or use the link above for more articles on construction

Military-grade weapons are not necessary for local police

by Mhairi Finlayson
Web Editor



When Michael Brown was shot and killed by police officer Darren Wilson, protests erupted throughout Ferguson, Missouri. Protesters crowded the streets angry about the racism still clearly

present in the US when a white police officer can kill an unarmed black teenager with almost no repercussions. The police response to the protests was a violent overreaction made possible by their supply of military-grade weapons and riot gear. The government should not be providing equipment designed to combat terrorism to local police forces, especially as it only exacerbates the violence instead of decreasing it.

The police in Ferguson have received two Humvees, a generator, and a cargo trailer since 2007 from the Pentagon's Defense Logistics Agency. The St.

Louis County Police Department, which also provides police in Ferguson, now has 12 rifles, 15 weapon sights, six pistols, seven Humvees, three helicopters, a bomb disposal robot and two night-vision devices through the program.

Having been given military-grade weapons, the police in Ferguson did not hesitate to use them. Protesters in Ferguson were faced with stun grenades and tear gas; the latter is forbidden in warfare by the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993. However, no agreement was made in 1993 that bars a nation from using it against its own citizens, which is why the police in Ferguson can fire tear gas upon their citizens.

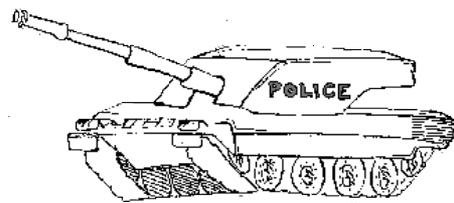
This demonstration of excessive force by the police is unnecessary and serves in many ways to provoke and incite violence instead of calming it down. The role of police in our society is to protect and serve the people. The seemingly indiscriminate use of military-grade weapons has become so harmful as no longer to fulfill their original purpose. When

a person wears a uniform that closely resembles military gear and carries a gun based on the M4 carbine that is used by the military, it becomes hard to believe that their aim is non combative and instead is to defend the people whose heads they level their guns at.

Several countries around the world - including Russia, Egypt, and China - have spoken out about the hypocrisy of the US in relation to Ferguson. All three believe that police in the US should exercise greater restraint when dealing with protesters and should demonstrate a high standard of morality by example before condemning other countries for their treatment of their citizens. People are stunned worldwide by the extreme measures police have taken in dealing with street protests. The US is destroying its reputation as a free state and upholder of human rights. The actions of the police in Ferguson are so gratuitously forceful as to be harmful to this nation, and particularly to the citizens of Ferguson.

The police force in the US has been provided

with unnecessary amounts of military-grade equipment, which are then used inappropriately to subdue protesters. The situation in Ferguson has brought to light the problems that occur due to the overmilitarization of the police, and change must be implemented immediately in order to prevent future incidents of this kind. The government must seriously reconsider its policy of giving high grade weapons to police forces around the country in view of the harmful effects it has on our society alongside its general ineffectiveness in protecting and serving the people of this country.



S. Sullivan

Brutal Hollywood blockbusters inspire violence in teens

by Jessica Blough
Culture Editor



Louisville, Kentucky, recently captured the attention of the media when a high school student tweeted an image announcing the "Louisville Purge," which was set to take place on Aug. 15 from 8:00 PM to 6:30 AM. The poster circulated through social media before capturing the attention of the police department and school district.

A purge is a period of twelve hours where all crime is legal, based off of The Purge and The Purge: Anarchy movies. Though the Louisville Purge never occurred, it is a prime example

of how Hollywood has perpetuated violent behavior by creating copycats and apathy to violence.

By glorifying violence in movies, Hollywood has created copycat crimes which have real life consequences. In 2012, James Holmes dressed as the Joker and opened fire at a midnight showing of The Dark Knight Rises. He killed twelve people and injured 58 others. Holmes was quiet and depressed before the shooting. He had recently broken up with his girlfriend, sending him further into his depression. In his fragile mental state, he justified his impulsive actions because

the Joker, his obsession, would act that way.

Video games also play a part in creating violence. In Sep. 2013, Aaron Alexis shot and killed twelve people at a US naval base. Alexis spent hours a day playing military-based video games, including popular Call of Duty. His friends and psychologists agree that the games largely contributed to his poor mental state, which led to him shooting innocent people. Evidence on his phone suggests that Alexis had no intention of surviving the attack; he planned to be killed in action, like the players in the video games. The games desensitized him to violence and human pain. His passion for the game twisted his mind to the point that he justified killing others.

Copycats and apathy both play a part in shootings that occur on campuses and in other public places. Violence in media models and can even encourage violent and unpredictable reactions from people who are mentally unstable and susceptible to such influences. For example, college students, such as the shooters at UCSB and Virginia Tech, can find justification in harming ostracizing peers because of violence in movies. They think the solution to their problems is to react with violence, as movies and media have taught them, rather than to search for a peaceful solution.

Sources: abcNEWS, USA today



courtesy pixabay.com