

Domestic abuse is never okay, regardless of gender

by Ruth Murai
People Editor



Emma Roberts is a petite, white, actress known for her comedic roles in darker films, while Chris Brown is a Grammy-winning African American rapper. Despite appearances, these two are, in

many ways, the same. Both have committed acts of domestic violence against their significant others, yet the public loves one, and hates the other.

Who could forget the public outrage that followed the photos of a bloody and bruised Rihanna, beaten by her boyfriend Chris Brown? If the public anger was immense at first, it only grew when Rihanna forgave Brown. Then continued to date him for some time. This past July, the same sequence of events occurred once again, only with two new celebrities, and a different public reaction.

Actress Emma Roberts was arrested in July

after a neighbor called the police for a “domestic disturbance.” When police arrived, they found that Roberts had punched and bitten her boyfriend Evan Peters, and she was arrested on charges of domestic abuse. Peters refused to press charges and the couple remains together. The public remains unfazed, even admiring Peters for his capacity to forgive.

While I in no way condone the celebrity obsession that plagues our nation, I believe the lack of a public reaction points to a larger, more significant issue. When a male hit a female, the public protested, but when a female hit a male, nobody seemed bothered. While I undoubtedly support the public opinion that men should not hit their girlfriends or wives, the lack of a reaction to Emma Roberts’ arrest leads me to wonder if Americans think it’s okay for a woman to hit her boyfriend or husband.

It’s true that most domestic abuse cases tend to deal with a man who has acted in a violent way towards a woman, but that’s not to say that violence against men from women does not exist. In fact, violence towards men tends to be even more

serious. 15% of all domestic abuse cases have male victims, and in cases of extreme or serious injury, 40% of the victims are men. Our society often forces male victims of domestic violence to put on a strong façade, and for that reason very few men come forward when they are being physically abused by their male or female partners.

The truth about domestic violence is simpler than it seems. If you enter an intimate and romantic relationship with someone, it is not okay to hit them—ever. Whether you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual the fact remains the same. Violence against a significant other is never okay, and those who commit acts of domestic abuse should be treated the same whether they are male or female. Emma Roberts should face the exact same scrutiny that Chris Brown has faced since hitting Rihanna. The severity of her act is not in any way lessened by her gender or her victim’s.

Some say that love conquers all, but I disagree. When someone hits the person he or she is intimately or romantically involved with, the abuser

deserves to be left. Love cannot conquer domestic abuse, because no one deserves to be subjected to violence, especially not from the person they love. (Sources: InTouch, Domestic Violence Statistics)



courtesy Wikimedia

U.S. involvement in Syria is not the correct choice

by Naimh Doyle
Opinion Editor



If all were to go according to plan in an idealistic world given this conflict in Syria, the United States would give Syria a metaphorical cuff around the head and a time out. Translated into the real world, this equates to a few military strikes on certain target regions of the country to send the message that Obama has been so eager to spread: the use of chemical weapons is not acceptable, and will not be tolerated. The Syrian government would then continue its governmental functions quietly and without complaint—message received.

If only international politics were that simple. Though Obama’s plan to bring an end to the Syrian government’s misuse of dangerous and tabooed weaponry is admirable and

moral, the side effects of this proposal could be disastrous.

The United States slaves away to maintain its international position as the fair and just administrator of justice. There is no justice, however, in the collateral damage that would likely be caused by these missiles launched into Syria. Further death of Syrian civilians, regardless of the cause, won’t compensate for the thousands of lives destroyed by the Syrian government.

Beyond the moral question, how certain is the administration its action can be contained to delivering a single, lethal, military warning? We need look no further than Iraq to see an action that started as tweaking the nose of a dictator that ended in a full scale war that lasted long after and cost far more than the US administration predicted.

The question is not whether or not the US is morally-driven enough to intervene in Syria, it is whether the US is moral enough to man-up, sit down, and proceed with necessary caution concerning highly sensitive and potentially explosive affairs.



courtesy Wikimedia

Obama’s goal isn’t too avant-garde. In fact, it’s completely logical. I want the Syrian government to pay for its crimes against its citizens just as much as the president does. Wouldn’t a peaceful, democratic Syria be ideal? Of course! But the action the US is planning on taking now isn’t a strategy. It’s barely a plan. It’s a sequence of actions that could lead to possibly catastrophic results.

Action is necessary—everybody understands this. The US is under a great deal of pressure

to uphold an international reputation as a country that acts on its word and that is a possible threat to all those who don’t abide by international law. But we’re talking about the idea of recklessly sending missiles into a country that will kill the defenseless and aggravate the dangerous. Frankly, we don’t know what will come of this. Can the United States afford to find out?

For the opposing opinion, view this story on our website www.elgatonews.com.

ASB Parking unfair

by Quincey Klein
Editor-in-Chief



When we elect ASB officers at LGHS, we are doing so because we want them to lead our school, not because we want them to receive automatic assigned school parking spaces.

Although they play a vital role, senior parking spaces do not help them perform their duties any more efficiently or competently. Yet year after year, the officers are guaranteed parking. This privilege is an abuse of power, elevating them above the student body that they are supposed to be supporting and representing.

With only seventy assigned parking spaces for a class of 430 seniors, many of whom drive to school every day, parking spaces are a hot commodity. Students who are interested in an assigned parking space for the semester enter a raffle and fate decides whether or not they win. This spot allows seniors the precious luxury of sleeping in a little later, the flexibility when coming in late from an appointment, and the sense of comfortable familiarity. Those who struggle every day for first-come-first-serve parking understand the horror of searching row by row for parking when there simply aren’t any spots left. People who cannot find parking are forced to find parking off campus, even if it is illegal or far away.

Five ASB officers get to bypass this process completely. Although the loss of five parking spots may seem trivial, it is the structure that it promotes that makes it so alarming. Because they are guaranteed parking spaces, ASB officers are then designated as seniors of exalted status. This puts them above other leaders of the student body, such as sports captains, club presidents, and peer-to-peer program directors. The administration does not grant these other student leaders any special privileges.

It is a rare instance in which a guaranteed parking spot would aid an ASB officer in roles in the leadership class. The parking spot is instead just a perk instead of a necessity. It is like a bonus that takes away privileges from their classmates. Every senior should have an equal chance at getting a space, as we are all supposed to be equals.

When the recipients of the parking spaces were posted in the main hall to see, the ASB officers were listed among the “winners” even though they technically had not won the raffle. This gives an illusion of fairness to the public. The fact that some students are on the list because of special privilege is unknown to all except those who have inside information about the going-ons of the leadership class.

The ASB officers should be treated with the same fairness as any other senior at the school. Although they should be respected and thanked for the services they perform for LGHS, they should not enjoy privileges taken away from other students.



Musicals are also athletic

by Rheagan Rizio
Sports Editor



Physical education is a requirement that must be fulfilled in order to graduate. Students must complete twenty units, and with five units given per semester, this breaks down into two years total.

In the past, all students could earn PE credits by participating in a sport. This year, this is no longer the case for freshmen, who now must complete a year of Health and Fitness, but it is still a viable option for the other grades. Doing sports is an extremely fun and rewarding use of time, but it is also very time-consuming. For students who do other extracurriculars, it is often difficult to do a sport while balancing other activities. This is especially true for those who participate in musical theater. The time musicals take up, as well as the work involved in productions, should qualify for P.E. credits at LGHS..

Participating in a musical is a very demanding activity. For the most part, participants have rehearsal every day - even those who aren’t leads - and there is very little down-time during rehearsals to work on homework. When learning vocals, even when the director is teaching a different part, it is necessary to pay attention because if not, you will not know how a chord is supposed to sound, and will likely sing your part incorrectly. Singing for hours every day is very taxing on the vocal cords, and even after all the vocals are perfected, which takes several weeks, the busy work is not over. Most, if not all, musicals require physical activity through the dancing involved. Performing flawlessly onstage requires hours of choreography: learning it, practicing it, and perfecting it. Dance moves and combinations are run through multiple times every rehearsal, and the dancing is hard work.

The week or two leading up to the show is the most time-consuming. This is called tech week, and is where the show moves from the rehearsal space

to the stage. Tech rehearsals can last for hours, and oftentimes run until well after midnight. Rehearsals consist of multiple run throughs, which are constantly stopped to allow for lighting adjustments and edits in blocking. The numbers are run multiple times as well, which typically means doing the same choreography over and over, to perfect it for the show. This is very physically demanding on all involved.

When the run finally starts, cast members are expected to put on multiple performances a day, to arrive at least two hours early, and to stay after each performance to go over notes. Oftentimes after performances, numbers are run again (after notes are given), and choreography is re-run multiple times, to fix the mistakes in time for the next show. It is exhausting work, but one that participants are happy to do in order to make the show as good as possible.

Schools should consider giving P.E. credit to musical theater participants. Shows are just as, if not more, time consuming than many sports, and the choreography required in the show provides extensive physical involvement. Many students also get P.E. credit through independent study. To qualify for this, they must be involved with their sport a minimum of ten hours per week. Most musicals more than cover this time requirement.

By not counting musical theater as P.E., schools appear to be supporting sports over the arts. It also discourages many from participating, because they choose to take care of their required P.E. credits instead. It forces those who are dedicated to performing to take part in another sport that takes up valuable time that could be spent doing homework. It would be much easier for school districts to count musical theater as a P.E. credit—more people would participate, and the schools would be openly supporting the arts. Participants who had previously been forced to do both a sport and a show would have much more free time to work on homework, and improve their grades. It would benefit everyone involved, and should be seriously considered by the school board.