

# The Lincoln Liberator

Issue: 1

Independent Student Newspaper

## A Liberator is Born

In this world where all our thoughts and even desires are dictated by media or the financial interest of someone trying to sell you something, there is an incredible need for an independent newspaper made to embrace and inspire. We created *The Lincoln Liberator* to form an environment where students can openly discuss issues in their community without fear of censorship or non-constructive disapproval. The *Liberator* encourages you to contribute to our newspaper. Add as little as a joke or a drawing to as much as an article or a poem.

**This is a medium for you  
to get your voice heard.**

*Liberator* hopes that this newspaper will open student's eyes to a global view of the world, while showing that in order to make the world a better place, you need to start locally.

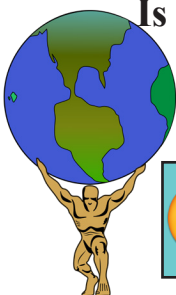
Cont. on pg. 8

## Featured



## New Orange Players on the World Stage

Read about it on pg. 8



### Is the World Really Round?

Some people have doubts and go to extreme lengths to prove it.

Read on pg. 5



**Games, jokes, comics,  
and other fun stuff.**

## Lincoln Students take Action



March 14th, known as Pi day, is an informal, international holiday celebrating mathematics and education around the world. This year, however, it took on a different label for the students of America -- Walkout Day.

It all started almost 250 years ago, when the founding fathers sat down together to create an infrastructure for our country. At that time, America had just won independence using very awkward front load muskets with little more than two rounds per person and a horn of free gunpowder. With said system, the founding fathers expressed the need to establish a makeshift army, or militia, just in case England wanted their land back. They wrote the Second Amendment, which gives people the "Right to bear arms", not aware of



what the future of the weapons industry had in store. As with almost everything else, incredible innovations came about amongst firearms. Some of these advances included cartridge bullets, action loaded guns, and automatic firearms which were designed for military purposes to kill as many people in as little time as possible.

Cont. on pg. 2



## Lincoln Students Take Action

(cont. from pg. 1)

Though it seems insane that such tools of terror should be available to the general public, that is the sad reality of the modern USA.

This in mind, it comes as no surprise that horrible disasters have struck, involving mentally unstable youngsters, troubled, or extremely angry people with access to big guns. One target is schools, where young, innocent kids offer lots of opportunity for terror and little resistance. One such event was the recent Parkland shooting. On February 14, a man came into a Florida high school with an automatic firearm and killed 17 students and staff members. It was a tragedy, and the nation viewed it as such. But the saddest part was that this was just the latest of many such disasters. Finally, American students decided to stand up for their own safety and for a peaceful country.

**“Kids and young students across the country are rising up and raising their voices.”**



On March 14, tens of thousands of students across our nation came together, using the power of social media, to tell the US what the coming generation thinks of our incredibly outdated gun control system. In Lincoln, too, over two thirds of the students walked out of class to protest gun violence and to demand stricter gun control laws. They were making sacrifices themselves, as all students who participated received a tardy. Although the school threatened to give a truancy to everyone who stepped off campus, the threat, in most cases, was never fulfilled.

Even though the event attracted national attention, no serious progress has been made, so the fight continues on. April 20th, 19 years after shooters killed 12 students in Columbine High School, has been chosen by the movement to be the next front for the protest. Again students across



the nation are rallying together to tell our leaders what they think of the lax gun laws, abundant firearm possession, and the resulting high rate of extreme violence.

If you believe that the right to live in a peaceful society comes before the right to own a gun, you can demonstrate by

“Walking Out” of school, or just out of class in memory of those who have fallen victim to gun violence, and to protest against outdated gun-laws. Truancy is a serious offense, however, so this event is only for the very committed. Only walk out if you are willing to pay the price and don’t let anyone persuade you differently. But the *Liberator* is committed and will be joining our brothers and sisters nationwide standing up for our right to life.

**The walkout on April 20th will last from 10:00 AM for as long as it takes to get our voice heard.**

Kids and young students across the country are rising up and raising their voices. Their opinion is that we can’t just be quiet bystanders to our own fate. “We should refuse to be sitting ducks! We should not be just casualties of the money making gun industry and of politicians with self-serving agendas!” D.S.



Faculty urging students back to class

## Taking a Knee

Recently we have seen many celebrities and athletes protest the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem. Many have protested for a variety of reasons such as ethical disagreements with the country's leadership, or not wanting to be silent bystanders to recent demoralizing events, and to actions of intolerance and bigotry, or they are protesting because they are questioning the pledge itself.

The First Amendment says that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech. This means you have the right to your own religion and beliefs, can peacefully protest, and have freedom of speech. I have seen many fellow students including myself protest the Pledge of Allegiance by sitting or kneeling and this is completely lawful.

Some with opposing views say this practice is not respecting neither our country nor the troops protecting you and me. While others say that they are not protesting against our troops only against the unfair practices going on. In the end it's your choice to sit or stand for any reason. J.G.



In order to bring you the fullest picture, the *Liberator* does not, as an organization, take a political stance, but most of our contributors do kneel during the pledge of allegiance.

## Truth Conspiracy Column

A disc-shaped UFO was spotted on April 4th in Buena Park, California.

Remember to always wear a tinfoil hat to prevent alien mind-control.

Always be vigilant and report any suspicious behavior on our website.



## Introducing the Liberators Circle

In times of everyday social networking and video games, it often seems as though no student has ambition to be a change-maker. It seems like nobody is inspired to be a positive influence on their community. But a select few push themselves to do great things. Lincoln Middle School is full of changemakers.

*Liberator* honors changemakers.

"Liberator's Circle" is an honorary society whose mission is to celebrate those at LMS who exemplify extraordinary efforts to positively influence their school, city, or world community. Anybody can be awarded membership any time they do something inspiring or positively influential.

Members receive an honorary certificate.

If you believe that somebody in the school deserves membership in *Liberator's Circle*, you can nominate them online or with an email.

We hope that this helps to inspire everyone to step up, in ways big or small.



## Joke of the Week

A mindfulness expert comes with a giant gong to help teach a class how to meditate. After a long and tedious exercise the students go restless and much to the disapproval of their teacher start fidgeting and moving around.

When the gong suddenly overturns all of the students eagerly rush to go pick it up, but they are firmly stopped by their teacher.

"Remember what the expert says. Keep all outside distractions out of your mind. Breath in, breath out, and practice patience!" she says.

"But..."

"Please follow the directions: Quiet your mind. Breath slowly in ... and slowly out."

"Now, don't you feel better?" - she asks at the end of the long class.

"Yes, but I don't think the expert does" says a student.

"Why?"

"Because he's been trapped under the gong."

G.O.



## How to Make an Effective Tinfoil Cap

1. Measure your head, with a tape measure, from your forehead to the base of your head
2. Unroll twice this amount of tinfoil, plus four inches.
3. Mold foil around your head so it fits snugly.



4. Don your stylish cap.

5. Scream to the entity trying to control you: "Ha, foiled again!" A.H.





## World Aware

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Population** - 83,301,151

**Mean age** - 18.6 years

**Area** - 1457027.211 sq. miles

**Comp. Area** - ~ One fourth the size of the US

**Climate** - Tropical

**HIV/AIDS rate** - 0.7%

**Literacy** - 77%

**Capital** - Kinshasa

**Gov.** - semi- presidential republic

**Main Industry** - Mining

**GDP** - \$40.42 billion

These days, computers seem like the most prevalent things in society. We barely ever even double guess ourselves when we buy the newest iPhone, gaming computers, or apple product. We view it as the coolest new toy, but it is often difficult for many of us to see beyond the screen.

Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the richest lands in natural resources, most notably semiconductors. Semiconductors are a special type of material that are crucial to the operation of computers. They are so important, in fact, that the world market for it is over \$335 billion. Unfortunately, all this has not worked out very well for the people of DRC. Recent civil war and political unrest has made Central Africa a bit of a mess and much of the semiconductor minelands are controlled either by militant terrorist groups or by corrupt governments, both of which, desperate for their own share of the enormous market. They use whatever means necessary to get the valuable minerals out of the ground and this often means using child labor with long hours and grueling conditions, and even slavery. These children have no access to education and are forced to break rocks all day so their families can survive. Groups are often so desperate for the mines that nasty wars often erupt between them, in which innocent locals inadvertently get involved.

Next time, when you rather ditch school to play a video game, think about what children across the world have to go through just to make your electronic device. They don't have a chance to go to school and they need to work like slaves so we can have another frivolous toy.



There are ways, however, in which you can help. Electronics companies will often try to convince you that you need to purchase the latest device on their market, when your old one works just as well. Don't fall for the trap. Also, instead of throwing them out, recycle old computers at appropriate locations so parts can be reused. When you go to buy a new device, make sure that it is "conflict mineral free" so you know that you are not forcing a child to labor and supporting a violent terrorist organization.

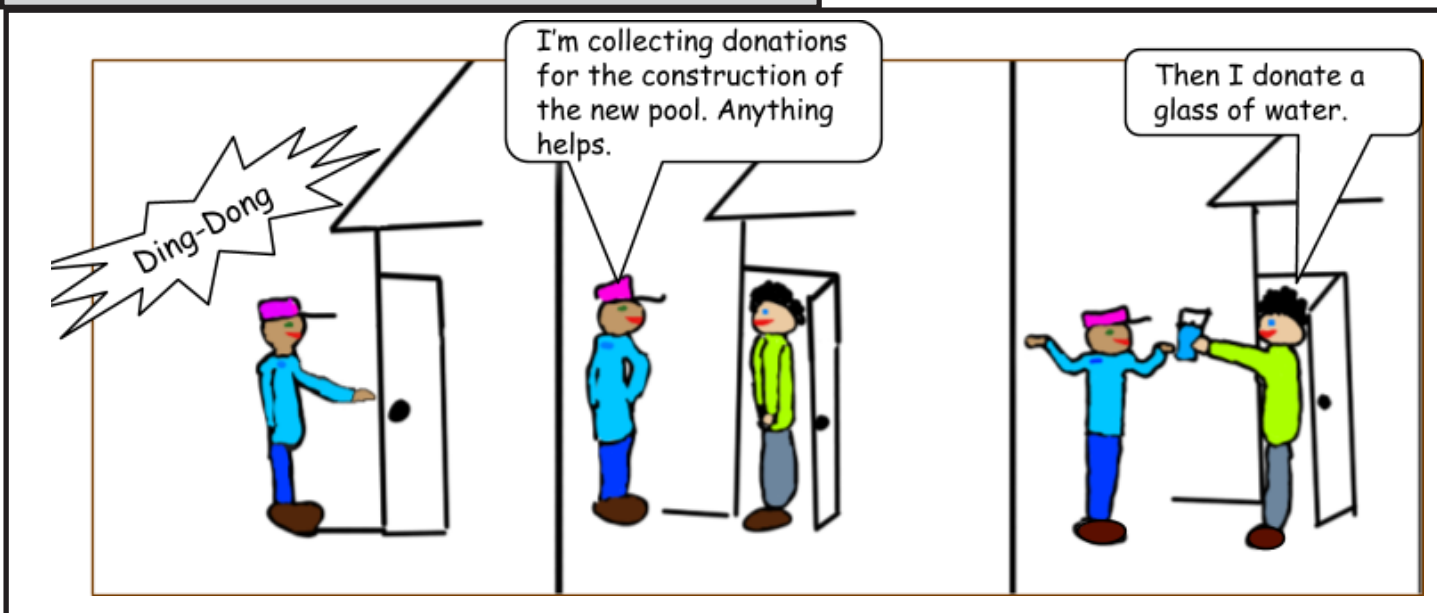
C.G.



## Comic

### Donations for the New Pool

*The Lincoln Liberator* is setting up an old electronics recycling box in the library. It is a safe place to recycle your used devices.



**Are you an aspiring graphic novelist, artist, or jokester?**  
Email us your comic or joke and we may include it in our next publication.

## Dear Abe, Letters to the Editor

Dear Abe,  
I got in trouble for kneeling for the pledge of allegiance. I can see that it annoys my homebase teacher. What should I do? Do NFL football players get detention for kneeling during the anthem?

John

Dear Reader,  
NFL football players do not get in trouble for kneeling during the anthem. They have the freedom of speech, and political speech is the most protected form of it. About the pledge, I recommend that you talk with your homebase teacher after school. You can probably compromise to kneel as long as you don't disrupt the class or make a big deal out of it.

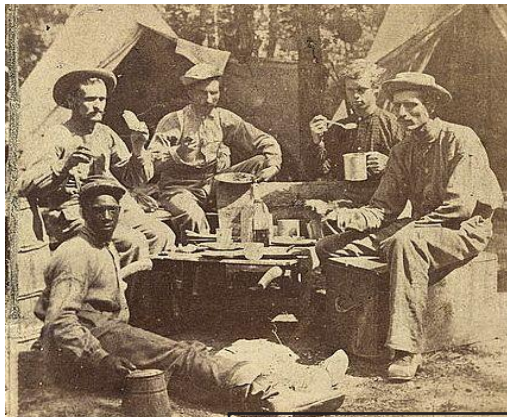
P.S. Look at me taking a knee for the pledge of allegiance:



Dear Abe,  
In recent times I have been extremely disappointed by the quality of food situation at Lincoln Middle School. I mean to say, have you tried the @#%\$&\*! tater-tots? Dry as #\*\$^?. And like yesterday I saw the BBQ dude like walking out with the frozen patties and all that &%#, and they looked like \*&%^#!@ dog- @#\*\$.  
Rick J.

Dear Reader,  
First of all, watch your mouth. Use more, how do I say this, elegant words. I made thousands of speeches without a single potty word. At least you aren't fighting the Civil War. I would love to tell you what they ate, but I really want to maintain my anti-potty mouth streak. Suffice to say, they dreamt of "Barbeque Dude" burgers every day.

P.S. Here is a photograph:



Dear Abe,  
I'd like to know a little bit about you. What is your favorite food? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite color?

Rose L.

Dear Reader,  
You are right, how utterly rude of myself not to introduce myself to yourself. You may address me as Abe, but my full name is Abraham "Honest Abe" Lincoln. My favorite foods are bacon, apples, corn cakes, oysters, and those little gingerbread men. My favorite animals are cats and turkeys. I kept a bunch of both in that nice, big, white-colored house I used to live in. They didn't mix very well, though... When I was little, I also loved pigs. I personally raised one on my family homestead. I am a great lover of animals. My favorite color is blue.

P.S. Here is a photo of me and my dog:



## The Strange, Unusual, or Plain Up Odd Column Proving the Earth is... Splat

In *Liberator's* opinion, the Earth is round. Some people have a slightly different mindset. Among them is limousine driver "Mad" Mike Hughes, a dedicated flat-Earther who doesn't believe in science.

To prove the Earth was flat, he built a steam rocket out of salvage parts in his garage. Last year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stopped him from launching on public land, but on March 24th of this year he was permitted to launch off of a private property, which is exactly what he did. He hurled himself into the air with his makeshift, steam-powered projectile.

But regardless of whether one believes in science or not - gravity exists. [citation needed] Because of it, after ascending 2,000 feet into the air, he also descended 2,000 feet. Oops.

Although his attempt to prove that the Earth is flat could have ended much worse for him, he suffered no serious injuries. He even plans to put his name on the next ballot for California state governor, and he also plans to launch again soon.  
E.V.



# Businesses, Events, and Other Things to Support and Enjoy

## Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club

### When:

Second Friday of every month, 7-9 PM

### Where:

11811 Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

### Who:

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

**Next time:** The club will be discussing the Huygens Probe.

### What:

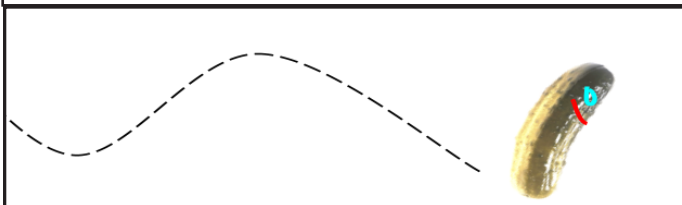
The Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club is a great community of all types of people coming together for the love of astronomy and all science in general. It is a great place to go if you have specific questions you want answered, you want to broaden your knowledge, or if you like heated scientific debates. Meetings usually consist of a presentation by an expert from NASA, JPL, or another astronomical or aerospace group, and a time to discuss the most exciting scientific news. Topics range from breakthroughs in physics, such as gravitational waves, to discoveries from our most recent missions including Dawn and the asteroid belt, New Horizons and Pluto, and Cassini. There is a very wide range of experience in the club, so however much you know (or don't) is welcome.

For more info go to [samoastronomy.org](http://samoastronomy.org).



## Fun Facts

- A hill in New Zealand is named Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateatu-riputakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu. This means "The summit where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, the slider, climber of mountains, the land-swallower who traveled about, played his nose flute to his loved one."
- Every day is about 55 billionths of a second longer than the day before it.
- Want to lose weight? Chewing gum burns about 11 calories per hour.
- In Connecticut, pickles must be bounced to be legal



## Food for Thought

Answer these questions on our website and your reply may be published next issue. The best ideas will win prizes.

1. What is the best system of gun control?
2. What is the craziest way you can think of for finding a needle in a haystack using only a pitchfork, a blender, a bucket of water, and a cow?
3. What is the best way to surpass a "huge wall"?
4. What is the best use of a bendy straw besides for drinking?
5. What is the most efficient way to bounce pickles (see left)? Practice and send us a photo or a video. We will publish the funniest tries on our website.

## Inspirational Quotes

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

-Mark Twain

If someone else has started something, like a newspaper, don't criticize it, but get involved instead.

-Someone Smart

The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The next best time is now.

-South African Proverb

The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.

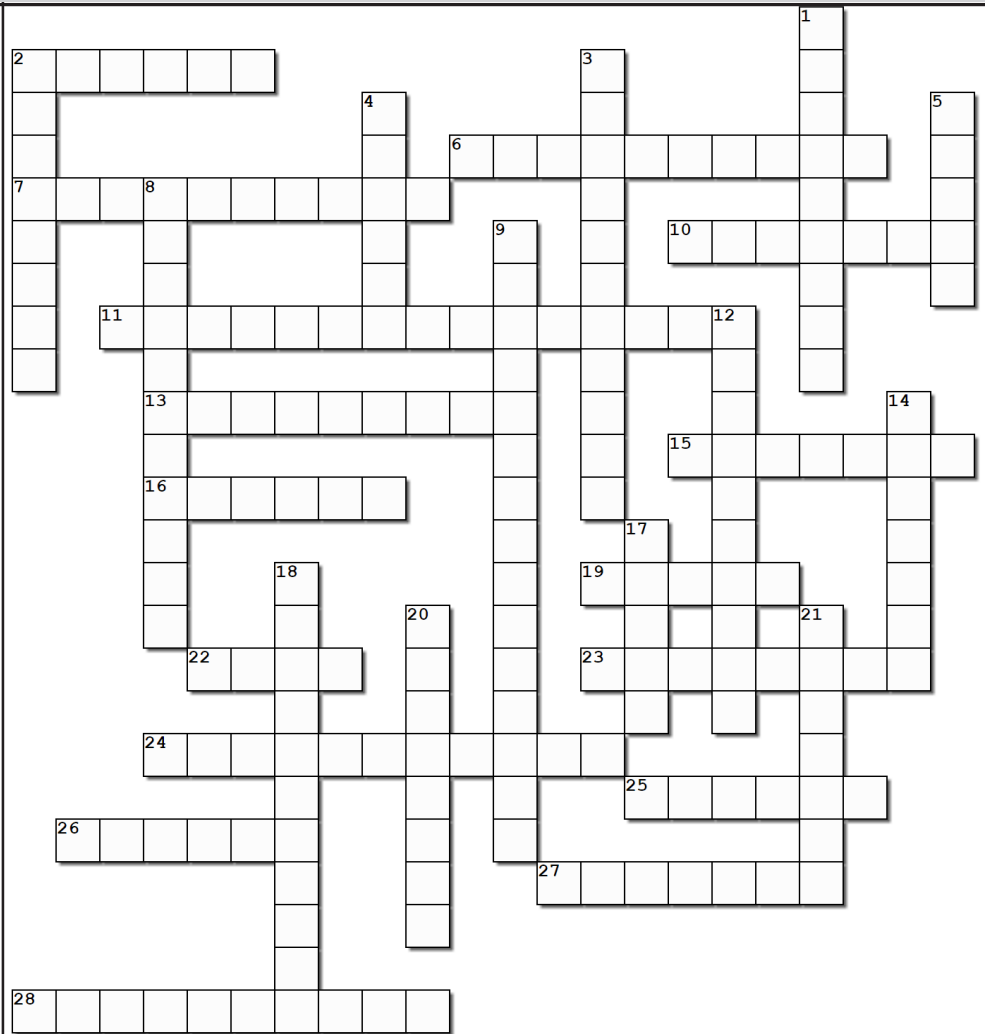
-Martin Luther King Jr.

# The Lincoln Liberator

## Crossword Puzzle



This crossword uses words from the issue.  
If you solve it, email us a picture with your name and homebase and you will get a special prize!  
(lmsliberator@gmail.com)  
Good Luck!



### Across

2. A large bird commonly eaten on thanksgiving, one of Abraham Lincoln's favorite foods
6. Almost extinct
7. Loyalty and commitment
10. A large island in western Indonesia, home of the new orangutan specie
11. An honorary society for Lincoln students who ignite positive change
13. An ape known for its distinct orange color
15. A name for gun or other ballistic
16. A particular type of gun used in the American Revolution, which is inaccurate and front-loading
19. The planet on which we live
22. A prejudice for or against a particular thing
23. Given for respect rather than being earned
24. "Run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the \_\_\_\_ man."
25. An educational institution
26. The song of a nation
27. Someone who learns

### Down

1. A person who frees (and the name of this publication)
2. A newly discovered species of Orangutan
3. A person who believes the Earth is flat
4. A self propelled, combustion powered ariel vehicle
5. A day celebrating a number used to calculate various parts of a circle
8. The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives
9. The article in the US constitution that give people the 'right to bear arms'
12. When a particular species completely dies out, noun form
14. That force that makes things fall
17. Strips of cured pork meat from the sides of the belly of a pig, layered with fat.
18. A person who makes change
20. Grilling food over fire
21. An event involving students leaving campus to protest gun violence

# Lead to a Better World



# The Ape Adversity



A few months ago, researchers on the island of Sumatra released that they have discovered a new species of Orangutan called the Tapanuli. It is isolated from the other species, the Bornean and the Sumatran, as it lives only in a single high-elevation mountain by the name of Batang Toru. Previously thought to be Sumatran, tedious scans of bones, DNA analysis, and the unique looks of the ape has proven it to be an unmistakably different creature. The sad part of the story is not only true for this creature but also for many other animals.

**As soon as the orangutan was discovered, it was already on the brink of extinction,** with only 300 individuals left. Shockingly every day 150 to 200 plants and animals go extinct. Many of them have not even been discovered yet. We are in the midst of what is called the Sixth Great Extinction, the fifth marked the end of the dinosaurs. This one is solely our fault. It is an obvious evidence that we need a change.

**Sing this song with us during the walkout,  
if you feel inspired to do so...**

**Walk With Me**  
by Maggie Wheeler

I walk in the spirit  
I walk in the light.  
\*I walk through the darkest hours of night.  
And I call all my ancestors to my left and my right  
to walk with me, to walk with me  
\*I walk in the service of doing what's right  
\*I walk for the children and their right to survive  
\*I walk with my neighbors to fight the good fight

**A Liberator is Born** cont. from pg.1

Small things at school have the potential to help the whole world. This is a medium for you to get those small things and thoughts out.

Although nothing may be perfect in the universe, but, as the inhabitants of it, it's our job to tread responsibly and keep our only Earth as close to perfect as we can. After all, whatever we do will not only affect us now but also the future, and the generations yet to come.

***Liberator asks everyone reading this to form their opinions on their own, and away from others' biases.***

Come visit us at our website!  
[lincolnliberator.wordpress.com](http://lincolnliberator.wordpress.com)



Want to liberate with us? Email us at [lmsliberator@gmail.com](mailto:lmsliberator@gmail.com) and we'll get you on board!

**Teachers:** If you want a class copy of our bi-weekly publication delivered to your mailbox, send us an email and we'll set it up.

Have a comment? Request a retraction? Want to see more of something? We want to hear what you think. Let us know your opinion via e-mail or leave a comment on our website.

**Note: The Lincoln Liberator is not affiliated with, associated to, funded, or run by Lincoln Middle School, its staff, booster clubs, student body, or other campus resources. It is fully a student run, student led, and student edited newspaper. It is not intended to promote, demote, or otherwise effect the school atmosphere. It is protected by California Education Code 48907.**