

The HILIFE

Tennis goes to State
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Prom Pictures

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This is America

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CCISD teaches job skills through H.E.A.R.T.S

Maddie Moore

Around Creek Editor

Recently parents have been expressing their concerns about Clear Creek Independent School District and their special education programs. On May 7, The Galveston Daily News released an article in their paper regarding a parent group known as Parents for Special Education Reform in CCISD "accusing officials of covering up abuse and misdeeds in its special education programs". The group, led by Marta Brain, has since put up several billboards along I-45 and FM 518 accusing CCISD of mistreatment of its children in the special education program, and protested at the upcoming school board meeting on May 21. The billboard depicts a child whose mouth is covered by a set of hands and reads "Stand up for Clear Creek ISD Special Needs Children," followed by the location and date of the upcoming board meeting.

In response to these parent's accusations, Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith sent out a memo to all CCISD staff members.

"The District's special education department from the paraprofessionals and teachers in the classroom to the diagnosticians and special education administrators take great care of students. They work tirelessly and many times, in very difficult situations involving children with extreme behavior to its core mission questioned so publicly [by the] Parents for Special Education Reform in CCISD," Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith, in response to the Parents for Special Education Reform in CCISD, said.

Despite the negative publicity, Ms. Evelyn Quoyeser and Ms. Zeynep Koseoglu, team leaders of the special education department at Clear Creek High School, continue to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. They care for

the individual students every single day.

"We aren't in it for the pay. We continue to do what we know is best for the kids." Ms. Koseoglu said.

CCISD high schools offer several different programs for students with special needs in order to prepare them for the future. Options for students are plentiful.

money the HEARTS program earns is used to further improve their program and the school as a whole. Last year a share of the funds Wildcat Wakeup earned was used to purchase the wood needed to build the benches in Creek's courtyard and to pay for SAT tests for Creek students who could not afford it.

"The parents of the students [who have

Fruits of the students' labor are preserves from the garden, natural soaps, even loafahs, which come from squash. Profits are plowed back into the program. The grand prize is what's given the students who tend it-a sense of purpose." The complete video can be found on the League City Garden Club website.

When asked about the 8.5 percent "cap" the Texas Education Agency had instituted, Ms. Quoyeser responded by saying, "We don't go off of a cap; we go off of our student's needs. We always put our students first," Ms. Quoyeser said.

For the past five school years, CCISD has almost consistently served one percent above the TEA's 8.5 percent state average. During the 2016-17 school year, 9.6 percent of CCISD's population received special education services.

Ms. Quoyeser and Ms. Koseoglu strongly disagree with the opinions the Parents for Special Education Reform in CCISD voiced in Galveston Daily News articles "Parent group forms over CCISD special ed concerns," and "Amid accusations, CCISD launches special ed plan," both written by reporter Matt Degrood.

"I don't think the voices in this group speak for the majority of parents whose children receive special education services. We have yearly meetings where we give an optional survey to parents to voice their opinions and experiences. A majority of the surveys parents have filled out are extremely positive, and reflect satisfaction," Ms. Quoyeser, in response to the recent negativity, said.

The Special Education department as a whole is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students at Clear Creek High School. Their hard work is noticed and appreciated by faculty, administration and the student body of Clear Creek High School.



Photo by Kady Chatman

The Helping Each Adult Reach Transition Services, or HEARTS program, is a state-recognized program that is offered to high school students with special needs from ages 18 to 22. At Clear Creek High School, students involved in the HEARTS program run a food stand called Wildcat Wakeup, where they sell coffee, breakfast food and snacks up until fourth period which ends at 11:08.

Run by Ms. Wafa Loft, Wildcat Wakeup is a vocational class that benefits students by teaching them job skills and giving them a chance to interact with other students. The

participated in Wildcat Wakeup and are currently participating] in Wildcat Wakeup are thrilled to have their kids go through the program. Even after the student's age out of the program their parents still want them to continue volunteering for us," Ms. Koseoglu said. The HEARTS program also runs a garden in the courtyard where the students grow various fruits and vegetables and learn about different sciences. The garden was featured by KTRK, Channel 13 in 2013. Deborah Wrigley, KTRK reporter, had much to say in her on air story. "All special needs students at Clear Creek High School are flourishing in this outdoor environment...

Clear Creek Tennis Doubles plays in State finals match

By Leah Burnam

Reporter

Creek's boy's tennis team recently went to regionals and had a successful turnout, with two of their varsity players heading to state. They played in the State finals match and won second place. Michael Raji and Carter Crookston play on a doubles team together and headed to regionals on April 20 with the rest of Creek's tennis team. Raji and Crookston won the Region III 6A doubles championship and moved on to state to represent Creek. State took place at College Station on

May 17 and 18, with the quarterfinals and semifinals for 6A boys doubles being held on the 17 and the finals being held on the 18.

Raji and Crookston had a tough game at regionals, competing against the number one seeded school, Cypress Ranch, whom Creek had lost to previously on two different accounts. However, Raji and Crookston came through in the end winning the game for themselves and their team.

"Creek won in dramatic fashion as they fought off 2 set points in the 2nd set, as they rolled off 4 straight points to close out the match! This is the 1st time in 30 years Creek

has sent a boy's doubles team to state," Mr. Geise, Creek's boys tennis coach, said.

Like any sport, tennis is a hard one to master you must time out when the ball is coming your way and precisely hit it in order for it to stay in the court, while at the same time trying to get it far enough away from your opponent so they don't hit the ball and get the point. Creek's tennis team trained long and hard for regionals in hopes of taking home a title.

"Me and my partner [Raji] practiced every day during and outside of school with coach Geise. We contin-

ue[d] to practice hard every day leading up to state," Crookston, said.

"Being a part of Creek's tennis team is something I definitely don't take for granted. I have formed so many friendships and made a family in the process. Getting the chance to go to regionals and now state is an experience I will always remember. With this being my last year, it is the last opportunity I have to play for Creek. I have had a great coach and have been very lucky," Raji, said.

Full Story on page 6

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

"I PLAN ON ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON AND PURSUE MY ARCHITECTURE AND CIVIL ENGINEERING DEGREE."
-CARSON LOSER

"I'M GOING TO ATTEND A&M UNIVERSITY AND PURSUE A CAREER IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING BECAUSE I WANT TO PURSUE A HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION TO BETTER THE HEALTH OF SOCIETY."
-EMMA WAGENKNECHT

"I THINK I'M GOING TO [UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON] TO THE HILTON COLLEGE AND I WANT TO OPEN A BAKERY. I'M MAJORING IN RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS."
-CARLEIGH PEREZ

"I WILL BE ATTENDING TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN."
- KELLI GILLAM

"I WILL BE ATTENDING LSU, AND I PLAN ON MAJORING IN MECH[ANICAL] ENGINEERING BECAUSE MY WHOLE FAMILY ARE ENGINEERS."
- BRITAN HEBERT

"I'VE RECENTLY BEEN ADMITTED TO RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN BECAUSE I WANT TO TRY TO BECOME AN ILLUSTRATOR."
- JEFFREY LIM

"I WANT TO PURSUE A 4 YEAR DEGREE AT AN UNIVERSITY FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING BECAUSE I WANT TO LEARN HOW EVERYTHING ELECTRONICAL WORKS."
- LOGAN SAMMONS

"I WANT TO PLAY SOCCER IN COLLEGE, I HAVE BEEN DOING IT ALL MY LIFE."
- KADEN LOVETT

"I PLAN TO MASTER IN NURSING AT PV AMY, I LOVE TAKING CARE OF OTHERS AND GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY."
- CECE PHILLIPS

"I'M ATTENDING BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, AND I PLAN ON MAJORING IN BUSINESS."
- MARSHALL GRIFFIN

"AFTER HIGH SCHOOL I PLAN ON ATTENDING [THE] UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA TO CONTINUE MY SOFTBALL CAREER."
-LINDSEY LIESTAD

"I'M ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI AND I AM GOING TO STUDY PSHYCOLOGY THEN GO INTO LAW."
-TORY HARLESS

"I'M ATTENDING UT AUSTIN AS A BIOLOGY MAJOR IN HOPES OF BECOMING A DOCTOR."
- ALISHA SOOD

"I PLAN ON GOING TO A&M CORPUS CHRISTI. I WANT TO MAJOR IN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN PLANNING ON FOR YEARS."
- KORDAI JONES

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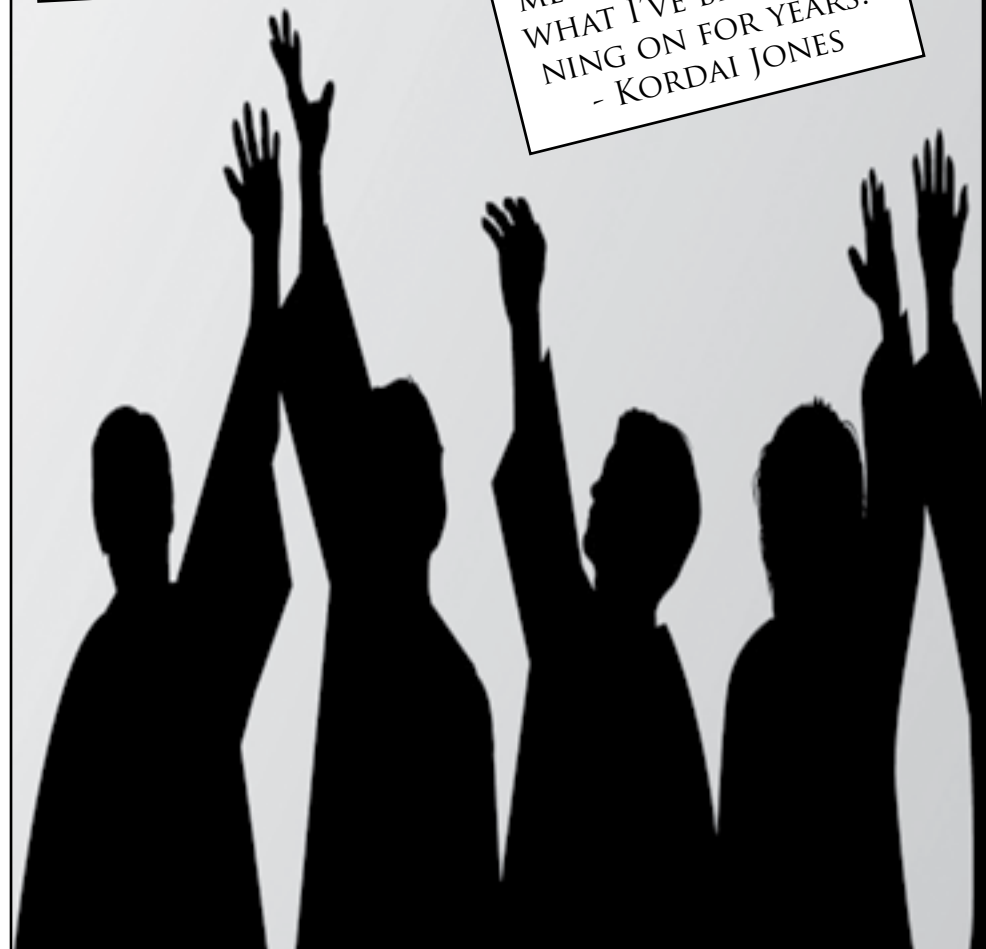
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By Sierra Dickey
 Editor-in-Chief

As my final editorial of the year, I would like to address how journalists have diverged away from the path of truth. Journalists are supposed to be the bearers of truth, yet some refuse to tell the whole story. Objectivity has died. This world, as a whole, has chosen the path indirect opposition to truth and has merged with a new interest, gossip and infotainment. So many stories go unseen and unheard because nations have been, and still are, blinded by the constant bombardment of irrelevant information. Journalists have started to depart from the truth and have turned instead to writing crowd-pleasing stories. Because the public depends on journalists for recent information, the solution would be to spread real news about what is happening locally, nationally and globally. The truth within different cultures, traumatic situations or simply

Sierra Shares: Journalistic Integrity

speaking the truth about an event all help people to become more informed and to have a voice, rather than to blindly consume information that has no real importance, except to those involved. People have lost their voices in this world due to the lack of factual reporting. Because information from the government to the public is dependent upon the journalist, the nation then can make decisions together, like in a democracy, which what we are supposed to be. However, due to the loss of actual information from the government, people do not hear or realize what is happening. Gossip fills in the place of relevant news and blinds the public, thus filling their minds with unimportant information. *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* has 3.19 million viewers on TV alone, compared to *Reuters News* that just recently hit a million viewers, that's a 2.19 million difference in people watching irrelevant situations that do not affect them rather than factual nonbiased news that help spread what exactly is happening within our nation. That is 2.19 million people blinded by fluff entertainment. 2.19 million people unaware of what is happening politically, socially and economically in the world... 2.19 million people oblivious to the cruel and inhuman society that is our world because they are too busy watching a melodramatic family with internal conflicts that has no real importance to the people outside of it. Because of this, the people have lost their will to speak up, they have lost the spark within themselves to ignite a flame and fight for what they believe is right. Without this flame within us, the

government uses this to their advantage and sets plans for lowering the budget for foreign aid or sending an airstrike to Syria and potentially starting another World War or lifting hunting restrictions on animals that are still considered endangered. The people of the nation are so focused on foolish things when instead we should be focusing on the problems within our nation as well as outside of it to promote peace. However, if the only minds that are dealing with these conflicts are

such as poverty levels in another country, or the 45.2 million refugees that are scattered around the world, or even how large of an industry human trafficking has become. All these topics are overlooked because journalists do not emphasize them when other pointless news is mixed with them. Emphasized relevant news leads to the public becoming more aware and thus more participative within the country they live in.

*"If we amplify everything, we hear nothing."
 - Jon Stewart*

Over the course of the last few years there has been a significant degradation of factual news spreading compared to irrelevant news spreading. Journalists have caused this problem, but they can also be the solution with change. If journalists focus their attention to the real issues within our world and promote the solution then peace might be a step closer than how we are right now.

the officials then mistakes can easily be made and the outcome of this is the public reacting negatively to the decisions of the officials. A simple solution to this problem is for the public to become more aware of the political, economic and social status their nation is in, which will in turn lead to a more democratic country built upon the decisions of the public. However, this can only be possible if journalists and news channels amplify the more important things such as any direct news that could potentially affect others within the nation instead of pointless things such as Kylie Kardashian's baby being born. Many journalists are known for their skills in writing and spreading news, but out of those, many are entertainment journalists that aim to get a rise out of the public rather than trying to spread awareness for things

People are reliant on others to fix the problems while they are too focused on things that do not affect them the slightest bit. This needs to change. In order for us to improve as a community we must first become aware of what is happening within it and prioritize the issues that need to be addressed. Like I said before, journalists are the communicators to the people, and if journalists do not spread important material then the public is completely blinded and shunned from any form of decision making within their country. As a journalist myself, seeing other journalists using their skills to spread unimportant material is disappointing. We must steer back onto the path of truth to ultimately give the voice back to the public and evolve the world into a more aware society.



By Catherine Irvine
 Editor-in-Chief

The word feminist is thrown around with the same value as that of a curse word. It is treated as a joke or something to be ashamed of by both men and women. But if the meaning was truly understood, then there would be no legitimate reason to be against it. Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes. Whether this be in the workforce, social lives, or in political factors, feminism fights to make both men and women EQUAL. Believing in feminism is not something to be ashamed of. It is not something to hide. There is no reason to tolerate the jokes, insults and shame others try to place on the label. Until now, I have sat quietly, letting the jokes go in one ear and

Cat's Chats: Sitting silent Feminist

out the other. I have watched as other girls are mocked for using their voices. I have been told to "take a joke," when that joke is about rape, women's rights, or even to this day, being told to get back in the kitchen. You would honestly think that one would be a little too used or outdated for someone to bring up. Until now I have let my comfort keep me from speaking out for those who can't. My feminism will no longer be for my convenience.

Feminism isn't about putting down men or being able to walk around without a bra on. It is about protecting the women who are sexually harassed in the workplace, women in other countries who lack the political and social voice to maintain their rights, and women in minority groups who may not have the resources to speak up for themselves. Feminism is about equality, protecting those who can't protect themselves, inclusivity and EQUALITY.

I have been fortunate enough to live in a home where my family provides me the same resources and opportunities as my brothers. I have been fortunate enough to have strong role models, like my moth-

er, who teach me to never back down from what I believe in. I have been allowed to pursue my interests in hiking and journalism. At Clear Creek, I have been allowed to hold several leadership roles and given multiple responsibilities. I have been given a safe environment to express my ideas,

"I want to stand up, but if I do, what if everyone notices I've been sitting this whole time? I am guilty of keeping my feminism in my pocket until it is convenient not to."

- Blythe Baird

ed a world where I will struggle less than others, one of mild ease. One where I can block out the wrong going on around me.

I will not block out the world. There are so many things that still need to be fought for. Domestic abuse in America cannot continue on the way it has. The justice system needs to sentence rapists and sex offenders with longer time periods than that of a drug offender. Women need to be able to walk down the street without being catcalled, followed or attacked. Young girls should not be sexualized in the media. Both men and women should want equality for everyone. They should want it for the sake of their daughters, for their families, for their friends and for perfect strangers on the street. Feminism should not be viewed as a taboo thing. Feminism should be something all people believe in, something everyone stands up for. Mothers, teach your sons to respect a woman's body as her own. Fathers, teach your daughters that their value lies in their hearts and minds. Girls, don't stand by idle. Help those who need it. Leave your comfort. Boys, fight for equality. Respect the rights of women. Do not wait until it is convenient.



Katie Rodriguez
Design Editor

Clear Creek High School, thank you for the memories that I will keep in my heart forever. From Freshman to Senior year, I have loved this school. Creek isn't like any other high school, we're all one big family. Everyone gets along and supports one another. When I started out my freshman year, with a total of two friends, I was terrified. I heard the stories of the jocks "messaging up" the nerds and believed everything else people told me about it being horrible. And turns out,

Katie's Konclusion: Senior Advice

none of it was true. Sure, we have fights, but I mean what high school doesn't? On to the relationships. You will have many friends in high school, but to be honest most of them will be fake. But I promise, you will find that one friend that will change your life forever. That one friend that makes you see everything differently. Then there will be the boyfriends/girlfriends, and those get tough. Most people find their first real love in high school and let me tell you, the feeling of someone really caring about you is something that you will always want.

Until they hurt you. I'm not saying everybody is going to find someone they love, and I'm not saying everyone will get hurt.

you hurts more than anything. Most of my High School years, I was in the "I'm just going to have no friends and keep earbuds

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD, thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

-Joshua 1:9

I'm just warning anyone reading this that being hurt by someone you thought loved

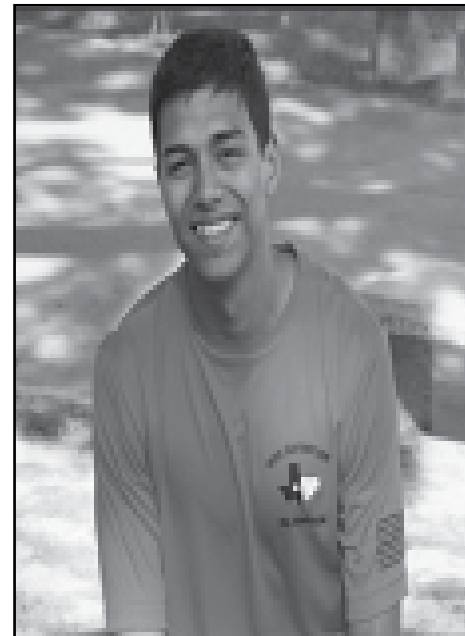
because this is what leads to what you will be doing for the rest of your life. Good Luck!

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in 24/7" because that one friend moved to Georgia.

My plans for after high school are to go to The College of the Mainland, to get a few more classes in, then my plans are to attend Houston Baptist University to major in Biblical Studies. I would love to become a pastor some day because I have had many influential Christians in my life, and it would be amazing to be able to influence others and be a great role model for young people.

My final advice for you is to take high school seriously. Don't slack off



By Chris Castillo
Photographer

When you think of graduation, you think of freedom from high school, you think of the college you plan to attend and you think about where you will go from there. My whole life I've been thinking towards the future and like every kid, I wanted to have a career that I would enjoy (along with receiving a large salary to sustain myself and my future family). I have switched up on what I wanted to do with my life so many times that I just became confused.

This year I decided that I wanted to be a Marine. To become a marine, it takes a lot of discipline, hard work and dedication. Without those qualities, you will have a very difficult time at boot camp. My friend Charles was already enlisted so I decided to talk to him about joining. We had a discussion on why I should join at least from his perspective and he offered to take me to the recruiting station, as soon as school ended he took me to his recruiting station and I talked to Sargent Martinez the recruiter for our school. He explained to me all of the benefits of joining then what the papers I signed meant and what they were for.

February 5 was the day I went to MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Sta-

Chris's conversation: Marine future

tion). If you ever talk to anyone who has been to MEPS, I promise you that you will hear some bad things, but I can assure you that those are major over exaggerations. You may feel uncomfortable at times but it is bearable. I stayed at a hotel with people who were leaving for boot camp or basic training in the morning, along with others who joined me in the late entry program, but out of all people who were enlisting the next day I noticed I was the only one going into the marines. We all woke up at about 4:00 AM and ate breakfast, got onto the bus and arrived at the MEPS building, which does happen to have a military feel, which I understand from staying at army bases for competition in JROTC. I went through all their tests and felt uncomfortable at times, like I mentioned, but I passed all their tests and officially became a Poolee (someone enlisted in the marine corps who has yet to go through boot camp).

"The hardest battle you will ever have to fight is between who you are now and who you want to be."

-Unknown

Since my enlistment process, I have

made many friends within the poolee program. Most of us get along because we all have something in common, which happens to be that our goal in this program is

exception of Gavin who is a poolee of Sargent Padilla, meet up at Whataburger and after we run our dreaded IST on the second Saturday of the month, we spend the rest of the day hanging out and having fun.

Our days here are limited with some of us leaving for boot camp right after graduation and others leaving at the start of the next school year. My ship date is September 24 so I've got plenty of time to prepare myself and do what I can while I'm still here. The only downside is that I'd be leaving alone. None of my current friends will experience this with me. This is something most of us will have to get through by ourselves, but out in the real world we don't always have someone by our side or anyone to guide us through. We have to learn to face things alone and this will be one of my experiences. The last event I can think of that I get to share with my closest friends is graduation and after that everyone starts that next chapter in their lives. Some of us will be gone, others like me al-

ready have their future planned and all they need to do is wait, and the rest will be going head first into life starting their jobs or putting their careers into action. I will continue to wait and have fun with my family and friends until the day I leave. Farewell to all my friends and family here at CCHS.



By Leah Burnam
Reporter

Thousands of people visit zoos every day and all we really see are the unique species that inhabit these zoos. What we don't see are the shockingly designed enclosures and medical problems that these species suffer from. The question we should all be asking ourselves is, should we close our zoos?

It is a well-known misconception that all zoos aid in educating others about conservation. But in fact, most zoos are confining animals that are not endangered nor threatened. According to a study published in the journal PLOS One, only 18 percent of animals in zoos are threatened or endangered. It is also shown that in North American zoos less than five percent of their income is invested in conserving animals and those accredited by the Association of Zoos and

Leah's Lessons: the ethics of zoos

Aquariums spend less than one percent of their revenues on conservation. Wouldn't you say this is an alarming number considering the fact that many zoos pride themselves on being conservationists?

Many zoos breed animals with the intention of releasing them back into the wild. However, most do not survive on their own since they never had the opportunity to learn important skills such as hunting and gathering food. A study in the Journal of Applied Ecology concluded that unless animals in the wild are protected, captive breeding does not make a difference.

Our research challenges the assumption that when a species is perilously close to extinction in the wild, it is always a good idea to set up a captive breeding population... Without conservation in the wild there is no point problems that these species suffer from. Dr. Paul Dolman, lead researcher for the Journal of Applied Ecology, said.

Animals learn important survival skills in the wild that they simply cannot be taught in a tiny enclosure. Captivity does not replicate these animals' original habitats. In a zoo enclosure, these animals hardly get control over their own lives. They become depressed and frustrated and begin repetitive behaviors, all of which are symptoms of a condition known as zoochosis. These small enclosures are now

being seeing has "cute" displays to take their children to rather than promoting the respect and understanding these animals deserve. Zoos favor exotic and popular animals so they can get those "brownie points," so to speak. It's as if zoos have become a viewing room for the latest and greatest Oscar award winning films. "It didn't matter what was on display...

"The least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak out for themselves."

- Jane Goodall

their animals. Many zoos are hoping for the Endangered Species Act, which provides for the conservation of species that are endangered or threatened, to be weakened by the federal government in order for them to capture and import animals.

Many zoos however, are starting to close exhibits after recognizing that they could not adequately provide for the needs of their animals. Although this is a start, more zoos would need to start doing this in order to make a difference in these animals' lives.

With informative television programming, educational opportunities on the Internet, and the relative ease of international travel, learning about or viewing animals in their natural habitats can be as simple as a flick of a switch or a hike up a mountain. The idea of keeping animals confined behind cage bars is obsolete," PETA, the animal awareness organization, said.

Zoos practically teach others that it's acceptable to interfere in the lives of species and

keep them locked away in poorly designed enclosures. Zoos have become a show and a way of entertainment for people. Ultimately, the only way endangered species can survive is if their own habitats are preserved, not taken away and replaced by an enclosure. Now ask yourself again, do you think we should close our zoos? Or, at least make them better?

Most people enjoy going to the zoo to see the cute and adorable baby elephants. But what many don't realize, is that those "less than cute" adult animals are routinely traded, loaned, or sold to zoos that neglect

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6 AROUND CREEK

Clear Creek Tennis Doubles plays in State finals match

By Leah Burnam
Reporter

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"Creek won in dramatic fashion as they fought off 2 set points in the 2nd set, as they rolled off 4 straight points to close out the match! This is the 1st time in 30 years Creek has sent a boy's doubles team to state," Mr. Geise, Creek's boys tennis coach, said.

Like any sport, tennis is a hard one to master you must time out when the ball is coming your way and precisely hit it in order for it to stay in the court, while at the same time trying to get it far enough away from your opponent so they don't hit the ball and get the point. Creek's tennis team trained long and hard for regionals in hopes of taking home a title.

"Me and my partner [Raji] practiced every day during and outside of school with coach Geise. We continue[d] to practice hard every day leading up to state," Crookston, said.

Creek has gone to state and regionals multiple times in the past, even bringing home titles. Back in 2011, Hunter Carrithers and Sammy Siegel went to state for mixed

doubles and made it to the quarter finals round. Creek has also won against Cypress Ranch, one of their hardest competitors with a ten to three score, in the fall of 2014 at the regional playoffs. In the spring season of 2014, Elizabeth Le and Jessi Nifong came in fifth place in girl's doubles. Ford Cunningham and Ashton Duke came in



fifth place for boy's doubles and Sophie Baillargeon and Dilan Behrle came in

fourth place in mixed doubles. In 2015, Cunningham and Duke also came in third place for boy's doubles at regionals.

This past fall Creek finished district runner ups with big wins against Brook and Friendswood, advancing the tennis team to the second round of the playoffs. Only to lose a close match to Kingwood. Although the loss was tough, the hard word presented by Creek's tennis team within the past few years has only led up to the great season they have had this year.

Since coach Geise joined Creek's tennis team about two years ago, he continues to make practice as competitive as possible for his players, having various competitions to see who "ends on

top." Players such as, Raji and Crookston practiced non-stop for regionals to prepare themselves for harsh competition.

"Weeks leading up to regionals Carter and I played many doubles matches and strategized a lot. Coach Geise helped us a lot to prepare and before we had to play I would amp myself up by listening to a

This is Crookston's first year on Creek's tennis team and although he has only played for a short amount of time, him and his doubles partner Raji, have only lost one game this whole season. With the great season presented by himself and his partner they will surely have a successful future in tennis.

"I have learned so many lessons on and off the court. I hope to continue playing tennis for the rest of my high school and college career," Crookston, said.

Raji and Crookston had a successful turnout at state, winning second place in 6A Boys Doubles. The duo won their State Quarterfinal match against Vandegrift High School and went on to the semifinals against Plano West Senior High School, who they also defeated with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 score. Once moving onto the finals to compete for the State Championships, Raji and Crookston won their first set against Westlake High School with a 5-7 score, and lost their second with a 6-2 score. The game between Creek and Westlake soon became very intense and Crookston's legs began cramping so badly that Creek had to take a medical timeout.

"The conditions were pretty brutal, our players got worn down and were a little gassed. We couldn't keep up the intensity we had in the first couple of sets," Coach Geise, said.

This soon led Creek to lose the third set with a 2-6 score. Although this injury made the game tougher for the two Creek players, Raji and Crookston still made history, and will go down as the first boy's doubles team to reach the state finals and come in second place.

Tennis season will be coming to an end very shortly as with the 2018 school year. Many senior players will be leaving to pursue college opportunities in tennis and others will be looking for scholarships in the future when graduation becomes their present. Creek hopes to have another successful season following this next school year, bringing home new titles and striving for excellence in future matches.

Doubles Partners Raji and Crookston Raji(Left) Crookston (Right)

Photo by Sierra Dickey

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7 AROUND CREEK

Students finish off last Coffee House of the year

By Morgan Severson
News Editor

This year's final Coffee House was full of talent and comedy from a variety of 20 acts. On April 13, the acts performed in Creek's auditorium. Each act had seven minutes in a 10'x10' area to carry out their acts. Sophomores Fatinah Al-Hmound and Jessica Ruckstuhl, kept the show running smoothly as the emcees or announcers.

"Coffee House is a tradition [Creek] began five years ago with the goal being to present a night of true variety where many groups or disciplines from around campus are represented and 'anything goes' as far as the types of acts. Over the years we have had everything from stand-up comedy to original music to a singing chef preparing food live on stage to a sword demonstration to a string quartet. Coffee House is held in the Fall and Spring Semesters each year," Mr. Bradley Hewlett, Creek's Theatre Director and sponsor of Coffee House, said.

The acts included Brandon Falknor, junior; Zach Hoover, senior; Justin Pollio, senior and Travis Falknor, junior, who sang and Luci Melcher and Angela Jardina, sophomores, also sang.

"My favorite part of Coffee House was the performance and just getting the chance to be there up on stage singing with my friend. I decided to perform at Coffee House because my friend Angelia [Jardina] thought it would be a good idea to do a duet together. I also thought it was a good idea so I decided to do it. I was a little nervous because there was a lot of people in the crowd that I knew, but then once we started singing it was awesome. I definitely plan on doing coffee house next year," Melcher, said.

Next, Lia Hommel, junior, recited original poetry. Ariel Gutierrez, senior, sang and Silas Massey, freshman,

performed stand-up comedy.

"[I decided to perform at Coffee House] because my older brother used to do stand-up comedy and I used to watch him. It was really good and really funny, plus I wanted to try something new. I like how everything during the show fit together and I liked the bit the announcers were doing with the acts. Everything fit together and it was really good. I was totally nervous because I was the only freshman act, the others were mostly juniors and seniors. [The crowd] responded really well, my comedic bit was about being awkward and it was good," Massey, said.

Sophomores Zoe Rigsby and Heaven Wright sang with guitar, Mark Kostjuhin, junior, did an interpretation and Hailey Clough, junior, sang.

"I wanted to do Coffee House because I wanted the performing experience because I haven't performed on stage before and I haven't sung in front of anyone but my best friends. My favorite part was supporting the other acts because I was freaking out before mine. I think it went pretty well accept for the fact that Heaven [Wright's] guitar amp was turned up too loud. The crowd reacted well accept for the lady who said, 'turn down your amp,' in the middle of the performance," Rigsby, said.

Anya Golovko, sophomore, recited original poetry, Kacie Kouth, junior, sang and Alyana Glover, senior, performed an original prose. Then Teja Lane, junior, sang, Mr. Hewlett talked about theatre history and Marilyn Cruz, senior; Molly Akin, junior, Faith Wiesen, senior and Aizah Rahman, senior, performed sketch comedy. Janelle McCoy, senior, sang, Elyse Vela, junior, recited original poetry and Erica Leon, junior, sang while playing guitar.

"I performed at Coffee House because it was my fourth time doing it and it's really fun so I did it again. Seeing all the people

perform was my favorite part because there's a lot of people with a lot of talent. I was very very nervous, there's a lot of talented people and you just don't want to embarrass yourself. The performance went pretty well I really got the crowd going. I milled rocked so it was funny," McCoy, said.

Finally, Rachel Boyd, junior, recited original poetry, Alison Cox, senior, and Jimmy Haas, sophomore, painted and seniors Mia Carter, and Hannah Russek along with Sutton Anderson, junior, sang with guitar.

"My favorite part about Coffee House were the auditions, because they were so

much fun to do in front of the director. I think all in all it was awesome to be able to get up in front of the audience and people recognizing who I was. I have been in theatre since sixth grade so I have gotten pretty accustomed to being up on stage in front of people. I definitely will be doing coffee house next year because ever since then I have been thinking of new acts I can do like a German polka band," Haas, said.

Next year the Creek tradition of Coffee House will continue, letting students of all grade levels show their peers their talent and originality.

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ATHLETES OF THE MONTH Pir'Chaih Dickerson Michael Raji



Photos By Maddie Moore and Sebastian Sandoval



Pir'Chaih Dickerson is a passionate member of the color guard team and has contributed to the success of the team throughout the year. She was first inspired to do color guard in elementary when her babysitter first introduced it to her. Then at her intermediate school they had the opportunity to do a color guard elective, where she took it, and enjoyed it. Ever since then she has been very dedicated to the Creek color guard team and will help help them in the upcoming years as a member. In the future, regarding color guard, she would either be a director a tech to help the program.



Photos By Sierra Dickey and



Micheal Raji has been on the Creek tennis team for all 4 years and has been incredibly successful. With this being his last year, he has surpassed many obstacles to be able to reach State. His last year, coming to a close with winning 2nd in the State Championships with Carter Crookstone. With this being his fourth and final year on the tennis team, with outstanding achievements, the athlete of the month award was given to him by Mr. Geise proudly. He has broken the 30 year streak of Creek tennis not going to state, making Creek and all the students attending very proud.



10 ENTERTAINMENT

Infinity War continues Marvel's superhero franchise

Maddie Moore

Around Creek Editor

Iron Man, starring Robert Downey Jr., was released in 2008, and sparked the beginning of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The first *Iron Man* movie set a precedent for all other superhero movies. Over the course of the past ten years, Marvel has released eighteen more movies and has plans to release three more throughout 2018 and 2019. *Avengers: Infinity War* features more than 72 characters from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, including Captain America, Hulk, Thor, Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Black Panther, Star-Lord and several more heroes.

Avengers: Infinity War has been a highly anticipated film ever since a clip was shown at *San Diego Comic Con's* Marvel panel this past summer. For the past ten years, Marvel has held an annual panel in Hall H to announce future films and share clips of upcoming movies. However, San Diego Comic Con 2018 will not be holding a Marvel panel in Hall H this year.

"[We're] not going to announce any post-*Avengers 4* movies until hopefully after *Avengers 4*, which is [one] reason we're not going to Comic-Con," Kevin Feige, Marvel Studios president, said. "There will be a 10th anniversary presence at Comic-Con but [no Hall H panel.]"

Several Marvel movies prior to *Avengers: Infinity War* have been slowly setting the stage for Thanos, *Infinity War's* main antagonist. Thanos, played by Josh Brolin, has been featured in *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and one of the end credits in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. At the end of *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, Thanos is shown wielding the infinity gauntlet, which when combined with all six infinity

stones could potentially end the world.

The entire production as well as the plot of *Avengers: Infinity War* has been extremely secretive. Directors Anthony and Joe Russo, who have directed *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *Captain America: Civil War* and now *Avengers: Infinity War* have only let certain actors read the entirety of the *Infinity War* script. When

of characters and storylines might make it a little challenging for non-hardcore fans," Michael Orton, a movie reviewer for Common Sense Media, said.

Despite glowing reviews from fans, *Avengers: Infinity War* received an 84 percent on *Rotten Tomatoes*. Though an 84 percent is not considered 'rotten', *Infinity War* was expected to have a higher rating. However,

Directors Joe and Anthony Russo took risks on *Avengers: Infinity War* before and those risks certainly paid off. *Avengers: Infinity War* set box office records by opening with \$641 million and taking *Star Wars: The Force Awakens'* spot as the biggest movie opening of all time.

There were many different theories and speculations circling the internet prior to the release of *Avengers: Infinity War*, but none of them came close to predicting how it would end.

It was to be expected that some characters would not make it out of *Infinity War* alive, but when half of the cast of *Avengers: Infinity War* disintegrated at the end of the film, audiences left theatres all over the world in tears. The ending of *Avengers: Infinity War* was a shock to all Marvel fans. Before watching the film, it was thought that characters such as Spider-Man, played by Tom Holland, and Black Panther, played by Chadwick Boseman wouldn't be killed off in *Avengers: Infinity War*. Both Holland and Boseman each have two more solo movies before their contract ends, but they both died in *Infinity War*. Fans speculate that Holland, Boseman, and many other's characters will be resurrected

next year in the fourth *Avengers* movie since they're listed on the cast list. *Infinity War* shocked audiences by reintroducing characters from previous films such as Red Skull, the original antagonist in *Captain America: The First Avenger*, as the keeper of the soul stone, and Eitri, a dwarf king in *Thor: The Dark World*. Directors Anthony and Joe Russo and screenwriters Stephen McFeely and Christopher Markus managed to successfully incorporate several different story lines into a single two-and-a-half-hour film, and made sure *Avengers: Infinity War* lived up to the expectations of Marvel fans. Overall *Avengers: Infinity War* was tear-jerking, heartbreaking, entertaining, and will linger in one's head hours after seeing the film.

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Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

11 PUZZLES

Graduation

Down:

- They guide you through education
- Parting words
- What you wear at graduation
- Get together after graduation
- Has a tassel on it
- Graduating year
- Say this when you are grateful
- People your close to
- Valedictorian tells this to the whole graduating class

Across:

- School after high school
- Friends sign it
- Gets the highest SAT grade
- You get this at school
- Student that makes a speech at graduation
- Party
- On your graduation cap
- Get it when you walk across the stage
- Graduation ceremony

Creek Clubs

SSLDYBAFLACROSSECLUB
ZHNMKHBYIRSJDMOKOSSM
VOLBMJVKHFARNYIMSZFUP
QPCRYDVSMBBDWOQSYEES
FSCLOIPVISZFCCKWBENG
FGDNAUGANJANMOKCRNOV
ACACPNUAMBOCBTLDDBLE
TXDURKPPCOLHHZMBCEAB
YGPFFVENRSLNVXSWWKSTE
IXEGCCEUELUDRDHRETIQ
ACYRIOUKHSPBDIKFTBNL
NOCGMFLUXEYKOZBRUOC
IXRDBASLTNGRCXLKYDKN
MZGMCJNPAUIDVKSLPDRU
EGEABSLCYRRTBALHSIDQ
CRXQAICJLDPEEMTFTBEI
LFRENCHCLUBNCSLIYSRN
UCWHVYBPGFBURLGQOILH
BROBOTICXSRIUJHSNES
BSYGVVJLSJIXOKSBMGYH

Ocean Preservation Lacrosse Club	Diamond Dolls	Best Buddies
German Club	Sueno Latino	Creek Unites
Culture Club	Yoga Club	Robotics
Anime Club	Rocketry	NHS
		French Club
		FFA

Graduation

Down:

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- Parting words
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- You get this at graduation
- Get together after graduation
- Has a tassel on it
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VOLBMJVKHFARNYIMSZFUP
QPCRYDVSMBBDWOQSYEES
FSCLOIPVISZFCCKWBENG
FGDNAUGANJANMOKCRNOV
ACACPNUAMBOCBTLDDBLE
TXDURKPPCOLHHZMBCEAB
YGPFFVENRSLNVXSWWKSTE
IXEGCCEUELUDRDHRETIQ
ACYRIOUKHSPBDIKFTBNL
NOCGMFLUXEYKOZBRUOC
IXRDBASLTNGRCXLKYDKN
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EGEABSLCYRRTBALHSIDQ
CRXQAICJLDPEEMTFTBEI
LFRENCHCLUBNCSLIYSRN
UCWHVYBPGFBURLGQOILH
BROBOTICXSRIUJHSNES
BSYGVVJLSJIXOKSBMGYH

Ocean Preservation Lacrosse Club	Diamond Dolls	Best Buddies
German Club	Sueno Latino	Creek Unites
Culture Club	Yoga Club	Robotics
Anime Club	Rocketry	NHS
		French Club
		FFA

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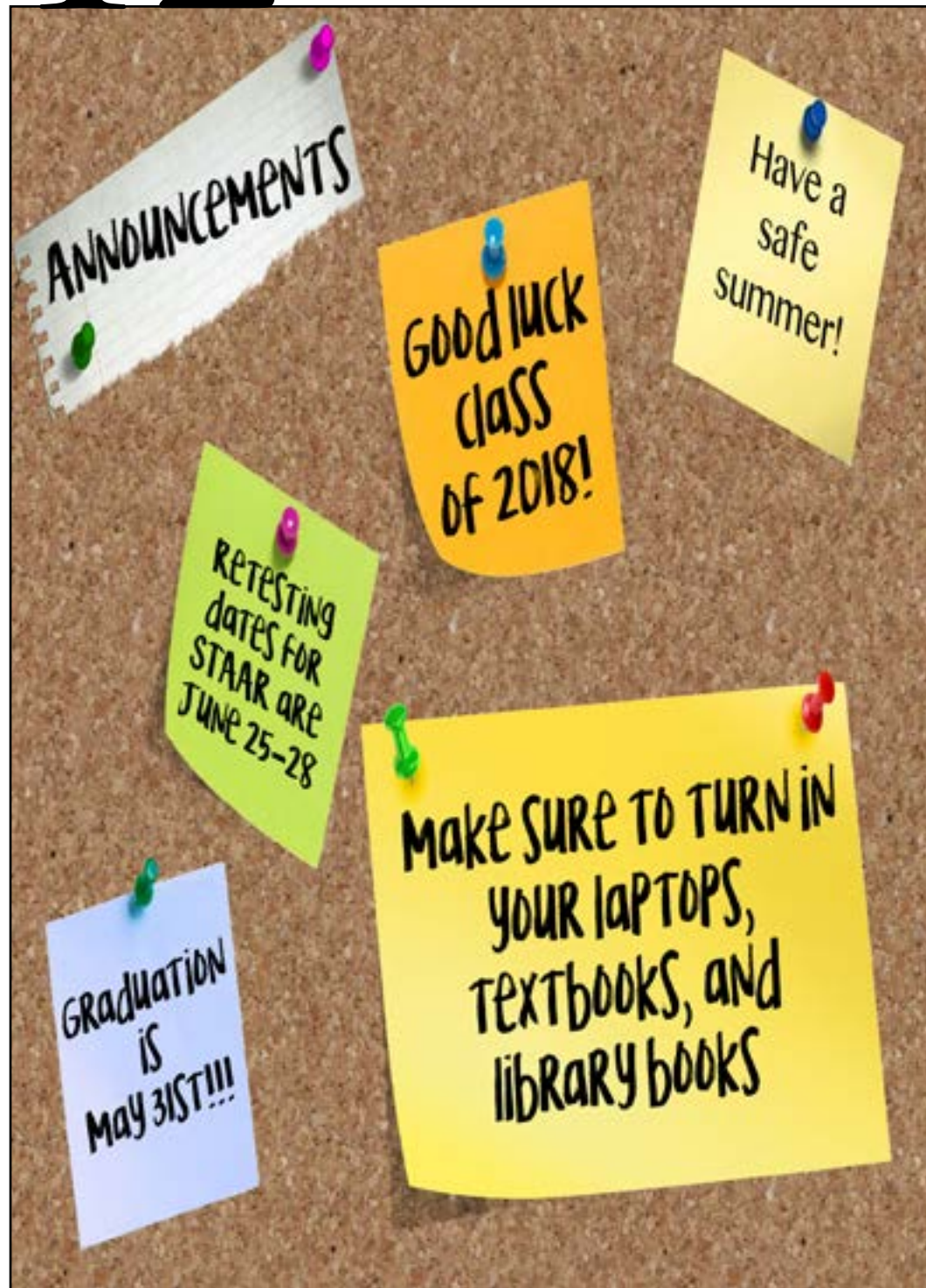
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13 ENTERTAINMENT

First Burn adds new spark to the Hamilton franchise

By Arrington Linder
Features Editor

Each month, new *Hamilton* content is released and this month, *First Burn* has been released. Starting in December 2017, Lin-Manuel Miranda announced that each month, he will be releasing a *Hamildrop*, content relating to *Hamilton: An American Musical*.

"I wrote the first draft of *Burn* in 2014. It's different, but it's a mood. So we got Lacamoire [Orchestrator and Conductor of *Hamilton*] in a room w[ith] super producer Mike Elizondo and recorded it with five Eliza's. In the final *Burn* she has agency, and makes a decision to destroy Hamilton's best self. In this draft she's angrier, but it's entirely reactive," Miranda, creator of *Hamilton*, tweeted.

In act two of the musical, Eliza sings a song called *Burn*. *First Burn* is the original version of *Burn*. Eliza sings *Burn* once she's found out her husband, Alexander Hamilton, has cheated on her. In the musical, Eliza is the only person onstage during the song but *First Burn* is sung by five Eliza's.

Arianna Afsar, original Chicago company, Julia Harriman, first national tour, Lexi Lawson, Broadway, Rachelle Ann Go, West End and Shoba Narayan, second national tour, all collaborated on this song.

The official video was released at midnight on April 30. In the video, the five Eliza's can be seen singing in the recording studio alone or together, depending on the part of the song. Each Eliza has solo lines

but they come together for the harmony as well. The five harmonizing make the song more powerful and dramatic than the published version. Along with the accompaniment being somewhat different, some of the lyrics are different, as well.

time comes, explain to the children, the pain and embarrassment you put their mother through. When will you learn that they are your legacy, we are your legacy," referencing the lyric in *The World Was Wide Enough*, the second to last song in *Hamilton*,

We're gonna drop some new *Hamilton* content, every month, December now through December 2018. Something new, every month. Let's begin!" Miranda, tweeted.

Previous *Hamildrops* include *Ben Franklin's Song* in December by *The Decemberists*, a remix of *Wrote My Way Out*, a song on the *Hamilton Mixtape* in January, featuring Royce Da 5'9, Joyner Lucas, Black Thought and Aloe Blacc and *The Hamilton Polka* created by Weird Al Yankovic, a song combining a few of the *Hamilton* songs in February. In March, *Story of Tonight*, a song from *Hamilton*, and *You Will Be Found*, a song from the musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, were combined to create *Found/Tonight*. A portion of the proceeds made from the song were donated to the March For our Lives Initiative and was also performed at the March For our Lives on March 24. *Found/Tonight* is the only *Hamildrop* to be released in the middle of the month.



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

First Burn

makes listeners emotional as the song is Eliza's reaction and response to the discovery of Alexander cheating on her. A few of the lyrics break some listeners heart such as "I see how you look at my sister," taking note of the fact Eliza's sister, Angelica, and Alexander have a flirtatious relationship. In *First Burn*, Eliza says "And when the

What is a legacy?" Alexander asks "Legacy."

"A year ago, this month we released *The Hamilton Mixtape...I know I promised you a *Hamilton Mixtape Vol. 2*, but nothing's gonna match those songs in that order, beautifully sequenced by @jperiodBK, at that moment in December 2016... So today, we being the *Hamildrops*.*

2016. *The Hamilton Mixtape* includes songs from the musical plus a few of the cut songs such as *No John Trumbull* and *Wrote My Way Out*. All of the songs on the mixtape are sung by celebrities such as Sia, Usher, Kelly Clarkson and Alicia Keys.

There are eight *Hamildrops* left this year. Although Miranda announced there will only be a year of *Hamildrops*, fans are still hoping for more than just this year.

This is America reveals the obliviousness of America

Arrington Linder
Features Editor

Donald Glover, also known as Childish Gambino, has released a new single titled *This Is America*. The song was released on May sixth, along with a music video. *This Is America* highlights police brutality and the issues following gun regulations currently happening in America.

When first watching the video, one might not notice what is happening in the background, as Gambino's dancing is distracting, but once it is viewed multiple times, the viewer will notice the actions happening behind Gambino. Throughout the video, Gambino can be seen dancing without his shirt on, in order to distract the viewers from what is occurring in the background.

"Both times Gambino shoots and the beat abruptly shifts from the happy-go-lucky, silly sound to the more aggressive beat, the line 'This is America' is emphasized. This highlights the fact that we [America] are blissfully oblivious to the tragic truth until something negative happens, reminding us what it means to be black in America today...The beat then changes back to the carefree tone showing we soon forget again," a comment on Genius Lyrics.

In the first scene, a man playing a guitar gets shot in the head. After, the gun is handed off to someone holding a red cloth, who gently handles the gun, whereas the body gets carelessly

dragged away. Once that happens, Gambino immediately starts dancing and distracting the viewer while people get chased and killed in the background.

"The fact that Childish Gambino's *This Is America* tackles police brutality, gun violence, media misdirection, and the use of African-Americans as a brand shield,

paying very close attention to their actions.

Jim Crow was a character created in the 1800's by a white man "who was played by white people in blackface, and designed to mock black people and segregation while providing entertainment for white people. Jim Crow laws enforced racial segregation in the southern states

starts dancing with them. After a few seconds, Gambino stops dancing and is handed what is believed to be an AR-15 and shoots the entire choir. This is a reference to when a white supremacist shot and killed nine victims at a black church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015. Although many people get shot in the video, Gambino

doesn't get punished for them. He does, however, get chased by the police for lighting a blunt.

"This video is not only groundbreaking. It's eye-opening, necessary, and most horrifying of all, it's real, as so many Twitter users' insightful tweets have pointed out," according to *Bustle*.

Towards the end of the song, SZA is sitting on the hood of a car, making fans wonder if Gambino and SZA will be working together in the future. However, Gambino's upcoming album is suspected to be his last. Rumors have been circulating, saying that Gambino is retiring his songwriting career and in January, he confirmed the rumors.

"I'm really appreciative of this. I'm making another project right now, but I like endings, I think they're important to progress...I think if a lot of things had death clauses in them, we wouldn't have a lot of problems in the world, to be honest. I think ending[s] are good because they force things to get better," Gambino said.

Two days after *This Is America* was released, Gambino performed the song on *Saturday Night Live*. Gambino was on *SNL* to promote *Solo: A Star Wars Story* in which he plays Lando. Although no official album has been announced, fans are speculating a new album to be released soon.



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

following the Civil War." Jim Crow shows a transcendence or mere performance and demands attention," a fan tweeted. Children behind Gambino follow everything he does, symbolizing that although events such as the March For our Lives are led by teenagers, children are still following every move of the adults and

is also a character created in the 1800's by Thomas D. Rice. A fan pointed out that during the video, Gambino dances in the style of Jim Crow. About halfway through the video, a church choir is singing and dancing. Gambino then walks out of a door and

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Schedule Preview (Grades 10-12)	9 FISH Camp Late Schedule Preview (All Grades) 4:30PM-7:30PM	10	11
12	13 Softball Camp @ CCHS Softball Field 6:30AM - 9PM Teachers Return	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 First Day of School	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Clear Creek Girls Wildcat
Basketball camp June 4

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7/30-8/2 Elementary - HS

