

THE TITAN ΣCHO

THE STUDENT PUBLICATION OF GRAND TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL

STATE CHAMPS



*Story by Jaelyn Soto
Image by Milana Hernandez*

Page 11 Senior Section: Words of Wisdom & Reflections from the Pure Class

Heavy Gun Laws Impact Law-Abiding Citizens

By Turner Gonzalez (2016), Staff Writer

There have been many debates about guns and gun control laws in the U.S, and some people say more gun control is the answer. However, I do not think that gun control will work at eliminating crimes and murders in the U.S.. Restricting or banning a tool like a firearm for law-abiding citizens will not stop criminals or psychopaths. Why would a criminal, who doesn't care about or obey the law in the first place, suddenly listen to new gun control laws? It is wrong to assume that they will.

If simply restricting or banning something works, how is it that so many people in the U.S. are addicted to illegal drugs? If gun control really does work, why do cities with strict gun laws like Detroit and Chicago have so many violent crimes and shootings? California also has very strict gun laws, yet, there are a lot of crime-ridden places that you would not want to go to because of the fear of getting shot. These are just a few examples of why gun control doesn't work.

I don't think it is right or constitutional to punish law-abiding citizens for the actions of criminals or the mentally ill. Instead of blaming tools and inanimate objects, people should focus on the real causes for gun violence in the U.S.. These reasons are poverty, lack of education, and mental illness. It's a sad truth that sometimes people have to resort to crime just to survive. Unfortunately, these people may use guns to commit these crimes. Lack of education also ties into poverty. Some people aren't taught the value of human life and because of that they lack empathy or sympathy. Mental illness is a huge reason why there are so many shootings in the US. We need to have better mental health services for people who desperately need it.

When the government puts out more and more gun control, then they are restricting and limiting your freedom and right to bear arms. No one should have to have their rights or freedoms restricted just because some people use fear mongering and anti-gun propaganda. The counter argument to this is that you can learn martial arts and self defense. In my opinion, this wouldn't work. Not everyone is physically able to defend themselves against an attacker. The elderly, disabled, or physically weak won't be able to defend themselves against an attacker a lot of the time. Also, it doesn't matter how skilled you are in self defense. Most of the time there will always be someone who is quicker, stronger, and more aggressive than you. That's where firearms come in. If someone carries a firearm, their chances of surviving an encounter with a criminal, rapist, or murderer are increased.

Lastly, many people say that gun control can work in the U.S. because it worked in Australia and Britain. This is not true however because we are culturally and geographically different. Australia is an island and it's isolated. We are not an island and we are not isolated. We are bordered by Mexico and drug cartels. If we restrict guns like they did in Australia, then the cartel will just profit off of illegal firearms, just like they profited off drugs when we banned them. Also, when people say that Australia has less crime than we do, it isn't because they don't have guns, it's because they have a smaller population. We have a lot more people than they do so obviously we will have more crime. **TE**

The Titan Echo *Established in 2012*
Vol. 4 No.3

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The Titan Echo is published periodically by the Journalism class of Grand Terrace High School, 21810 Main Street, Grand Terrace, CA 92313. Opinions expressed in the Titan Echo are those of the reporter and not necessarily those of the faculty, administration, school board, or school district and are not to be construed to endorse or promote activities reported upon.

All photos of school related activities are taken by staff photographers unless otherwise indicated. Some stories were originally published in the Titan Echo Web site and are republished here. The Titan Echo welcomes letters to the editor but they will be printed according to space availability and may be edited for content. Please submit all letters to victor_morales@cjusd.net.

Women Belong on \$20 Bill

By Angie Sanchez, (2018) Campus Writer

On April 21, the Treasury Department made an announcement that ignited controversy: a woman on American currency. Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist in the 1800s, will appear on the \$20 bill in 2020. Moreover, she will replace President Andrew Jackson.

I see this as a good thing. Women are an intrinsic part of U.S. history and national recognition is overdue. Tubman will not be the only woman on U.S. currency. Well-known and respected suffrage leaders Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton will appear on the back of the \$10 bill. This is not only a milestone for women, but also for women of color.

Many disputes have arisen due to this news. Some claim that it is "absurd" to replace a president or that in doing so, it will hurt the economy. In reality, people may simply be opposed to having a woman on the bill. There is not much logic to back up these claims except for misogyny and racism making their way into what should be a celebrated and praised moment in modern U.S. history. As an integral part of our history, Tubman deserves to be recognized for leading hundreds of slaves to freedom. Being placed on national currency would honor her valor.

The Rainbow Behind Bernie Sanders

By **Valentina Escobar (2016), Writer-at-Large ANAHEIM, CA**—You’ve heard college students chanting his name and critics tearing him down.

Bernie Sanders was the rising man in the 2016 Presidential Election, the underdog of all underdogs and the embodiment of hope for many. I had the opportunity to attend one of his rallies in Orange County in March and found myself surrounded by a rainbow of people. The diversity in the crowd was astonishing and, for once, people of different ages and ethnicities were standing together to fight for one man. With every “Enough is Enough” chant, fists of different colors were raised in the air and unity was a blanket of comfort in a small little Anaheim park.

The host, Julio Casaneda, kicked off the rally by telling his story of political discovery. As a military veteran and son of Mexican immigrants, he believes Bernie is “fighting for the 99-percent.” He ended his small and affectionate speech with the words, “We are the fabric of America and we are united because we believe love is greater than hate.”

Other speakers followed. One was the first openly gay mayor of an Orange County city. Supporters gathered in peace with the idea that change could happen without violence.



Top: Parents of three support Sanders. Bottom: Young supporters Listen to speakers. Photos Valentina Escobar

They all seemed to believe in basic freedom, the access to healthcare and education and the ability to empower oneself through political involvement.

I have to say, however, that the most interesting people were not the speakers. They were the attendees.

Critics say that Sanders is only supported by college students who demand lower educational costs, but this is far from true. Families were marching in the streets waving Bernie’s name. People young and old shared a collective voice. The fact is, the amount of diversity behind Bernie is beyond any other candidate’s. A mother of three told me she believed Sanders was an honest man.

Mr. Sanders is one of the few candidates that refuses to accept campaign contributions from

multi-million dollar corporations. He claims to be fighting for the 99 percent, and it certainly seems he’s telling the truth.

He’s claimed victory over Hillary Clinton in 9 states at the time this opinion was written, an act that wasn’t even considered feasible a couple of months ago. Although he is still behind, I’ve learned from his rally that he is not someone to underestimate. **TE**

5 GT Swimmers Compete at CIF

By **Milana Hernandez (2016), Photo Editor**

Riverside, CA - Titan Town's Swim Team finished their most memorable win this season. Not only did the varsity boys keep their first in league title but the varsity girls team placed co-league with Summit High School.

Furthermore, five swim team members competed at the Sunkist League CIF, which took place at Riverside City College on May 12. Senior qualifiers included Issac Ballesteros and Tanner Cline. Junior qualifiers included Kaylee Robles, Jonathan Thundquest, and Alex Ideishi. The fiver swimmers received their best personal record on the events they swam. The boys medley relay placed 24. The boys 400 relay placed 28. Robles placed 23 on her individual 100 fly and Ideishi placed 31 on his individual 100 back. **Continued on page 4**

Bands Battle it Out on Campus

By Angie Sanchez,
(2018) Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN- Grand Terrace High School hosted its very own battle of the bands in the auditorium March 11. Students from the Real Music Club organized their own bands and teachers from other schools were invited to perform.

A total of seven bands played: Cloud City, Short Line Footsteps, Tan Turtles on Fire, T&T, Having Tea with Trees, High Voltage, and Common Hardcore.

After the tickets were collected and everyone was in their seats, two seniors started the night off with a series of music jokes that continued throughout the night and entertained the crowd while the bands set up behind the curtains. The music genres varied from indie, rock, alternative, and more.

All the bands were impressive, but a standout was sophomore Jordyn Cox, who sung and played



guitar in two bands.

His aptitude for singing earned him encores as he entertained the crowd. Another stand-out band was T&T, made up of Colton High School teachers. Some of their songs even ignited dancing. Hearing old school music was pleasing, but that is not to say that the cover of Arctic Monkeys' "Crying Lightning" was not appreciated.

All in all, every band and its members took the audience by surprise with three songs full of the same zealous energy. The show ended at around 8 pm but most people lingered in the auditorium because the energy hadn't quite died down.

The auditorium was not full, but if the word gets around quicker next year and the performers are equally as good, then there may be sold out. **TE**

Top: Tan Turtles wraps up their set. Bottom: Jordyn Cox fronts Having Tea with Trees. Photos by Angie Sanchez.

Swim Team Season Recap *Continued from page 3*

Ballesteros was chosen GTHS Male Athlete of the Year and represents GTHS as the Male Ken Hubbs winner, according to swim coach Elissa Kirkland. "He is an outstanding swimmer, athlete, and student," Ms. Kirkland said. Boys continued their domination of Sunkist League going 7-0 for both JV and Varsity and remain champions again for the second year, Ms. Kirkland said.

Varsity girls went 6-1 and tied to become League Co-Champions. Girls JV didn't fare as well due to very low numbers. I am very interested in obtaining more girls for next year if you know of any that are interested," Ms. Kirkland said. **TE**



From left: Tanner Cline, Jonathan Thundquest, Kaylee Robles, Issac Ballesteros, and Alex Ideishi. Photo by Milana Hernandez

High School Builds Character; Embrace It

By Dominique Balcombe (2016), A&E Writer

As the school year is coming to a close, there is only time for seniors to reminisce. This final quarter is an opportunity for recognition and appreciation of those around us: the amazing staff here at GTHS and our friends that have fallen into an everyday routine of meeting outside of class since freshman year or those that coughed up a dollar for a bag of chips.

Seniors will carry the memories of these four years for the rest of their lives, whether they were good or bad. There has been valuable lessons taught to seniors throughout high school, whether they were direct or through personal experience. Expectations of high school are less likely to match up to the reality of the adult world. That reality consists of discovering who you are as an individual, not what math equations you will have to learn. This lesson will get you through the hardships life brings after high school.

Seniors walked into another world upon entering the gates of Grand Terrace High School for the first time. This year's seniors were all once fresh new faces. We all have been the topic of conversation at least once. We broke up and made up, and in some cases maybe not. Some friendships may have not lasted, and to this day some of us walk past those people everyday in the hall like we never even knew them.

That's not always the case for the other majority of the groups of friends on campus that have been together since Aug. 6, 2012. Whatever the case may be, high school has taught us that things happen for a reason and once we know that reason, the solution will become clear. With that comes maturity and independence.

High school tested our limits and patience. We have always had the potential for success, and there is no validation needed to prove that to be true. We simply go through obstacles that test us. We either work hard to learn that lesson, or we don't. Those who don't will learn for themselves, and with that comes responsibility and ownership.

So much time has gone by and those demons that were holding us back will either linger, or, for some, it will be easy to let them go. We see the past as something to forget, but it is important to remember what made us who we are today. We must thank those who stabbed us in the back, lied to us, and those who stuck by our sides and helped us through those hardships.

High school has provided many experiences and opportunities to gain self-awareness. Take a look at who you thought you were in the beginning and ask yourself if you are still that person, if you are still that new face, new friend, or that new student. You can take all you've learned into the next step of adulthood.

It is important to cherish the times we get to be close to those we love, and to take advantage of what high school experiences have gotten us involved with, including different people, activities, and opportunities. It can be bitter sweet, but as the days go by after we graduate, we begin to bloom.

It is time to grow up, take the next step and put these lessons into action. We have done our exploring, so we must now be ready to continue our growing into who we are meant to be. High school is nothing but the unexpected, and for those who have yet to start the adventure, you must be prepared for whatever comes your way. **TE**

What's it like to be a Student Journalist? Scary, Stressful and Gleeful *By Jillian Deuel*



Being a student journalist at the Titan Echo this year was an amazing experience that gave me a taste of what it's like to be a reporter in the real world. But, the job was sometimes tough.

It was not always fun. At times I questioned myself why I wanted to do this job.

But, I cannot imagine myself doing anything else. It's a job that can put lots of pressure on you with deadlines and editors that are not afraid to critique your story. Then there is the newspaper advisor, a teacher, who is like your boss at a job.

It can be especially nerve-racking when you have to talk to a person in a high position. I interviewed Mr. Western twice and asked him uncomfortable questions, which is not easy for a shy person like me. It was intimidating.

However, you must overcome your nerves and ask tough questions. A journalist must be clever, as well as cautious with how they ask questions. Journalists don't want to scare subjects away and sound like a cop.

One of the biggest challenges is overcoming a dreaded case of writer's block. It can stop a reporter in their tracks despite having all the information from fieldwork and research. In addition, you must adhere to journalistic standards by following the Inverted Pyramid Style, a style of writing journalists use to organize information. Journalists stick to the facts, making sure they leave their opinion out.

Collaboration is essential and the staff of the Titan Echo is no exception. Communication with editors is key. They approve stories and edit errors. They are busy most of the time, so it's a reporter's responsibility to approach them. Interacting with other reporters is helpful. They can provide suggestions for your story and offer feedback. At some point a newsroom camaraderie develops and you are a part of it.

The satisfaction and excitement of seeing your name in print makes all the struggles worthwhile. It is rewarding to know you produced an informational article the student body will read.

Overall, being a student journalist has been a valuable experience that I will take with me throughout my life. It is my hope that this job helps me become an excellent journalist in the future. I'm looking forward to spending the rest of my years at GTHS writing for The Titan Echo. **TE**

Varsity Girls Soccer Take it All

By Jaelyn Soto (2016), Campus and Sports Editor

TITAN TOWN—As a fairly new school, many schools outside of our district may have never even heard of Grand Terrace. But many more did on March 12 when our very own girls varsity soccer team took the Division 6 State Championship after taking league and CIF.

Going into CIF, everyone was under the impression that the girls took second place in the Sunkist League due to the two losses against undefeated and rival school, Bloomington.

Beating out the four teams and going to the fifth and final round of CIF was huge, but it also meant playing Bloomington, who had also managed to make their way to the fifth round.

As some of you already know, there was an immense amount of nerves as well as excitement from everyone in Titan Town, leading up to the final round.

Grand Terrace won the fifth round by forfeit due to an error in Bloomington's eligibility to be able to participate in the game, which also then lead to automatic forfeits in the two previous games that were played during league. This left Grand Terrace as the first place team, reported the Press Enterprise.

The girls then continued their success in the state championship where they also found themselves playing in the final round against Grace Brethren. No forfeits occurred during this game but a final score of 5-4 in a shootout after previously tying 1-1, making the varsity soccer girls here at GTHS state champions.

Three year varsity starter and goalkeeper Jordan Wells (2017) had three saves during the game, including the winning goal.

When the Titan Echo asked Wells how she felt coming out of the game she replied, "I feel so proud of the

2015-16 Championship Roster

Source: MaxPreps

Player	Position	Year
Jordan Wells	GK	Jr.
Melissa Arechiga	D	Sr.
Dani Perez	D, FORW	Sr.
Emily Fritts	D, MF	Sr.
Mikaela Millican	MF, FORW	Sr.
Celine Montano	MF	Sr.
Evelyn Findlay	MF, FORW	Sr.
Shantee Martin	FORW, D	Jr.
Taylor Curtis	D	Sr.
Skylar Cleaveland	FORW	Sr.
Chloe Urrea	MF, FORW	So
Natalia Helms	MF	So
Breanna Young	D, FORW	Jr.
Janai Lee	D	Fr.
Myliissa Inzunza	GK, D	Sr.
Amber Sweeney	D	Jr.
Paige Freund	MF, D	Sr.
Moira Oneill	MF, FORW	Sr.
Anna Fazzino	D	Sr.
Drew Carson	MF	Jr.
Stephanie Doran	FORW	Sr.
Madi Caldwell	FORW	Jr.
Samantha Guzman	FORW, MF	Fr.
Aubrey Gomez	FORW	So.
Violet Martin	GK	Fr.
Ryan Pacheco	Head Coach	
Chris Oneill	Coach	
Joey Pacheco	Coach	

entire team because winning isn't on just one person. We won as a team. We won as a family and that gave me so much pride and so much more confidence. Knowing that they believed in me pushed me even harder to get that goal," she said.

The person who led these hard working girls to victory was varsity head coach Ryan Pacheco, who was also able to give us his thoughts on this season's victories and also his ex-

"We won as a team. We won as a family and that gave me so much pride and so much more confidence." - Jordan Wells

pectations for the upcoming season.

"It was very satisfying winning all the games. It was what we were expected to do and I was pleased to see the girls reach their goals," he said. Due to the anticipated loss of 13 players we asked Mr. Pacheco what his anticipations were for next season.

"We will still have a very talented team with lots of experience. We will have lots of new faces but the high expectation level will still be there. I am expecting to win league next year."

Every single player on the team contributed to the outcome of their success as a whole and were all recognized for their hard work and effort put into making it all possible. It was the first team at GTHS to take all three titles: league, CIF, and state champs. **TE**

Track Goes Undefeated



Titan Track Team members sprint for time against Colton on April 7. Photo by Rodri Smith



Eldrick Weaver (2019) of the GT Track Team shows he is faster on April 7. Photo By Rordi Smith



Titan Track team members lead the pack against Colton. On April 7. Photo by Rodri Smith

Varsity Girls Basketball Leave With A "W"

By Rodri Smith (2019), Sports Writer

TITAN TOWN- Senior Basketball girls ended their home game against Colton High School Jan. 27 with a win of 49-28. They ended the season with a record of 5-3, according to the Maxpreps Website.

Even when the girls were tired and injured, they knew they had to push through and take one for the team. "I'm so proud of my girls. They have accomplished so much," said Coach Johnny Vazquez.

Coach Vazquez had most of the team's 11 seniors for three years and worked one-on-one with them. All of them are glad to have this experience and be able to know everyone involved. The girls learned a lot during this journey and will use everything they learned to guide them to success.

Some of the players hope to play college basketball next year and show off their skills. The players who will remain at GTHS are hoping to play against each other next year to see how far they have come. They are looking forward to coming together and play ball again as a team. **TE**

Broncos Win Super Bowl 50

By Tim Rodriguez (2016), Sports Writer

For the first time since 1998, the Denver Broncos won the Super Bowl by a score of 24-10 against the Carolina Panthers. Linebacker Von Miller won the game's MVP honor. His 2.5 sacks, 7 tackles, and 2 forced fumbles helped guide the Broncos to their third Super Bowl title in franchise history.

It was all-around a defensive battle where each team committed at least 2 turnovers. The Broncos' defense looked more dominant with their Super Bowl record breaking 7 sacks on Panthers QB Cam Newton and 4 forced fumbles. The Panthers' defense on the other hand, looked tired and exhausted, perhaps because they were on the field for most of the game.

Carolina's number 1-ranked offense could not get anything going with numerous drives ending in punts and one missed field goal. The Broncos did not have a great offensive game themselves with Peyton Manning only throwing for 141 yards and an interception. During the 4th quarter, the Broncos picked up a little bit of slack to put the Panthers away after Von Miller sacked Newton to force a fumble which set up a C.J. Anderson touchdown to seal the game.

It was the last game of an 18-year career of future Hall of Fame QB Peyton Manning. After battling his last couple seasons with injury, Manning decided to hang up the cleats and retire. **TE**

Buzzer Beater Finishes Madness

By Tim Rodriguez (2016), Sports Writer

Houston—College Basketball gets very intense and madness spreads during the month of March (obvious reason why it's called March Madness). Each year there is a 64 team tournament broken up into four regions with 16 teams in each region that match up in a win-or-go-home situation.

Anything could happen during March Madness and upsets happen multiple times every season in each round. Each region has a champion who ends up making it to the Final Four that then, plays to go onto the National Championship game. March Madness is so difficult to predict. The odds of having a perfect prediction for each game is 1 in 9.2 quintillion. One would have better odds at winning the ridiculous \$1.5 Billion Powerball Lottery.

The Villanova Wildcats were the 2nd seed in the South Region in this past tournament. They blew past their opponents before reaching the south regional finals which is also known as the Elite 8.



That's where they barely outlasted Kansas to make it to the Final Four.

At the Final Four, they went up against the 2016 Naismith Player of the Year Buddy Hield and the Oklahoma Sooners. The Cats blew out Oklahoma 94-59 to make it to the National Championship game against the North Carolina Tar Heels, who were heavily favored in this game.

Nova came out on fire and took an early 14 point lead in the first and second halves before the Tar Heels came back. With the Heels down 3, Point Guard Marcus Paige got open and hit a tremendous shot with 4.7 seconds left in the game. Nova came right back down the court with Small Forward Kris Jenkins inbound the ball to their

point guard who gave it right back to Jenkins and made the game-winning 3 at the buzzer to win the National Championship. Wow!

Sports fans all around the nation were shaken up since Marcus Paige hit an acrobatic shot to tie it up for North Carolina and then Kris Jenkins breaks the hearts of all fans in North Carolina at the buzzer with an amazing shot of his own. Might want to watch next year. **TE**

DraftKings & FanDuel Banned in New York

By Tim Rodriguez: Sports Writer (2016)

New York—DraftKings and FanDuel are two daily fantasy sports websites that give a member a budget based on how much the member decides to gamble. A member buys players and assembles a team within that budget and hope they can have monster games. Depending on how much one person decides to gamble and how many people put that same amount, a member wins money depending on placement and how the team does.

DraftKings & FanDuel are the two biggest daily fantasy sports websites. Both were ordered to shut down in the state of New York for illegal gambling under state laws, according to the Fortune.com's Daniel Roberts. FanDuel shut down before state attorneys had even ordered them to. They are expected to appeal, according to ESPN. Whereas DraftKings, on the other hand, continue to take in funds from consumers and are expected to appeal when they are mandated to shut down by the state.

The whole scandal started when the employees

of these websites were leaking information on what bets were being placed and started gambling for the opposing company to earn winnings.

A New York Times article indicated that an employee at DraftKings admitted to releasing data before the start of week 3 of NFL football games which he later used to win \$350,000 on rival fantasy site FanDuel the same week. New York government officials saw that as an act of illegal gambling and decided to ban daily fantasy sports from their state.

Most fantasy sports have some type of wager within their leagues which happen to be seasonal instead of daily so at the end of the season, the winner takes home the whole pot. These daily fantasy leagues have become popular in 2015 where both websites are well advertised in sports arenas and stadiums. You may know these websites by the abundance of commercials that advertise these daily fantasy websites.

We shall see if the other states decide to go in the same direction as New York and ban DraftKings & FanDuel from being played in their areas. **TE**

The Truth Booth

By Dominique Balcombe (2016), A&E Writer

Hank Willis Thomas created a "Truth Booth," known in full as "In Search of the Truth" that is in the shape of a cartoon speech bubble. This structure is 14-feet high with a door allowing room for an individual to walk through. Inside, there is a video camera and recording system with a seat right in front of it. Any passerby has an opportunity to record a two-minute video, starting off their sentence with "The truth is..." followed by a truth they feel they need to let out. The Huffington Post has stated that the Truth Booth has traveled around the globe to places like Ireland, Afghanistan, and the United States. The Truth Booth has gathered thousands of statements during its travels around the world.

The booth is meant to be a safe place for vulnerability and generosity, inviting the public to express themselves. Thomas plans to assemble the recordings in an art piece. "The best thing about art is that it grows in unexpected ways and gains new meanings in the context it is presented in. We have learned not to try to anticipate what will happen and what people will say. We just get to listen and witness the incredible wisdom and creativity of total strangers," Thomas said.

With their goal being to amplify the voices of others willing to speak up and share their love, loss, and struggle, the Truth Booth makes it clear that there are others that share the same thoughts and truths and



also that truths can vary from one another. A couple of examples are stated on The Huffington Post. They include one from a Brooklyn woman. The confession stated, "My truth is that my father

died a year ago, a Vietnam vet, from Agent Orange exposure and we miss him a lot and we wish he was here. My other truth is I've been separated from my husband for four long years and they've been the hardest and most difficult of my life and I would give anything to get us back together again because I still love you, Herman. You're the love of my life and me and our daughter miss you lots."

Another confession is from Miami, Florida, which states,

"The truth is that I am still 11-years-old, but I really do believe in unicorns.

I know I sound super crazy, but I believe unicorns are real, also mermaids, also fairies, and all sorts of things. I love magic. You can't take that from me. I also love the Percy Jackson series and I am never going to stop loving them no matter what my mom says."

As you can see, the truths people provide vary between each person, and it can be sentimental or something humor-

ous but, someone out there can be feeling and thinking the same exact thing as someone else.

The Truth Booth is more than what it seems. It is also an art project. The videos of truths that are collected are made into an even longer video for exhibitions. Past recordings can be watched at PublicArtFund.com **TE**

The Truth Booth interior. Photo from thetruthbooth.com

Raising Awareness For The "Endangered 13" Around London

By Dominique Balcombe, (2016) A&E Writer

There are 23,250 wild animal species that are threatened worldwide, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). However, the most critically endangered have been called "The

Endangered 13." They include the curlew, orangutan, rhino, blue whale, bateleur, polar bear, and grey-breasted parakeet.

There is an ongoing project around London, England that is aiming to raise awareness of how our behaviors have an impact on the animal world.

Artist and program producer, Louis Masai quotes, "The idea of the project is to raise awareness of species in desperate decline, with many on the brink of extinction." The project brings artists together to create the "Endangered 13" campaign.

The artists gather along London's railroad arches to create their missives of tribute and warning with each piece featuring an endangered species. **TE**

Re-live the Civil War in 'War of Rights'

By Turner Gonzalez (2016), Gaming Writer

War of Rights is a soon to be released multiplayer first-person shooter game about the American Civil War. It is in development by CampFire Games studios and there is a kickstarter fundraiser to raise the money to fund the game.

The game is mostly focused on the Maryland Campaign of 1862. The developers of the game want to make a game that is historically accurate, yet fun.

"Well, the grand vision for our game is to create something as historically authentic as possible, while still achieving a fun and satisfying game experience," said War Of Rights Historical Director, George Crecy.

War of Rights has a distinct play style to it. The game is realistic in the sense that when you fire a shot from your musket, you have to go through the lengthy reload process. Reload time is just one of the reasons why this game has to be played differently from other first-person shooter games such as Call of Duty or Battlefield. This game will most likely use Napoleonic tactics, since they were used in the actual Civil War.

War of Rights also has multiple battlefields to choose from. From the Siege of Harper's Ferry, to the Battle of Antietam, players will be able to choose from



Flags and logo for "War of Rights." Photo from i.ytimg.com

regiments that fought at each battle as well as which rank to fight as.

For example, you can choose to be a private rifleman fighting epic battles, or you can choose to be a major general and command your troops to victory. As a major general, you will be mostly operating from the headquarters equipped with a map of the battlefield and re-

ceiving reports of friendly and enemy positions. You will send out orders to regiments in real time that will move down the chain of command based on rank.

Lastly, War of Rights has character customization. Players will be able to edit uniforms and bodily features to make their character more unique. So if you want to make your uniform look better, or you want to stand out, War of Rights gives you the ability to do that.

At the moment there is no confirmed release date for the game. The developers are working on bringing out a closed beta that is only available for people who pledged money to the Kickstarter fundraiser, but there is no confirmed release date on the closed beta either.

So, will you heed the Union call against the traitors? Or will you fight to defend your family and livelihood with the Confederacy? **TE**

Best Tabletop Games

By Turner Gonzalez (2016), Gaming Writer

There are so many video games these days that people forget about tabletop games, also known as board games. Most people scoff at tabletop games because they think they are for nerds. But, everyone can enjoy tabletop games. Here are some recommendations.

Warhammer 40,000 (WH40k)- Warhammer 40,000 is a tabletop miniature wargame produced by Games Workshop. It is set in a dystopian science-fantasy universe. It has many factions and races such as the Imperium of Man, Orks, and Eldar, among others. The background and rules for each faction are covered in the game's rule books and supplemental army "codex." Overall, this game is very fun and worth looking into.

Mage Knight- This tabletop miniature war game was created by WizKids, Inc. The game is the first to use WizKids' "Clix" system to combine role-playing and wargaming elements with aspects of a collectible card game. There are many factions in Mage Knight, which

in the initial release, included the Atlantis Guild, Elemental League, Black Powder Rebels, Draconum, Knights Immortal, Orc Raiders, and the Necropolis Sect. Other factions were added later. This game is a fun and addicting addition to any gamer's collection.

Magic the Gathering- Magic the Gathering is a trading card game published by Wizards of the Coast in 1993. Two or more players in several formats can play. Each game represents a battle between wizards known as "Planeswalkers," who cast spells, items, and creatures. This game is engaging and excellent for groups.

Dungeons and Dragons/Pathfinder- Dungeons and Dragons is a fantasy tabletop role playing Game (RPG) first published by Tactical Studies Rules, Inc. in 1974 and re-released by Wizards of the Coast in 1997. D&D allows each player to create their own character and go on imaginary adventures. The "Dungeon Master" (or Game Master) serves as referee and story teller. Everyone's character can form a "party" and have their characters interact. They solve problems, go into battles, and collect treasures. This game has been around for decades and still has a large cult following. **TE**



Farewell Seniors

By the Senior Section Team of the Titan Echo



Now that the year is coming to a close, we are faced with memories of four years past. The following are the words and thoughts of four Titan Echo senior writers who would like to say goodbye and good luck to everyone.

Valentina Escobar - The idea that life has a funny way of working out has always resonated with me. My mother passed away in January of 2014, an event that, in many cases, would've torn people down. However, loss actually made me find myself. I don't know why I was picked to live this life, but I take comfort in knowing that I can handle hardship and anything else that comes my way.

I'd like to use this moment to say something to anyone on this campus who has experienced loss. You are not defined by what you've gone through. You're defined by how you work through it. Thank you for taking the time to read my words and remember to see obstacles as just another adventure.

Tim Rodriguez - I've lived in the Inland Empire my whole life and I can't think of a better place to call home. From Cooley Ranch, to Terrace Hills, and finally to GTHS, there have been obstacles and I've overcome them to become the person I am today. These past four years have been a ride with special relationships with teachers and students at this school. Meeting and losing friends along the way is a part of life, but you have to move past them and do what you must to become the best person you can be.

Here at GTHS, I've discovered that I can use my institutional knowledge of sports, whether it's pro or not, in the real world and maybe pursue a job in sports journalism and broadcasting. Discover who you want to be and make a difference in the world. Good luck and goodbye. Just Win Baby!

Jaelyn Soto - Many would agree that high school seems like forever, but I can honestly say it was the fastest, yet most memorable years, of my life so far. It just wasn't the workload that I procrastinated doing, but great relationships, many life lessons, and opportunities. Overcoming the good and bad throughout these years helped me grow as an individual and realize that not everyone you come across will stay and not everything you do will be accepted and not every opportunity will live up to your expectations.

Judgment from others was the hardest challenge. But it was the easiest lesson to learn. My experiences made me realize that you are the only person that can get yourself in good places and relying on others won't always get you there.

Now with less than a month of senior year, the class of 2016, also known as the "pure class," will be recognized for all of our accomplishments throughout these four years and more importantly we will be moving on to bigger goals. Thank you to my fellow classmates and teachers that were a part of my high school journey and good luck to the class of 2016!

Milana Hernandez— Although high school has come to an end these memories will be with me forever. High school is all I know. The most impacting experiences of my life probably occurred right here on this campus somewhere. Everyone had a different passion or distraction to help them get through. Leaving behind the label as an athlete is my hardest goodbye. I will no longer have swim to depend on to relieve my stress, Swim was my distraction and is now only going to be a memory. I lost and I won. I won more than I lost and I learned. But, the real win were the bus rides with my teammates, the chants to get us hyped, and the bruises.

Personally, I made the most out of it. I stayed consistent. It will be a new chapter, which means more opportunities to be better. High school was fun, but better days are yet to come. I'm very fortunate to be able to swim all four years for Grand Terrace High School. It's been a wave...

A Conversation with a Successful Senior Yields Some Good Advice

By Valentina Escobar (2016), Writer-At-Large

Bella Padilla is an ambitious young woman who has been involved in Leo's Club, ASB, the Titan Swim Team and various organizations. She will be attending CSUSB in the Fall.

TE: How did being in leadership groups and clubs help your development as a student? **BP:** Being involved helped me become a better student by staying busy and organized. I always have something to do and since schoolwork is my priority, I complete my work as motivation to finish the other things I have on my plate. Being involved has also made my high school experience so memorable. **TE:** How did you balance involvement on campus and school work? **BP:** There would be some days when I had to do things right after school, so I would do my schoolwork as soon as I got home. I would also make sure that I did everything during the week so I would have time for extras on the weekend. **TE:** What would you tell a student who's trying to get more involved but is shy or scared? **BP:** I would tell them to step out of their shell and get to know others. Learning to do something you're not so comfortable with allows you to persevere and that's part of being a leader. Being involved makes your high school experience so much better because you get to meet so many people. Choose something you're interested in and stick to it. **TE**

Senior Transformations

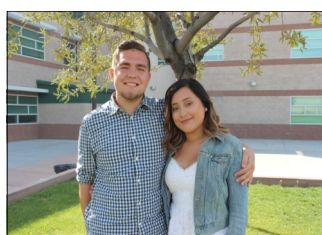
Photos by Milana Hernandez

At one point in all of our lives we all had a baby face. Over the past four years we've all grown. Our bodies, faces and even personalities changed with us. The Titan Echo captured four of the unavoidable changes.



Senior Sweethearts

By Milana Hernandez (2016), Photo Editor



Are high school relationships worth it? Teenagers may see this period of time to see where life takes them or just work on themselves. According to high school studies, high

school sweethearts that get married only have a 54% chance of having their marriage last 10 years. Although, they may end up divorced they tend to have the happiest marriages, the studies say. So, it is possible to find your soulmate in high school. Surely enough we have a couple of potentials at Titan Town that just “clicked.”

Matthew Schilling and **Julia Martinez-Hernandez** moved into Titan Town together as freshmen, and are now moving out as high school graduates. Some may wonder how they lasted all these years. The Titan Echo got the inside edition. Julia and Matthew gave their advice on how to last. “Just talk things out and communicate and know you just want to be with that person forever.” Overall it’s really up to you if you want to add another commitment in your life as a high school student. **TE**

Senior Flashbacks

By Tim Rodriguez

The class of 2016 came into the first year as GT history makers, being its first freshman. The Titan Echo asked “Pure Class” students to share favorite memories.

“Becoming ASB president was one of my big highlights of high school and some things I will remember when I look back. I really enjoyed being president. It was an open door to many opportunities....,” said **Sofia Romero-Pozo**.

Titan Echo Editor-in-Chief **Chase Preciado** said, “My favorite memory of high school was all of my extra curricular activities. I liked swimming, mock trial, journalism during my time. Everything that I did in my extra curricular (time) helped me grow as a person and helped me develop my interests and skills so I like the confidence that it gave me.”

High school has its ups and downs, but in the end, we make memories both good and bad and in about ten years or so, we’ll look back and appreciate what we did within this four year time span. From the 8th grade promotion in the blazing hot sun back in 2012 to getting our diplomas and moving on to the next stage in our lives. **TE**