New Curriculum Proposal Circulated to the Faculty

**NEW CURRICULUM PROPOSAL CIRCULATED TO THE FACULTY**

BRENDAN CLARK '21
MANAGING EDITOR

The Trinity College Curriculum Committee, in collaboration with the Dean of the Faculty Office, recently circulated new proposed changes to the Trinity College curriculum. The committee, made up of faculty, students, and deans, has met several times over the summer to discuss proposed changes in response to feedback from earlier proposals received at the May 7 faculty meeting.

The summary, together with supporting documents, was released to the faculty on Friday, Aug. 30 for review. The committee intends to present a final proposal to the faculty at the Nov. 12 faculty meeting and the faculty intend to hold open discussions on the matter on Oct. 10 and Oct. 24. If approved, the proposal would be the first major curricular change at Trinity in more than ten years.

The proposal maintains Trinity’s current 36 credit graduation requirement. However, the new proposal seeks to “rationalize” the existing curriculum by ensuring that “loop holes [are] closed [and] irregularities fixed.” Further, the proposal seeks to take advantage of where the curriculum committee saw “opportunities for productive change.” Elements of said “productive change” include eliminating the global requirement, instituting a “wellness requirement,” and introducing “The Trinity Plus,” three additional credits that are a “combination of co-curricular and academic credits.” 32 academic credits would be required, with “academic” being those courses bearing the disciplinary designations of “ARTS, HUM, NAT, NUM, or SOC.” “Co-curricular credits” would include opportunities that many already take advantage of: internships, TA-ships, mentorships, research.

**New Curriculum: The Revisions**

- **32 Core Academic Credits**
- “The Trinity Plus”: 3 Co-Curricular Credits
  - *1 Wellness Requirement*
  - *Exploratory Option / Integrated Option With Certificate*
  - *No Changes to Distribution Requirements or Foundational Requirements*
  - *Eliminate the Global Requirement*

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As the semester proceeds apace, Trinity College’s faculty have resolved themselves to undertaking the most significant action they can: a revision to the curriculum. While the curricular changes, if approved, may not impact all students presently enrolled at Trinity, the legacy of a curricular change to future students is significant.

This curricular revision bears, as with any proposition, positives and negatives to some, the changes are too de minimis to be of consequence and do not go far enough. To others, the changes serve as a means to encourage more Trinity students to embark on practical learning experiences in Hartford and the surrounding region through career-focused internships.

We, as students, are the beneficiaries of these discussions amongst the faculty. What we learn and how we learn it has a tangible impact upon the experience of our four years ‘neath the elms. That curriculum shapes our academic discourse, assists in determining the topics of theses, papers, and projects, and defines how we fit into the intellectual milieu of Trinity.

More than that, Trinity’s curriculum reflects our values as an institution. What we learn and how we learn it has a tangible impact upon the experience of our four years ‘neath the elms. That curriculum shapes our academic discourse, assists in determining the topics of theses, papers, and projects, and defines how we fit into the intellectual milieu of Trinity. More than that, Trinity’s curriculum reflects our values as an institution. We are a small liberal arts school in an urban environment. We are a school of tradition that is also contending with an increasingly global world. We are a historically male institution that, within fifty years, has seen an equalizing of enrollment between men and women. We are a school with a historically elite and white association.

Our curriculum can and should reflect these values and our efforts to improve upon them. Our curriculum should reflect our progress: respecting tradition but recognizing a long-standing inequity in course offerings and institutional policy. Surely the most important marker of an educational institution is what skills and values of critical thought inhere to students during their four years here.

Consider, for example, that the present curricular proposal asserts that it seeks to embrace our institution’s sense of urbanity. The liberal arts in the capital city of Hartford. With this proposal, a whole host of questions is raised: is Trinity engaged with its urban environment at present? What partnerships with Hartford entities support this engagement or detract from it? Should we be involved with Hartford to a greater or lesser degree? What is our institution’s place?

Every course at Trinity is a wellspring for precisely these sorts of questions. Our values come from this panoply of questions and it is from the curriculum that these questions are born. Thus is the curriculum a matter that ought to be a concern for all of our students, irrespective of when it will be implemented. Long after your departure, the curriculum will continue to hold sway over how Trinity—our school today and alma mater tomorrow—is viewed by future generations of students and the world at large.

It is as ubiquitous to who we are as the Long Walk. I implore you, fellow students, to engage in discussion with the faculty on the important question of our college’s curriculum. Make your voices heard, for your input is necessary and valuable. What values do you wish to leave this institution with? What values are missing from the proposal? What elements of the curriculum stand to be amended to reflect those values you hold most dear?

As faculty deliberations continue, I hope you all will follow along with the developments carefully and question actions as they occur. For, after all, an educational institution cannot exist in a vacuum, only attentive to the concerns of only faculty or only students: both are consequential to the institution’s success and its very existence.
and physical education courses, among others. Academic, co-curricular, or a combination of both could satisfy the “Plus” requirement. Students who maintain a 3.667 average (in two majors for a major and a minor) from different divisions would earn the recognition of “Honors in Liberal Arts” upon graduation. Apart from the combination of academic and co-curricular—the “exploratory option”—another avenue to satisfy the “Plus” would be an “integrated option,” with [an] experiential certificate.” The integrat- ed option would be a set of three courses, proposed by faculty or departments, and ultimately approved by the curriculum committee that are “shaped in such a way as to prepare students for success after graduation.” Both options within the “Plus,” however, would aim to encourage students to think about which experiences would best prepare them for their next steps after graduation. “The ‘Plus’ also places a particular fo-cus on Trinity’s location as a small liberal arts col- lege in an urban setting. Proposals that would have eliminated the second-language require- ment were not maintained in this proposal.” Instead, the foundational requirements of writing, quantitative literacy, and second language are main- tained. The five distribution requirements are also un- changed. However, the commit- tee does note in its pro- spectus that “each require- ment must be further considered.” Lastly, the “Wellness Requirement” would man- date that students have four “wellness experienc- es” during their time at Trinity. The requirement could be satisfied by tradi- tional physical education courses, certain theater and dance course, alcohol and drug education work- shops, sexual assault preven- tion workshops, partic- ipation on athletic teams, and mindfulness courses.

The committee notes in its summary that they viewed this requirement as being a significant step in the pro- cess to address the “well- being” of the students. In a letter to faculty re- leased Aug. 30, Associate Professor of Theater and Dance and Curriculum Chair Nicholas Polin expressed the com- mittee’s faith in the propos- al, stating that it “critically responds to the concerns…aids the faculty…increases the rigor of the college curricu- lum, and reaffirms our com- mitment to the liberal arts.”

Curricular changes remain ongoing both at public forums and during Wednesday faculty lun- cheons. The Act is over- seen by the Department of Education. The Clery Act also mandates timely community warnings when particular incidents occur.

Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

The University of Connecticut’s Athletic Department is currently working on changing their student section logo—known as “the Pack”—after controversy over the design suggested that it was too similar to that of North Carolina State’s. The school recently announced that the logo for the Tri- pod, adding that “partnerships with Ban- tabs in Balance, WGRAC, Title IX, and other important committees positive- ly affect student safety.”

The Clery Act, passed following the murder of Jeanne Clery at Lehig Uni- versity in 1987, is a federal law which requires colleges to disclose, via an annual report and crime logs, in- cidents on or adjacent to campus. The Act is over- seen by the Department of Education. The Clery Act also mandates timely community warnings when particular incidents occur.

Annual Clery Report

According to the report. Disci- plinary actions for alcohol possession also saw reduc- tion, with only 46 issued in 2018 compared to 102 in 2017. Drug violations remained constant, with 71 reported in 2017 and 71 similarly reported in 2018.

Further, the Office of Study Away reported no in- cidents in any crime categor- y in 2018. Previously, the Office of Study Away had reported one incident over the three-year report peri- od, a case of dating violence in 2016. The report also dis- closed one hate crime inci- dent, described as “destruc- tion damage vandalism to property based on race” that occurred in April 2018. One hate incident had been reported in both 2016 and 2017, and was similarly reported in 2018. “no fires…in on-cam- pus student housing,” down from three incidents in 2017 and one in 2016. In his email to the com- munity, Director of Cam- pus Safety Brian Heavren indicated that the report’s principal aim is to “educate students, faculty, and staff about the crime risks in our community and to cre- ate an awareness of each individual’s responsibility to ensure that our behav- iors facilitate a safe living and learning environment.”

Heavren also spoke with the “Partnerships with Ban- tabs in Balance, WGRAC, Title IX, and other important committees positive- ly affect student safety.”

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Curricular Revision

Mandates “Wellness”

The Trinity College Campus Safety Office has released, pursuant to fed- eral law, its annual report summarizing crime and fire safety statistics for calendar years 2016, 2017, and 2018. In addition to including sta- tistics, the report also lists Trinity College’s safety pol- icies and emergency man- agement operations. The report—released on Friday, Sept. 27—is produced under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statis- tics Act (the “Clery Act”), a law that mandates that any college that receives federal financial aid must disclose certain criminal incidents on or adjacent to campus. This year’s report had increases in burglary be- tween 2017 and 2018, with eight cases on campus, three in student housing, and three off-campus. There was also an increase in the number of aggravated as- saults, with one in campus, one in student housing, and five on public property. Minor reductions were noted in forcible rape, which had 12 offenses in 2018 compared to 14 in 2017. There was also a re- duction in fondling, with four total incidents report- ed in 2018 compared to 19 in 2017. Further, no crime reports in 2018 were “de- termined to be unfounded,” according to the report. Disci- plinary actions for alcohol possession also saw redu- tion, with only 46 issued in 2018 compared to 102 in 2017. Drug violations remained constant, with 71 reported in 2017 and 71 similarly reported in 2018.

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Wesleyan University

Wesleyan University has been in talks with the Chinese corporation, the Hengdian Group, as well as the public university Shanghai Theatre Academy (STA), in order to establish a new Chinese campus. According to university administrators, the Hengdian Group has narrowed down the school search to Wesleyan and one other academic institution, and that both parties are actively gathering information on the logistics of the joint venture. The STA, which focuses primarily on the arts, will also be a part of the deal. This new Chinese campus will offer dual degrees from both STA and Wesleyan. The deal would have to be approved by the Ministry of Education. What sets this new deal apart from other Chinese campuses is that schools such as NYU-Shanghai and Duke Kunshan University do not have private corporate partners like the Hengdian Group. The contract negotiations are tentatively set for 2020, while the first programs will be offered around 2023.
Title IX Coordinator Role to Expand, Include Non-Discrimination

KAT NAMON '22
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, Sept. 6, Dean of Students Joe DiChristina sent a campus-wide email informing stu-
dents that previous Title IX coordinator Venice Ross, who held the position for 18 months, had depart-
ed at the end of August. Ross had been the associ-
ate director of Human Re-
sources at the College, in addition to her position of Title IX Coordinator. Ross departed from the school to become the manager of hu-
man resources at a health care agency in the Hartford area. DiChristina’s email also indicated that Renita Kelly would succeed Ross in an interim capacity as Title IX Coordinator at the College. Ross has a back-
ground in higher educa-
tion compliance, including serving eight years as the Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at Capital Community Col-
lege in Hartford. DiChris-
tina’s email also provided reminders of the Title IX resources available to the campus and how students can access those resourc-
es. The email included two attachments, including the booklet “Your Rights, Your Options,” which details the means of redress available to those who have been victims of sexual miscon-
duct, as well as Trinity’s sexual misconduct policy.

The college intends to create a new, more perm-
ament position, after Kelly’s interim role as Title IX Coordinator is completed. The Triad spoke with DiChristina, who said that “what we are doing at now is looking at our policies of non-discrimina-
tion, and Title IX falls un-
der that category.” Further, the college has created a draft of a non-discrimination policy, presently circulating amongst the faculty for review and input. The newly empaneled 2019 Student Govern-
ment Association, among other governing bodies, will also have an opportu-
ity to review and offer input on the draft policy, according to DiChristina.

With regard to the permanency of the posi-
tion of Title IX Coordina-
tor, DiChristina clarified that it would ultimately have a wide scope, dis-
tinct from coordinating college implementation of one section of the law that the college is re-
quired to follow, such as Title IX. In this way, the role will cover many issues that fall within the am-
bit of non-discrimination.

After the drafted poli-
icy is reviewed by the fac-
ulty and students, among other groups, the Board of Trustees will have an opportunity to provide their input in mid-October. Once the board has pro-
vided assent, the search to find someone to fill this new role will begin. DiChristina added that “by mid-October, we will be able to start advertising for that position. It will be an Assistant or Vice President position for someone with significant years of service in the field of non-discrimina-
tion. This would be a national position, and we would hire someone that would most likely not be at the college.” DiChristi-
a na further added that the position “is a lot of work and consists of significant work, so the person in this role really has to have an ability to help individuals who have complaints, help manage the process, and must be very knowledge-
able and very caring. HIR-
ing someone with a sense of understanding and ex-
pertise about how to work with individuals who have experienced some kind of discrimination is import-
ant, so that’s why it needs to be a national search.”

DiChristina indicated that Kelly, who current-
ly holds the interim posi-
tion, was suggested to the college as interim coordi-
nator. “Someone brought Rita to our attention, so she has some good ac-
cess with all of this, but she was not looking to have the position as a full time job.” While Kelly serves in an interim capac-
ity, DiChristina did laud her work, stating that “she’s here doing a great job helping us because of her experience, as she has done the work before, so I appreciate her for that.”

Still, the new posi-
tion—once defined—will have its emphasis on the totality of issues within the college’s non-discrimi-
nation policy. DiChristina added that “we are look-
ning for something a little bit bigger and a position that oversees non-discrimi-
nation overall.”

New CT Law Will Impact Smokers

PALMER WHITE ’22
CONTRIBUING WRITER

The Connecticut Leg-
islature recently passed a-
new law—to go into effect on Oct. 1, 2019—prohibiting the sale of cigarettes, ci-
gars, vapor devices, elec-
tronic cigarettes, and all other tobacco products and paraphernalia to people under the age of 21. The law also states that various taxes will now be imposed on the sellers of both cig-
arettes and e-cigarettes, and failure to comply in pay-
ning such taxes will result in fines of varying degree.

This would be the first state imposing such a law, as California, Maryland, and New York have recently passed similar laws. The primary in-
tention behind these new-
ly established regulations is to attempt to prevent tobacco addiction among youth by reducing their ac-
cess to such products. 95% of smokers establish their habit before the age of 21, which ultimately contrib-
utes to difficulties in the quitting process. For this reason, it is considered important—and more ef-
fective—that preventative measures are taken, rath-
er than corrective ones.

Trinity College, as an educational institution in the state of Connecticut, is obliged to enforce all laws—
municipal, federal, and state—passed by the Con-
necticut Legislature. This means that people under the age of 21 are restricted from using cigarettes, va-
ping devices, and all other products that are includ-
ed in the new law will be monitored for age-restrict-
ed use on Trinity’s campus. Furthermore, creating smoke of any kind—ciga-
rette, cigar, vaping device, candle, and incense—is prohibited in all Trinity College owned buildings, regardless of the user’s age.

Director of Residential Life Susan Salisbury ex-
pressed that at this point in time, no one is able to foresee how these laws will affect student behavior toward tobacco use. Addi-
tionally, it is unclear how the new laws will be en-
forced on campus. Roughly 3/4 of the student body is under the age of 21, how-
ever the remaining 1/4—
along with faculty and staff—are over the age of 21. This makes it difficult to determine who is ile-
gally smoking in the designated “Smoke-Friend-
ly” areas on campus.

However, added Salis-
bury, “our purpose is not about tracking down those who need to educate you—and that’s how we’ll treat it… We need to remind [stu-
dents] that this is the law of Connecticut, and going forward we have no choice but to enforce that law.” At present, Residential Life is “addressing things on a depart-
ment—[problems] inside our buildings,” Salisbury added. Salisbury contin-
ed, indicating that she hopes that these recently instated regulations will further educate students about the dangers that come with the tobacco and nicotine products.

The College Campus Safety Report, Sept. 12-Sept. 26

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<th>Thursday, Sept. 12</th>
<th>Trinity Commons Parking Lot</th>
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<tr>
<td>Liquor law violation.</td>
<td>One student involved, disciplinary referral.</td>
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| Robbery and motor vehi-
cle theft. | One arrest was made. |
The Center for Student Success and Career Development is located on the lower level of the Admissions Building. After spending so much time immersed in the perfect world of our beautiful Trinity campus, we find that it’s here in this auspicious place that our theoretical learning finally meets practical reality. How do we put our knowledge and passion to work?

What job, or better yet, what career will help us feel fulfilled professionally? It’s here at the Center for Student Success and Career Development that those questions get tackled and, hopefully, answered. At the Center, you’ll find professionals ready to help you explore options for a job or internship, create sophisticated profiles and documents such as résumés or cover letters, and even help you prepare to land one. The Center will host specialized sessions offering students a chance to hone the skills for success necessary for both their immediate future and long after. Their assistance is time-flexible and it’s easy to schedule group sessions or as well as individual appointments available through Handshake for one-on-one coaching to help students design their unique paths based on their wants and interests.

The Center holds “Career Studios” on an array of the admissions building Monday through Friday. As well as evening hours in Peter’s on Mondays: here, students of all grade levels will benefit from help with résumés, LinkedIn profiles, cover letters, Handshake, the Bantam Career Network, and more. These resources are more beneficial than some students realize. As they are the fundamental building blocks for their personal and professional lives post-graduation. As we encourage these students to realize that it’s completely normal to be unsure of what career they would like to pursue. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about 80% of college students believe that their current major will not prepare them for their dream career. The US States change their major at least once during their college years. This is one of the strongest reasons we are here: to guide those who haven’t found “the one” through career self-reflection to identify which major and/or eventual profession would fulfill their ambitions and suit their talents.

The services of the Center for Student Success and Career Development benefit all students: students in the United States and elsewhere. The Center is one of the most practical resources here at Trinity College available to all students regardless of their grade, and the Center is one of the most needed resources here at Trinity College available to all students regardless of their grade. The Center is one of the most practical resources here at Trinity College available to all students regardless of their grade. The Center is one of the most practical resources here at Trinity College available to all students regardless of their grade. The Center is one of the most practical resources here at Trinity College available to all students regardless of their grade.

OPINION
Now is the Time to End the Assault on Plastic Straws

Believe it or not, by Trinity depriving you of the privilege of using a plastic straw with your smoothie from Mather, you’re not saving the sea turtles. A 2017 study by the Ocean Conservancy Group from the McKinsey Center for Business and Environment found that the people of the United States alone are the ones who are deposing the plastic into the ocean and harming our sea turtles. It turns out over half of land-based plastic waste leakage isn’t even coming from the United States or North America – it’s coming from China, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam. In addition, a study by Dutch hydrogeologist Dr. Christian Schmidt found that the pollution running into our ocean isn’t a result of the actions by us, the “wasteful” Americans. As it turns out, 10 river systems in the world carry 90% of the debris that is running into the ocean. Those rivers include the Nile and the Niger. Asia, as well as two in Africa, the Amur, and Mekong in Asia, as well as two in Africa, the Pearl, Yangtze, Ganges, Indus, Amur, and Mekong in Asia, as well as two in Africa. The Danube, Amur, and Mekong in Asia, as well as two in Africa.

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The Primary Debates and Why We’re Sick of Them

CHRISTO TOUR ‘22
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the third democratic debate comes to a close, we begin the countdown for debate number 6.

"These debates are filled with... one liners being thrown out in an attempt to make bumper sticker slogans and personal attacks." — A.P. TUREK ‘20

OPINION EDITOR

People are tired of accusations of fake news, jaded to the meaningful, yet labor-intensive task of deciphering fact from fiction. When two concurrent yet contrary views are expressed by major media sources, there is an uncomfortable realization that one of these narratives must necessarily be wrong. There’s a paradox of conflicting truths by reaffirming their beliefs, not doubting them. To illustrate this, I’d like to talk about the 2017 Quebec City mosque shooting, in which six were killed and a further nineteen wounded. There’s this online forum called Free Republic that attracts a lot of traffic among conspiracists. As a resource for reading popular and must therefore be revised.

"Reality is insufficiently certain and must therefore be revised." — A.P. TUREK ‘20

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The Center for Disease Control has reported that there has been a vaping illness outbreak in 46 states and 1 territory. Over 800 people have become sick from vaping, and at least 13 have died. Among the 514 cases the CDC has data on, victims reported vaping both THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, and nicotine. Early symptoms include coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and abdominal pain. As the CDC continues to investigate this vaping-related illness, many states are banning the sale of vaping products. Due to extensive media coverage on vaping, the Tripod conducted an unscientific study of Trinity students on their own e-cigarette use. A survey was posted to all class Facebook groups, and 165 responses were collected.

Out of the 153 students who responded, 27% said that they currently vape e-cigarettes, while 73% said they don’t. Of those who do vape, 36% reported using e-cigarettes daily, 18% vape a few times a week, 22% use electronic cigarettes a few times a month, and 24% use a few times a year. Only 18% of e-cigarette users haven’t considered quitting or tried to quit, while 27% have considered quitting and 29% said they tried to quit. 16% of students report they have successfully quit vaping. When asked why they vape, the majority of students (30%) said it was for the stimulant effects. 12% said they use electronic cigarettes to socialize and fit in, 9% enjoy the flavor, and only 6% use e-cigarettes as an alternative to regular cigarettes. Other reasons for vaping that students listed include, “The feeling and it’s just a habit now” and, “Bruh I’m trying to look cool. I’m rushing AB.”

96% of students who completed the survey are aware of the recent deaths stemming from e-cigarette use.

How Often Do You Vape?

- A few times a year: 18%
- A few times a month: 24%
- A few times a week: 22%
- Daily: 36%
Dr. Anthony Jack Visits On Book Tour

ELIZABETH TURPIN ‘22
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Trinity College hosted a common hour event in which Dr. Anthony Abraham Jack spoke about his book, The Privileged Poor: How Elite Colleges are Failing Disadvantaged Students. Jack graduated with a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2016. He is now the Assistant Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. His book was published on March 1, 2019. Since publication, Jack has embarked on a book tour.

To begin, Jack described his experience growing up as a lower-income, first-generation student aspiring to attend an elite college without the resources of a well-funded secondary education. His situation is actually disadvantaged high school student forced him to take initiative to create his own opportunities. College preparatory resources were something that he had to actively seek out, and, at times, found that they were simply not available. This attitude toward educational resources followed him into his college education. He said of his experience, “rest was a luxury I felt I could not afford.”

Jack characterized students in a situation similar to his as the “doubly disadvantaged.” These are students that face economic and structural disadvantages going into college. On the other hand, he described students that face economic challenges but are given the opportunity of an elite secondary education as the “privileged poor.” The use of the word “privileged” in the term is due to the advantage these students gain in being exposed to elite education prior to college. He then addressed how both groups struggle to take advantage of all the resources that are provided by their institutions. He gave the example of office hours, explaining how professors never define the purpose or the process behind them. This is part of what he refers to as the “hidden curriculum” (unspoken expectations for students success propagated by an institution).

The problem when a student who is “doubly disadvantaged” doesn’t understand the importance placed on office hours, having never been granted this resource or offered an explanation as to its significance. This student who usually loses even when things of advantage of office hours are more advantageous being that they were able to achieve their success thus far without the additional assistance. Because of the “hidden curriculum,” the institution will see this student as not being proactive and react accordingly. A student who is in the “privileged poor” group will already have an insight into the “hidden curriculum” and will not struggle to take advantage of their resources, but this is not the only disadvantage that some students face.

Another example that Jack considers a critical issue on college campuses is the lack of food for students that stay on campus during spring break and other college recesses. Although the “privileged poor” can take advantage of the opportunities the college makes available to them, they are reminded of their economic disadvantage when they are faced with the issue of food insecurity during breaks. Jack recalled his own experiences seeing shuttered dining halls and maintaining a reserve of food for these insecure periods.

These are both examples. Jack states, that illustrate how colleges are non-inclusive and ignorant of their students’ needs. He concludes that the disadvantages students face are not problems they are responsible for solving; they are problems for the administration of the institution. For Jack, part of the responsibility of claiming to have a diverse student body is creating an inclusive environment for students of all backgrounds. He insisted that students should expect more from their institution before they are reduced to data used in analyzing the媁 atistical information. Before opening the floor to questions, Jack relayed a powerful final message. He assured students to “dare to demand as much of Trinity as Trinity demands of you.”

Secretary of State Denise Merrill Visits Voter Reg. Drive

BRENDAN W. CLARK ‘21
MANAGING EDITOR

Trinity College’s ConnPPIRG chapter organized a voter registration drive last Tuesday, Sept. 24 during common hour. The drive, which was held on Nation Voter Registration Day, aimed to encourage voter participation and remind students of the importance of civic participation.

Secretary of State Denise Merrill made a visit to the drive, discussing voting with students. ConnPPIRG’s press release emphasized that “young people make up the largest and most diverse group of potential voters in the country. But the youth voice is unheard because young people don’t vote in high enough numbers.”

Trinity College’s ConnPPIRG New Voter’s Project Campaign Coordinator added that “in 2018, only 31% of eligible voters (18-29 years old) cast a ballot, compared to an average of 50% for the entire population of voters.” ConnPPIRG’s event sought to encourage students to register in Hartford for future elections. National Voter Registration Day, established in 2012 “encourages organizations, businesses, and election officials to host voter registration drives and spread awareness about the importance of being registered to vote.”

Merrill added that “we have focused all these years on the youth vote because the youth vote is the new vote.” White emphasized that “we’re excited to continue our work with the community.”

**Trinity College ConnPPIRG students pose with Secretary of State Denise Merrill during their voter registration drive last week.**

Students fill out paperwork during ConnPPIRG’s voter registration drive. New Voter’s Project Campaign Coordinator Maddy White ‘22 added that voting gives students an opportunity to “get a future that works for us.”

@SOTSMERRILL
The sound of silence in Ari Aster’s Mid sommar: Director’s Cut is more piercing than any scream or wail the deep crevices of your dark subconscious could conjure up. In this new cut of the film, Ari Aster adds 22 minutes of footage that further complicates the complexities of Dani (Flor ence Pugh) and Chris tian’s (Jack Reynor) dying relationship, the culture surrounding the mid sommar solstice taking place, and helps to fully develop the themes about entrap ment within the film through community. The plot of Mid sommar: Director’s Cut re volves around Dani going through a significant trauma in her life and desper ately becoming more dependent on her distant boyfriend, Christian. The couple then decides to join Christian’s college friends on a trip to Hälsingland, Sweden to heal their crumbling relationship by exploring the differ ent cultural aspects of a small Swedish commune. However, as time passes, the darker underbelly of this seemingly innoc ent and bright communi ty start to truly show. The true beauty and somberness of the commune is shown through Pawel Pogorzelski’s impressive technical cinematogra phy. Alongside the multitude of different shots within the film that are stunning to look at on their own, the long pans and tilts that Pogorzelski and Aster achieve truly add to a sense of oneness that the commune has with one another, espec ially in relation to nature. The acting performance from Florence Pugh alone is worthy of an Oscar nomination. The re alism she adds to a char acter that is emotionally broken, dependent on her significant other, and con tinuously insecure and in fear of being left behind is the greatest way be cause the audience could project themselves onto her. Her character, and the emotional high points that much more powerful. However, there are a couple of moments within the film that I felt were a little too obvious in saying what was to come in the future. These lines of dialogue appear as Aster trying to be clever for the sake of being clever, in stead of attempting to im merse you into this foreign world and letting the sub liminal images that he put into the film do the talking. Mid sommar: Director’s Cut is a beautifully horrific film that shows you the underlying darkness in an idyllic wonderland filled with sunny skies and smil ing faces. The gruesome scene of a couple drowning in the water is more fitting into the larger metaphor about broken relation ships and how what happens can never be undone and is worth finding, even if you have to go through hell first. Mid sommar: Director’s Cut is no longer showing at the at Cinestudio, but is now available for pur chase or streaming on Amazon Prime and will be on DVD/ Blu ray on Oct. 8.
The Toyota Land Cruiser Is the Last Great SUV

CONNOR STRUYK ’20
AUTO CONTRIBUTOR

With my last article focusing on the rebirth of one of the most influential off-road vehicles of all time, I suppose it’s rather fitting that this month’s focus centers on the likely imminent death of another. The Toyota Land Cruiser for those who don’t know is one of the most iconic and enduring cars on sale today. The Toyota Land Cruiser model series has been in continuous production since 1951 with the current J200 model in production since 2007. Its name has become synonymous with unparalleled reliability and build quality. Despite all of this heritage, I wouldn’t blame you for not knowing about them or at least not knowing they were still on sale. Toyota, in their infinite wisdom, has seemingly decided that the best way to sell their most expensive vehicle is to simply not advertise it at all. Don’t let the obscurity fool you, however; the Land Cruiser is quite possibly one of the best SUVs on the market today. For most car manufacturers, thebenchmark standard for how long an average car is designed to last is 15 years. Toyota has designed this SUV to last so it is supposed to last 25. Each of these SUVs are hand built in a separate factory from other Toyota vehicles. The level of engineering that has gone into the Land Cruiser is simply astonishing and likely what makes it such a hard sell. All of that engineering is extremely costly and starting at $85,315, the Land Cruiser competes with many other high-end SUVs which offer nicer, if less reliable and less expensive alternatives. Despite the high price, lack of marketing, and abundance of competition, the Land Cruiser still managed to carve out a niche for itself. If you need to absolutely get somewhere in any of the most inhospitable environments on earth, a Land Cruiser will get you there. The Land Cruiser has a dedicated fan base who have helped keep the Land Cruiser name alive for well over half a century despite the car’s relative obscurity. Still, the Land Cruisers days may be numbered, at least in the United States. Rumors have swirled since August that in 2022, the current generation Land Cruiser will be discontinued in the US and there will be no replacement. Toyota has somewhat added fuel to this fire as they have refused to comment on the future of the Land Cruiser which also states that they have made no decision as to whether they will stop selling Land Cruisers in the US. No matter their ultimate decision, one can only hope that the current Land Cruiser is starting to look a little long in the tooth. The current model Land Cruiser has been on sale since 2007 with no major updates so it is unsurprising that a major redesign would occur sometime around 2022. The Land Cruiser is what you get when an automotive manufacturer already known for quality allows its engineers to create the best SUV they possibly can. It is outdated, ludicrously expensive, and poorly marketed. Yet despite all of that, if you were to go into a Toyota dealer today and buy one, I would wager that you would regret that purchase. Even as I write this, I can’t help but wonder if the current Land Cruisers are truly deserving of the Legacy line. There really is something truly indescribable about how great this SUV is and for one that will be missed as it disappears.

Is Rubblebucket’s Dream Picnic the Indie Coachella?

HUNTER SAVERY ’20 A&E EDITOR

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending Rubblebucket’s Dream Picnic in Holyoke, Massachusetts. I must admit that this festival was not the reason that I had initially decided to cross the border and that festivals as unabashedly indie as this are not usually where I spend my time, though the genre is a mainstay of both my Spotify playlists and weekly radio show. Knowing that we would be in the area some friends and I decided the Dream Picnic was worth the visit. The festival, now in its third installment, was hosted and headlined by veteran indie rockers, Rubblebucket. The lineup would have baffled most people as a highly casual follower of the indie scene, I knew at least three of the performers in passing. Rubblebucket’s Dream Picnic this year was Portland, Oregon’s own STRFKR, an impressive group best known for their 2006 recording “Hun- ter Erickson the Second,” which is recognizable when heard, but the name has not lodged itself in the collective unconscious for good reason. The festival was a strange collection of vibes, far more chill and ordinarly than GovBall or Boston Calling, I’d say the average age was 25, though there was truly a remarkably broad age range present. Overall, the festivalfelt like a pleasant fever dream or one of those scenes in Twin Peaks where people are kind of talking backwards. There were only three performers my friends and I had any genuine interest in: Hunter Erickson, Guerrilla Toss, and STRFKR. These were three substantial different acts and I’ll describe them in greater detail later. Arriving in the late afternoon, the heat was sweltering. New England must have dealt with a deal with Mother Nature and that groundhog in Pennsylvania to stave off Fall indefinitely and the results were less than ideal. On the bright side, the Dream Picnic, which occupied a few blocks along repurposed factorys and a canal, was serving sangria and craft beer. Shaded by my the requisite festival-going bucket hat and sipping on sangria I settled in for Sidney Gish’s performance. A student at Western University, she gave a solo performance that was distinctly chill. She performed the top tracks from her 2007 album “Dogs Allowed” including “Sin Triangle,” “Sophisti-Cated Space,” and “Impos-Sible Syndrome,” in which she muses that she’s grossly under-qualified to be a human and grossly over-qualified to be a dog. And I’m sure we can all relate to that. The festival grounds were separat-ed into three areas Outer Space, Inner Space, and Other Space. The latter was built into the Be Here Now Village. Outer Space represented the main stage where the festival’s headliners performed, while Inner Space featured some of the more avant-garde, which is really something else about this festival. The Be Here Now Village was on another planet with classic-ist guitarists and a meditative atmosphere. I spent most of my time outside but while visiting Inner Space I did enjoy the thumping apocalyptic sound of Home Body, a synth duo that seemed to have escaped from a dystopian future and headed straight for the Pioneer Valley. Another exciting act was Guerrilla Toss, a Brooklyn band described by local radio host and music critic Fiona McEl- roy ‘20 as the B-52’s if they were from outer space and here to conquer. There was indeed a strange resemblance between the Guerrilla Toss lead singer Kassie Carlson and the B-52’s Kate Pierson which is of otherworldly synth. I couldn’t make out a single word of what Carlson was singing, but the vibe was distinctly chill. She and the band was masterful in their intergalactic groove. The biggest name on the list and the band that I had the most interest in seeing was STRFKR. At the risk of overdoing the astro analogies, STRFKR is what Phoenix would be like if they formed aboard the International Space Station instead of on Earth. STRFKR itself was in peak form playing all of their hits from the aforementioned “Rawndal Gregory Erickson the Sec- ond” to “Kahlil Gibran,” “While I’m Alive,” and even a cover of Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Want to Have Fun.” STRFKR played beautifully, but the real stars were the three dancing astronauts that stole the show. This space force even had dazzling technicolor lights pulsing in coordination with the music built into their suits. The performance represents the most successful example of crowd-surfing by an astronaut since Buzz Al- drin went to Woodstock. We left before Rubblebuck-et took the stage, so I can’t comment on the quality of their performance, but they certainly knew how to organize a festival. Rubblebucket’s Dream Picnic was a refreshing change of pace from the usual festival scene. While price of entry was a bit steep for an indie festival in Holyoke, the genuine talent and novelty of the performances made the Dream Picnic well worth the cost of admission. The festival represented the best of the indie scene and at least 50% of Marianne Williamson’s campaign do-nors. If you find yourself in the area next year I highly recommend making the trek and I’m looking forward to seeing the lineup for the fourth Dream Picnic.

TRINITY TRIPOD

The aforementioned dancing astronauts.
Wednesday, October 2
5:00–7:30 p.m., Mather Hall

WGRAC
Then & Now:
1970s to Present

5:00 p.m.
Wine and Cheese Reception, Mather Hall, Mather Art Space
“A Walk through WGRAC’s Herstory”

6:00 p.m.
Dinner and Panel Discussion, Mather Hall, The Terrace Rooms
With panelists Bettina Gonzalez ’16; Randy Lee ’66, director, Counseling and Wellness Center, and associate professor of psychology; Laura Lockwood M’95, director, WGRAC; Diane Martell, Women’s Center director, 1990–98; Beth Miller IDP ’00, M’03, and Lucemy Perez ’21
Moderated by Shakira Ramos Crespo ’02
**Former Trinity Student Makes Headlines at Boise State**

Eric Sachse ’19 will probably best be known for his legacy that he is setting on the field at Boise State. The kicker is demonstrating his amazing athletic talent on the field in front of over 50,000 people. He has no doubt made a tremendous impact on the Boise State and has become an offensive weapon changing the outcomes of their games. However, what few realize is that he got his start at Trinity not very long ago. According to the Middletown Press in 2016, he transformed the outcome of the Tufts game in a very close game of 36-28 no doubt contributing to what was a terrific season as the Bantams went undefeated and won the NESCAC. He reached out to LSU, to Boston College, UConn, Boise, Arizona but Boise was by far the staff that was the most proactive in communicating with him.”

Many at the time thought that he may have gone toward the Uconn route as he had received a lot of guidance from Dave Teggart who was a graduate of the Uconn football program helped Sachse when he was at Worcester Academy, yet in the end, Boise was the best match. It is thrilling to see what Boise will be able to do this year with Sachse as a kicker, as he no doubt causes turmoil for the defenses that he goes up against. Although it is still early on in their season Boise is undefeated and no doubt as a result of the contributions that Sachse has made this year. We wish him the best of luck on the rest of his season and his future endeavors as he continues his sporting career.

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**This Week in Sports...**

**Volleyball**
- v. Kean
  - L, 3-0
- v. Mass. Boston
  - W, 3-0

**Football**
- v. Middlebury
  - L, 32-27

**Men’s Soccer**
- v. Bowdoin
  - L, 2-1

**Women’s Golf**
- George Phinney Classic
  - 11th/11

**Men’s Golf**
- NESCAC Qualifier
  - 4th/10

**Women’s Golf**
- George Phinney Classic
  - 11th/11

**Men’s Soccer**
- v. Bowdoin
  - L, 5-1

**Football**
- v. Middlebury
  - L, 32-27

**Coming Up for Bantam Sports:**

- **Sat.**
  - Football v. Hamilton @ 1:00pm
  - Men’s Soccer v. Tufts 2:30pm
  - Women’s Soccer v. Tufts @ 12pm
  - Men’s Golf @ Williams
  - Field Hockey @ Tufts @ 12pm