

# The Trinity Tripod

-ESTABLISHED 1904-

“Scribere Aude!”

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Volume CXV  
Number IV

## Tobacco Law CT

PALMER WHITE '22  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

page **4** New Connecticut laws implemented from Oct. 1 may affect how students smoke on campus.

## Vaping on Campus

AMANDA SCOPELLITI '20  
FEATURES EDITOR

page **7** The *Tripod* looks at vaping culture at Trinity following health scares across the country.

## Midsommar Review

MACIEK J. PARDZIAD '23  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

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## 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 to 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,

see CURRICULUM on page 3

## 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

## Trinity Hosts Festival of All Nations

SUZANNE CARPE '22  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The second annual Festival of All Nations was hosted on the LSC

quad Saturday. The event featured different performances, foods, as well as cultures from around the world. See NATIONS on page 7 for the full story.



NOAH WEBER

Dean Joe is christened “Zhou Di” (Emperor Zhou) at the Chinese calligraphy table.



ERIC ZHANG '22

Federico Cedolini '22 and Martina de Robertis IDP represent Argentina.



ERIC ZHANG '22

President Berger-Sweeney indicates she would like to travel to southern Africa.



# The Trinity Tripod

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"Scribere Aude!"

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The *Trinity Tripod* has been published by the students of Trinity College since 1904. Its staff members are committed to the reporting and distribution of news and ideas that are relevant to the College community. The *Tripod* is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year. Student subscription is included in the Student Activities Fee (SAF). For non-students looking to subscribe, a one-semester subscription costs \$10.00 and a one-year subscription costs \$20.00. Please address all correspondence to:

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The *Trinity Tripod* is always looking for student contributions in photography, writing, and graphic design. Anyone interested in joining the *Tripod* can email [tripod@trincoll.edu](mailto:tripod@trincoll.edu). Additionally, all members of the community are invited to our meetings, which are held **Sundays at 7 p.m.** at our office in the basement of Jackson Hall.

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# Trinity College

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## CORRECTIONS

## Tripod Editorial

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. 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 equaling 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 are 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 are 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 matter 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.

-BWC

## Want to write for the *Tripod*?

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# NEWS

## Curricular Revision Mandates “Wellness”

continued from page one

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 (or 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 integrated 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 Trinity.” The “Plus” also places a particular focus on Trinity’s location as a small liberal arts college in an urban setting.

Previous proposals that would have eliminated the second-language requirement are not maintained in the existing proposal: instead, the foundational requirements of writing, quantitative literacy, and second language are main-

tained. The five distribution requirements are also unchanged. However, the committee does note in its prospectus that “each requires further consideration.”

Lastly, the “Wellness Requirement” would mandate that students have four “wellness experiences” during their time at Trinity. The requirement could be satisfied by traditional physical education courses, certain theater and dance course, alcohol and drug education workshops, sexual assault prevention workshops, participation on athletic teams, and mindfulness courses.

The committee notes in its summary that they “view this requirement as being a significant step in the process to address the whole-health” of the student body.

In a letter to faculty released Aug. 30, Associate Professor of Theater and Dance and Curriculum Committee Chair Mitchell Polin expressed the committee’s faith in the proposal, stating that it “critically responds to the concerns of the faculty...increases the rigor of the college curriculum, and reaffirms our commitment to the liberal arts.”

Curricular discussions remain ongoing both at public forums and during Wednesday faculty luncheons in Hamlin Hall.

*Note: the author of this article is also a student representative on curriculum committee.*

## Campus Safety Releases Annual Clery Report

BRENDAN CLARK '21  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Trinity College Campus Safety Office has released, pursuant to federal law, its annual report summarizing crime and fire safety statistics for calendar years 2016, 2017, and 2018. In addition to including statistics, the report also lists Trinity College’s safety policies and emergency management operations. The report—released on Friday, Sept. 27—is produced under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the “Clery Act”), a law that mandates that any college that receives federal financial aid must disclose certain criminal incidents on or near their campus.

This year’s report had increases in burglary between 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 assaults, with one on 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 reduction in fondling, with four total incidents reported in 2018 compared to 19 in 2017. Further, no crime reports in 2018 were “determined to be unfounded,”

according to the report. Disciplinary actions for alcohol possession also saw reduction, 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 incidents in any crime category in 2018. Previously, the Office of Study Away had reported one incident over the three-year report period, a case of dating violence in 2016. The report also disclosed one hate crime incident, described as “destruction damage vandalism to property based on race” that occurred in April 2018. One hate incident had been reported in both 2016 and 2017 as well. 2018 also saw “no fires...in on-campus student housing,” down from three incidents in 2017 and one in 2016.

In his email to the community, 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 create an awareness of each individual’s responsibility to ensure that our behaviors facilitate a safe living and learning environment.” Heavren also spoke with the *Tripod*, adding that “partnerships with Bantams in Balance, WGRAC, Title IX, and other important committees positively affect student safety.”

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



TRINITY TRIPOD

## Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

### University of Connecticut

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 University.

Created by UConn undergraduate students, the design featured a wolf pack, the same design found on North Carolina State’s school logo.

According to a statement released by the Associate Director of Athletics for Athletic Communications Patrick McKenna, “the fallout that ensued from last week’s announcement was embarrassing and we certainly took our lumps. However, we will move forward, and I’m confident everyone else will too.”

This logo has since been removed from all sites and social media platforms.

### Yale University

Yale University professors Menachem Elimelech and Jaehong Kim were selected – as a part of the National Alliance for Water Innovation (NAWI) – to lead the Energy Water Desalination Hub, a national convention dedicated to addressing the water issues around the United States. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has allocated nearly 100 million dollars to the Energy Water Desalination Hub, the most amount the DOE has ever spent on water-related efforts.

In other Yale-related news, the men’s soccer team is off to its best start since 2002. With a record of 4-0-2, the Bulldogs remain undefeated, and will look forward to its next matchups against Duke (0-4-1) on Monday and Harvard (0-4-1) on Friday. Having lost to Harvard six years in a row, Yale men’s soccer finds themselves with a golden opportunity to end their losing streak.

### 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 students that previous Title IX coordinator Venice Ross, who held the position for 18 months, had departed at the end of August. Ross had been the associate director of Human Resources at the College, in addition to her position of Title IX Coordinator. Ross departed from the school to become the manager of human 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 background in higher education compliance, including serving eight years as the Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at Capital Community College in Hartford. DiChristina's email also provided reminders of the Title IX resources available to the campus and how students can access those resources. 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 misconduct, as well as Trinity's sexual misconduct policy.

The college intends to create a new, more permanent position after Kelly's interim role as Title IX Coordinator is completed.

The *Tripod* spoke with DiChristina, who said that "what we are doing at now is looking at our policies of non-discrimination, and Title IX falls under 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 Government Association, among other governing bodies, will also have an opportunity to review and offer input on the draft policy, according to DiChristina.

With regard to the permanency of the position of Title IX Coordinator, DiChristina clarified that it would ultimately have a wider scope, distinct from coordinating college implementation of one section of the law that the college is required to follow, such as Title IX. In this way, the role will cover many issues that fall within the ambit of non-discrimination.

After the drafted policy is reviewed by the faculty and students, among other groups, the Board of Trustees will have an opportunity to provide their input in mid-October. Once the board has provided 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-discrim-

ination. This would be a national process, and we would hire someone that would most likely not be at the college." DiChristina 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 knowledgeable and very caring. Hiring someone with a sense of understanding and expertise about how to work with individuals who have experienced some kind of discrimination is important, so that's why it needs to be a national search."

DiChristina indicated that Kelly, who currently holds the interim position, was suggested to the college as interim coordinator. "Someone brought Rita to our attention, so she has some good experience with all of this, but she was not looking to have the position as a full time job." While Kelly serves in an interim capacity, 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 position—once defined—will have its emphasis on the totality of issues within the college's non-discrimination policy. DiChristina added that "we are looking for something a little bit bigger and a position that oversees non-discrimination overall."

## New CT Law Will Impact Smokers

PALMER WHITE '22  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Connecticut Legislature recently passed a law—to go into effect on Oct. 1, 2019—prohibiting the sale of cigarettes, cigars, vapor devices, electronic 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 cigarettes and e-cigarettes, and failure to comply in paying such taxes will result in fines of varying degree.

Connecticut is not the only state imposing such legislation, as California, Maryland, and New York have recently passed similar laws. The primary intention behind these newly established regulations is to attempt to prevent tobacco addiction among youth by reducing their access to such products. 95% of smokers establish their habit before the age of 21, which ultimately contributes to difficulties in the quitting process. For this reason, it is considered important—and more effective—that preventative measures are taken, rather 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 Connecticut Legislature. This means that people under the age of 21 are restricted from using cigarettes, vaping devices, and all other

products that are included in the new law will be monitored for age-restricted use on Trinity's campus. Furthermore, creating smoke of any kind—cigarette, 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 expressed that at this point in time, no one is able to foresee how these laws will affect student behavior toward tobacco use. Additionally, it is unclear how the new laws will be enforced on campus. Roughly 3/4 of the student body is under the age of 21, however the remaining 1/4—along with faculty and staff—are over the age of 21. This makes it difficult to determine who is legally smoking in the designated "Smoke-Friendly" areas on campus.

However, added Salisbury, "our purpose is not to get you into trouble. We need to educate you—and that's how we'll treat it... We have to remind [students] 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—as a department—[problems] inside our buildings," Salisbury added. Salisbury continued, indicating that she hopes that these recently instated regulations will further educate students about the dangers that come with use the tobacco and nicotine products.

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

<p><b>Thursday, Sept. 26</b> <i>MECC</i></p> <p>Hate incident: vandalism to property. Open case.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, Sept. 26</b> <i>North Campus</i></p> <p>Liquor law violation. One student involved, disciplinary referral.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, Sept. 24</b> <i>Vernon Social</i></p> <p>Larceny-theft. Disciplinary referral.</p>	<p><b>Friday, Sept. 20</b> <i>North Campus</i></p> <p>Liquor law violation. One student involved, disciplinary referral.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, Sept. 17</b> <i>Funston</i></p> <p>Burglary. Arrest pending.</p>	<p><b>Sunday, Sept. 15</b> <i>Library</i></p> <p>Vandalism to property. Open case.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, Sept. 12</b> <i>340 Summit Street</i></p> <p>Motor vehicle theft. Open case.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, Sept. 12</b> <i>Trinity Commons Parking Lot</i></p> <p>Robbery and motor vehicle theft. One arrest was made.</p>

# OPINION

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

GORDY LEECH '23  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Believe it or not, by Trinity depriving you 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 aren't the ones who are depositing 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, Indonesia, 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 are the Hai He, Yellow, Pearl, Yangtze, Ganges, Indus, Amur, and Mekong in Asia, as well as two in Africa: the Nile and the Niger.

Although the United States isn't the biggest bad guy, we do still play a part in global pollution, and even some is worse than none. However, this move from plastic to alternative

sources isn't any better. When I came here on my first day this year, Trinity gave me two metal straws to do their part in saving the environment. But are these any better for the environment than plastic straws? To address this, researchers at Humboldt State University analyzed the environmental efficiency of plastic straw alternatives. The study found that the stainless-steel straw must be used 102 times to equate to the embedded energy used in creating plastic straws, and then another 149 times to account for the carbon emissions. Within the first week of classes, I lost both of my plastic straws, and many friends of mine forgot theirs in my quad, unable to use them the 100+ times necessary

used 32 times to account for the increased energy use and 27 times to account for the carbon emissions.

In addition to the increased harm of alternatives and the limited effect the United States' plastic straw waste has on the global environment, plastic straws have a beneficial implementation for certain groups of people: the disabled. Those who may not have fine motor skills may be in need in using a straw when consuming their meals. The flexibility and softness of plastic straws provides a convenience and safety unique compared to alternatives. By enforcing this social stigma of using plastic straws and directing our efforts towards banning them without improved alternatives, we're prevent-

a cup with their hands.

Should we be giving out plastic straws like they're candy on the 4th of July? No, even a little harm to our environment is still harm, but our environmentally conscious efforts would be better spent elsewhere, and

much like private individuals who own land do. Individuals who own wooded space that allow hunting on it have an incentive to have a lively and healthy animal population or else they would lose business. Kinds of pollution or en-

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*"In the bigger picture, what are possible solutions to fighting the pollution in the ocean? One idea would be privatizing it."*

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*"Although the United States isn't the biggest bad guy, we do still play a part in global pollution, and even some is worse than none. However, this move from plastic to alternative sources isn't any better."*

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to do their part to fight climate change. Other alternatives like glass must be used 45 times to make up for the embedded energy and carbon emissions, and bamboo straws must be

ing people who were born different from being able to enjoy themselves when going out to a restaurant or wanting to have a drink when they may not be able to proficiently drink from

the social stigma of using a plastic straw is unnecessary and harmful towards certain groups of people.

In the bigger picture, what are possible solutions to fighting the pollution in the ocean? One idea would be privatizing it. Economist Walter Block, in his paper "Water Privatization," argues "there are vast areas of human existence where private property rights play no role at all: oceans, seas, rivers and other bodies of water. But why should we expect that there would be any better results from such 'water socialism' than we have experienced from socialism on land?" Through electronic fencing, we could sell plots of the ocean to private firms who would have an incentive to protect it. Private owners would have an incentive to take care of their property,

environmental damage that would harm the ecosystems could result in lost business, thereby incentivizing the firms to protect those animals and ecosystems. Even if the owners don't run a business on their electronically fenced in plot, they would have an incentive to take good care of their area for future sale, just as individuals do today with their land.

If we really want to save the planet, we're not going to do it by banning plastic straws in the United States, as the environmental effects from using a plastic straw with your smoothie at Mather are minimal, and the social repugnance has unnecessary negative spillover effects on others. To improve the state of our Earth's water's, we must seek alternative solutions like ocean privatization.

## Career Development Services Benefit All Students

OLIVIA CAIME '23  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Center for Student Success and Career Development is located on the lower level of the Admissions Building. After spending so much time

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

ty's well-connected alumni network and potential employers. Whether you are ready to go directly into the workforce, attend graduate school, or even apply for volunteer programs or fellowships, they are there to help. Nobody's career path is a straight line and the Center is there to assist students in navigating the curves and smooth the road ahead.

Often, the Center will host specialized sessions offering students a chance to hone the skills for success necessary for both their time at Trinity and long after. Their assistance is time-flexible and it's easy to schedule group sessions 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 the first floor of the admissions building Monday through Friday, as well as evening hours in Peter B'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 some of the fundamental building blocks for their personal and professional lives post-graduation.

It is important for 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 students in the United States change their major at least once during their college years. This is one

of the strongest reasons for the Career Center's existence: to help guide those who haven't found "the One" through careful 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 every student regardless of their grade, and the Center is one of the most practical resources here at Trinity College available to all. There is no need to wait until senior year to start planning – it starts as soon as you choose to walk into the Center. Let's face it, figuring out what to do with your life and launching into the real world is hard, but the Center for Student Success and Career Development makes the landing a lot softer.

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*"Whether you are ready to go directly into the workforce, attend graduate school, or even apply for volunteer programs or fellowships, they are there to help."*

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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?

find professionals ready to help you explore options for a job or internship, create sophisticated profiles and documents such as a résumé or the ever-important cover letter, as well as an opportunity to be introduced to Trini-



# The Primary Debates and Why We're Sick of Them

CHRISTO TOUB '22  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the third democratic debate came to a close and we begin the countdown for debate number

to make bumper sticker slogans and personal attacks with little basis other than to fabricate a persona to appeal to voters. I am of course referring to Julian Castro's attack on

didate get the most noise from the crowd, not whoever has the most reasonable, realistic policy. It has descended into a popularity contest where you can win by saying outrageous and hyperbolic things. That is exactly how Trump won all the Republican debates. Candidates would say nothing phrases and offer solutions that have proven time and time again to fail.

Our national government has proven even when you have the presidency and control congress it can still be near impossible to pass meaningful legislation that effectively solves problems. Still, the audience would erupt in cheers at these empty platitudes. I guess they still haven't learned their lesson. Don't just take it from me, the primary debates have been derided by candidates, reporters, and even the staff of the DNC has been on record about disliking the charade. It seems to be the

only thing in politics everyone is on the same page about. Having ten people on stage with limited time to discuss issues at length leads to only partial coverage of mainstream issues.

It encourages candidates to spout talking points and say gimmicky things for a crowd reaction, which is what a lot of people think is the most nauseating part about politics. When one of the aides preparing a leading candidate in the debates was asked if any element in the debates so far has been a good use of candidate's time or pro-

formance art of this, and we've lost the substantive debates we should have."

There needs to be a better platform debating issues but I don't believe the current framework of the debates is effective in showcasing the merits of the candidates. I think a lot of people see through the debates as just political theater. Just look at their viewership, which is declining. It's the grandstanding and phyness in politics that has made Americas grow to hate it and resent their politicians. Hopefully, some

*"These debates are filled with... one liners being thrown out in an attempt to make bumper sticker slogans and personal attacks."*

four, I ask the American people one question: aren't we tired of this? Haven't we had enough of the political grandstanding and phyness on stage?

These democratic debates have been a microcosm for what people hate most about politics. I felt like I was perpetually eye rolling at all the platitudes and fakeness shown from candidates. These debates are filled with carefully crafted one liners being thrown out in an attempt

frontrunner Joe Biden's.

Part of what made this so cringeworthy was the line about Biden forgetting that he had said people would have to opt in to get Medicare-like insurance under his health care plan, was one, obviously calculated by a room of political strategists to get attention and appeal to voters in a shameless way, and two, not even true! Because of the large audience watching, it becomes about which can-

*"I don't believe the current framework of the debates is effective in showcasing the merits of the candidates."*

vided worthwhile discussion, they said "absolutely not, it's so much on the per-

candidates will try a new strategy this election cycle: transparency.

## 'Post-Truth,' or the Death of Skepticism

A.P. TUREK '20  
OPINION EDITOR

People are pretty 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 reporting, in which all purport to speak the truth, and yet one must be

abundance of it. Far from being 'past truth,' too many people are too certain that there is such a thing. A growing mass responds to the 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 conspiracy theorists. As a resource for reading popular

conceived ideas was taken up instantly. The suggestion that Muslims were behind a mosque shooting fit neatly into a white nationalist worldview. It was revealed by the police that two unnamed suspects were being held in custody, to which Free Republic members postulated that this information was being deliberately withheld to better spin a liberal agenda. Said one poster, "can't be white.. it would have already hit the news by the libtards."

The names were in time released—according to established legal procedures to avoid false accusations—Alexandre Bissonnette and Mohamed el Khadir, stating that one of these men was a suspect and the other a witness. Immediate-

ly," and "if they're holding back the information it's more likely it's the Muslim... the press doesn't protect 'white guys'..." When the police revealed that Bissonnette, a far-right nationalist, was the suspect and el Khadir the witness—the first real challenge to this conspir-

posters, shootings must necessarily be caused by Muslims. That moment, when the police narrative went from hiding the truth to creating a lie, is the disgusting heart of this trutherism age. Reality is insufficiently certain and must therefore be revised. Naturally, this is an

*"Far from being 'past truth,' too many people are too certain that there is such a thing."*

wrong. If the people whose jobs are to find truth out there can't agree, how can the average person be expected to find their way in a word filled with misinformation? I think there's a pretty simple solution to the stresses and dangers of dealing with fake news, and it's not what you'd expect. While many bemoan the death of real reporting in what is apocalyptically dubbed a 'post-truth' society, there is not a lack of belief—in truths, in reality—but rather an over-

discourses around truth, it's invaluable: there is no hiding of opinions. What's written is a direct expression of what the posters think. The forum posts that followed the shooting followed an easily demonstrable pattern. The first reports of the shooting mentioned only the key points. Shortly thereafter, another posted claimed that the shooters were two recent Syrian immigrants, which was a total and utter fabrication, and the suggestion of evidence that confirms their pre-

*"We are too prepared to accept truth, rather than question it, too willing to believe than doubt."*

ly Free Republic posters jumped on this with predictable results—to quote a few, the report "means Alexandre Bissonnette was the witness and Mohamed el Khadir was the shooter. Otherwise, we'd have been told immediate-

atorial narrative—Free Republic posters went a step further. News coverage was "fishy," and the story was "not even close to being done," in the words of The Rebel Media pundits: 'we know enough to confirm our

extreme case, though this behavior, in much smaller doses, happens to all of us. These racists model what we are capable of. Reality isn't good enough in this age of truth's overabundance. This tragedy conveys the point that we are too prepared to accept truth, rather than question it, too willing to believe than doubt. In this trutherist age, men like Ben Shapiro and Jordan Peterson can peddle cheap facts that masquerade as truth—they need not convince an audience which wants to believe what they preach. Knowledge itself is far from sufficient: the modern citizen is as much a believer as anything else. And that is the death of skepticism.

prejudices' had moved to 'we need to know more to prove we're wrong.'

The event itself is truly meaningless if you know the truth, as the Free Republic pundits believe. In the conspiratorial mindset of these

# FEATURES

## Tripod Examines Vaping Culture at Trinity in Wake of Health Scares, Media Coverage Nationally

AMANDA SCOPELLITI '20  
FEATURES EDITOR

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.

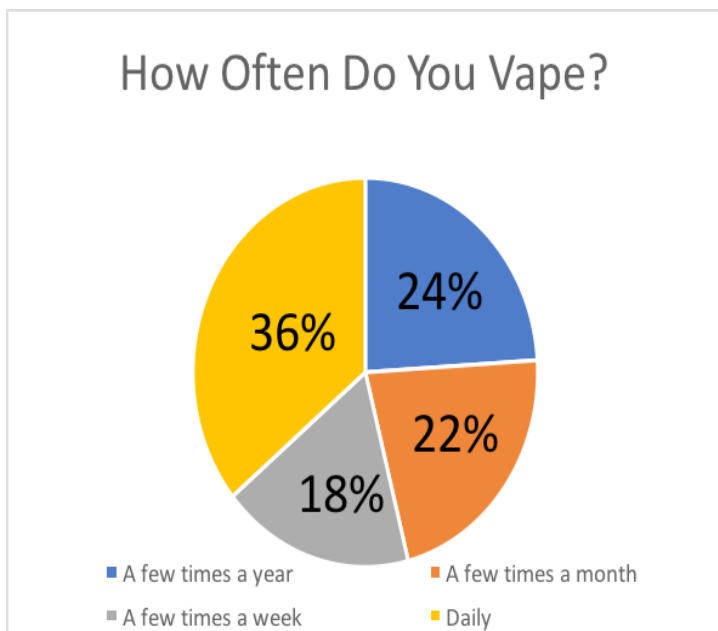
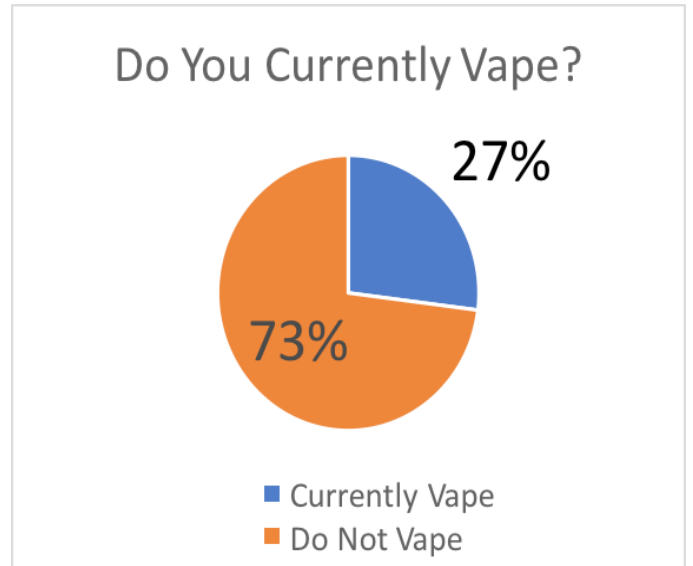
Due to extensive media coverage on vaping, the *Tripod* conducted an unscientific study of Trinity students on their own e-cigarette use. A survey was posted to all class Facebook groups, and 165 responses were collected.

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 AD."

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



## Trinity Holds Second Annual Festival of All Nations

AMANDA SCOPELLITI '20  
FEATURES EDITOR

The Festival of All Nations at Trinity College is a special event that commemorates the richness of diversity and culture that adorns our beloved institution. This year, which saw the second occurrence of the festival, took place on Saturday, Sept. 28 on the LSC Quad. It consisted of 25 booths, including 6 organized by student cultural groups: the Caribbean Students' Association, the Asian American Student Association, the Trinity College African Student Association, La Voz Latina, the House of Peace, and the Hawaii Club. Additionally, many booths were organized by groups of international students or individuals, including those representing Swe-

den, Argentina, Central America, and the Maldives, among others. The other booths at the event did not represent a specific country but rather activities enjoyed around the world, such as a table for board games like Mahjong and Go, table tennis, cricket, and soccer. There was a dance performance by Do Shakara, and the Hartford Steel Symphony wrapped up the event with a concert. Additionally, there were three food trucks from some local Hartford eateries: Baba Ganoush, El Bori, and Story and Soil.

Event attendees enjoyed traditional foods such as pupusas and empanadas, games, and activities from several regions of the world with live music and entertainment. The Office of International Students and Scholars is one of the

principal organizers of the event. Summit Fellow for International Student Support Noah Weber, who works in the OISS Office, expressed that the Festival of Nations is important because, "it is one instance of our school's many unique cultures interacting with one another in one place in a celebratory way."

The International House was a general collaborator and co-sponsor, providing funding for one of the food trucks, Baba Ganoush, and volunteering their time for event setup. They also ran some of the booths and helped advertised the festival. The President of the I-House, Sababa Anber '20, expressed that she was very satisfied with the turnout of the event, adding that "it was great, and everyone had a lot of fun. The performanc-

es were amazing". Similarly, one of the I-House's Social Chairs, Aadv Sheth, added that students from all years and backgrounds came to the Festival to celebrate each other's culture and that it was "beautiful" to see so many diverse people united in such way.

Attendees also expressed their appreciation of the event. Katie Russell '22 mentioned how amazing it was to see so many different countries represented at Trinity. She recalls a friend telling her it was "a different side of campus you don't normally see." Russell says her favorite part of the celebration was the food because she appreciated how passionate people were about their own traditions and how excited they were to share them with others.

On the other hand, Alli

Wells '22 mentioned how she went to the Festival of All Nations without really understanding what it was, but she found it truly exciting to witness how much effort everyone put into creating a table that represented their country. Her favorite part of the event was trying a variety of dishes and candies that she had never had before.

Although this year's festival has just passed, next year's will come fast enough. If you didn't get the opportunity to visit this one, make sure to stop by next year and see the plurality of nations from which Trinity students hail. Alternatively, you can relive the excitement for yourself by checking out many photographs from the event on Instagram at @trinoiss and @trinitycollege!



## 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 Mar. 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 as a 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 are faced with 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 arises 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 may even think not taking advantage of office hours is 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 resolving; 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 achieving the diversity quota. Before opening the floor to questions, Jack relayed a powerful final message. He advised 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 ConnPIRG chapter organized a voter registration drive last Tuesday, Sept. 24 during common hour. The drive, which was held on National 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. ConnPIRG’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 ConnPIRG 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.”

ConnPIRG’s event sought to encourage stu-

dents 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.”



@SOTSMERRILL

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



@SOTSMERRILL

Students fill out paperwork during ConnPIRG’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.”



# Arts & Entertainment

## Where Did 6ix9ine Go?: Updates on Tekashi's Trial

LIZ FOSTER '22  
A&E EDITOR

Daniel Hernandez, better known as Tekashi 6ix9ine, a.k.a. the guy with the rainbow hair and face tats who cries out "it's fucking Treyway" like a line from the New Testament, has devolved from his self-proclaimed "King of New York" status into a simple "snitch." That's what Twitter says, that's what the rap game says, and that's what his cohorts, including his former pseudo-manager Kifano "Shotti" Jordan, are most certainly saying. No, 6ix9ine is not facing backlash for his sexual performance with a child, a charge that resulted in nothing more than a plea deal, but for his work with a dangerous subgroup of the Bloods: the Nine Trey Gangsters. Ignoring other charges from both his adolescence and pre-fame adulthood, 6ix9ine faces up to a lifetime in jail for federal racketeering charges along with possession of fire arms and conspiracy to murder, adding to his seemingly never ending list of allegations, crimes, and controversies.

Like a game of Quiditch, 6ix9ine sits at the center of the trial, proving himself to be a snitch. Following a court decision in February, 6ix9ine's role in the case against him

and his eleven fellow gang members has shifted to exposing his comrades' involvement in criminal activity. In exchange for an escape from his potential minimum sentence of 47 years in prison, Tekashi has taken the stand to expose his fellow Nine Treys. Some names include gang member "Kooda B" who was indicted for an attempt on rap icon Chief Keef's life--though 6ix9ine was the one who placed the hit on Keef. Denouncing his association with the group, 6ix9ine aims to save himself and reduce his sentence. Seeing how the rapper succeeded in escaping charges for participation in and distribution of an unlawful sexual performance with a child, it comes with little surprise that Daniel Hernandez has managed to finesse his way into legal freedom again.

The media has latched onto the event, following not only Tekashi's trial but the public response to his behavior. Various celebrity responses reveal almost as much about the character of these artists themselves than the failed rapper-gangster's own heinous actions. Atlanta based mega-rapper Future called Tekashi a rat, including both a rodent and laughing emoji, in an Instagram story, adding his name to a growing

list of rappers angered by the Brooklyn-Blood. Vince Staples bluntly tweeted that 6ix9ine was merely a guy who "wanted to be in a music video" and now is in a jail cell. Staples' pointed tweet reflects a majority viewpoint--that 6ix9ine is a fraud. Rather than a serious rapper involved in gang activity, Hernandez was in over his head in his attempts to validate and fully realize the image he projected in his music videos. Meek Mill denounced 6ix9ine on Twitter in a similar manner for being an "Internet gangsta" and encouraging the rapper to simply be himself, throwing in a snarky hashtag of "#cloutisnottheroute." 6ix9ine's endless pursuit of unfavorable headlines as

a means of getting attention, and in turn streams for his content, remains heavily scrutinized as the rapper's career turns from a nosedive to a plummet. However, not everyone is giving up on Tekashi and his career. Some artists took a moment to perform an act of what some may call "charity" as singer-songwriter Charlie Puth tweeted that he'd produce a 6ix9ine record free of charge if the rapper was released. Puth, perhaps better known for his proclamation of "I'm hungries" than his music, was immediately dragged by the Internet for his statement. The public's response was filled with confusion and distaste for Puth's willingness to work

with someone willing to sexually abuse a child, attempt murder on Chief Keef, and snitch on the very people that helped him sustain his shortlived but highly prolific career.

It was never 6ix9ine's world, but as his future begins to unfold in a very public, very controversial trial it has become increasingly clear that the world will never be 6ix9ine's for the taking. As a rat, a snitch, and a mere "internet-gangsta," his reputation and image are forever tarnished. Regardless of if Daniel Hernandez faces life in prison for his gang activity, it doesn't appear that the future will be going Treyway--or anyway--for 6ix9ine.



A courtroom sketch from 6ix9ine's trial. Ironically, the Blood gang affiliated rapper wears all blue.

## Midsommar: Director's Cut Dives Deeper into Film

MACIEK J. PARDZIAD '23  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The sound of silence in Ari Aster's *Midsommar: Director's Cut* is more piercing than any scream or wail the deepest 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 (Florence Pugh) and Christian's (Jack Reynor) dying relationship, the culture surrounding the midsommar solstice taking place, and helps to fully develop the themes about entrapment and finding freedom through community.

The plot of *Midsommar: Director's Cut* revolves around Dani going through a significant trauma

in her life and desperately 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 different cultural aspects of a small Swedish commune. However, as time passes, the darker underbelly of this seemingly innocent and bright community start to truly show.

The true beauty and sunniness of Hälsingland is shown through Pawel Pogorzelski's impressive technical cinematography. Although there are a 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, especially in relation to nature.

The acting performance from Florence Pugh alone is worthy of an Oscar nomination. The realism she adds to a character that is emotionally broken, dependent on her significant other, and continuously insecure and in fear was painful to watch in the greatest way because the audience could project themselves onto her. Her performance was complemented beautifully by Jack Reynor, who adds to this sense of realism by embodying the distant partner who is ready to give up at any moment. The inclusion of more scenes between the two actors was a decision that

paid off exceptionally well not only because they were invigorating to watch, but also because it added to the development of Dani's character and made her arc towards independence that much more satisfying.

The only problem I had with this cut of the movie was some of the overbearing writing from Aster. This isn't to say that the script wasn't engaging because it was. The dialogue between the entire cast of characters, especially Dani and Christian, was extremely realistic, and it made 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 As-

ter trying to be clever for the sake of being clever, instead of attempting to immerse you into this foreign world and letting the subliminal images that he put into the film do the talking.

*Midsommar: Director's Cut* is a beautifully horrific film that shows you the underlying darkness in an idyllic wonderland filled with sunny skies and smiling faces. The gruesome imagery perfectly fits into the larger metaphor about broken relationships and how happiness can be found and is worth finding, even if you have to go through hell first.

*Midsommar: Director's Cut* is no longer showing at the Cinestudio, but is now available for purchase or streaming on Amazon Prime and will be on DVD/Bluray on Oct. 8.



# 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 fabulous 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, but as a highly casual follower of the indie scene, I knew at least three of the performers in passing. The big name at this year's Dream Picnic was Portland, Oregon's own STRFKR, an impressive group best known for their song "Rawnauld Gregory 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 orderly than GovBall or Boston Calling, I'd say the average age was 25, though there was truly a remarkable age range present. Overall, the festival felt 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 seeing: Sidney Gish, Guerrilla Toss, and STRFKR. These were three substantially different acts and I'll describe them in greater detail later. Arriving in the late afternoon, the heat was sweltering. New England must have cut 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 factories along 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. Gish, a student at Northeastern University, gave a solo performance that was distinctly chill. She performed the top tracks from her 2017 album "No Dogs Allowed" including "Sin Triangle," "Sophisticated Space," and "Impostor 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 separated into three areas Outer Space, Inner Space, and 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 saying something at this festival. The Be Here Now Village was on another planet with classical guitarists and a meditative air. 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 McElroy '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 underneath the layers of otherworldly synth. I couldn't make out a single word of what Carlson was singing, but the vibe was outstanding 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 France. STRFKR was in peak form playing all of their hits from the aforementioned "Rawnauld



TRINITY TRIPOD

## The aforementioned dancing astronauts.

Gregory Erickson the Second" 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 Aldrin went to Woodstock. We left before Rubblebucket took the stage, so I cannot comment on the quality of their performance,

but they certainly know how to organize a festival.

Rubblebucket's Dream Picnic was a refreshing change of pace from the usual festival scene. While the 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 35% of Marianne Williamson's campaign donors. If you find yourself in the area next year I highly recommend making the trip and I'm looking forward to seeing the lineup for the fourth Dream Picnic.

# 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 article focuses on the likely imminent death of another. The Toyota Land Cruiser for those who don't know is one of the best and most reliable 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, as the land cruiser is quite possibly one of the best SUV's on the market today. For most car manufacturers, the industry standard for how long an average car is designed to last is 15 years. Toyota has designed the Land Cruiser so that it is supposed to last 25. Each of these SUV's 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 SUV's which offer nicer, if less reliable and less engineered, experiences.


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 while also stating that they have made no decision as to whether they will stop selling Land Cruisers in the US. No matter their ultimate decision, no one will deny 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 never regret that purchase. Even as I write this, I can't help but wander off to the car classifieds and gaze in longing at still stupidly expensive used Land Cruisers. There really is something truly indescribable about how great this SUV is and I for one will be devastated if it does disappear.





**Women at the Summit**  
YEARS OF COEDUCATION  
AT TRINITY COLLEGE

**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*



**Trinity College**  
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT



# Trinity College

## This Week in Sports...

### Volleyball

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

### Football

v. Middlebury L, 32-27

### Women's Soccer

v. Bowdoin L, 2-1

### Men's Golf

NESCAC Qualifier 4th/10

### Men's Soccer

v. Bowdoin L, 5-1

### Women's Golf

George Phinney Classic 11th/11

## Former Trinity Student Makes Headlines at Boise State

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

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. The second that he took to the field his sophomore year, it was quite evident of his potential. In just his sophomore year alone, he completed all 50 of his kicks for a total of 37 extra points and 13 field goals. According to the *Middletown Press*, for a player that never took to the field at Cheshire Academy, where he played in



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high school, it is amazing to see how he has transformed as a player and where he has gotten. Making a 50 yard field goal is no joke, yet Sachse makes it seem as if it were just any other play.

However, it does not look as if his journey will end at Boise State. He has finally gotten a taste of what it is like to play at a big football program and has only excelled as

a result. Although he is no longer at Trinity, it is great to see how far he has gone in his journey and more importantly where he has yet to go in his football career, as this is still just the beginning. When looking for football programs to go to for D 1 he looked at a variety of options. According to the *Middletown Press*, he stated "He reached out to LSU, to Boston College, UConn, Boise, Arizona but Boise

**Eric Sachse '19 taking a field goal during his time at Trinity.**

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.

## 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

