Housing Committee Considers Plan to Move Upperclassmen to North

SHAWN OLSTEIN ’22 NEWS EDITOR

A Housing Renovation Committee has been established to develop an action plan to renovate student residence spaces across campus. The Committee is comprised of student affairs, facilities, and student representatives. The proposed Committee ideas, among others, have included a renovation of North, which would offer housing for upperclassmen, while Cook and Goodwin would be converted to housing for first years.

The Tripod spoke with Residential Learning Coordinator and Transition Fellow Maria Dyane, who indicated that the Committee particularly wants to "house our first year cohort together and renovate other student residences to meet the wants and needs of upper year students, as well as making infrastructure improvements (heating/cooling, lighting, etc.) in student residences." Committee members Dyane and Residential Learning Coordinator and Transition Fellow Shelia Njau have proposed several ideas and have sought feedback before the start of the semester, particularly on a plan to renovate North and market the dormitory to upperclassmen.

Dyane indicated that the proposal would entail "first years moving into Funston, making Funston first year only housing. Additionally, Cook and Goodwin would become first year housing, while upperclassmen would be incentivized to move into North." The Committee has also considered ideas including a "free meal plan, reduced housing cost, improved study spaces, and changes to the lottery system."

see COMMITTEE on page 4

Remembering NBA Legend Kobe Bryant

PLAYMAKER HQ

Tripod sports editor Jay Park ’22 memorializes the late, great NBA legend Kobe Bryant in a heartwarming tribute. Story on page 11.

JELLO @ Trinity

Trinity College JELLO students participated in their annual week of service this past January.

Fulco-Cabot Fund to Support Internships With Major Gift to Program

BRENDAN W. CLARK ’21 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Trinity College’s Public Policy and Law Program has received a major gift from a friend of the program to its Adrienne Fulco and Edward Cabot Fund which will, for the first time, allow the Program to support a full-time summer internship in policy or legal fields for Program students. This generous donation will also help to advance the Fund’s research objectives and offer additional funding for students seeking to travel and explore issues of policy in Washington, D.C. and other centers of government.

Started in 2013 by a group of Public Policy and Law seniors, the Fulco-Cabot Fund serves as a vehicle to support student research and has sought to strengthen links between current students and the Program’s alumni. A longstanding goal of the Fund has been to support student internships for those who might “otherwise be unable to do so because of financial constraints,” added Program Director Adrienne Fules. Fuleo stated that this new donation is consistent with the “priorities of both the Public Policy and Law faculty and the alumni who continue to support the Fund.”

The Fund became endowed in 2018 after a recent drive in memory of the late Professor of Policy and Law Edward “Ned” Cabot. Fuleo spoke of the...
Letter to the Editor

The Truth Matters

Last semester, I spent over $250 on textbooks for my college courses on top of paying thousands of dollars for tuition, and I’m not alone. The average college student in 2020 is expected to budget over $1,200 every year for textbooks according to the College Board. The high cost of textbooks can serve as a significant barrier for students, trapping academic success behind a paywall. Rising textbook prices are in part to the publishing monopoly that exists today, with three publishers controlling 80 percent of the textbook market, which makes it easy for publishers to raise prices without fear of losing business. The issue has gotten even worse in recent years due to the introduction of online access codes, which force students to pay for previously free class components such as homework and quizzes. Now, students are stuck spending money they don’t have to avoid failing a class without having a fair chance to succeed.

Fortunately, there is a solution that can ease the financial burden on students. Open textbooks are published under an open copyright license, which allows students to access them for free online. These textbooks are peer-reviewed and are written by experts in the field, making them comparable quality to many traditional textbooks. It’s time to stop supporting these reprehensible publishing practices and help students who are already struggling to pay for college get the education they deserve with out having to pay exorbitant prices for textbooks.

Ahmad Chughtai ’20
Trinity Ranks Tenth in Return on Investment in Recent Study

DANIEL NESBITT '22
NEWS EDITOR

In a comprehensive report entitled “ROI of Liberal Arts Colleges: Value Adds Up Over Time,” Trinity College was ranked 10th among all liberal arts colleges for return on investment (ROI), ranked just below Amherst College in 9th and Bowdoin College in 8th. The report, released by the Center on Education and the Workforce of Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, sought to ask “How do students who attend the 210 or so liberal arts colleges in the United States actually fare financially once they enter the labor force?”

The study found that the median ROI at liberal arts colleges is more than 25 percent above the median ROI of all colleges. To measure ROI, the authors used net present value (NPV), a measure the authors developed in an earlier study of ROI at more than 4500 institutions. NPV “can best be described as expected lifetime earnings minus the cost of going to college.” Using the 40-year NPV measurement, the authors were able to rank all schools with available data in terms of ROI. Harvey-Mudd College had the highest 40-year NPV among liberal arts colleges at $1,851,000. For scale, the median ROI among liberal arts colleges was almost exactly equivalent to the median ROI of all public colleges and universities while the 75th percentile ROI was just above $1 million, greater than most other types of colleges and universities.

This study also found that the ROIs at the most selective liberal arts were extremely high, almost comparable to that of doctoral universities with high research activity, indicating that liberal arts degrees are still valuable relative to other options. The study also examined other factors that are associated with ROI. For example, higher graduation rates were associated with higher ROIs at liberal arts colleges. Though there were some exceptions, this association held true for most liberal arts colleges studied. Another factor the study examined was the proportion of low-income students attending the college. Using the percentage of students receiving Pell Grants, the study found that “the lower the share of students who receive Pell Grants, the higher is that college’s ROI.

According to the study, geography also plays a key role in determining ROI, finding that “Colleges in regions where per capita earnings are greater have higher median ROIs than colleges in regions where per capita incomes are lower.” In other words, regions with higher income students attending the college. Using the percentage of students receiving Pell Grants, the study found that “the lower the share of students who receive Pell Grants, the higher is that college’s ROI.

While the study found that liberal arts colleges have high ROIs in general, they did exhibit greater variability in outcomes. For instance, the 25th percentile ROI for liberal arts colleges was almost exactly equivalent to the median ROI of all public colleges and universities while the 75th percentile ROI was just above $1 million, greater than most other types of colleges and universities.

The study examined the role of the Public Policy and Law Program at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, seeking to examine the financial returns and other implications of the program. The study notes, “Many of the small liberal arts colleges that are in financial danger or have closed are in New England.”

High income regions of the United States, such as New England, have a higher rate of ROI in colleges and universities such as Trinity.

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High income regions of the United States, such as New England, have a higher rate of ROI in colleges and universities such as Trinity.
Shawn Olstein ’22

The Trinity College Mock Trial team won first place out of fourteen teams competing at Saint Bonaventure University this weekend. Additionally, team members took home several individual prizes. Olivia Loutzen ’22 received an award for outstanding Lawyer, and Keji Oladinni ’21 and Reagan Flynn ’22 received awards for outstanding witnesses. Each day of the tournament consisted of two trials, one beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the other at 2:00 p.m. Each trial listed five judges, each of which would score the teams and determine a winner by awarding them a ballot. Trinity’s prosecution and defense went to trial once a day either in the morning or afternoon. Of the eight total ballots available, Trinity won six, lost one, and tied one. The prosecution consisted of three lawyers: John Law- son ’20, Shawn Olstein ’22, and Jack Stone ’22, along with three witnesses: Flynn, Loutzen, and Oladinni. The defense lawyers were Hannah Kessel ’22, Lou- then, and Allison Rau ’23, along with Oladinni, Oladinni, and Flynn as witnesses. Trinity’s Mock Trial team hopes to continue its momentum into the Yale regional competition the weekend of Feb. 16 and 17. In response to the team’s victory, coach Glenn Falk of the Public Policy department stated that “It says a lot about this team that students who were awarded in both lawyer and witness categories, and the team ranges from first years to seniors. Everyone was es- sential for the result. All the practice and dedication paid off.” First year Attor- ney Rau told the Tripod “I really wanted to turn up the heat for this competition as it clearly paid off.” The court case used for the tournament is the fic- tional Ryder v. Midlands. Jordan Ryder, played by Flynn, stands accused of being responsible for the death of her daughter Park- er Paige on a camping trip. The trial consists of a host of characters including a detective played by Oladinni, a hiker played by Lou- then, a social worker played by Oladinni, and two Doc- tors played by Flynn and Olstein. The prosecution is given the choice to charge the defendant with either murder or manslaughter — Trinity’s prosecution chose to prosecute a charge of murder, arguing the defen- dant pushed her daughter off a cliff with a hiking staff. Trinity’s defense argues the death of the daughter was accidental as the girl had a severe form of osteogenesis imperfecta, a genetic bone disease commonly known as brittle bone disease.

Housing Committee Aims to Build and Maintain A Positive Community

While the proposal has not been finalized, Dya- ne and Njau have indi- cated that “it is unlikely that the single room dou- ble layout will change.” It remains unclear when the Committee will vote on the final proposal. This comes about two years after he was forced to come speak at Middlebury College on Mar. 31. Charles Murray has once again been invited to come speak at Middlebury College on Mar. 31. Charles Murray has once again been invited to come speak at Middlebury College on Mar. 31.

Middlebury College

Charles Murray has once again been invited to come speak at Middlebury College on Mar. 31. The proposal has not yet been determined, said that the Committee has engaged in "frequent conversations with architects from the Little Diversified Archi- tectural Consulting firm to discuss ideas and feasi- bility, what budget would be required, and if the new plans are attainable for the college going forward."
Justice for Mubi: Police Brutality and Race in America

KABELO MOTSOENENG '20
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Mariyann Soulemane graduated in May 2019 with a B.A in International Studies and a French minor, and was named Fulbright grant recipient. Soulemane studied abroad in France and South Africa, immersing herself in communities all around her. Unbeknownst to Soulemane, her arrival in Malaysia for Fulbright would be marked by the tragic death of her brother Mubarak “Mubi” Soulemane. Mubi’s death could have been avoided—but he was shot seven times by a Connecticut state trooper on Jan. 15, making him the third person to die in Connecticut from state-enforced police brutality this year.

Mubi was a missing person with a severe mental health condition, and what he needed was not be caged as though he was an animal but to receive help. According to police reports, Mubi had a knife with him. But who was really at risk—the troopers surrounding Mubi or Mubi who was in fear? For what is a knife to a Connecticut state trooper a Black African man with a knife to white men who has murdered someone at the beginning of the world? What Mubi needed, when surrounded by an army of officers, was not a gun, nor a deadly weapon—just a way to talk to Mubi—to hear him, understand him, and make him less afraid, then Mubarak Soulemane wouldn’t have died at Yale–New Haven hospital.

The question of race with regards to Mubi’s death is so palpable it makes the mind weep. Had Mubi been a white teenager, struggling with the same mental health condition, and had a terrible episode that led him ‘stealing’ a vehicle—would he have died? Or would he have been followed by white women and then other races of white adjacency. A white Mubi would have been spared, albeit white men and their whiteness being the cause of bygone and current injustices of the world we know. It is not as though this was a mere Kleinian episode, but it is not as though this was a mere instance of police brutality—he is a child of Black immigrants from Ghana. This story requires a nuanced approach that should consider how Black Africans die due to police brutality and rarely have their names known. Mubi will be dearly missed by his sister Mariyann and the rest of his family.

The Mainland, Taiwan, and the “One China” Policy

Tsai Ing-wen, the President of the Republic of China (R.O.C), commonly known as Taiwan, won her reelection by a landslide on Jan 11th, 2020. Obtaining more than 8 million votes, Tsai became the president who won the most amount of the popular vote since 1996 when the Taiwanese directly elected their president for the first time. Tsai’s party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) also maintained its majority in the Legislative Yuan (the Congress). The triumph of Tsai and her Taiwanesic Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was a massive slap in the face to Beijing, who claimed that Tsai’s government was corrupt and unpopular and implicitly supported the more pro-Chi-nan Kuomintang (KMT) and its presidential candidate Han Kuo-yu. It’s relatively rare that a President can obtain more votes in his or her reelection compared to the first election in a competitive democracy. The voters of Tai-wan have sent out a strong and clear message to Com- munist China and the world: they completely reject what China does. The same year. After the P.R.C substituted the R.O.C as the sole legitimate representa-tive of China to the United Nations in 1971, the P.R.C has declared the “One Chi-na Principle” as its bottom line. This was not diplomacy in the world, but seven gunsshots fired by one Brian North to his body. Mubi died on Jan 15, making him the third person to die in Connecticut this year.

The “One China Principle” shows the arrogance and ignorance of the P.R.C government and its coun- terproductive to its goal of reintegration of Taiwan. Taiwan is excluded from the majority of international organizations due to the ob- jection of China, which con-siders it a Chinese province with no right to participate in any international organiza-tions. Taiwan also lacks any rights to represent other international states. The CCP’s intimidation and suppression of Taiwan’s sovereignty, which is pri-marily derived from the “One China Policy” will only make Taiwan’s peo-ple more hostile to the CCP in the life of 23 million Tai-wanese people and Taiwan’s public safety at risk. Addi-tionally, the CCP’s habitual sending of its aircraft carrier through the Taiwan Strait and conduct-ing multiple military exercis-es in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, to both show off its military power and deter Taiwan. The CCP’s intimidation and suppression of Taiwan’s sovereignty, which is pri-marily derived from the “One China Policy” will only make the Taiwanese, espe-cially the younger generations that were born and raised in Taiwan, develop more hostility toward main-land China and a stronger identification as Taiwanese.

Beijing should start to alleviate its suppression and allow Taiwan to join more international organiza-tions. Beijing should also recognize the existence of the Repub-lic of China as a sovereign nation in Taiwan. This is a historical fact. Beijing is acting like an immature bully by self-deception and claims that the territory not under CCP’s control as part of its “territory.” Just to be clear, I’m not advocating for a “Taiwanese state” or an al-ready part of a sovereign state of the Republic of Chi-na as defined in its own con-stitution. People from both mainland China and Taiwan share the same ancestry and culture. Taiwan, to a certain extent, represents a better version of China: A China that is democratic, more di-verse, and more inclusive. I am reminding Beijing to keep the Inte-rnational organizations as part of its “territory.”

The author of this piece expressed to the Tripod the need to pub-lish anonymously due to fear of retaliation from the Chinese government
When We Stop Improving and Accept Status Quo

You may have heard that there's an election coming up. Yeah, to de- cide on who gets to watch you go the next four years, so dig your head out of Netflix, get that hungov- er ass away from Sunday margaritas, and make an attempt to see where the country will be if we can elect a different President than the one we have now.

The nation's leading candidates among college students are Bernie Sand- ers, who ran in the 2016 Democratic Primary, and Elizabeth Warren, both of whom have been expand- ing their support in recent weeks. Bernie took home 40% of the vote and Sena- tor Warren 21% in College Pulse's election tracker of all college students in the 2016 states as of a Jan. 7 poll.

To Democrats, mod- erates, and centrists de- pressed by politics (Trump, not to mention who can fix it), I want to offer some reassurances. Trump's ap- proval ratings in the Mid- west are underwater, and

The Political Game: The Duel for the Democratic Soul

Barack Obama was forced to ease back on true-blue Democratic proposals to pass bills in the House and Senate through Re- publican-approved recon- ciliation packages. Even if Democrats win the Senate, opposition will be fierce, and we'll only have one non-voters to the party. With this election, non-voters will be one side getting over supporting the other to win and win big enough that Trump can't possibly come close to doing it come November. Research your candidates and in- form your parents. Volum-
Jyles Romer '20

Jyles sports the upside collared coat with leather pants topping it off with the low cut Doc Martens.

Tijani Harris '22

Tijani rocks a vertical striped Puma Jersey with a turtleneck underneath while mixing it up with Balenciaga runner sneakers.

Tiana Starks '22

Tiana brings out the bright colored bubble coat with a sleek all black fit.

Naia Saddler '23

I am Naia Saddler '23 and as a basketball player for Trinity women's basketball team, I am interested in how fashion and sports intersect. I am happy to announce that I will be taking over the Tripod fashion column for the next four years! So I will be around campus looking to take flicks of the flyest fits at Trin: be ready!

Tripod Staff Reviews the Weekend in Parties

A.D.

Psi Upsilon

“Not something to write home about.”

★★★

Kappa Sig.

“Way too crowded.”

★★

The Hall
Transitioning to Trinity College as a First-Year, First Generation College Student

KATIE CERULLE ‘22
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The transition to college proves tough for even the most independent of students. Being as young as 17 and removed from family, friends, and the routine of hometown life can cause emotional anguish. For many first generation college students, however, the uneasy feeling many freshmen face is amplified. The Tripod spoke with Manny Bernardo ’23, who explained that seemingly ordinary college endeavors are foreign to students who are the first in their family to attend a four-year institution. Despite their equal qualifications, this lack of provided information makes opportunities for these students seem less apparent.

Manny Bernardo graduated from Wellesley Senior High School in Wellesley, Massachusetts with the class of 2020. Before his junior spring, he did not consider college to be an option due to the socioeconomic status of his family—his mother being an immigrant from Brazil who could not afford a full four-year tuition. He then found a program called Questbridge, which helps high achieving, low income students find colleges that match their monetary needs as well as challenge their intellectual capabilities. This lead him to Trinity College, which gave him a full scholarship as well as an elite education that would prepare him to enter the workforce with a college degree.

Attending a highly-ranked institution does not ensure the success of these students, however, as Manny spoke of the struggles of first generation students that their peers might find alien. “Communication has been integral to my success as a student,” explained Bernardo. “Learning what questions to even ask professors or administrators to find out what opportunities are available is a skill that other students seem to already have.” The mundane tasks that legacy college students complete, such as talking to parents’ friends about internships, discussing meal plans that cost more than the beginning package, or ordering textbooks with a parent’s credit card, are done completely independently by Manny and other first generation students. The burden of conferring with numerous operations on campus, that do not extend themselves further to students who need extra support, creates undue stress on these students.

Despite these obstacles, Bernardo, like other first generation students, has found happiness within outlets that Trinity provides. He spoke highly of the first generation student pre-orientation program, citing the benefit of speaking to students of similar backgrounds. Additionally, other programs sponsored by Trinity, such as the Caribbean Students Association fashion show, have allowed Bernardo to meet many interesting people that serve as valued friends throughout his hardships. Lastly, Manny found club rugby, which incorporates physical activity and a team dynamic that created a family away from home.

Tripod History:
The Trinity Tripe

In 1941, the Tripod released the Trinity Tripe, an early take on the Liepod, to celebrate April Fool’s Day. A top story, meant to be a satirical piece, announced that Trinity was going to accept female students, something that was apparently inconceivable at the time.

If you are graduating in 2020 or 2021 and would like to learn more about joining Teach For America, contact Recruitment Associate Pamela Vivanco at Pamela.Vivanco@teachforamerica.org.

THE NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEB 28

www.teachforamerica.org
Mac Miller: An Ode To His Artistic Growth and Circles

CAROLINE RICHARDS 22 A&E EDITOR

You almost don’t recognize Mac Miller’s voice in the opening song of his posthumously released album Circles. Miller has always been known for the passive grittiness of his vocals, and contrasted by the loud directiveness of his rap verses, it makes his songs beautifully whole-some (especially in songs like “Jet Fuel” off Swimming or “100 Grandkids” off GO:OD AM). But when he sings, “well, this is what it looks like right before you fall” to open up the album with its title song “Circles”, you can’t help but feel like you’re listen-ing to something secret, or haunted. Though this feeling may be unavoidable given Miller’s death by ac-ci-dental overdose in Sep-tember of 2018, the gentle-ness of the voice adds something intangible. If anything, it demonstrates his growth as an artist to a shocking degree. If you listen to “Blue Slide Park” to “Blue Slide Park” when Miller put out Macadelic, no one really knew what to make of the soft boldness in some of his songs. Most not-ably, “Fight The Feeling,” which features Kendrick Lamar and Iman Omari, plays around with the idea of breaking the “I’m-the-bad-guy” mold that rappers default to, and in some cases, the idea of singer-songwriter vocals. Miller uses the idea of “I’m a Beatle to these young kids, but sometimes I feel like a needle to these young kids” or “it’s hard to have a dream when you deep inside of one” we get our first taste of the ex-istentialist backdrop that echoes so strongly in Swimming and Circles. Simi-larly in “The Question,” a dreamy acid-trip of Miller’s confusion regarding his place in the world (which features an iconic verse by Lil Wayne), Miller moans, “sometimes I catch a buzz just to help me picture love” and “I’m a hor-rible catch in a lazy world” ready, he’s giving us some

of the huge themes that will underlie his later albums - crises of personality and battling internal demons. Of course, his much-rocked lyrics were overshadowed to a high de-gree by songs like “Loud” and “Thoughts from a Bal-coy” that sound like tra-di-tional Mac Miller: play-fully crass with a chip on his shoulder. But the seed was planted nonetheless.

We don’t really encour-a-ge the more profound side of Miller until his 2015 studio album GO:OD AM, which feels like an album he took his time on: the lyrics and experimental electricity that this album presents do not disappoint. Here it seems like Miller finally had the chance to perfect what he had start-ed in 2011. In songs like “Circles”, you can’t help but appreciate the mysteries and coincidences of life, no matter how joyous or tragic. Blind Chance tells the story of Witek Dlugosz, a medical student uncertain about his future, as he tries to grapple with the death of either his family or his cat-er off school and catch- ing the next train to War-saw, Poland. The film plays out as three scenarios, with his fate depending on how he inter-acts with the vari-ous people he bumps into while he frantically tries to make the train on time. Pakulski’s documenta-ry style cinematography stunningly shows the un-certainty of Witek’s world through the use of a shaky handheld camera that fol-lows him from location to location. Although this film is very much about how one’s destiny is affect-ed by the choices made in the present, Pakulski and Kieslowski cleverly show how one’s distant past can make up their current cir-cumstances by shooting those sequences through a first-person point of view. The camera then pans into a wider shot to reveal that Pakulski and “K”-kuhl’s human demons Miller battled posthumously released for Circles, released posthumously in January 2020. blind chance holds humanity’s beating heart

MACH Produktion 23 A&E EDITOR

Krzysztof Kieslowski’s Blind Chance (Przypadek 1985) explores the many facets of how a human can experience under the harrowing (and other times harmonious) circumstanc-es of choice, chance, and fate. This philosophical and moral examination of human life was masterful-ly written by Krzysztof Kieslowski himself, who brought to life by cinema-tographer Krzysztof Pa-kuński through the use of a documentary style. These two aspects alone culminate in a film that by the end, will truly allow you to appreciate the mysteries and coincidences of life, no matter how joyous or tragic.

Blind Chance tells the story of Witek Dlugosz, a medical student uncertain about his future, as he tries to grapple with the death of either his family or his cat-er off school and catch- ing the next train to War-saw, Poland. The film plays out as three scenarios, with his fate depending on how he inter-acts with the vari-ous people he bumps into while he frantically tries to make the train on time. Pakulski’s documenta-ry style cinematography stunningly shows the un-certainty of Witek’s world through the use of a shaky handheld camera that fol-lows him from location to location. Although this film is very much about

how one’s destiny is affect-ed by the choices made in the present, Pakulski and Kieslowski cleverly show how one’s distant past can make up their current cir-cumstances by shooting those sequences through a first-person point of view. The camera then pans into a wider shot to reveal that Pakulski and “K”-kuhl’s human demons Miller battled posthumously released for Circles, released posthumously in January 2020. Blind Chance is a film that gently holds humanity’s beating heart with open hands and shows the audience every scar with- out flinching. Although the wounds might be terrifying and depressing to bear, it would seem Kieslowski be-lieves that beauty will in-evitably come and that it is always worth experiencing. although certain screenwriting elitists and film critics denounce the ease with which Witek’s po-litical beliefs change based on circumstances that happen to him, I believe that it makes the film stronger as we see the fallibility and fragility of the human mind. Kieslowski’s humanistic perspective shows that we, as human beings, don’t always make our own choices consciously as there are many others who have happen simultaneously ev-ery second of our lives that are beyond our control. This interpretation of hu-man life, whether true or not, is realistically played out in all three scenarios shown within the movie, with each one having the perfect amount of screen- time that keeps the pacing fresh and leads to the audi- ence asking for more. This three scenario structure also allows for an interest- ingly slow reveal of Witek’s flaws and memories that were not previously shown in flashback form, making each scenario vital in un-derstanding the entirety of Witek’s complex character.

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Blind Chance is a film that gently holds humanity’s beating heart with open hands and shows the audience every scar with-out flinching. Although the wounds might be terrifying and depressing to bear, it would seem Kieslowski be-lieves that beauty will in-evitably come and that it is always worth experiencing.
In the wake of Lil Peep's untimely death in 2017, I wrote an article titled “No One Cares about Rappers or Drug Addicts.” In the wake of the death of 21 year old rapper Juice WRLD, I've been unable to get those same feelings out of my head. Lil Peep's last Instagram post was captioned “When I die, You'll love me,” one small piece of years of rapping about his anxiety, depression, and persistent drug problems. In contrast to his albums full of hopeless, heart broken, addiction lyrics, Juice WRLD, nee Jarad Higgins, captioned what would be his final post with “Yesterday was my actual bday I'm celebrating all week doing 999 shit.” For a figure so commonly associated with dependency, “sad boy hours,” and heartbreak, his Instagram sound ed refreshingly positive. Newly 21, the rapper had a seizure in the Chicago O'Hare airport, presumably induced by his mixing lean and a variety of pills. As further details have emerged in the following weeks, news outlets reported that the rapper had swallowed copious amounts of percocets after discovering a police search warrant. His friends. As 2020 wraps up, I beg of you: their friends. It's ignorant to assume the rapper's friends could re sponsibly passively to their companion's drug problem that he would die in the peak of his career. Without someone to stop, or at least discourage, destructive behavior, many users are left to their own devices— which often fail them. Fresh off the success of “Bandit ft. Young Thug,” a reworked demo original from the rapper's last album WRLD On Drugs, Juice WRLD's drug experiences with lean and xanases were a result of the older rapper's music. In an interview with Vulture before the release of the two rappers collab album WRLD On Drugs, Juice explained that “Future just was like ‘Wow,’ he kind of apologized.” With songs like “Xanny” and multiple albums named after lean (Dirty Sprite and its 2015 follow up DS2), Future, born Nayvadius DeMun Wilburn, experienced both as a product and producer of the drug culture currently assaulting the rap industry. Though future himself has quit using drugs, his impact in rap culture's gravitation to substances undeniable. Most ironically, and perhaps painfully, the two rappers collaborated on a mixtape in 2017. The tape's name? WRLD on Drugs. Similar to Lil Peep, Juice WRLD hid no part of his issues and addiction. His music is wrought with stories and lyrics about heart break, depression, and the subsequent drug used to cope. Even more haunting was the rapper's foretelling of his own death, recounting on “Legends,” a song written in homage to the late Lil Peep and XXXTentacion, that “we ain't making it past 21.” Juice WRLD's drug issues were at the front and center of his music. On 2018's Goodbye and Good Riddance "Lean With Me," he raps "Told her if I die/ Ima die young/ Everyday I been gettin' funeral/Finally know the difference between lust and love/ Shwayy tell me I should re ally sober up" among other concerning lines. Other notable verses for help include “Candles” “I need something other than Xannies to take the pain away” or “I know that these perc ees finna hurt me” and “I am getting too fucking, too f**ked up, yeah I'm too f**ked up” from “Black & White.” It seems unfathomable to me that the rapper's friends could re spond so passively to their companion's drug problem that he would die in the peak of his career. Without someone to stop, or at least discourage, destruc tive behavior, many users are left to their own devices—which often fail them. Fresh off the success of “Bandit ft. Young Boy Never Broke Again,” a reworked demo original- ly named “Molly Savage” only available on Sound cloud, Juice WRLD's death seemingly came out of no where. His breakout hit “Lucid Dreams” remained on the charts and was trending on the popular app Tik Tok along with an unreleased song “Let Me Know.” Yet even on “Bandit,” Juice WRLD indicated his problem, rapp ing “I'm nice when I'm high off the pills.” Still, his death appeared as a surprise to fans, friends, and the media alike. Similar to the wake of Lil Peep's death, social media users flocked to tweet and post to not abuse drugs, to quit drugs, and to not let addiction kill you or the people around you. Where was this energy for the very person whose death catalyzed these tweets, snaps, and grams? The late Lil Peep died he posted a video on Instagram where he was transparently on benzos, slurring that he was “on six xanaxes” before declaring “I ain't making it past 21” to the late Lil Peep and XXXTentacion, that “we ain't making it past 21.” Juice WRLD's drug issues were at the front and center of his music. On 2018's Goodbye and Good Riddance “Lean With Me,” he raps “Told her if I die/ Ima die young/ Everyday I been gettin’ funeral/ Finally know the difference between lust and love/ Shwayy tell me I should really sober up” among other concerning lines. Other notable verses for help include “Candles” “I need something other than Xannies to take the pain away” or “I know that these percocets finna hurt me” and “I am getting too fucking, too f**ked up, yeah I'm too f**ked up” from “Black & White.” It seems unfathomable to me that the rapper's friends could respond so passively to their companion's drug problem that he would die in the peak of his career. Without someone to stop, or at least discourage, destructive behavior, many users are left to their own devices—which often fail them. Fresh off the success of “Bandit ft. Young Boy Never Broke Again,” a reworked demo originally named “Molly Savage” only available on Soundcloud, Juice WRLD's death seemingly came out of nowhere. His breakout hit “Lucid Dreams” remained on the charts and was trending on the popular app Tik Tok along with an unreleased song “Let Me Know.” Yet even on “Bandit,” Juice WRLD indicated his problem, rapping “I'm nice when I'm high off the pills.” Still, his death appeared as a surprise to fans, friends, and the media alike. Similar to the wake of Lil Peep's death, social media users flocked to tweet and post to not abuse drugs, to quit drugs, and to not let addiction kill you or the people around you. Where was this energy for the very person whose death catalyzed these tweets, snaps, and grams? The late Lil Peep died he posted a video on Instagram where he was transparently on benzos, slurring that he was “on six xanaxes” before declaring “I ain’t making it past 21” to his fans at his concert planned for the next night. Juice WRLD, fresh off a flight from California, was pronounced dead in Chicago before the sun rose, leaving fans to wake up to the startling news that day. One cannot single handedly stop another’s drug issue, but as celebrities have become increasingly transparent in their struggles, the tide is in one to declare “I never saw this coming.” Had a friend checked in on Juice WRLD or confronted him about the copious amounts of drugs brought on his flight, maybe the rapper would still be alive. Had someone developed serious concern from the content of his music, hundreds of songs centered around drug abuse, maybe things could have gone differently. Regardless of individual actions, the current culture that seemingly rewards drug abuse with clout tokens must be stopped. To quell this ticking time bomb, one must begin to question why their favorite artists are so heavily involved and dependent upon drugs that are destroying their lives. Mirroring the actions of your doped out favorite rapper will do you no favors. If you want to emulate a rapper’s seemingly “cool” drug use, just smoke a fucking blunt. Weed never killed anyone, but fentanyl laced, phar-
Trinity Men’s Basketball Defeats the Connecticut College Camels in Overtime Portion of the Game

ERIN KARCZEWSKI '20
SPORTS EDITOR

The Trinity College Bantams improved their record to 2-2 in the NESCAC after an exciting double overtime win against the Connecticut College Camels.

While the Bantams fell behind 12-5 early in the first half, they battled back to take the lead to 19-17 halfway through the first half. With key plays from Colin Don-ovan ‘21, the Bantams were able to improve their lead to 47-47 by the end of the first half.

Unable to back down, Ben McPherron, a rook- ie for the Camels, led all scorers with 21 points. With just 1:27 left in reg- ulation, the Bantams led 81-78 until Camel junior Jeff Allen hit a three point- er to tie up the ball game. Senior guard for the Ban- tams, Christian Poryday ‘20 attempted a half-court shot to take the lead at the end of regulation, how- ever, he came up short.

After much back and forth in the first overtime, the Camels sunk a three with just 29 seconds left to give them a 90-86 lead.

Trinity co-captain Nick Seretta ‘20 was one for two from the line along with Camel’s junior Jack Zimmerman to make the score 91-87. Poryday was able to grab the offensive rebound on Seretta’s miss to improve the Bantams to 91-89 with just one second left on the clock. The Ban- tams proceeded to quick- ly foul, sending Camels Austin Nwafor to the line. As Nwafor sunk only the second of two free throws improving the Camels lead to 92-89. As the Ban- tams inbounded the ball, Poryday let it bounce once before launching an almost full-length court shot. His attempt was good, send- ing the Bantams into a second overtime. Trinity’s Seretta and a few others had a couple buckets in the second overtime to give Trinity the 104-94 victory over the Connecticut Col- lege Camels. The Bantams improved their overall re- cord to 2-1 while the Cam- els dropped to 3-13 overall.

During the month of February, the Bantams will face off against NESC- CAC rivals the Williams Ephs, the Tufts Jumbos, the Bates Bobcats, the Am- herst Mammoths, and the Hamilton Continentals. After their success against the Camels, we wish them the best of luck in their winter season!

A Player, A Father, A Friend: NBA Legend Kobe Bryant

JAY PARK ’22
SPORTS EDITOR

On Jan. 26, NBA leg- end Kobe Bean Bryant – as well as eight others – was killed in a helicopter crash in Southern California. According to reports from Adrian Wojnarowski, a se- nior NBA insider, the pas- sengers in the helicopter were on their way to the Mamba Sports Academy (a sports training facility started by Bryant) when the fatal accident occurred, a mere 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Ange- les. Among those who lost their lives was Kobe’s 13- year-old daughter Gianna “Gigi” Bryant, Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife Keri, their daughter Alyssa, 13-year old basket- ball player Payton Ches- ter, and her mother Sarah.

First reported by the celebrity news outlet TMZ, the news of Kobe’s death was widely circulated before it could even be confirmed by county police officials, leading to widespread cir- culation of misinformation. By 10:01 a.m. PST, the LA County Sheriff Department confirmed that there were “no survivors” in the crash. Immediately follow- ing the initial TMZ report, countless celebrities and fans alike took to social media to convey their feel- ings of devastation and anguish. Long-time Lak- er teammate and rival Shaquille O’Neal tweeted “There’s no words to ex- press the pain [I’m] going through with this tragedy of losing my niece Gigi and my brother @kobebryant.” Basketball legend and the NBA all-time leading scor- er Kareem Abdul-Jabbar posted a video on Twitter in which he lamented the loss of his fellow Laker, who tweeted out that he will always remember Kobe as “a man who was much more than an athlete.”

Current players around the league took to honoring Kobe’s legacy during their games. The San Antonio Spurs and Toronto Raptors both decided to take back-to- back 24-second shot clock violations in honor of Kobe’s jersey number of 24, while the Denver Nuggets and Hous- ton Rockets held a moment of silence in memory of one of basketball’s greatest. The NBA even postponed a game that was to be held between the Los Angeles Clippers and the Los Angeles Lakers out of respect for the latter team. Kobe’s impact on the world cannot be overstat- ed. A 5x NBA champion, 18-time All-Star, and the 2008 league MVP, Kobe Bryant is widely regard- ed as one of the greatest scorers in league history. Playing his entire 20-year NBA career with the Los Angeles Lakers, Kobe lead his team – with the aforementioned Shaquille O’Neal – to a three-peat (three consec- utive championships).

His impact transcends just sports, however. Fa- mous for his coining of the phrase “Mamba Men- tality,” a reference to his firm mindset in training to be the best that one can be, Kobe’s career did not end with his retirement from the National Basketball League in 2016. In fact, Kobe went on to win and accomplish a plethora of additional feats and acco- lades, including an invest- ment in the sports drink Bodyarmor (with a $6 mil- lion initial stake turning into a $200 million profit), an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film for his film Dear Basketball, as well as many others.

The late Kobe Bryant making an offensive play.
Men’s Hockey Falls to Connecticut College and Tufts

This past weekend, the men’s hockey team went out in full force against Connecticut College and Tufts University, two very competitive teams within the league who have strong track records of consistent victories. Through the winter break, they had a great showing on the ice and did not lose a single game. On Friday, they hit the road to face off against Connecticut College. Trinity, ranked no. 1 in the nation at the time, holding a record of 8-7-1, had an advantage against Connecticut College, with a record of 12-2-1, had an advantage over Connecticut College. Trinity, ranked no. 1 in the nation at the time, holding a record of 8-7-1.

The game was quite physical and was exhilarating. The offense on both sides put up a lot of pressure on the defense very early on in the game. Within the first 13 minutes of play, both offensive and defensive teams were very cautious of each other’s attacks. There were, however, multiple intense skirmishes throughout the first period, and although the Bantams had some leverage in certain scenarios, they were unable to push through the Camels’ attacks. Not until after the first 13 minutes did the real action start. Both the Camels and the Bantams committed fouls, allowing for a four-versus-four situation. While neither side was too adventurous, Tufts had a man down, they both made a few attacks, but were very cautious of moving forward with the play. Just before Trinity’s penalty expired, the Camel’s defenseman Jacob Moreau acquired the puck in his own defensive end and made a rush toward the goal. He was able to outmaneuver the defense and make a sprint down the right side of the ice where he then back handed a shot past the goalie.

For the remainder of the game, the Camels and the Bantams continued to have numerous clashes over the puck, yet neither side was able to secure possession long enough to act and force a goal. In the last few minutes of play, the Bantams attempted to rally and return to victory. The amount of shots that the Camel’s defense came under was unconventionally astounding. In the last 54 seconds alone, the Bantams attempted eight shots on goal. Unfortunately, they were not able to make the shot and lost the game 1-0.

On Jan. 25, the Bantams faced off against Tufts. The Bantams were hungry for a win after their loss on Friday against the Camels, and started out with a high press on the goal. Unfortunately, Tufts was quicker in applying the pressure and caught the goalie off the line, resulting in a goal for Tufts early in the match. Trinity responded quickly and within five minutes of play brought the game back to a tie. The entirety of this game was decided in the second period, however, in which Tufts continued to apply relentless pressure on the Bantams and crept away with a lead of two goals on the Bantams. In the last period, action was slow and neither side was able to make contact with the net. The Jumbos secured the win with a 4-2 victory over the Bantams, giving them a second loss for the semester.

In the last period, action was slow and neither side was able to make contact with the net. The Jumbos secured the win with a 4-2 victory over the Bantams, giving them a second loss for the semester. Although the Bantams lost back-to-back games this weekend, the games account for only two of their three total losses thus far in the season. This upcoming weekend they have two difficult matches against Hamilton and Amherst, additional competitive teams in the league that Trinity will have to defeat as a crucial step in maintaining their NESCAC conference ranking. These are both home coming games, however, so we highly recommend that you go out and show your support as the team continues on through the rest of the season. The Tripod wishes the team the best of luck at their upcoming games this weekend!