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NEWS EDITOR

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SGA Election Results are in: Class Presidents for Seniors and Freshman are Announced

MELINA KORFONTA '25 &
OLIVIA SILVEY '25
NEWS EDITORS

Trinity's Student Government Association (SGA) held elections for 2026 and 2023 Class President this past weekend. Elections were held on Friday, Sept. 16. SGA President Jason Farrell Jr. announced the results on Saturday via email, with Blythe Hastings '23 and Shazif Ahmed '26 winning their respective races. There was also an uncontested race for Vice President of Communications, with Alison Rau '23 filling the position.

The candidates were as follows: VP of Communications: Alison Rau; Class President '23: Blythe Hastings, Matin Yaqubi, and Charlotte Bond; Class President '26: Tanya Surprenant, Ariana Alonso Flores, Hamilton Boley, Shazif Ahmed, Nicole Balbuena Gutierrez, Ama Ndukwe, Emmanuel Gezahegne

Mitkie, and Kijari Boyd.

The SGA Instagram page posted brief statements from each of the candidates before the elections were held, with each describing their goals for the position.

"While my interests are diverse, leadership and SGA at Trinity is important to me, as I want to represent the Senior Class to the best of my abilities," Hastings said in her statement. "I promise to uphold the values that Trinity students have. As seniors, having an influential voice is imperative, and I hope to be that voice for you."

"I am interested in joining the SGA President of 2026 to not only create change but INSPIRE change," Ahmed said in his statement. "I aim for Equity and helping my batch of 2026 with anything and everything they might need for them to have the best experience of their college life."

Hastings is majoring in



TRINITY COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

political science and minor in formal organizations. She is the social chair for the Stella Society, and she is also involved in women's club soccer, the Trinity Tripod, and the Women's Network on campus, and she also holds an internship position in the Athletics Department. Ahmed plans on majoring

in computer science and minoring in film studies. He hopes to become involved in S.A.I.L. as a student leader along with his involvement in SGA this year.

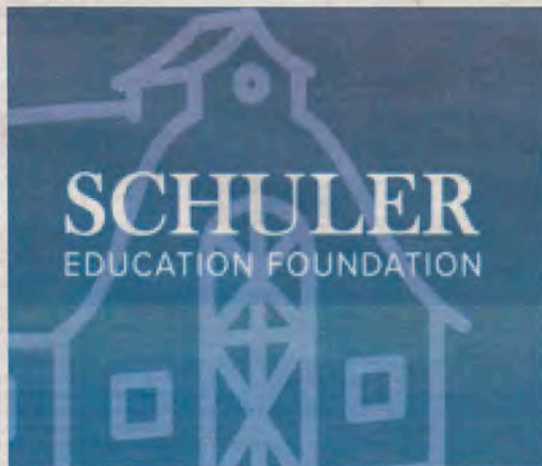
In his email to the Trinity community regarding election results, Farrell also noted that Senate elections will begin the week of the 19th.

Trinity College Announces Partnership Bringing in \$60 Million for Financial Aid

OLIVIA SILVEY '25
NEWS EDITOR

President Joanne Berg-Sweeney announced Trinity College's partnership with the Schuler Education Foundation on Sept. 14, promising to raise \$60M between the College and the Foundation for scholarships and financial aid. This year, Trinity joins institutions like Barnard College, Centre College, Scripps College, and the College of the Holy Cross in this partnership titled the Schuler Access Initiative.

The \$60M comes from two places: first, the Schuler Education Foundation will contribute \$20M for the College to spend on financial aid over the next 10 years; second, Trinity will contribute \$40M "in permanent endowment," for both financial aid and other activities such as Schuler Education on page 3



SCHULER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904
"Now then-Trinity!"

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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.

All requests for advertisement placement in the *Tripod* can be found by consulting the newspaper's business manager at tripodads@trincoll.edu. Additionally, our website holds information regarding standard rates for advertisements.

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CORRECTIONS

Something needs to change with this paper. I knew this from the minute I joined, but now I feel like I can make that change.

Yes, I have seen the Yik Yak message boards, so I am very well aware of the things Trinity students claim about this paper. Honestly, I'm thankful for these messages, the anonymity lets students speak their mind about the paper's trajectory without feeling guilty about having those opinions.

Something probably on your mind reading this editorial: why now? Why have I suddenly decided to change the *Tripod* after years of declining interest and support? Before I address these answers, I want to say that in no way do I think our ideas are superior to all others. If you have suggestions for me, please email at tripod@trincoll.edu or directly at skyller.simpkins@trincoll.edu.

We have recently had a sudden change of leadership, so my avenues for inducing change have increased significantly. Over the past few years, the *Tripod*'s goal has deviated from representing the Trinity College student body to streamlining operations. This has essentially pivoted the responsibilities of the *Tripod* staff, leaving Section Editors to complete all the writing, thus ensuring they would never miss an article for publication. The *Tripod* was on the precipice of encouraging Section Editors to quit receiving outside submissions altogether, leaving only them to do the writing for the so-called student paper. While this may have made things easier and more convenient in semesters ruled by COVID-19 restrictions, this is not the right path for this paper.

The *Tripod* is a paper for the Trinity student body, but—in all honesty—it hasn't been that way for awhile. It has, instead, been a paper promoting the voices of the *Tripod* staff, which, granted, is a group of students but is not ALL students. I want this to change: I want to return this paper to the student body of Trinity College. I feel like this can happen in two ways: for one, we can increase our represen-

Tripod Editorial

A New Era for the *Tripod* & My Hope to Represent Trinity

tation of the diverse cultures and interests that make up this small liberal arts college, and, secondly, we can make this paper desirable to the reader again by actually listening to the student body.

As with all things, there have been ebbs and flows with this paper. The biggest success, in my opinion, being the inclusion of Liz Foster's *Bits and Pieces*. So Trinity students, we have heard your laments over the loss of this section, and while we will never be able to replace the satirical genius Liz Foster, we can bring this section back. I feel like this is our first step in recovering the fading interest in this paper. I will keep you all updated on when this section will be returning!

In addition to the cries for the return of *Bits and Pieces*, students have been requesting space for exploring the interests of the student body, so we figured, why not? While we cannot realistically keep adding new sections to the paper to represent all student interests, we can collaborate with student groups on campus, featuring their organizations, members, and discourses more prominently. This week we have a feature from the Philosophy Club showcasing one of their discourses on Lockean philosophy. I ask for any clubs on campus to contact us with a piece you want included in the paper. We hope this will increase your visibility on campus and give you a platform to promote the amazing things you do in your meetings.

While increasing the visibility of clubs does increase the paper's representation of the College's diverse interests, we can certainly do more. Alongside Managing Editors Olivia Papp '23 and Sammi Bray '25, we have decided to curate special editions of the *Tripod*. During the months of February and March, we want to create special editions of the *Tripod* for Black History Month and Women's History Month. In these editions of the *Tripod*, we want to devote our entire paper to the respective group. For our February issue, we want to high-

light the opinions of Black students on campus, give a spotlight to Black student writers, and channel the scope of the entire paper to represent Black culture, history, and experience.

Our issue in March takes a special place in my heart. The *Tripod* is now 100% female-led, so we want to take advantage of this opportunity and share our experiences as women in Trinity College. We also ask for outside submissions from others who identify as women: we want this March issue to bring awareness to the reality facing female-identifying individuals on campus and around the globe.

If you are interested in contributing to either of these special *Tripod* editions, or if you want to write anything anytime, please reach out to us! I want this paper to be back in your hands! I believe that now, with new leadership, is the time for change. I hope I can fulfill all these promises to you while also reviving the *Tripod*'s internal culture, so please stay tuned for the new era of the *Trinity Tripod*.

- SAS

NEWS

Schuler Education Foundation Partners with Trinity College; Brings in \$60 Million for Financial Aid

continued from page one

as "academic and co-curricular programs to support the participating students." A permanent endowment usually means that the institution—in this case, Trinity—can only spend the funds on designated items, such as said financial aid and programs.

The students who will benefit from this initiative include those who will the highest financial need, those eligible for Pell grants, and undocumented students. This \$60M counts towards Trinity's current goal of fundraising \$100M for financial aid, which is 20% of Trinity's total goal of fundraising \$500M for its endowment by

2025. The rest of the \$500M is listed to go towards "the college's core academic needs," annual operating budget, athletics, and renovation for the chapel, which is currently in progress.

"This is a remarkable moment for our college as we look toward our bicentennial year," Berger-Sweeney noted in her email announcement. "When this matching grant is completed, Trinity will become more accessible to deserving and talented students who come from families for whom affordability is a significant barrier."

According to Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Matt Hyde, Trinity has increased their financial aid

by 60% since 2015, which was a key element to being a competitive applicant in the process. In order to qualify for the Initiative, Trinity had to be able to answer "yes" to the following questions: Does your college want to substantially increase enrollment of undocumented and Pell-eligible students? Does your college meet 80% of the calculated need for students for all four years of college? Do Pell-eligible and undocumented students consistently graduate from my college? Are your college's donors interested in investing in the Schuler Access Initiative alongside the Foundation?

The document of ques-

tions for the Initiative notes: "The SAI invests only in 'incremental' enrollment of Pell-eligible and undocumented students, defined as any students in the targeted population enrolled above the school's three-year average for the population. For example, in a school that typically enrolls 200 Pell-eligible or undocumented students on average, the 201st student and above would qualify for SAI funding." This means that if Trinity enrolls more undocumented and/or Pell grant students than they had in the last three years, the Initiative money will be invested only in the number of students who exceed the "average."

While Trinity has not recently published its explicit numbers regarding how much financial aid it met, according to the U.S. News & World Report, Trinity College met 100% of its students' calculated financial need in 2020.

Finally, the document notes that the participating college must raise a 1:1 match for SAI funds and all donations need to be new money donations, which cannot include existing pledges, unfulfilled pledge commitments, and/or annual fund gifts. Additionally, the funds raised by college donors must be explicitly for financial aid for undocumented and Pell grant students.

Intercollegiate Updates & News Around the US

Columbia University

Columbia University's U.S. News rankings dropped from #2 to #18 after alleged reports that the University has been reporting inaccurate data. A math professor at the university revealed the inconsistencies between the actual data and reported data. U.S. News base their rankings on class size, faculty, tenure, and other factors ultimately affecting the applications and attendance colleges will receive when accepting new students. Colleges and universities often use these rankings to encourage applicants—especially when they have moved up on the list. The lack of verification of reported data by U.S. News in their rankings has brought their credibility into question.

- Faith Monahan '24

University of Connecticut

The University of Connecticut (UConn) launched a new app called "LiveSafe" in August in preparation of the start of the school year. The app is part of an effort to increase student confidence in Campus Security. It permits reporting, a feature called "safewalk" that allows for students to virtually call friends, links them to campus resources, and provides them with a map of emergency blue phones' locations on campus. Universities and colleges across the United States have developed similar apps over the past few years. Students now use their personal smart phone devices rather than emergency blue light phones to report incidents to campus safety, and these apps are aimed to provide more effective communication.

- Faith Monahan '24

Northeastern University

A package exploded on Tuesday, September 13th at Northeastern University in Boston. A 45-year-old employee had reported that his hand had been injured upon opening the package. The explosion occurred in Holmes Hall which accommodates the university's student newspaper, writing lab, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality department. Law enforcement officials have reported that the explosion was caused by a pressurized case inside the package. Accompanying the explosive was a note condemning Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook. Universities and colleges in the Boston area have asked students to report any suspicious activity. A suspect has not yet been publicly identified. Northeastern University reopened on Wednesday, September 14th.

- Faith Monahan '24

Central Connecticut State University

Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) students organized for justice after a trending TikTok levies sexual assault allegations towards a male student and leader of a student organization that was unnamed in the allegations. Multiple students rallied and marched across campus on Friday, September 16th, calling for transparency in the school's response process, appropriate ramifications for the assailant, and appropriate institutional changes in how CCSU handles cases of sexual assault.

- Alexander Oaks '23

National News: Biden's Approval Rating

President Biden's approval ratings have risen in recent weeks. Political insiders and pundits have attributed this rise to a drop in gas prices and the Ukrainian/Russian conflict receding from the national spotlight as well as the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. This forecasts well for Democratic prospects in the upcoming November midterm elections as they seek to establish greater control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate in order to fulfill President Biden's numerous campaign promises.

- Alexander Oaks '23

National News: DeSantis' Exploits

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis orchestrated the transport of 50 Venezuelan immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard last week. Florida's state government currently employs people in Texas who identify new migrants based on their likelihood to travel to Florida. The recently shipped migrants were allegedly informed that they were being transported to Boston before being left in Martha's Vineyard. DeSantis has publicly committed to continuing this practice of shipping immigrants to other states that have been more hospitable to migrants. DeSantis has allocated 12 million dollars of Florida's budget to fund this operation.

- Alexander Oaks '23

“All Student Employees are Responsible Employees”: Details on the New Addition to Trinity’s Title IX Policy

MELINA KORFONTA '25
NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday, Shannon Lynch, Trinity’s Title IX Coordinator, and Pamela Whitley, Trinity’s AVP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Compliance, gave an update on the changes within the recently revised Policy on Sexual Harassment.

“As part of its commitment to maintaining a work and learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex or gender, the College adopted and maintains a Policy on Sexual Harassment,” Lynch and Whitley stated in their email to the Trinity community. By enforcing their commitment to nondiscrimination, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Office of Title IX periodically review and update their Policy on Sexual Harassment. This year is no different as this announcement indicates new amendments and

updates have been made to the policy.

Starting the Fall 2022 semester, all student employees will be labeled as “Responsible Employees.” The revised and updated procedure within the Policy on Sexual Harassment requires all “Responsible Employees” to “report any potential violation of the Sexual Harassment Policy to the Title IX Coordinator or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator.” This requirement to report pertains to every “Responsible Employee” who either witnesses or is informed of an incident that violates the Policy on Sexual Harassment within the time frame of employment at the college.

The revised policy also states that college employees who are not delegated as a “Confidential Resource” are required to report any findings to the Title IX Coordinator including all known information about the alleged Title IX violation such as “identities of the parties, any

witnesses, and the date, time, and specific location of the alleged incident.” The Title IX Coordinator is then authorized to share the reports with other college employees to “ensure a coordinated institutional response.” The College’s employees and agents responsible for investigating, responding, and taking action with sexual harassment reports include deans, program directors, supervisors, human resources staff, the Campus Safety Department, and others who are required, under the Clery Act, to report statistics of campus crime and issue timely warnings.

In order to verify that all “Responsible Employees” are prepared for their new positions, the revised Policy on Sexual Harassment includes a partnership with a vendor to implement online training covering these new leadership measures in order to ensure that “Responsible Employees” have appropriate knowledge

and preparedness. According to the email, all student employees will be assigned mandatory training to complete via email. Voluntary in-person training is currently scheduled for September into early October and online training is currently on hold but is expected to be implemented in the future. It is reported that 125 student employees have been trained this semester on “reporting responsibilities” and therefore will not need to repeat the training.

This report comes

after Whitley gave an update on the Title IX Audit into Trinity College’s athletic offerings in an email to members of the community on Friday, Jun. 3. Whitley indicated that the College expects the audit to be completed by the end of the summer. A summary of the findings and recommendations will be released in the early fall. Trinity will then use the results to plan and execute short and long-term strategies “with the goal of ensuring fair and equitable experiences for all our student athletes.”



BOSTON UNIVERSITY Title IX Graphic

News Around the Campus: Some Developments Within the Last Couple Weeks on and Around Trin

COVID-19 Surveillance

Trinity recently elected to discontinue surveillance testing and to discontinue the COVID-19 Dashboard, which tracked active cases on campus amongst both students and faculty. This choice has been met with starkly differing responses from various members of the Trinity community, with some individuals appreciating the transition as post-pandemic life continues while others decry the lack of transparency from the school in handling a public health issue.

- Alexander Oaks '23

Hartford Hospital

Renowned heart surgeon Dr. Henry Low passes away at 95 after decades of work at Hartford Hospital.

- Alexander Oaks '23

Dr. Laura Holt’s Stimulant Study

Psychology professor Dr. Laura Holt is recruiting current Trinity students with a stimulant medication prescription for a study on their academic experiences in college. This is a remote study consisting of Zoom sessions of various lengths. Those selected to participate may receive up to 100 dollars in virtual gift cards. Further information can be found by emailing Dr. Holt.

- Alexander Oaks '23

Trinity College Queer Resource Center

Trinity’s Queer Resource Center hosted a block party on Crescent Street on Thursday, September 16th, featuring tabled presentations from Trinity’s Encouraging Respect for Sexualities organization as well as numerous local organizations devoted to LGBTQ+ health along with a table of representatives from Hartford’s city government.

- Alexander Oaks '23

COVID-19 in Connecticut

Connecticut registers 581 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, September 15th. This takes the tally from the last seven days to a cumulative 3,699 cases.

- Alexander Oaks '23

Trinity’s #ColorOurCollection Campaign

Trinity is currently seeking student applicants for the College’s #ColorOurCollection campaign which highlights digital resources and undergraduate work as coloring book-style pages. Students are encouraged to submit their work to trinitywellness@trincoll.edu by November 13th: the application deadline. The winner will be selected by Instagram polls and surveys of library patrons and will win a Jerry’s Artrama gift card. Further conditions for application can be found on the Trinity Commons website.

- Alexander Oaks '23

Arts & Entertainment

Why Walter Doesn't Get Enough Credit for His Role in the Song "Man or Muppet" and What We Can Learn

CECE HAMPTON '24
FEATURES EDITOR

We all know and love the *Muppets*. One of the more recent films of the franchise was *The Muppets*, released in November of 2011. In this film, brothers Walter (a Muppet) and Gary (a human) visit Los Angeles in celebration of Gary and his girlfriend Mary's tenth anniversary. In the city, they become involved in a fundraiser to help the Muppets get back together and buy their old studio back. Well-known for its musical numbers, this iconic movie produced the song "Man or Muppet," a duet featuring both Gary and Walter. It is within this scene that the characters, as well as viewers, are presented with a deeply philosophical question.

The scene begins with Mary leaving Gary a note explaining that she has returned home from their trip to Los Angeles without him, and she poses the question, "Are you a man or a Muppet?" Meanwhile,

Walter experiences a critical moment: he begins to question how much he fits in with Gary's human life versus how much he fits in with the Muppets. As these two scenes come to a head, the beginning chords of the song start up, and both Walter and Gary step into the dark and rainy night to ponder this question.

For Walter, this idea culminates after a lifetime of growing up being able to recognize his differences from Gary but not fully being able to grasp the causes. While the movie never fully delves into this issue, we as viewers are given some context clues. For one, the beginning of the movie depicts Walter and Gary's childhood. They are repeatedly measured next to each other as they grow up. When they are younger, it does not matter as much because they are the same size; over time, as Gary consistently grows since he is a human, Walter always remains the same height. As both he and Gary grow older, Walter ap-

pears to expect and hope for some growth, and he is increasingly more affected by this issue. When Walter discovers the existence of the Muppets and becomes an avid fan of them, he admits that it makes his life better and gives him something to be happy about. However, the movie fails to address whether Walter first takes an interest in them simply because they make him happy, or if he takes an interest because he recognizes himself as a Muppet and therefore identifies with them.

While this scene is emotionally riveting, Walter does not get enough credit for his role in it. Gary is originally presented with the question, but his argument with Mary about whether he is a man or a Muppet is simply due to his recent commitment to Walter and the Muppets' fundraiser. In contrast, Walter has reached this point after decades of not fitting in and never understanding why. Walter's position here is infinitely more vulnerable, yet the



Wikipedia: "Man or Muppet" Scene in *The Muppets*

movie fails to recognize this.

Despite this, the song and the movie overall have a lot to offer viewers—both young and old. By the end of the song, Gary recognizes that he is a man, and Walter recognizes that he is a Muppet. The song finishes with both Walter and Gary singing, "That's what I am" at the same time. The scene never addresses how Gary and Walter reach each of their epiphanies, so it is up to the viewers' interpre-

tation to determine how they figured this out. In a more philosophical sense, it suggests to viewers that the only way to fully understand and get to know one's inner self is on an individual level. No one else can determine one's own identity. At the end of the day, what *The Muppet* movie has to teach all of us is that we must open our minds and be willing to learn from even the simplest and, seemingly, most silly things.

The Indie Classic Album *An Awesome Wave* by Alt-J Celebrates its Tenth Anniversary in US Distribution

JULES BOURBEAU '25
ACE EDITOR

This past Sunday, September 18th, English indie band Alt-J celebrated the tenth anniversary of their album *An Awesome Wave*'s distribution in America. The 13-track record—14, if counting the hidden song on the CD release—is a rare example of a musical act solidifying their sound immediately upon their debut release.

Fittingly, we begin with "Intro," which itself starts with over a minute of instrumental. Now, lead vocalist Joe Newmann has one of the most iconic voices of indie music, but when *An Awesome Wave* first premiered, his somewhat-squeaky almost stumbling style had yet to cement itself in the indie scene. Although these qualities may sound unappealing—and indeed, they are often parodied, such as in the infamous video by the band Fleece titled "how to write an Alt-J song"—they nevertheless attract myself and many others. "Intro" also establishes

another of Alt-J's iconic features: their lyrics. The band's semi-nonsensical lyrics take after the Beat poets' tendency to write for sound and emotion, creating a phonetic image as opposed to a literary one.

Having made it through "Intro," the rest of the album unfolds itself. The next track is titled simply with a flourish, a non-alphanumeric symbol used in printing. It does, however, have an alternate subtitle, "Ripe & Ruin," allowing it to be referred to more easily. This short interlude matches its stuttering lyrical content with a quick 6/8 rhythm broken up by hefty pauses.

STEM majors will appreciate "Tessellate" which uses the mathematical process of tessellation as a metaphor for hooking up with someone. In keeping with the sharp percussion of the previous two tracks, "Tessellate" slows things down considerably, especially in the bridge.

The sensual "Tessellate" immediately takes a nosedive into the depressing with the next song, "Bree-

zellocks." While undoubtedly their most famous song, it also contains some of the most out-there concepts on the record. The song's narrator expresses such an obsessive desire to possess someone that they would go as far as to kill or even cannibalize them.

We get another flourish-titled interlude, this time a sparse guitar melody. This is followed by "Something Good," with its admittedly standard chorus interrupted by colorful verses describing a matador fight. Alt-J's skill with harmonies really shines on this track, accompanied by folk-esque guitars reminiscent of the bullfighting ring itself.

I consider the next two songs, "Dissolve Me" and "Matilda," to be companions due to being two of the slowest songs on the track list. "Dissolve Me" is like the musical equivalent of watching the colors explode under your eyelids as you drive through a sunny forest half asleep. "Matilda" while at the same sedate speed, harbors a darker and more desperate tone.

The latter also establishes two more Alt-J tropes: random bouts of French and songs referencing films.

"Ms.," while certainly a stellar track, functions best as a transition between two songs. The pace begins to speed up again, a symmetrical escalation reversing the gradual slowdown from the first half of the record. "Fitzpleasure," then, is the mirror to "Tessellate." The lyrics are even more indecipherable than usual—that is if you can understand Newman's singing which amazingly manages to sound frightening despite its high-pitched nasal tone. It all lends to a frenzied, wonderfully chaotic experience.

We are granted a brief respite in the form of the final flourish interlude—a moment of tender piano—before being returned to fear in the form of "Bloodflow." The song traces the human stress response in musical form, from the initial threat to the adrenaline rush to the eventual cooldown. The percussion in particular

stands out here, being reminiscent of your own blood pounding in your ears.

Alt-J refuse to back down with "Taro," a brutal retelling of photojournalist Robert Capa's death while on assignment in Viet Nam during the First Indochina War. I highly suggest digging deeper into his story, along with that of his lover and namesake of the song, Gerda Taro, to enjoy the song on an even deeper level.

If you have yet to have heard *An Awesome Wave* in the ten years since its release, then you will have the enviable joy of experiencing this record for the first time. The band's follow-up, *This Is All Yours*, has a very similar sound which fans of Alt-J's debut will undoubtedly enjoy just as much. The next two releases, *RELAXER* and *The Dream*, the latter of which dropped early this year, stray from the formula presented in the first two records slightly while still maintaining the same charms that earned them their popularity.

It is Clear with DeSantis' Latest Stunt as the Right's Standard-Bearer that Cruelty is the Point

KASH JAIN '24
OPINION EDITOR

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican who has gained notoriety for a series of political stunts, has again returned to the headlines.

This time, DeSantis had fifty migrants to Texas sent by plane to Martha's Vineyard. There are conflicting reports, but it seems that these migrants were told that they would be going to Boston and would receive expedited work papers.

Conservatives have argued that, by sending migrants to more liberal cities, they are trying to make a statement about the "open border." This false claim has become a major talking point for Republicans attempting to paint a picture of a massive surge of drugs and crime driven by lax immigration policy created by the Biden administration that places a significant strain on red states and their residents. Though these claims are misleading or, in some cases, outright false, fearmongering about illegal immigration has consistently proven to be a salient attack point for the right. These sorts of statements and claims spark fear and xenophobic sentiment, then Republicans translate it into political gain.

DeSantis stated that the decision was part of a plan to send migrants to "sanctuary destinations." At a glance, this may be a fair reason—helping migrants get to places with the infrastructure and the will to help them is sensible; however, the falsehoods told to migrants, the fact that local officials were not informed that these migrants would be coming, and the aggressiveness with which Republicans have campaigned on illegal immigration make it difficult to believe that benevolence was at the core of this action. Rather, the opposite seems true: DeSantis made a deliberate decision to interfere with people's lives in order to score political points.

This decision was a despicable political maneuver. DeSantis is openly exploiting migrants, including children, for political gain. This is an indefensible and nefarious move; it's cruelty for personal gain. However, the reason why this benefits DeSantis must be understood.

This political stunt helps DeSantis get in the news: it gives him more attention so he can take radical stances

into a presidential bid. A straw poll conducted at the August CPAC convention in Dallas found

"DeSantis is openly exploiting migrants, including children, for political gain. This is an indefensible and nefarious move; it's cruelty for personal gain."

and build his support among conservatives. It's only his latest move in a series of actions on social issues including Critical Race Theory and the rights of gay and transgender Americans—issues that are particularly salient among the Republican base. Each of his actions, from the tax punishment for Disney as retaliation for its opposition to the "Don't Say Gay" bill to enacting an education-focused law called the "Stop Woke Act," have been made to take imagined issues, rile people up, and capitalize on their outrage.

DeSantis has not stopped at enacting hostile policy. He has continuously attacked the Biden administration on issues that Republicans have focused on, including inflation and COVID-19 policies. He has closely associated himself with Trump and has even been accused of adopting some of his mannerisms and rhetoric. Beyond Trump, DeSantis has associated himself with the broader MAGA movement and other high-profile members of it: he even spoke at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Tampa earlier this year alongside top Republican officials and activists.

So far, DeSantis' strategy seems to be working. He has risen in prominence over the past two years through these activities, these deliberate moves to mark himself as someone friendly to the MAGA movement and authoritarian sentiments. DeSantis has effectively captured the moment, asserting himself as a major opponent to Biden and a standard-bearer of the right—a station that he could perhaps turn

that 69% of attendees want Trump to be the Republican nominee for President in 2024—24% preferred DeSantis. 65% of respondents said that, if Trump didn't run, DeSantis would be their preference. Whether or not the former president will run in 2024 remains to be seen, but if he does not, there is a clear avenue for DeSantis—arguably a clearer path than has been for any other presidential candidate in recent memory.

What makes it especially clear that DeSantis' goal is to build his reputation is what he focuses on.

DeSantis never makes headlines for policies that would bring jobs to Florida, increase the quality of education, or improve access to healthcare.

Why? Well, the answer is simple: DeSantis, and those who share his ideological convictions, don't push for policy that would address broader concerns faced by their constituents because they don't benefit from it. To put it a bit more brashly: for Republicans seeking to elevate their profiles, there is little political gain in doing good things.

Social issues like abortion and gay marriage have been the bread and butter for the Republican Party and its base. Vocalizing support for conservative stances on social issues, especially rights-centric issues, such as George W. Bush's call at his 2004 inauguration to "defend the sanctity of marriage," has been incredibly effective for Republicans. Prioritizing these issues helps generate donations and support from interest groups and activists while motivating voters.

"DeSantis has effectively captured the moment, asserting himself as a major opponent to Biden and a standard-bearer of the right—a station that he could perhaps turn into a presidential bid."



The New York Times' Ron DeSantis' Face on Trump's Body

Though Republicans often position themselves as a pro-business, economically-focused party, their policy goals and decisions have rarely reflected that. This is especially true at the state level, where Republicans have focused heavily on pushing positions on social issues held by interest groups and more extreme activists rather than enacting policy that would have a broader impact and materially benefit people.

This problem has worsened as the far-right has taken hold of the party. Conservatives have found themselves facing mounting pressure from right-wing activists to focus on these social issues and, therefore, take increasingly extreme stances on them.

This means that there is a cost for many Repub-

licans if they choose to stand up to attacks on people's rights, and there is significant benefit for contributing to such attacks.

A Republican that wants attention and support from the party's base can receive this by taking aggressive, radical stances on social issues and making inflammatory statements. DeSantis knows this and is using it to build a place for himself on the national stage.

This isn't to say that DeSantis and other Republicans have completely ignored more immediate issues and needs: they will still take action on less flashy issues; however, the airtime that DeSantis has had and the political will that he has exerted have focused on taking extremist stances and actions on these attention-grabbing issues instead of prioritizing legislation that would have a positive impact on Floridians.

In a more just world, DeSantis' stunt would elicit universal condemnation and backlash. This should be the sort of thing that

"This problem has worsened as the far-right has taken hold of the party. Conservatives have found themselves facing mounting pressure from right-wing activists to focus on these social issues and, therefore, take increasingly extreme stances on them."

lucians if they choose to stand up to attacks on people's rights, and there is significant benefit for contributing to such attacks.

A Republican that wants attention and support from the party's base can receive

sinks political careers, but the political reality that we live in means that DeSantis will benefit from this and will continue along this line of actions to bolster his profile and qualifications as a leader of the far right.

FEATURES

Senior Spotlight: Alyce Segal's Trinity College Experience

OLIVIA PAPP '23
MANAGING EDITOR

Alyce Segal is originally from Los Angeles, California, and has been attending Trinity College since her freshman year. Segal first visited Trinity during "Accepted Students' Day." During that visit, she immediately fell in love with the gorgeous campus and decided that Trinity was the school for her.

Segal is a Biology major with a minor in Applied Mathematics. Segal plans to go to medical school after she graduates. At Trinity, her passion grew for math. "I didn't know I would also end up graduating with a minor in applied mathematics. Trinity pulled that passion out of me," she noted. Segal developed a love for biology because she thinks the body is an incredible and complex system. "There are so many small things that go on in our bodies that we don't even realize," she said.

Segal has been a diligent student throughout her time at Trinity. "My freshman year, I had a rigorous course load and therefore thought I did not have time to be a

part of anything other than academics. Once the pandemic hit, I realized I was missing opportunities and realized I needed to get involved on campus." Segal realized during her time at Trinity that the biggest challenge she faced was learning to balance an academic and social schedule.

Segal then joined Alpha Chi Omega in the spring of her sophomore year. Since joining this Greek life organization, Segal has been giving back to the community by doing service work for domestic violence victims. "I've raised money for shelters and people in need through 'Swirls for the Girls' which is an event where we sell ice cream on campus during the homecoming game in the fall. We also have a 'Do-Nut Let Love Hurt' event where we raise money for Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) and the Interval House in Connecticut. We raised approximately 4,000 dollars for this cause last year," Segal said.

Outside of Greek life, Segal spends her time volunteering at the Hartford Hospital in the Intensive Care

Unit twice a week. "I talk to patients who don't have visitor time. I am a friendly face to these people, and it has been an eye-opening experience to see how a support system is so necessary for the healing process. This opportunity has made me extremely grateful for the life I live. I have been doing this work since freshman year at Trinity," she claimed.

Segal's favorite aspect of Trinity is the relationships she has cultivated.

"I feel the friendships I've made will last well beyond our four years here. The friends I have made are genuine and life-long. I know these people will support me wherever life takes me."

Segal has helped Senior grow as a person. "I've grown a lot as a person. I feel I've matured and now I have a much better understanding of who I am as a person. I am also an intramural volleyball champion," she noted.

This past summer, Segal spent her time on Trinity's campus doing research with Biology Professor Toscano. At Trinity this summer, Segal studied stone flies' predator-prey interactions



Photo Courtesy of Alyce Segal '23

as well as consumptive versus non-consumptive effects. "While this is not in the field of biology I would normally gravitate towards, I am very grateful I had the opportunity to explore something outside of my comfort zone and provide further research to hopefully move earth and the planet as a whole in a healthier direction," she said. This year, Segal hopes

to graduate with honors in Biology. She wants to have a fun semester and take classes she would not have been able to take in past years.

To share departing wisdom with the classes below her, Segal says, "My advice to underclassmen is to not be afraid to do things outside your comfort zone because they will change the trajectory of your life in a way you wouldn't expect them to!"

The New Beginnings for Trinity's Pre-Law Society Under Leadership of Senior Erin DeMarco and her E-Board

ANNIKA DYCZKOWSKI '25
FEATURES EDITOR

Trinity's annual Student Involvement Fair for clubs, activities, and student involvement was held last Thursday, and the Pre-Law Society has visions for a bright future. The *Tripod* had the opportunity to speak with Erin DeMarco '23, the president of the Pre-Law Society (PLS), to discuss the club's intentions and role on campus.

DeMarco has been a member of the PLS since her freshman year, but her aspirations for law originated in her first-year seminar. She says that her professor was in the department, introduced her to the subject, and after that she "started taking classes immediately." When asked why she immediately felt so passionate, she said that she appreciates modern day concepts in juxtaposition to the history of law itself. DeMarco is now a public policy and law major and is pursuing a career in law. Her disposition towards the subject sparked an inclination for leadership, and eventually she acquired the position of President of the Pre-Law Society.

DeMarco took over as

President of the PLS in April last spring, and she knew her primary goal was to bring back in-person meetings. She finds that COVID dismantled the club's presence on campus, and students in the PLS had difficulty networking or reaching out to each other because of this issue. "I wanted to help cultivate a more unified Pre-Law Society on campus." DeMarco is very eager about her new leadership position, and face-to-face connection within the club is of utmost importance to her and the rest of the PLS board members.

In addition to rebuilding after COVID, the PLS has redefined their membership. "In the past it's been an email chain, but now attendance is strongly encouraged." The club's board has designed its membership to consist of 'active' and 'non-active' members, where both are PLS constituents but active members must attend two events per month. Active members, however, receive more perks, such as access to the club's Policorner and GroupMe. Members can always transition from non-active members to active members. DeMarco says that even students un-

sure about pursuing a career in law are welcome. "[we] want to be welcoming to students who are still unsure."

Currently DeMarco and the rest of the PLS board are also implementing alumni workshops. The club is bringing back their "Lunch with Lawyers" series where attorneys, mostly Trinity alumni, come to campus and speak on their experiences in the law field. The club is also hosting panels this fall about alumni experience with paralegal work and law school. They are curating other workshops in partnership with the Career and Life Design Center concerning networking, LinkedIn, cover letters, and personal statements for law school applications. "I figured why not work together to navigate this unknown world, to an extent, because the law school application process can be confusing." When DeMarco was organizing these events with the board, they strived for the PLS to be a foundation for member success. "I asked myself, what would be best and most helpful for interested law students?"

DeMarco shares that the Pre-Law Society can effectively prepare students for

a life beyond undergraduate and law school through their workshops and outreach to alumni. "Teaching the importance of connecting with alums and attorneys, we hope to encourage our members to not be afraid to ask questions and follow up with them." She also emphasizes that the PLS provides the fundamentals for such networking. "We hope we inspire students to take it upon themselves to talk to as many people as [they] can."

DeMarco also underscores the importance of members finding their passion with other members. "I want to emphasize that this is not going to be a competitive environment whatsoever. I want to establish a community." DeMarco is excited for

the future of the PLS, and she is thrilled to help it grow as an organization after the pandemic. She shares that if anyone has any suggestions for events or workshops, the PLS is open to hearing them and implementing them. "We want this to be beneficial to our members, and we want to hear their voices." DeMarco would also like to recognize the rest of the Executive Board for all of their thoughtfulness and hard work: Bradley Abel '24 (Vice President), Jake Armentrout '23 (Secretary), Natalie Caffrey '23 (Event Chairperson), Emily Grady '24 (Marketing Director), and Ava Caudle '25 (Treasurer). You can reach the Pre-Law Society executive board directly at prelaw.society@trincoll.edu.



Trinity College Pre-Law Society Banner

Club Spotlight: the Philosophy Club Shares Discourses of Locke's Views on Substances with the *Tripod*

JACKSON LOZE '24
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In collaboration with the Philosophy Club, the *Tripod* features one of their discourses on John Locke.

Often described as the "Father of British Empiricism," John Locke stands as one of the most influential philosophers of the early modern period. In his work, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Locke's primary aim concerns determining the limits of human understanding to establish what one can and cannot legitimately claim to know. While many philosophers would consider such monumental work to be a success, given the essay's continued prominence at the foundation of modern philosophical empiricism, some of Locke's expressed beliefs invite more confusion than clarity for his readers. An example of such opaque beliefs can be seen in Locke's discussion of the idea of substance in general, a concept that has been debated for centuries. To contribute to the ongoing discussion surrounding Locke's view of substances, this article will speculate three answers Locke may give to being asked "How do you envision the idea of substance in general?"

Before offering poten-

tial answers, it is important to distinguish what Locke means when he writes about our idea of 'substance in general.' Within the historic debate amongst philosophers involving substances, most beliefs can be classified as being either categorical, which pertains to the types of substances that exist (e.g., lead, gold, or God), or metaphysical, which examine our idea of substance and how we conceptualize it. While Locke's categorical beliefs are also the subject of much controversy, this article will examine his metaphysical views. Put simply, the idea of substance in general is what would be left if all the qualities that distinguish sorts of substances from one another could be stripped away.

Answer #1: "Substance in general does not exist and is human invented folk metaphysics"

An interpretation that has risen in popularity has been that Locke does not believe in the existence of substances in general. The textual evidence that supports such interpretation is as follows:

"There is another idea, which would be of general use for Mankind to have, as it is of general talk as if they had it; and that is the idea of substance, which we neither have nor can have, by sensation or reflection... We have no such clear idea at all,

and therefore signify nothing by the word substance, but only an uncertain supposition we know not what (i.e., of something whereof we have no distinct positive) idea, which we take to be the substratum, or support of those ideas we do know."

As seen by his explicit statement "We have no such clear idea at all, and therefore signify nothing by the word substance," this quote would suggest that Locke believes we have no knowledge of substance in general; however, it is worth noting that after being accused by the Bishop of Worcester Edward Stillingfleet of discarding substances out of the reasonable part of the world, Locke changed this passage from describing substance as "something whereof we have no idea" to "something whereof we have no particular distinct positive idea" in the 4th edition of the essay.

Answer #2: "I view substance in general as a featureless substratum"

Given its prominence among secondary literature, the second possible answer I will analyze is that Locke views our idea of substance in general as a featureless substratum, commonly known as the 'bare particular theory.' This theory is strikingly similar to Aristotle's views expressed in *Metaphysics*, where he claims that the

substratum which underlies a thing primarily is thought to be in the truest sense its substance. He defines such substratum as "[T]hat of which the other things are predicated, while it is not itself predicated of anything else." The most common piece of textual evidence used to support this interpretation is in book 2, chapter xxiii of *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*:

"The Mind... takes notice also, that a certain number of these simple Ideas go constantly together; which being presumed to belong to one thing... are called so united in one subject... Because, as I have said, not imagining how these simple Ideas can subsist by themselves, we accustom ourselves, to suppose some Substratum, wherein they do subsist, and from which they do result, which therefore we call Substance... The Idea then we have, to which we give the general name Substance, being nothing, but the supposed, but unknown support of those Qualities."

Based on quotes like this, supporters of the bare particular theory hold that for Locke, substance in general is used solely as a functionalist term. Given that our ability to sense and reflect has left us with ideas of a multitude of both primary and secondary qualities, this interpretation holds that there

logically must be something in which those qualities inhere which in and of itself is not a quality. This leaves us with a bare 'something,' which has no properties, except the property of being the support of other properties.

Answer #3: "I would prefer not to answer."

Due to the importance that the idea of substance had to the Christian religion during the early modern period, an interpretation I believe to be possible is that Locke purposefully kept his stance on substance opaque to avoid either losing favor or harming the teachings of the Church. In 1679, the Bishop of Worcester Edward Stillingfleet publicly accused Locke of almost discarding substances out of the reasonable part of the world. Stillingfleet worried that Locke's empiricist philosophy would subvert the Church's teachings about the Trinity and soul's immortality given that the concept of substance lies at the heart of both those doctrines. As mentioned previously, such correspondence caused Locke to change a passage in book one of *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* from describing substance as "something whereof we have no idea" to "something whereof we have no particular distinct positive idea" in the 4th edition of the essay.

Homecoming Weekend Events You Need to Know About

ABBEE O'LEARY '24
FEATURES EDITOR

Next weekend, the Trinity College community will open its doors to the public, student's families, returning alumni, and friends of the College. We have all been looking forward to the return of Trinity's former graduates and the reunion of friends. With guests on the way, Trinity has planned a weekend full of events and activities for the students and the greater Bantam network to enjoy.

Set to take place on September 23rd and 24th, the campus will be open for Homecoming. The Admissions Office will be offering tours to students and families. The Trinity College Bookstore will be open with special offers for the weekend, and there will be an open house in the Watkinson Library on Friday the 23rd. There will also

be department events that day, including the Environmental Science "Student and Alumni McCook Out" for current students to be able to talk with the alumni of their department, a book talk with Dan Covell in the Watkinson Library, where he will discuss his work, *NESSAC: A History - Cultivation of a College Athletics Ideal*, which highlights Trinity's identity as a NESCAC school over the past fifty years, and a Shabbat service and dinner will be held at the Zachs Hillel House. There will also be a reception and events for the Class of 1963 along with a Trinity Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Friday night, followed by a screening of God's Country at CineStudio.

Saturday is also packed full of events for students and visitors. To start, there will be a celebration of "The Power of Bantam

Women in Honor of 50 Years of Title IX," a talk discussing China and the challenge of rising nationalism in East Asia presented by the Class of 1963, a gathering for women at the Summit, an informal networking and gathering for IDP students and alumni, a book signing for Dan Covell's most recent novel, a symposium hosted by the Class of 1963, and "The Scoop on the Coop," a discussion and celebration of diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus.

There will also be lots of food and social events on campus on Saturday. There will be a brunch hosted for Trinity families, a food truck festival, and gatherings for International students and the Class of 1963.

Also this weekend will be sporting events for everyone to watch and show Trinity spirit. Our field hockey team and men's and



TRINITY COLLEGE: Trinity Community Cheering on the Bants

women's soccer will play against Wesleyan University. The football team will also play Colby in the homecoming game, accompanied by a "Pregame Report" with the Head Football Coach, Jeff Devanney '93, an open fan zone through the third quarter, and a post-game "Malt and Music" mixer for stu-

dents, family, and alumni.

To wrap up the weekend, there will be a service at the chapel on Sunday as well as a "Farewell Brunch" for the Class of 1963.

With a full weekend ahead of us, we can all look forward to a great Trinity tradition while welcoming our past and recent graduates back to the coop.

Arts & Entertainment

Why Walter Doesn't Get Enough Credit for His Role in the Song "Man or Muppet" and What We Can Learn

CECE HAMPTON '24
FEATURES EDITOR

We all know and love the *Muppets*. One of the more recent films of the franchise was *The Muppets*, released in November of 2011. In this film, brothers Walter (a Muppet) and Gary (a human) visit Los Angeles in celebration of Gary and his girlfriend Mary's tenth anniversary. In the city, they become involved in a fundraiser to help the Muppets get back together and buy their old studio back. Well-known for its musical numbers, this iconic movie produced the song "Man or Muppet," a duet featuring both Gary and Walter. It is within this scene that the characters, as well as viewers, are presented with a deeply philosophical question.

The scene begins with Mary leaving Gary a note explaining that she has returned home from their trip to Los Angeles without him, and she poses the question, "Are you a man or a Muppet?" Meanwhile,

Walter experiences a critical moment: he begins to question how much he fits in with Gary's human life versus how much he fits in with the Muppets. As these two scenes come to a head, the beginning chords of the song start up, and both Walter and Gary step into the dark and rainy night to ponder this question.

For Walter, this idea culminates after a lifetime of growing up being able to recognize his differences from Gary but not fully being able to grasp the causes. While the movie never fully delves into this issue, we as viewers are given some context clues. For one, the beginning of the movie depicts Walter and Gary's childhood. They are repeatedly measured next to each other as they grow up. When they are younger, it does not matter as much because they are the same size; over time, as Gary consistently grows since he is a human, Walter always remains the same height. As both he and Gary grow older, Walter ap-

pears to expect and hope for some growth, and he is increasingly more affected by this issue. When Walter discovers the existence of the Muppets and becomes an avid fan of them, he admits that it makes his life better and gives him something to be happy about. However, the movie fails to address whether Walter first takes an interest in them simply because they make him happy, or if he takes an interest because he recognizes himself as a Muppet and therefore identifies with them.

While this scene is emotionally riveting, Walter does not get enough credit for his role in it. Gary is originally presented with the question, but his argument with Mary about whether he is a man or a Muppet is simply due to his recent commitment to Walter and the Muppets' fundraiser. In contrast, Walter has reached this point after decades of not fitting in and never understanding why. Walter's position here is infinitely more vulnerable, yet the



Wikipedia: "Man or Muppet" Scene in *The Muppets*

movie fails to recognize this.

Despite this, the song and the movie overall have a lot to offer viewers—both young and old. By the end of the song, Gary recognizes that he is a man, and Walter recognizes that he is a Muppet. The song finishes with both Walter and Gary singing, "That's what I am" at the same time. The scene never addresses how Gary and Walter reach each of their epiphanies, so it is up to the viewers' interpre-

tation to determine how they figured this out. In a more philosophical sense, it suggests to viewers that the only way to fully understand and get to know one's inner self is on an individual level. No one else can determine one's own identity. At the end of the day, what *The Muppet* movie has to teach all of us is that we must open our minds and be willing to learn from even the simplest and, seemingly, most silly things.

The Indie Classic Album *An Awesome Wave* by Alt-J Celebrates its Tenth Anniversary in US Distribution

JULES BOURBEAU '25
AGE EDITOR

This past Sunday, September 18th, English indie band Alt-J celebrated the tenth anniversary of their album *An Awesome Wave*'s distribution in America. The 13-track record—14, if counting the hidden song on the CD release—is a rare example of a musical act solidifying their sound immediately upon their debut release.

Fittingly, we begin with "Intro," which itself starts with over a minute of instrumental. Now, lead vocalist Joe Newman has one of the most iconic voices of indie music, but when *An Awesome Wave* first premiered, his somewhat-squeaky almost stumbling style had yet to cement itself in the indie scene. Although these qualities may sound unappealing—and indeed, they are often parodied, such as the infamous video by the band Fleece titled "how to write an Alt-J song"—they nevertheless attract myself and many others. "Intro" also establishes

another of Alt-J's iconic features: their lyrics. The band's semi-nonsensical lyrics take after the Beat poets' tendency to write for sound and emotion, creating a phonetic image as opposed to a literary one.

Having made it through "Intro," the rest of the album unfolds itself. The next track is titled simply with a flourish, a non-alphanumeric symbol used in printing. It does, however, have an alternate subtitle, "Ripe & Ruin," allowing it to be referred to more easily. This short interlude matches its stuttering lyrical content with a quick 6/8 rhythm broken up by hefty pauses.

STEM majors will appreciate "Tessellate" which uses the mathematical process of tessellation as a metaphor for hooking up with someone. In keeping with the sharp percussion of the previous two tracks, "Tessellate" slows things down considerably, especially in the bridge.

The sensual "Tessellate" immediately takes a nose-dive into the depressing with the next song, "Bree-

zeblocks." While undoubtedly their most famous song, it also contains some of the most out-there concepts on the record. The song's narrator expresses such an obsessive desire to possess someone that they would go as far as to kill or even cannibalize them.

We get another flourish-titled interlude, this time a sparse guitar melody. This is followed by "Something Good," with its admittedly standard chorus interrupted by colorful verses describing a matador fight. Alt-J's skill with harmonies really shines on this track, accompanied by folk-esque guitars reminiscent of the bullfighting ring itself.

I consider the next two songs, "Dissolve Me" and "Matilda," to be companions due to being two of the slowest songs on the track list. "Dissolve Me" is like the musical equivalent of watching the colors explode under your eyelids as you drive through a sunny forest half asleep. "Matilda" while at the same sedate speed, harbors a darker and more desperate tone.

The latter also establishes two more Alt-J tropes: random bouts of French and songs referencing films.

"Ma," while certainly a stellar track, functions best as a transition between two songs. The pace begins to speed up again, a symmetrical escalation reversing the gradual slowdown from the first half of the record. "Fitzpleasure," then, is the mirror to "Tessellate." The lyrics are even more indecipherable than usual—that is if you can understand Newman's singing which amazingly manages to sound frightening despite its high-pitched nasal tone. It all lends to a frenzied, wonderfully chaotic experience.

We are granted a brief respite in the form of the final flourish interlude—a moment of tender piano—before being returned to fear in the form of "Bloodflood." The song traces the human stress response in musical form, from the initial threat to the adrenaline rush to the eventual cooldown. The percussion in particular

stands out here, being reminiscent of your own blood pounding in your ears.

Alt-J refuse to back down with "Taro," a brutal re-telling of photojournalist Robert Capa's death while on assignment in Viet Nam during the First Indochina War. I highly suggest digging deeper into his story, along with that of his lover and namesake of the song, Gerda Taro, to enjoy the song on an even deeper level.

If you have yet to have heard *An Awesome Wave* in the ten years since its release, then you will have the enviable joy of experiencing this record for the first time. The band's follow-up, *This Is All Yours*, has a very similar sound which fans of Alt-J's debut will undoubtedly enjoy just as much. The next two releases, *RELAXER* and *The Dream*, the latter of which dropped early this year, stray from the formula presented in the first two records slightly while still maintaining the same charms that earned them their popularity.

Filipino Boy Group SB19 Makes Waves in a K-pop World

HANNAH LORENZO '25
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The rise of Filipino boy group SB19 brings attention to the world of P-pop, Pinoy pop music, and the worldwide K-pop music genre. SB19's global outreach and considerable talent in music, dance, and production make them a valuable example of the Philippines' capability to produce music artists and represent Filipino culture on a larger scale.

K-pop remains popular today, and BTS can be considered the most renowned K-pop group to date, with billions of views, sold-out tours, and a strong presence in the US music industry

with artist collaborations and recent English songs. While BTS and other famous K-pop groups like Blackpink and NCT appear to dominate mainstream Asian music, it is worth noticing other contenders, specifically P-pop.

The Philippines has produced music artists that helped shape the entertainment industry. Tony award-winning Filipina singer and actress Lea Salonga not only demonstrated her exceptional talent in the arts on Broadway, but she also recorded the iconic Disney songs "A Whole New World" and "Reflection" in the roles of Jasmine and Mulan. KZ Tandingan is a Filipina singer and rapper who reflects

the more modern popularity of Filipino pop music.

Despite this popularity, Filipino boy groups seemed nonexistent in the early 21st century as K-pop groups debuted and kickstarted their journeys to music and media fame. While K-pop groups like Super Junior and 2pm preceded the more active groups like EXO and Seventeen, P-pop groups were never truly in that kind of spotlight until SB19.

Since their debut in 2018, SB19 has consisted of five members: Pablo, Stell, Ken, Justin, and Josh. According to an article about the group by Cosmopolitan Philippines, SB19 trained under ShowBT, a Korean entertainment company that took endeavors to the Philippines to find talent. As trainees, SB19 worked under the same rigorous schedule as K-pop idols. From extensive vocal training to hours upon hours in the dance studio, the members ultimately honed their skills enough to debut on the global stage. The world had a P-pop boy group that could potentially rival the mass appeal of K-pop boy groups.

This potential became a reality in 2021: the year became a turning point for SB19 as their global popularity pushed through the K-pop sphere. Their music video for the song "What" in March 2021 reached 17 million views on their YouTube channel. The song highlights their growth as a group while representing the Philippines as they sing about swinging their flag with familial and

cultural pride. The music video also showcased hard hitting choreography, warrior/soldier inspired costuming, and various detailed sets. These aspects pay homage to the similar elements in K-pop music videos.

Additionally, SB19 competed against BTS for the Top Social Artist award at the Billboard Music Awards, further highlighting the group's prominence on the global music scene. In January 2022, they would surpass BTS on the Billboard's Hot Trending Songs Chart for the No. 1 spot with their song "Bazinga." Their recent song, "WYAT (Where You At)," kicks off the start of their new world tour.

So how did SB19 finally get into the limelight years after their debut? It certainly has to do with the natural growth garnered by the group's talents and media presence but equally important is the rise of diverse representation within Asian music. K-pop remains one of the top players in the music and entertainment industry, covering singing, dancing, and acting. K-pop has the ability to retain South Korean culture while showcasing styles inspired by other cultures, such as R&B, hip hop, and English lyrics. South Korea became known as the hub for entertainment talent through their tough training programs and selective process in picking trainees to debut.

These ideas entered mainstream music, where worldwide audiences saw the talent for themselves,

with hundreds of millions of views per music video and K-pop playlists created by streaming services for people to listen to the latest hits.

The Philippines, however, did not have the same kind of reach as South Korea. As a third world country, negative stereotypes of Filipino quality of life dampened their presence in the international entertainment industry, but SB19 is a prime example that Filipinos are no longer able to be overlooked. Through their workmanship as songwriters, singers, and dancers, SB19's talent and true potential was finally recognized to stand out and rise to the top of the music charts. Rather than be recognized as K-pop copycats, they are able to showcase Filipino love and support through their lyrics and message as Filipino representatives in music. The world may have realized that South Korea is not the only country to compete and collaborate alongside American artists.

SB19 heralds a new era for themselves and the Philippines. They should not just be compared to K-pop artists but be regarded as equals in this competitive industry. They will hopefully support the development of P-pop as more Filipino artists/groups make headway, such as boy group BGYO and girl group BINI. SB19 can maintain their bright future by not only reaching global fame but, most importantly, representing the ambitious and humble values of Filipinos everywhere in the world.



Spotify: Filipino Boy Group SB19 Members

Pablo, Stell, Ken, Justin, and Josh

Rumors Sparked with Cryptic Message Regarding the Return of Experimental Hip Hop Band Death Grips

JULES BOURBEAU '25
A&E EDITOR

Experimental hip hop group Death Grips has always been creative with their album release announcements, often communicating only through cryptic suggestions. It is no wonder that despite—or perhaps precisely because of—the band's declaration of their 2015 record, *The Powers That Be*, as their final, fans have eagerly awaited more clues in the hopes of deciphering a precious snippet of new information.

It seems that the frenzied predictions may now be coming closer than they ever have in the past seven years. On September 4th, Death Grips' official website added a small piece of

text to the upper lefthand corner of the page reading "9/21/22" before immediately reverting the update just hours later. A Reddit user with the highly dignified name "fartsmoker470" was the first to notice the new development—or at least the first to publicly document it. Momentarily forgetting the disappointment of previous fake-out hints, many fans immediately jumped to the conclusion that this meant that Death Grips would break their long hiatus with a new album coming out September 21st, 2022.

Of course, others remain skeptical. The date could simply indicate some sort of announcement as opposed to a full-on re-



vtropes.org: the Band Death Grips

lease, or, less optimistically, it could mean absolutely nothing at all. The most cynical fans even suggested that someone had hacked the website in the hopes of causing a commotion or

garnering some attention. For now, no one conjecture holds any more weight than any other. No one will know until September 21st finally arrives. Will one of the most boundary-break-

ing and innovative hip hop acts break their seven year long silence? Or will the prophesied date come and go without so much as a word from the band? We remain in limbo.

SPORTS

Pro Tennis Player Roger Federer has Officially Retired

BLYTHE HASTINGS '23
SPORTS EDITOR

Roger Federer is retiring from professional tennis at age 41 after a series of knee operations, closing a career in which he won 20 Grand Slam titles, finished five seasons ranked No. 1, and helped create a golden era of men's tennis with rivals Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Federer's 20 Grand Slam titles rank third all-time among men's players behind only contemporaries Nadal (22) and Djokovic (21). Federer said he intends to keep playing tennis but not in any Grand

Slam matches. He had not played a competitive match since reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in 2021 and announced in mid-August that he had undergone another knee surgery. He had, however, appeared at an event marking the 100th anniversary of Centre Court at the All England Club in July and said he hoped to come back to play there one final time. He also had said he would return to tournament action at the Swiss Indoors in October.

"This is a bittersweet decision because I will miss everything the tour has given me," Federer said. "But

at the same time, there is so much to celebrate. I consider myself one of the most fortunate people on Earth. I was given a special talent to play tennis, and I did it at a level that I never imagined, for much longer than I ever thought possible." Federer leaves with 103 tour-level titles on his substantial résumé and 1,251 wins in singles matches, second only to Jimmy Connors in the Open era which began in 1968. Federer's records include being the oldest No. 1 in ATP rankings history—he returned to the top spot at 36 in 2018—with most consecutive weeks there—

his total-weeks mark was eclipsed by Djokovic. The dominance Federer displayed at the height of his powers is unrivaled, including reaching 10 consecutive Grand Slam finals—and winning eight—from 2005 to 2007, a run that also extended to 18 of 19 major finals until 2010. Federer compiled streaks of 36 quarterfinals in a row and 23 semifinals in a row from 2004 to 2013, which is especially impressive in a sport where surface changes impact even the best of players. When Federer won his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, Pete Sampras held

the men's record for titles: the American had won his 14th at the US Open the year before in what turned out to be the final match of his career. Federer would go on to blow way past that, ending up with 20 by winning eight championships at Wimbledon, six at the Australian Open, five at the US Open, and one at the French Open. His 2009 trophy at Roland Garros allowed Federer to complete a career Grand Slam. His serving, forehand, footwork, and attacking style will all be remembered. Also unforgettable were his matches against younger rivals Nadal, 36,

An Update on the Athlete-Employee Debate: a Look at the Legislation and Lawsuits Currently in Play

BLYTHE HASTINGS '23
SPORTS EDITOR

A new government entity is entering the growing movement to have athletes deemed as employees. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) could soon begin aggressive investigation into whether unpaid college athletes are being discriminated against because they are not fairly compensated. The EEOC was recently referred to an employment and civil rights complaint filed by the National College Players Association (NCPA) to the Department of Education in March. The complaint asserts that all 350 NCAA Division I schools are vio-

lating Black students' civil rights by colluding to cap compensation. The NCAA limits what schools can offer athletes in terms of scholarship money and largely prohibits any direct pay to players. The athlete-employment debate has gained momentum over the past several years as revenue growth within the college sports industry continues to expand in varying ways, mostly because of men's basketball and football. In a letter sent to NCAA schools last week, Anamaria Loya, the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights chief attorney, said the complaint did not fall under the department's jurisdiction and was referred to

the EEOC's San Francisco district office. *Sports Illustrated* obtained a copy of a letter through an open records request. "The EEOC receives up to 100,000 employment complaints a year and prosecutes about 500 of those," says LeRoy. The procedure starts with an investigation, which will invariably lead to an EEOC request for information from schools and athletes. Many within college sports believe employment status is coming at some point for college athletes. The EEOC represents one of four possible routes for that to happen. The NLRB is also an option. In Pennsylvania, a court case, *Johnson vs. NCAA*, is working its way through

the system; it would make athletes employees. The fourth route to athlete employment status is Congress. Several bills could lay a legal path for schools to provide athletes collective bargaining rights and even revenue sharing provisions. Deeming college athletes as employees would have wide-ranging impacts on the athletes and their universities. Athletes would be introduced to federal taxation and may be at risk of termination by their new employer, the school. Schools could lose their Section 501(c)(3) designation, which impacts taxation on bond financing and charitable gifts. Experts say student fees and public support might

disappear as well. The NCPA's nine-page complaint outlines the millions of dollars basketball and football players are missing out on because of, what it calls, "unjust compensation limits." The complaint gives estimates of the percent of compensation of total revenue that each major sport's athlete receives—29.9% for women's basketball, 8.9% for men's basketball and 8.1% for football. Women's basketball players are each being denied \$24,000 a year, men's players \$164,000, and football players \$185,000, the complaint says. The debate will continue as the market for college athletes becomes more competitive with each new incoming class.

This Week in Sports at Trincoll...

Field Hockey v. Colby College	W, 3-1	Women's Soccer v. Eastern Connecticut State	T, 0-0
Women's Volleyball v. Tufts University	L, 1-3	Field Hockey v. Worcester Polytechnic Institute	W, 4-1
Men's Soccer v. Colby College	T, 1-1	Women's Soccer v. Colby College	W, 2-0
Field Hockey v. Smith College	W, 5-0	Men's Football v. Tufts University	W, 26-23
Women's Volleyball v. United States Coast Guard Academy	L, 0-3	Men's Golf v. Middlebury College	2nd of 23 teams

Trinity College

Inside Sports:
Federer Retires and an
Update on the Athlete
Employee Debate

This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

Football Seniors are Hoping to Bring Another NESCAC Title Home this Homecoming Weekend!

LILY IVES '23
SPORTS EDITOR

After an intense and sweltering preseason under the fiery Hartford summer sun, the Trinity College football team stands ready to furiously storm into the 2022 season to reclaim the top spot in the NESCAC league. For the Trinity Bantams it all kick-offs in Medford, Massachusetts, with the first game of the season versus NESCAC foe Tufts University.

Unlike other fall sports teams at Trinity, the majority of which began competition within the first week of September, the football team had to anxiously wait until September 17th for their first contest. While training and preparing, the football Bants were also able to find time to watch and loudly cheer on their fellow Bantam fall sports teams with great enthusiasm. Now, finally, it's their turn, as their great wait to compete has arrived. Bantam football fans are gearing up for an entertaining and successful season ahead in the highly competitive NESCAC league.

Having watched other fall sports begin competition weeks ago, senior offensive

lineman Matthew Almansi exclaimed, "though it sometimes almost makes me impatient to see other sports teams already competing, I think the wait makes our team even more energetic and hungry this season to begin competing for a NESCAC title." The Trinity College football team ended their 2021 campaign with an 8-1 record, leaving them in second place in the NESCAC rankings. Their one loss came against the Williams College Ephs, who went on to claim the NESCAC title. The Bantams clinched the NESCAC title three years in a row in 2016, 2017, and 2018—and have claimed the title an impressive 15 times in total. But you know what they say, the most rewarding win is always the next one, and, to that point, the Bants are hungry to claim their 16th title and add it to their belt this season.

Seniors Matthew Almansi, Ryan Wiley, and Joseph Lepore all spoke of the high hopes the team has for this season, building on the immense talent, grit, and energy that the squad brings to the field. Lepore discussed the depth and experience that this year's roster has

when he said, "we have tons of returners coming back, including graduate students, so leadership and experience have been a strong suit of the team." The Bantams have five graduate students competing this season, as well as 21 returning seniors, which makes for an extremely deep and experienced roster. The Bantams are not only armed with experience but great talent as well, as they return an impressive seven All-NESCAC First Team honorees, featuring graduate students Noah Glantz, Aidan Kennedy, Brian Casagrande, and Devante Reid, as well as seniors Kyle Woodring, Rob Mihaly, and Spencer Fetter. Senior quarterback Spencer Fetter returns following a standout 2021 season; in his first collegiate season, he led the nation in completion percentage, and led the NESCAC in pass completions, passing yards, passing touchdowns, and pass efficiency.

Senior offensive lineman Ryan Wiley reflected on the team's preseason which started in late August, stating, "You could feel the energy on the first day of practice. Everyone came back to campus ready for another great season. There is certainly

unfinished business from last season, which makes practice just that much more intense, hype, and exciting." Almansi added to Wiley's enthusiasm, stating, "We came into preseason with extremely high expectations of ourselves to compete for a NESCAC title. The talent, experience, and grit are promising, and we are getting better every day!"

The Trinity College football team has certainly put in the work this preseason on and off the field as well as in the weight room with head strength coach Bill Delongis. With the immense depth, talent, and drive that this team possesses, the Bantams have

one thing on their minds: another NESCAC title.

The incredible talent across the NESCAC league presents a tremendous challenge to all teams. The Trinity College football team certainly has their work cut out for them this season, but their talent, focus, and intensity should give Bantam fans everywhere high hopes for a tremendous season ahead. After the opener at Tufts, the first home game for the Bantams takes place during Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, September 24th at 1:30 p.m. on the Jesse/Miller Field at the Tansill Muldoon Stadium. Roll Bants!



BANTAM SPORTS

A Great 3-1 Start for the Women's Volleyball Team

LILY IVES '23
SPORTS EDITOR

The start to the Trinity College Women's Volleyball season was nothing short of exhilarating, as Head Coach Jen Bowman sealed her 400th career win as a volleyball coach in a 3-0 win versus the University of Saint Joseph. The Bantams opened their season on September 6th at home in Oosting Gymnasium and secured all three sets

for the win. Senior captain Molly Bernstein had an impressive start to her season, with five kills, two aces, and three blocks. Junior Molly Bernstein also contributed greatly to the Bantam win, recording seven kills and one block. Bantam sophomores Ava Bolyan and Eva Lekovic added to the stats, both registering five kills each.

The Bantams then returned to action on Friday, September 9th in a nail-bit-

ing home battle versus Eastern Connecticut State University. The Bantams started down two sets but were able to dominate in the third and fourth sets, forcing the match into a fifth. Despite the valiant effort made by the Bantams, they fell 15-9 in the final set, ending the match with a score of 3-2 in favor of Eastern Connecticut State. Junior Lola Craig dominated the scoreboard, with 12 kills, two aces, and two blocks

while sophomore Ava Bolyan recorded an impressive 10 kills and one block.

The tough loss to Eastern Connecticut State clearly added fueled and sparked the Bantam's fire, as they dominated their doubleheader on Saturday, September 10th versus Worcester State University and the University of New England.

In what was the first away game for the squad this season, they controlled the court versus Worcester State

in a 3-0 sweep and continued their run that same day with a 3-1 win versus the University of New England. It is no surprise that junior Lola Craig earned 'Bantam of the Week' honors, as she showcased dominant performances in both matches, totaling a stunning 18 kills in both contests.

The Bantams open up NESCAC play on Saturday, September 17th in a home battle versus the Tufts University Jumbos. Roll Bants!

Coming Up for Bantam Sports:
Wed. Fri.

Field Hockey at Springfield College
@ 6:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball at Springfield College
@ 6:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball v. Wesleyan University
@ 6:00 p.m.

Women's Tennis at Williams College
@ N/A

Women's Soccer at Connecticut College
@ 7:00 p.m.

