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Academic honor council sees a spike in cases

TLearn's updated system makes catching instances of cheating easier for professors

GLORIA FARRIS | NEWS INTERN
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With the online semester introducing a new set of opportunities for academic dishonesty, the academic honor council has seen a spike in cases this fall.

"Unfortunately, we do have a lot more cases this semester with being online. There are just more opportunities, and I think a lot more scrutiny from professors," said Mia Vu, junior neuroscience major and external chair of the council. "In a normal year, we get quite a few plagiarism cases, but now we're just seeing a lot more collaboration: students working together on exams or on projects they're not allowed to."

The role of the academic honor council is to encourage academic integrity among its students and to hold individuals accountable for their actions in a just way. Similar to years prior, the council emailed first-year students the academic honor code, which students were required to sign to signify their allegiance to academic integrity.

During new student orientation, first-years were also required to watch a video detailing the academic honor code at Trinity and expectations.

"I think there's just a different feeling to it. It's a different experience from sitting in Laurie Auditorium with all of your peers that you just don't get watching a YouTube video," Vu said.



The academic honor council has continued conducting meetings and hearings over Zoom to address issues of academic dishonesty throughout the semester. photo by **CLAIRE SAMMONS**

Despite the changing environment, the honor council continues to hold meetings and hearings online.

"I feel like our role has transitioned pretty well to online. We do all of our meetings and hearings over zoom because we have quite a few members who are at home. We still want them to be active and participate," Vu said.

Thomas Peña, junior business analytics & technology and finance double-major

and council member, noticed a trend in the implicated students.

"Whereas during normal times a large majority of cases would be from first-years, a large number of cases are being processed against sophomores, juniors and seniors," said Peña. "There have been large numbers of multi-student cases as well."

Due to TLearn's updated system and the school-wide shift to virtual learning,

catching instances of cheating has become much easier. Professors are able to see when students click between tabs on a quiz or exam, the timestamp of when it happened and what page they visited.

"I think a lot of us didn't know that until now," said Vu. "Cheating on a test was a little harder to do in-person. Professors are more aware of it with online testing."

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Student Accessibility Services welcomes new director

Spencer Scruggs, director, aims to take a strengths-based approach when assisting students

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At a time when daily life involves a variety of complications and stressors unknown to students before the virus, access to support for academic pursuits is needed more than ever, especially for those with mental and physical disabilities. Trinity's new director of Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Spencer Scruggs, is prepared to offer that support.

"I would say our office really does its due diligence in going beyond accommodations. It's so much more than just accommodations — it's working with faculty to help them understand different ways to make their classes accessible," said Scruggs. "It is listening to faculty on creating classroom environments and learning situations that are accessible to all students."

In September, the SAS Office announced the hiring of Scruggs, who will oversee the office's operations and work to build a learning environment in which all students can succeed.

Scruggs began his career at Florida State University, where he graduated with a Master's in Higher Education Administration. After taking on various roles at the Office of Student Accessibility there, Scruggs began seeking positions elsewhere. When the director of Student Accessibility Services position opened up at Trinity, it was an ideal opportunity for him.

"I did the graduate assistantship and then a full-time position opened in the



Prior to beginning his work at Trinity this September, **SPENCER SCRUGGS**, director of Student Accessibility Services, worked in the Office of Student Accessibility at Florida State University for six years in a variety of roles. photo provided by **SPENCER SCRUGGS**

office so I took that full-time position, and essentially six years later, this position opened up [at Trinity]. I just felt like I was ready for that next step. When I applied and started interviewing it just was the perfect fit," said Scruggs.

While Student Accessibility Services typically navigate the legal requirements for accommodations set by the government, the Trinity SAS staff seeks to go beyond these requirements and provide comprehensive support for students.

"We try to approach it from a very strengths-based approach: a disability is not a deficit; it's not something that needs to be fixed. It's something that we recognize as something that can be a strength. It is just a different way of engaging with information and with the campus," said Scruggs.

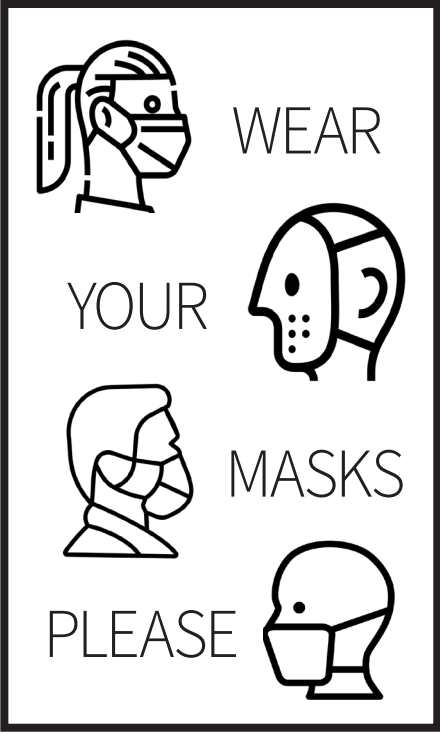
According to Betty Curry, director of Academic Support, the director of Student Accessibility Services is responsible for providing expertise in the legal and educational aspects as well as ensuring that operations run smoothly.

"[The director] is the subject matter expert on what the law requires, what is current and best practices in the field, and supervises the staff, and manages the budget," said Curry.

While many hold a narrow definition of the term 'disability,' Scruggs seeks to bring awareness to the fact that disabilities exceed such constructs and instead encapsulate a variety of conditions.

"It's fairly broad, but it's very overarching how disability is defined. It's really anything that can cause an impairment to a major life activity. That could be studying, it could be living on campus, it could be dining on campus - all of those different things can be considered. It opens consideration for things that we might traditionally not think of when we see the word 'disability,'" said Scruggs. "Something like ADHD, or allergies, or a chronic health condition, or mental health concerns — all of those generally comprise what we call a disability."

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Previously, on SGA: City Vista Uncertainties

This covers the meeting on Oct. 28.

CLIMATE CHECK

Sophomore senator Sol Rivas-Lopes kicked off this week’s climate check by mentioning general concern over the library intercom announcements. The announcements serve to remind those utilizing the library to keep their masks on, but Rivas-Lopes suggested that the announcements should be made during passing periods in order to avoid disrupting students that are in classes. Advisor Jamie Thompson suggested that SGA talk to Chris Nolan, librarian, and Jason Hardin, access services manager, about the issue of disruptive announcements.

CITY VISTA CONFUSION

Junior Senator Gail Grady brought up her concerns over transparency with students planning to live in City Vista in the spring. She mentioned it was not made clear to her whether or not students got charged extra if their roommates chose to live at home.

2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SGA senior President Jaelen Harris opened up

discussion regarding post-election plans and how SGA plans to deal with the outcome and inevitable stresses of the election year.

Advisor Thompson said she is looking forward to the collaboration between Student Involvement, the Chapel, and the Health and Wellness center. They will be hosting an “in preparation for the Election” program that will include a “voter swag bag” and stations that will allow participants to make “self-care” kits.

First-year Senator Nguyen suggested decorating the path from Trinity to the nearest polling area in order to make voting a more appealing and fun experience. She also encouraged that SGA continue to promote voting on their Instagram page.

LGBTQIA+ SAFE SPACE

President Harris asked SGA members for their thoughts on safely planning a discussion with new director of Diversity and Inclusion Courtney Balderas-Jacob, and LGBTQIA+ students. President Harris emphasized that this was not going to be in debate format, and any students who were being unprofessional or trying to debate LGBTQIA+ rights would be kicked out of the Zoom meeting.

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Additional coverage can be found online at trinitonian.com, coverage by **KAYLA PADILLA**

COVID Snapshot:

Updated 10/28/2020

OVERALL NUMBERS

Test Results to Date: **3,664**

Total # Active Cases: **9**

Cumulative Tested Positive: **20**

DISTRIBUTION

PRINT

Oct. 22: 669
Oct. 2: 416
Sept. 25: 705
Sept. 18: 632
Sept. 10: 639
Sept. 4: 601

WEB

6,046 page
views this week

CLASSIFIEDS

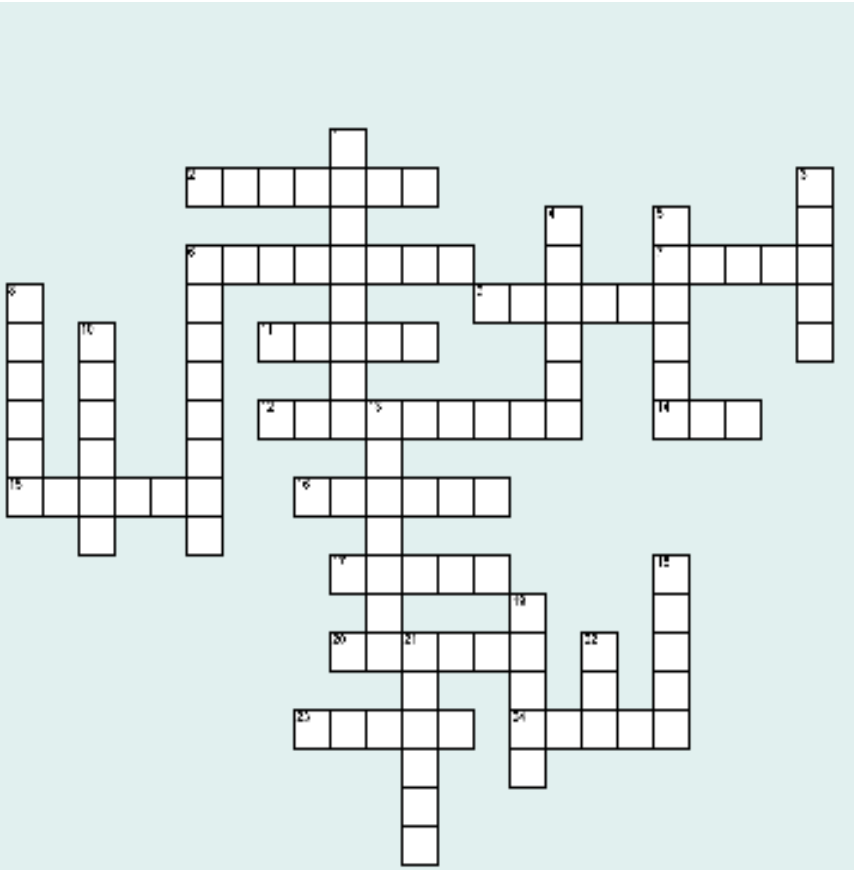
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CORRECTIONS

Spot a correction? Let us know!
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Halloween Themed Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Carved Halloween fruit
- Stop motion movie where character’s bedroom leads to an alternate reality
- Used to contact spirits
- Wes Craven’s slasher film
- Brew maker, pointy hat
- Controversial trilayered Halloween candy
- This street has a nightmare
- Eight-legged creature
- Product of red and yellow
- Preserved body
- Friendly ghost
- Friday the 13th villian
- Spectre, rhymes with toast

DOWN

- A body’s framework
- Unlucky feline’s color
- Corpse Bride producer
- Living dead
- Burial ground
- Used to make cider
- Horror movie regarding a bullied girl
- Infamous count
- Trick or treat
- Many feared this ending up in children’s candy
- Eerie, rhymes with kooky
- A ghost’s call

Interactive version available at Trinitonian.com
Answer key can be found through the interactive puzzle link.

NEWS BRIEFS

DANA NICHOLS | NEWS EDITOR
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UNIVERSITY SEES A SPIKE IN COVID-19 CASES

Two weeks following students’ first and only three-day weekend, Trinity is seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases, peaking at 12 reported cases and currently at nine.

Of the nine current cases, two are employees and seven are students — five living off-campus and two on-campus. Two students are in on-campus isolation and one is in quarantine.

Compared to other U.S. universities, Trinity has continued to fare well with a low overall positivity rate throughout the fall semester. Of the 3,596 employees and students to have participated in surveillance and baseline testing, only 20 have produced positive results to-date; currently 68 are awaiting their testing results.

The Nerve Center, Trinity’s task force dedicated to monitoring local COVID-19 trends and making suggestions to university administrators, will continue to monitor campus cases throughout the remainder of the semester and Thanksgiving and winter breaks.

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR DEAN OF STUDENTS AND ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

Following the announcement of David Tuttle’s, vice president for Student Life and Dean of Students, upcoming retirement in May 2021, the search committee for his replacement has been brought together.

“The search committee will meet next week to develop the position profile and a statement of responsibilities and qualifications sought in the new AVP/DoS. When the position profile has been posted, [students] will receive a notice inviting you to submit nominations,” wrote Sheryl Tynes, vice president for Student Life, in an email to students.

Committee co-chairs are Alex Serna-Wallender, university Chaplain, and Michael Soto, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of English. Soto also served as co-chair of the search committee for the university Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion, announced on Oct. 11 to be Courtney Balderas-Jacob.

Along with the co-chairs, committee members include student leaders, faculty and staff from departments across campus. Members were appointed by Tynes, who consulted with Danny Anderson, university

president, Deneese Jones, vice president for Academic Affairs, and Student Life leaders.

Students will be notified once a position profile has been created by the committee, and may then begin submitting nominations.

OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2021 HOUSING PLANS

Following a survey sent in early October asking students’ spring housing plans, the Office of Residential Life has announced that the housing application will be open to all students from Oct. 28-Nov. 30. Housing assignments will be announced on Dec. 9, as well as possible waitlist information.

No class year is guaranteed housing or special prioritization. Instead, the housing application includes new questions asking students about their involvement in faculty-led research, athletic team affiliation, learning community participation and level of precaution regarding COVID-19.

The university plans to maintain its current model of two students to a suite, but is considering offering traditional double-occupancy.

Due to limited capacity and heightened planning, students will be penalized for cancelling housing assignments after Nov. 30.

Students will be issued a \$200 penalty if they cancel after Dec. 1 and a \$400 penalty if they cancel after Dec. 9 unless waitlisted; waitlisted students will incur a \$200 penalty if cancelling a housing assignment after Dec. 9.

This fall, first-years, international students and students expressing financial need were prioritized and the university’s three-year residency requirement was put on hold due to residence hall occupancy limitations.

STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH TITLE IX TRAININGS

Approximately one month after the announcement of new Title IX regulations, students have been assigned virtual training courses to educate them on Title IX rights and protections, sexual violence and healthy relationships.

Students have been assigned different course programming based on whether they are a new, continuing, or graduate student. All students are required to complete a thirty-minute Trinity-specific training.

Training is being administered through Safe Colleges, the same program used by the university to distribute COVID-19 health and safety trainings over the summer. The deadline for Title IX training completion is Dec. 1.

Faculty reports of academic dishonesty among students increase in virtual semester

continued from FRONT

Although there is a clause in the academic honor policy at Trinity that addresses the increased use of technology in cheating, it is not entirely applicable to the move to complete online learning. Vu confirmed that they are working on revising the policy to fit online learning, specifically remote exams.

Circumstances concerning where students are living this semester may contribute to the increase in violation cases, as the change in environment and increased isolation can produce further stress to the usual list of demands.

“A big concern of mine is how that stress transfers to them in maintaining academic integrity. Because you know, I get it. It’s hard. It’s different. It’s lonely. You don’t get to interact with your peers or receive that same support that you normally do,” said Vu.

As external chair, Vu’s job consists mainly of educating the student population and communicating with students, faculty and

administration. While the council usually hosts small social events throughout the year to spread awareness about academic integrity, Vu is attempting to do the same virtually this year.

“We’re doing a lot more to expand our communication just because we’re finding that’s a big problem lately with students going online. We’re trying to do more with informing students of ‘This is what you can do to avoid complications’ or ‘Here’s some things to consider when taking your exams.’ We’re trying to give students more information, especially since this is all new for many of us,” said Vu. “For me, your degree means so much more if you work hard for it and have done it fairly.”

Vu also speaks for the council, clarifying that they are not “just some scary, overhead punishment board.”

“The honor council creates a fair system for students and professors,” said Vu. “It gives everyone a chance to have their voice heard. “

Trinity welcomes new director of Student Accessibility Services

continued from FRONT

Traditionally, students have received their accommodations by submitting the required supporting documentation directly to the SAS Office. In order to streamline this process, the office has launched a new service, AIM, which allows students to reach out to SAS and access their records online.

“[This platform] greatly improves students’ access to their records and streamline their process for applying, and also provide better access for our faculty members to see their students’ accommodations. We have been very available and very committed to meeting students and being responsive to them. This is just a new tool that is going to help us do that even better,” Curry said.

While AIM allows students with documentation to access SAS services more easily, Scruggs emphasized the fact that all students are welcome to consult the office and to explore different ways of succeeding at Trinity — regardless of their documented health conditions.

“We do understand that sometimes students come to Trinity and they may not have documentation, they may not have experience with accommodations in high school, they may not know where to go and they are not sure if they want to fill out the application. Our office is very adamant about meeting those students’ needs as well. Students can reach out to us by email and simply ask questions — it’s no commitment or anything of that nature. There’s no one right way to get connected with us,” Scruggs said.



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FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Halloween doesn't have to be miserable

Happy Halloween! Or is it a stressed Halloween? We aren't sure which one you'll be having, but we encourage you to be safe no matter what you do. The Halloween special section is one of our favorites here at the Trinitonian, it brings out the creative in all of us.

As with everything else this semester, the way we socialize has been fundamentally changed. Thus far, Trinity has been unique in that they have managed to keep their COVID-19 active cases low. As of this week, however, the numbers are rising again on campus.

Yes, we all want to dress up and hang out with people we haven't seen, but it's not worth putting others at risk just to celebrate a holiday that won't be the same anyway. Stick to the people in your bubble, wear a mask, and always stay at least 6 feet away from people who aren't in your bubble.

We all remember the shock and surprise when we were sent home in March. This time around, you can control whether Trinity sends students home or not. Think about how inconvenient it would be to have to move your belongings out before you anticipated, and how you'll have to go through the trouble of booking flights for home, or asking your parents

to bring their car so you can move out. It is Halloween, but we are still in a pandemic, and you know that.

...it's not worth putting others at risk just to celebrate a holiday that won't be the same anyway.

So be smart, and stay within your bubble. Flip through our Halloween special section to discover fun ways to enjoy the spooky holiday while also being cautious of COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. The theatre department, for example, is hosting one of the few in-person events of this semester: The Rocky Horror Picture Show. If you're attending the show, keep in mind that it is preferred you attend with people within your bubble. The theatre production crew and cast members have been taking many precautions to ensure the safety of their audience members, so rest assured they've been planning carefully.

You'll find other COVID-safe activities to do this Halloween recommended by our very own staff members. Though we must remain safe and minimize contact with other people, Halloween doesn't have to be a bore. A few weeks ago one of our opinion columnists, Mai Vo, wrote about how dressing up every day, despite not going anywhere, can help boost your mood and help you feel more optimistic about the day ahead. On a similar note, dressing up for Halloween, even when you're staying inside, can bring you a sense of normalcy and make you feel less down about our unusual circumstances. Don't be afraid to experiment with scary makeup or a costume that's otherwise out of your comfort zone. Post photos if you take them, and encourage others to also be safe.

Seriously, we've had enough down days as it is, take Halloween to enjoy some indoor, COVID-safe activities with those in your bubble. Don't mope around, we've had enough of that this year. We are all deserving of having a good Halloween, so long as we do so without endangering the lives of others. Carve a pumpkin, or paint one! Making a pumpkin look nice is always so much more difficult than it seems. You'll be proud of yourself and you'll be engaging in Halloween festivities.

Don't let the camera eat first, or second



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I find myself asking the same question when going out with friends: Is Instagram influencing how we eat?

There are few relationships that have become as inexorably intertwined as that of Instagram and food. In the past few years, the social media channel – which is primarily an avenue for people to post pictures – has emerged as a fount of wisdom about food, gently nudging users in the direction of restaurants perceived to have Instagrammable food or places that are so beautiful to look at, they are immediately bestowed the title “Instagram-friendly.” In fact, I did a quick search on Instagram and found 413 million posts tagged under #food.

However, should we really be giving an app so much control over our dietary choices?

Diet fads are timeless. The '80s had SlimFast, the '90s had Atkins and the 2000s regrettably popularized detox juice, but

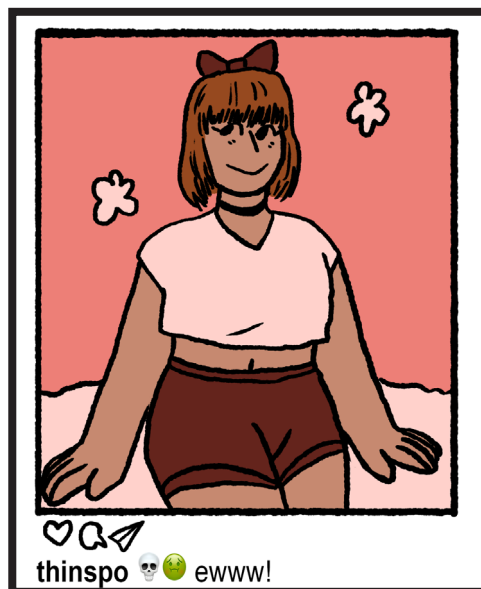
Instagram has elevated diet culture to a whole new level, disguising harmful habits in pretty packaging. Diet culture seems to be defined as a system of beliefs that equates being thin with health and moral virtue, promotes weight loss to achieve status, and demonizes certain ways of eating as well as oppresses people who do not fit within this false paradigm of health.

So how should we define it? Diet culture is an aesthetic currency on Instagram. Even content that does not specifically involve food, health or fitness, still often upholds the tenets of diet culture. Filters, angles, captions and comments all merge together to remind users of a narrow and falsely entangled conception of beauty and health.

Recent diet trends such as Paleo, Whole30 and clean eating have moved away from explicit goals of weight loss to instead focus on vague values of wellness. Of course, when our cultural ideal of wellness equals thinness, such rebranding is meaningless and certainly still harmful. Body positivity trends and greater cultural awareness regarding the dangers of media representations have made explicit weight shaming more taboo.

Users might follow Instagram food influencers like Jamie Oliver, David Chang or Sam Linsell hoping to integrate some of their recipes into their weekly meal rotation. I'm sure that these influencers have the best of objectives, but even well-intentioned food content can promote diet culture's harmful ideas by transforming wellness into an aesthetic sensibility. Food-centric influencers are never just about the recipes that they post. More often than not, there is a certain well-lit, pastel aesthetic that sells these influencers as aspirational figures. What bloggers or vloggers like Jamie, David and Sam sell — whether they are aware of it or not — is a lifestyle.

Suddenly, food becomes so much more. With the right recipe and the right lighting, maybe we too can have a happy birthday and



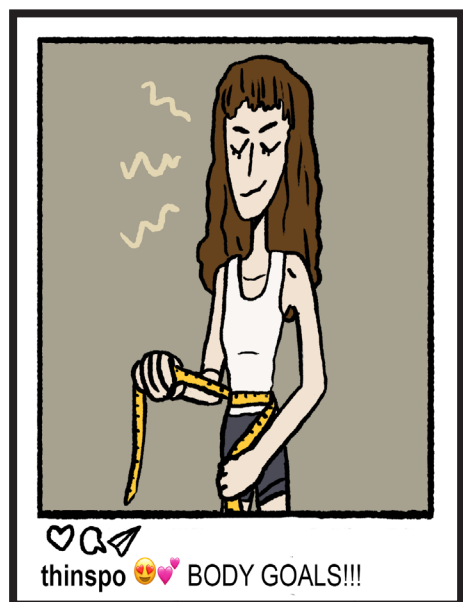
illustrations by REN RADER

cozy kitchen. By disguising the diets behind this wholesome façade, Instagram depicts diet culture as a false sense of security that could conceal signs of disordered eating. Followers of influencers might begin to feel intense guilt when they don't have the time or resources to fulfill their wholesome aesthetic. They might begin to identify certain foods as good because of how influencers represent them as “clean” or “whole” and subsequently regard other foods as bad, creating a punishing black and white paradigm of nutrition.

It's impossible to avoid diet culture. What's necessary is awareness. The next time you log onto Instagram, pay attention to how food is portrayed within your social media sphere and how that makes you feel. Watch for signs of disordered eating in friends, family and yourself.

Our current diet trends will go out of style one day, but self-love and compassion are timeless. If the camera must eat first, then make sure you're also feeding your soul.

Mai Vo is a junior piano performance and communication double major.



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here's what you
should know.

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Share your quick reactions to Trinitonian coverage and opinion columns. Send 300 words or fewer to the head editors and Phoebe Murphy, opinion editor, at pmurphy@trinity.edu. She or Kayla Padilla, editor-in-chief, will be in touch as soon as they can.

guest columns

Can't keep it to a few hundred words? Pen a guest column and let your views be known. Please keep it between 500 and 700 words, and give us time to prepare. If possible, submit by Sunday at noon to be in the Friday edition of the paper. Email it to opinion editor Phoebe Murphy at pmurphy@trinity.edu.

please note!

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FORUM

When you see this “forum” stamp, know that you're reading community voices. The Trinitonian is a public forum for Trinity students, faculty and staff. All guest columns are unpaid and do not represent the views of the Trinitonian. Want to join the forum? Here's how to start a dialogue and have your voice heard in print and online.

Trinity gardeners reap this year's harvest

Trinity's community garden and other initiatives allow students to exercise their green thumb

SOFIA ORTIZ | PULSE INTERN
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Autumn. A time when pumpkin spice is in the air, cool temperatures start to set in, and leaves are falling. In sunny San Antonio however, fall doesn't look quite the same as the rest of the globe, with pretty warm temperatures remaining, even with the occasional cold front blowing in. At Trinity University, fall is when much of the community garden is finally harvested, and the school's gardening class and other students involved with the garden, finally get to see the results of their work.

"Normally, the garden is primarily maintained by students enrolled in a gardening class. The sponsoring department opted not to offer the class this semester because of all the concerns related to COVID," says Sharon Curry, Trinity's sustainability coordinator.

Curry's office is currently helping to organize volunteers that work in the garden, and it is currently being worked on and led by a student leadership team as well.

Taylor Crow, one of the leadership team members, says that she got involved with the garden via Greek life, but that anyone can get involved.

"I got involved with the community garden through some of the girls in Alpha Chi that have been pretty involved in it the last couple of years. I joined a gardening club when I was in high school and found it to be very therapeutic and relaxing during some tough academic and personal times," she says.

With COVID-19 controlling much of what students can participate in currently,

Crow encourages students to garden, as she says it can be a method of relieving stress.

"Gardening and taking care of plants is one thing I can always count on to make my day brighter! When I heard that there was a garden

on campus, I knew I really wanted to be apart of helping it flourish. I feel as though the garden could help many other people on campus in the same way that I have found it helps me," Crow said, "I feel as though we are all going through a tough time right now trying to stay caught up and motivated in our online classes, dealing with isolation and quarantine, and just the current state of our country. Things right now are very overwhelming, but taking the time to help a few plants grow and become something beautiful would be a nice break from all of the uncertainty in our lives and the things we simply cannot control."

Anna Shockley, a current Junior who will be volunteering in the garden this fall, says that the garden provides a safe environment for a non-risky passion project during the pandemic.

"The community garden really caught my attention freshman year because it was a place where Trinity students could volunteer and learn about plants in a casual environment," said Shockley.

"This year, I'm looking forward to volunteering because watching plants mature throughout the season is a fulfilling activity and it's a fun way for me to feel connected in a COVID safe space," said Shockley.

Curry says that her office has many seeds that were donated to the gardening program currently available to student volunteers for use both inside the garden and to take home to their own spaces. Students are encouraged to get involved in the garden if they are interested, via reaching out to the garden leadership team or directly to Curry's office: sustainability@trinity.edu to request to be added to the volunteer email list or reach out to the garden coordinator, Isabel Chavez, at ichavez@trinity.edu.

"Even if you can't get involved this semester," said Crow, "stop by to check out the garden and grab a couple jalapeños!"



Top: Students **EMMA RUCHHOEFT** and **AMANDA BRATTON** participate in Trinity University and Spiritual Life's pop up planting on Friday Oct. 16th outside the chapel.

Bottom: A melon grows at the Trinity Community garden after months of student cultivation and care. photos by **CLAIRE SAMMONS**



Cat Alliance provides care despite pandemic

Freshmen become an integral backbone to organization as on-campus cat feeders

MIKAYLA MULLIN | PULSE REPORTER
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When one looks around the Trinity campus, they will see the normal college things: students, professors and, obviously, cats. Alright, cats are probably a less common fixture of college campuses.

However, one would never know that from looking at Trinity. At Trinity, we have a cat community over 20 strong, and that is largely thanks to the Trinity Cat Alliance.

Mindy Morales, CAT board member, spoke about the purpose of the Cat Alliance. "The purpose is to make sure all of the cats are spayed, neutered, vaccinated and cared for daily," Morales said.

San Antonio has a large stray cat and dog problem, and the Trinity Cat Alliance is working to rectify it. Sofia Hernandez, a Cat Alliance feeder, praised the Cat Alliance's track record.

"Since 2009, the Trinity Cat Alliance has had zero population, where 95% of the cats are sterilized. Practice trap, neuter release. Identifying a stray cat, get them neutered and fixed and then turn them back to the location you tracked them so no new cats can move in," Hernandez said.

The Cat Alliance's practices have led to our own little cat community on campus, which also means that we have a lot of cats to take care of. The Cat Alliance also takes that responsibility and has come up with a system of feeding them that relies on student participation.

"Students, faculty and staff get together a schedule every semester with places to sign up.



One of the many cats the Trinity Cat Alliance feeds and cares for crouches behind one of the wooden structures the Cat Alliance has built and provided for Trinity's own colony of cats. photos by **KATE NUELLE**

There are 10 stations; the cats are fed once or twice a day, depending on how old the cat is," said Morales.

"At the beginning of the semester, we send out a notice to return feeders and have them sign up for the shift they want. Next, we send it out to first-years and tell them anybody who wants to be involved in Cat Alliance can sign up. Usually works out that we [get] the same amount of volunteers as shifts," Morales said.

Not much has changed with the Cat Alliance, except that there are fewer people on campus. This means that the Cat Alliance is

relying more on first-years, the class mostly on campus, to feed the cats, and they have really stepped up.

"There are fewer social activities, so this is one group they can be a part of that is pretty safe, so this year's students have really put their all into it. They have more time. Only about 10 returning students [have been helping us]. First-years have been fabulous," Morales said.

Without the first years, it is unlikely that all the cats would be fed. Hernandez spoke about the importance of first-years' contributions this year. "Since a lot of people aren't here, mostly

[first-years] feeding them and making sure the cats are being fed," Hernandez said.

Some stations would not even be attended to without the first-years' contributions. Madeleine West, a Cat Alliance feeder, spoke about the importance of the first-years' contributions. "For certain stations only [first-years] can feed them," West said.

However, as much as the Trinity Cat Alliance does for the cats on campus, the cats do just as much for the campus community.

"The cats bring a homie kind of feel. This warm feeling, like you've traveled a hundred or thousand miles from where you are from and you are missing your animals. I've been able to adapt more to the Trinity environment having these little cat creatures everywhere," West said.

And as the members of the Cat Alliance can attest, Trinity students are not alone in feeling the connections to our Trinity cats. "As much as we love the cats, they feel that in return," Hernandez said.

It is not just the members of the Cat Alliance that get to feel this affection. "Now that the students have returned, they [the Trinity cats] are very happy. They get very lonely in summer and get happy when students return. A few of [the] cats were very stressed out with the students gone for so long," Morales said.

Thanks to the Trinity Cat Alliance, the Trinity cats have claimed us as much as we have claimed them. It is comforting to know that even during a pandemic, the Trinity cats are here to stay.

Queer Coding of American Classic Horror Films

Older filmmakers often turned to queer coding to communicate with their audience



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When modern audiences look back on classic horror movies, there’s a general consensus that these films are no longer scary. It makes sense when the horror films of today are explicitly gory and depict heinous acts of violence and manipulation. Horror movies like *The Bride of Frankenstein*, *Dracula’s Daughter* and *Psycho* are nowhere near as violent or shocking, yet just below the surface, there is a different kind of horror, one that unfortunately has lasting repercussions in our society today.

It is impossible to discuss the queer coding of classic cinema without first talking about the Hays Code. In place from 1930 to 1967, the Hays Code dictated what was allowed to be shown on the silver screen. The Hays Code sought to uphold “the sanctity of marriage and the home,” which in reality barred anything remotely queer from being shown on screen. This resulted in many directors’ having to get creative with how they expressed that a character was queer; by way of queer coding, directors began using certain characteristics to imply that a character was queer.

In 1931, James Whale directed *Frankenstein*, and upon its success, he also directed the 1935 sequel, *The Bride of Frankenstein*. In this sequel, Frankenstein is approached on his wedding night by Dr. Pretorius who asks Frankenstein to come



illustration by KATE NUELLE

with him to the lab to once again create life, a bride for Frankenstein’s monster. There is something inherently queer about Frankenstein abandoning his new bride before they can consummate their marriage to go create a life with another man, and the original cut of the film expanded on this even more. It was made obvious that the heart of the bride was taken from Frankenstein’s wife; enforcers of the Hays Code argued that this male-male procreation was prioritized over and caused the destruction of Frankenstein’s heterosexual marriage — something that directly conflicted with the Hays Code’s protection of “the sanctity of marriage.” The ending of the film was changed to allow Frankenstein and his wife to escape the burning lab containing the monster, the bride

and Dr. Pretorius, thus killing anything queer.

In 1936, another film ran into issues with the Hays Code: Lambert Hillier’s *Dracula’s Daughter*. This film had issues with the Hays Code before filming even started. For context, this film follows Countess Marya Zaleska, the daughter of *Dracula*, as she seeks to free herself from the curse of vampirism and preys on the young women of London in the process. Due to the scenes of Marya “seducing” young women, the enforcers of the Hays Code demanded that a majority of the script be reworked “to avoid any suggestion of perverse sexual desire on the part of Marya.” This, however, did not stop queer coding to make it into the final cut of the film or prevent critics from picking up on the obviously queer Marya. As with all queer-coded villains or monsters of this time, Marya is killed in the end after she kidnaps the wife of a psychiatrist. Also, as with most early depictions of vampires, Marya is shown to be predatory and exploitative of young women, which feeds into the predatory stereotypes of queer women.

Alfred Hitchcock’s 1960 film, *Psycho*, is probably the most obvious in its queer coding. The monster of the film, Norman Bates, is shown to be overly

attached to his mother in a way that, during this era, was practically synonymous with being queer. In the film, Norman’s dialogue shows a man who feels trapped in his life. In a scene between Norman and his soon-to-be victim, Marion Crane, about feeling trapped, he says, “I think that we’re all in our private traps... and none of us can ever get out. We scratch and we claw but only at the air, only at each other, and for all of it, we never budge an inch.”

When people begin to investigate Marion’s death, her sister attempts to bribe Norman with money, saying that he could start over in a new town where people might accept him for who he is. Without ever mentioning that he is queer, Norman conveys the struggle of closeted members of the LGBT+ community or of those living in unaccepting homes. Despite the problematic aspects of queer coding in horror, it does give us interesting opportunities to examine the queer experience.

Even 53 years after the Hays Code was discarded, queer characters are a rarity on screen, especially those that are not killed off or demonized. In the real world, we are thought to be the villains as homophobia and transphobia still run rampant. In 39 states, the LGBT+ Panic Defense is still a valid defense in court, meaning that a murderer of an LGBT+ person can claim that panic and fear are the reasons for their assault and walk free. Of course, it is not solely the Hays Code that contributes to lasting homophobia and transphobia, but we must continue to be vigilant about the media we consume and be cognizant of the implicit messages we absorb.

Savannah Wahlgren is a sophomore classical languages major.

CLOSER THAN EVER

Editor’s note: closer than ever started off as a comic intended to navigate issues of loneliness and isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The comic intends to positively portray potential in-person interactions readers could engage in that don’t put them or others in danger. For our Halloween edition, our characters are engaging in pumpkin-carving, one of many Halloween traditions that can continue so long as we are all safe and cautious of who we are engaging with. We hope you’ll get to carve pumpkins as our characters did, and we hope you’ll continue to be safe and considerate of those around you. Don’t forget your masks!

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Looks like we’re all done with our pumpkins!


Let’s see what we have...



Very spooky, Anita!


Ooooh

Daphne, that’s GROSS!!




Haha!

OMG, I’m jealous.



You’re so artistic, Synclaire!

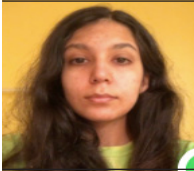
Wow, Jenny, how very... relevant!



I couldn’t think of anything else!

A historical look at the day we know as Halloween

The holiday has changed depending on time period and geographic location



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Halloween comes with a plethora of wacky, unquestioned, and intriguing traditions. To think there is a worldwide acknowledgment and participation of a day dedicated to dressing up as anything you want to be and going door-to-door collecting candy from strangers is fascinating on many levels.

Halloween dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain which celebrated the end of the harvest and the start of a new year. On October 31, many, especially Celtic priests, would light sacred bonfires, burn sacrificial crops and animals, and wear animal skin costumes since it was believed otherworldly spirits returned to Earth during this changeover. In these costumes, many would go door-to-door reciting verses in exchange for food — a custom known as mumming or guising and a precedent for what we now know as trick-or-treating. For the Celts, these liminal spaces, which fused the spiritual and material world, enabled communication with spirits and were paramount to prophesying how the upcoming winter was going to pan out.

When the Roman Empire conquered the Celtic territory, many Roman festivals and traditions merged with Samhain. The Roman festival Feralia was the last day of Parentalia, a nine-day festival hosted to honor the dead through spiritual offerings. We mainly know about the existence of these festivals and cultural fusions thanks to Roman poet Ovid. Another Roman festival, Lemuria, which was celebrated on three odd-numbered days — since even days were seen as unlucky — was hosted to honor lemurs, meaning those who died of violent causes. Ovid even spoke of the use of black beans as a method to lure unwelcome spirits away.

Once Christianity seeped into the Roman Empire and became the official religion, the Catholic Church began to modify their own celebrations with the aforementioned Pagan traditions. In 609 A.D, Pope Boniface IV redefined the Roman Pantheon to honor all Christian martyrs alongside Roman gods. He also designated the final day of Lemuria, May 13, as the All Martyrs Feast Day. In the 7th century, by means of religious syncretism, Pope Gregory IV moved the feast day to November 1. The Catholic Church's need to move away from long-practiced Pagan Celtic practices influenced the establishment of a more church-centered celebration which led to the creation of a three-day holiday: All Saints' Eve or All Hallows' Eve on October 31 (meant to honor the dead), All Saints' Day or All Hallows' Day on November 1st (meant to honor saints and martyrs), and All Souls' Day on November 2 (meant to honor the souls of the dead).

During medieval Britain and Ireland on All Hallows' Eve, the poor would go door-to-door requesting alms and "soul cakes" — spiced cakes meant to represent a soul in Purgatory — in exchange for a promise to pray for the souls of the dead relatives of the soul cake gifter. Many practices and traditions from Samhain remained present.



Due to the rigidity of Protestantism in colonial North America, Halloween was rarely celebrated accurately; the first celebrations consisted of "play parties" where many would celebrate the harvest, share some spooky stories and tell some fortunes. Halloween didn't gain national traction until the second half of the 19th century where there was a rise in Irish immigration due to the Potato Famine. The Irish introduced the customs of soul-ing and guising and Americans began to adopt their own "trick-or-treat" practices which saw a more light-hearted and commercialised approach.

Modern Americans adopted many Halloween traditions, such as carving jack-o'-lanterns (which stems from a slightly disturbing Irish myth) and bobbing for apples (which stems from a Roman harvest festival honoring Pomona, the goddess of fruit and orchards). However, Halloween had a relatively morally shaky start, especially during the 20s and 30s. The youth saw Halloween as an opportunity for justified vandalism, violence, and theft. Fortunately, this drive for mischief did not last long and was halted due to the Second World War where sugar supplies decreased. Postwar Halloween traditions led to a candy craze and a spike in Halloween related fields, such as costumes, horror movies, and haunted houses.

Astonishingly, cultures have their own interpretation on how to honor the dead. In Ireland and Scotland, Samhain is still celebrated. In Mexico, El Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a two-day holiday that aligns with All Saints' and All Souls' Day. In India, Pitru Paksha is a 16-day celebration comprised of many extensive and sacred rituals.

A tradition with religious and sacred backbones, Halloween has evolved into an unofficial holiday that has allowed millions to let loose, experience a sugar rush, and collectively scramble for last minute costumes.

Carmine Villarreal is an undeclared first-year.

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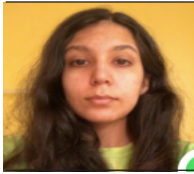
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Japan’s abrasive and hidden noise punk scene

Take a dive into the decades long music scene that includes a bulldozer and brain waves



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What comes to mind when you think of punk music? I think of a stereotypical rocker fitting a vibrant mohawk with some cool-looking jean chains and an intimidating barrage of piercings and tattoos, Tony Hawk, and its unwavering nonconformity with much enchantment and admiration.

At punk’s bustling core is the profound realism of a culture’s political and socioeconomic state. A grimy and audacious subculture, the scene got its roots during the 1970s in New York City — bands such as The Ramones, Black Flag, and Green Day catapulted its appeal. Although much is known about American and Britain-based punk scenes, very little has been dug about one of the craziest scenes I have ever encountered: Japan’s dangerous and extreme noise and punk scene back in the 1980s.

Thanks to a severe recession and political unease, punk was able to evolve in the chaotic manner it did in Japan and allowed the youth to funnel their rage. By adopting elements of danger and noise music, the intensity of Japan’s hidden punk scene is very memorable and haunting.

To showcase Japan’s unnoticed and abrasive punk scene, I will detail five significant noise bands.

Hijokaidan

Hijokaidan, which is Japanese for “emergency staircase,” is Japan’s first and longest-running noise band. Active since 1979, founder Jojo Hiroshige has

maintained a revolving lineup with up to fourteen members at one point. The main attraction for Hijokaidan was the obscene nature of their performances: demolition of venue and audio gear, food, rotting flesh, and trash being thrown around, and on-stage urination and vomiting.

Cosmic Coincidence Control Center (C.C.C.C)

Founded in 1989, the core members of C.C.C.C were Hiroshi Hasegawa and former bondage-porn star Mayuko Hino. A staple of their shows were throwing plastic bags of urine into the audience and Hino engaging in liberating acts such as stripteasing. Hino valued an emotional and cathartic approach to noise music; many of the band’s albums are considered to be one the more sonically diverse and distorting end of the subgenre. In 1997, Hasegawa and Hino, alongside Hiroshige of Hijokaidan, performed on Italian TV. It was very intriguing to watch, especially when you look at the how distressed and confused the audience was.

Hanatarash

One of the most dangerous live bands to date, Hanatarash, was founded by Yamantaka Eye in 1984. Eye sought to shock and discomfort the audience as much as possible and proved to be successful at it. The band’s extreme shows saw Eye cutting a dead cat in half with a machete, strapping a circular saw to his back, and driving a bulldozer through the venue. Unsurprisingly, the band was banned from live performances.

Aube

Aube is the stage name of Japanese noise musician, Akifumi Nakajima. Aube rarely considered himself a musician and preferred to be called a sound designer. With this approach, each record he put out was comprised of only one material source. Sources he used were water, fluorescent lamps, brain waves, Bible pages, heartbeats, and field recordings. Nakajima collaborated with C.C.C.C and Hijokaidan. Unfortunately, there are no online recordings.

Merzbow

Merzbow, which is Japanese artist Masami Akita’s moniker, is considered to be one of the most influential noise groups ever. With 320+ studio albums, he was influenced by dadaism, surrealism, and countless music styles. Masami revolutionized the field of experimental and noise music. If you are interested in dipping your toes in the noise genre, Merzbow would be a very good start.

Carmine Villarreal is an undeclared first-year.

When trick-or-treaters come knock-knocking

Want Halloween candy in St. Louis? You’ll have to bring your best jokes with you



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The Halloween when I got the most candy was when I tap danced in my Converse in front of each of my neighbors’ houses. My toes hurt from repeatedly smashing them into the concrete, but my bag was so heavy that I had to sling it over my shoulder to carry it home. It was so worth it.

Why did I have to tap dance to earn candy, you ask? Well, let’s just say St. Louis takes trick-or-treating very seriously.

It took me leaving Missouri to realize St. Louis is the only place where kids are required to tell a joke in order to get candy on Halloween. Last year, I asked one of my Texas friends on Halloween what her joke was. She looked at me the way I looked at my seventh grade algebra teacher when she introduced letters into math. Utter confusion.

Apparently, not every child in America has the experience of coming up with the perfect joke that will maximize the candy you get. Bonus points if no other kid on your block has the same joke. There was nothing worse than waiting in line behind the three-year-old from two houses down and realizing even she knew the one with the really good Dracula punchline.

I’m not sure how I would’ve survived my favorite holiday if everyone just said “trick or treat” at every house, got their candy and moved along. Part of the fun for us in St. Louis was telling the joke that made everyone laugh around a bonfire. Having your neighbor dig through the bowl for a good piece of candy to reward such a stellar joke, or being invited inside by the sweet elderly woman because your sense of humor reminded her of her own grandchildren in another state; nothing beat those individual moments with neighbors that were all sparked by a simple, witty joke.

As you near your last year of trick or treating, though, sometimes jokes aren’t enough. For my neighbors who knew I was a dancer, “What’s your joke?” became “Let’s see what those feet can do.”

Actually, the same year that I tap danced, my group of friends dressed up as Frozen



characters. And to their embarrassment, instead of telling jokes, they sang “Let It Go” at nearly every house. I must admit, they had some impressive harmonies, but what they really got candy for was shutting up and moving on to the next audience.

I was really bummed when I had to retire my jokes upon reaching high school. All of us, St. Louisans or not, know the feeling of holiday magic dying out as we grow older. It’s depressing, to say the least.


But the first year I didn’t go trick-or-treating, a little girl rekindled my love for Halloween that I had missed in the days leading up to the 31st.

I sat on my front porch with my parents, grandparents and next-door neighbor. When it was my turn to hold the candy bowl, this group of kids in costumes ranging from zombies to Tinkerbell made their way up the steps onto our porch and lined up in front of me. One of them told this joke: What’s a ghost’s favorite fruit? Boo-berry.

It’s not that great of a joke, but it’s one of the first ones I remember telling. I quickly realized why I shouldn’t be sad about not being a kid anymore. Now, I’m part of the audience. And if there hadn’t been all of those smiling faces to tell my own jokes to growing up, Halloween would never have been the same.

I’m glad to be home in St. Louis this semester so that I can again sit on my front porch and hear some good old fashioned Halloween comedy, even if it is from 10 feet away and through a mask. And who knows, I just might request a little tap dancing.

Logan Crews is an undeclared sophomore.



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Spooky finger cookies are the perfect Halloween treat

From my childhood to your home, here’s how to make creepy finger cookies



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These finger cookies are one of my favorite Halloween traditions. For the entirety of my childhood, my mom and I would make these cookies together every year. It’s such a fond memory for me, not only because of the time spent with my mom, but it was also something we could share with our family and friends. My mom would bring them to work for Halloween parties, and I would pass them out during the school day.

They are delicious, fun to make and best of all, pretty spooky looking. Below is the recipe.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup confectioners’ sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- Red decorating gel
- Sliced almonds

DIRECTIONS

1. In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar.
2. Beat in the egg and almond and vanilla extracts into a mixture.
3. Combine the dry ingredients: flour, baking powder and salt. After they are combined, start gradually adding it to the creamed mixture.
4. Separate the dough into four chunks and refrigerate for 30 minutes or until easy to handle.
5. Roll the dough into a ball and then form logs.
6. With the flat tip of a table knife, make an imprint on one end of each log (this is for the fingernail.)
7. Then, using the same knife, make three slashes in the middle of the finger for the knuckle.
8. Place on a baking sheet. Either use parchment paper or lightly grease the baking sheet.
9. Bake at 325 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until lightly browned.
10. Give the cookies time to cool (3-5 minutes), and you can begin decorating (AKA spooky time.)
11. Squeeze some red gel into the fingernail bed and press a sliced almond on



In the spirit of Halloween, Paige Wallace makes spooky finger cookies with her mother every year. photo provided by **PAIGE WALLACE**

top to create the nail. Make sure to let the gel ooze out from underneath the nail.

NOTES

To cream: Unless you’re one of the rare college kids that has a KitchenAid Mixer, you’re going to have to do the mixing by hand. Don’t worry though; you can do it. Just let the butter sit out for a while to get soft. You can use a fork to break up the butter more and then just a spoon to combine the butter and sugar. Do NOT overmix. Once the ingredients are combined, STOP. Use a whisk or fork to mix in the egg and the two extracts.

I would use a spatula to fold in the dry ingredients. You don’t want to over mix this dough. When rolling out the cookies, make them on the thinner side because they will expand some while cooking.

I like to pick sharp almonds to make the fingers look even creepier.

I hope you give this recipe a try. It has a special place in my heart and is a perfect treat for Halloween. Trick or treat yo self.

Paige Wallace is a senior anthropology major.

Candyman is more than a story of evil

The 1992 film touches on themes of race and social class in the urban United States



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Today, horror is a genre of film that tends to be seen as trivial or unworthy of respect within the film community.

This is mostly due to the tropes they tend to entail. For example, slashers are known for constantly having hot young people drinking, smoking weed, getting laid, and then being murdered by someone or something until the virgin girl either escapes, defeats the killer, or seemingly defeats the killer before they open their eyes in a “shocking” sequel-bait ending.

In spite of all of these issues, there are many that break from this mold, actually attempting and occasionally succeeding in discussing social issues going on at the time. Granted, some do it in an incredibly ham-fisted way, but when done right, horror can be a genuinely fascinating way to touch on real issues. And, if we’re going to bring up a specific example, then I think it’s best to discuss Candyman from 1992.

The film follows Helen Lyle, a Chicago grad student who opts to do her thesis on urban legends, leading her to discover the legend of the “Candyman”. If you say his name 5 times in front of a mirror (or literally any reflective surface), he will find you and he will slice you from groin to gullet with his hook for a hand.

Now, this sounds very stereotypical, and if in the hands of someone else, it damn well might have been (as the sequels proved); but rather than just be 101 minutes of Candyman murdering people,

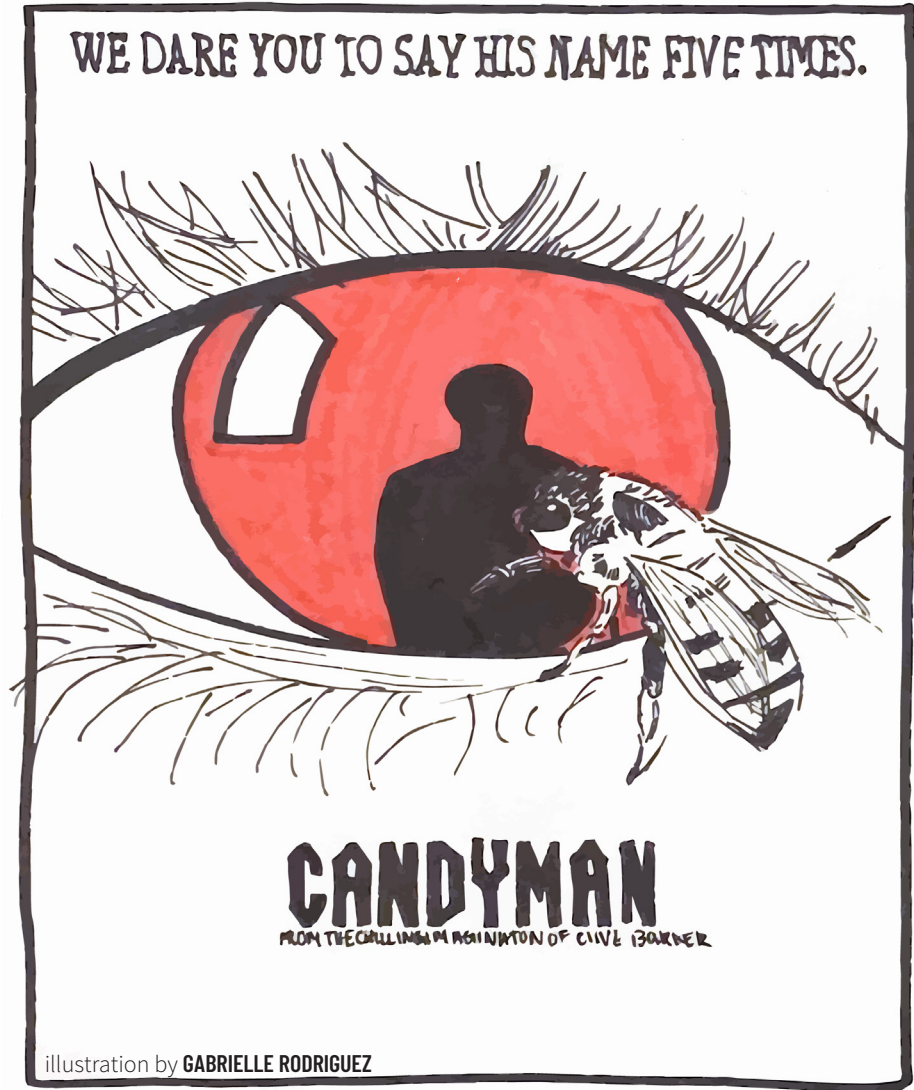
the film instead delves into the themes of race and social class in the urban areas of the United States.

From that, the backstory of the Candyman should be fleshed out. The character was the son of a slave, and he grew up to be a prolific painter. Despite his origins, it seemed as if he was accepted by high society, but then he fell in love with a white woman and fathered her child. In the end, he was lynched by an angry mob, who sawed off his right hand before smearing him in honey as bees stung him to death. Because of this, once summoned, Candyman is seen to have a hook on the stump where his right hand used to be, as well as a chest cavity devoid of flesh and internal organs aside from his skeleton; instead, his chest is filled with bees.

What makes Candyman so interesting is that its titular, sympathetic villain doesn’t truly make his first appearance until nearly halfway through the film. The film’s plot leading up to that point followed Helen investigating the murder of a young woman in Cabrini-Green after hearing that she was killed by Candyman. She believes that this character is just an urban legend in order to cope with the issues in their daily lives. Hell, in this first half, Helen gets attacked by a thug who has been claiming to be Candyman and wreaking havoc. So with this, Helen tells a young child that Candyman isn’t real. “... should we tell her now? Wait? Yeah, let’s wait.”

Candyman’s congregation is who, he believes, gives him power. People believe in him. They respect and fear him. And Helen just had to try to get rid of that.

Instead of actually killing Helen, he decides to traumatize her and make



everyone think that she’s insane. There’s a reason for this, but I’d prefer not to say it, as you should really just watch it.

The thing with Candyman as a character is that he isn’t just some slasher with a generic motivation. He isn’t just pure evil or anything like that. He’s a tragic villain. He’s an idol in the eyes of his “congregation.” He’s a legend... and then the sequels forgot about all of that, but let’s not get into that.

Om Dighe is an undeclared first-year.

TDC and OREC seek to diversify the Great Outdoors

Excursion and lecture seek to address lack of diversity found in recreation

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What comes to mind when you think about outdoor recreation? Maybe you think about hiking a trail, canoeing down a river, or spending a day in the park. Chances are you don't think of the outdoors as a predominately white space.

The issue of the lack of diversity in outdoor recreation was the focus of a lecture hosted by Outdoor Recreation (OREC) and Trinity Diversity Connection (TDC) on Oct. 23rd. OREC and TDC collaborated to organize a two-part event to address the issue of diversity in outdoor recreation. According to Ryanna Chouman, senior OREC Trip Leader, the lack of diversity seen in OREC trips is what inspired the two-part event.

"We started this event because we were noticing [a lack of diversity] in OREC trips itself, [...] so we were kind of disappointed, I guess, by the lack of diversity on our trips, that the same types of people, literally the same people, were coming on our trips every single weekend when we have such a diverse student body," Chouman said.

The first part of the joint event was a lecture titled "Diversifying the Great Outdoors," followed by a panel. The lecture was presented by Alex Bailey, founder and CEO of Black Outside, and Angelica Holmes, Executive Director of Black Outside. Black Outside is a Black-founded San Antonio based non-profit that provides programs to engage local Black youth in the outdoors.

The need for programs like Black Outside is only emphasized by the low participation of Black people in the outdoors. Only seven percent of National Parks participants and one percent of Texas State Park participants identify as Black or African American.

The lecture discussed the underlying reasons for the lack of Black representation in outdoors, including the historical precedence of segregation creating limited access to parks, historical incidents of violence against people of color in outdoor spaces, a lack of representation in marketing and programming for parks and outdoor recreation — marketing usually being centered around white participants. Access is another underlying cause, even in San Antonio, where park distribution across the city is heavily skewed towards affluent and predominately white communities.

To challenge these underlying reasons and promote diversity and inclusion in outdoor spaces, it is important not only to acknowledge that racism exists and happens at parks but also to think critically from the standpoint of diversity and equity. In order to create spaces where underrepresented individuals — including disabled individuals and members of the LGBTQ+ community — feel safe and have access, it is important to listen to and center underrepresented voices. According to Bailey, while advocacy and being an ally is important, it is essential to let underrepresented groups take the lead in diversification.

"Stepping up and stepping back. On our end it's super important when to step up and use potential privileges that you have to advocate, and I also would push, especially folks with different identity markers, there's times to step back and let Black folks take the lead," Bailey explained.

Minority founded and led programs like Black Outside, Latino Outdoors, and the Charles Roundtree Bloom Project are important in creating inclusion in outdoor spaces because they center their programming around underrepresented youth to create an environment where they feel safe and engaged in the outdoors.



Several members of TDC and OREC attend an outdoor excursion and lecture about diversity. photo provided by CARMEN JOHNSON

The Bloom Project, for example, is a partner of Black Outside that works with youth who have incarcerated parents in the San Antonio area. According to guest panelist and founder of the Bloom Project Ki'Amber Thompson, engaging in the outdoors as a safe space is an important healing experience.

"With the Bloom Project, an important aspect of it is the mental health benefits of being outside because these kids who are so wonderful can also deal with different issues dealing with their parent's incarceration. Some may deal with anxiety or depression and have a hard time in school or be bouncing between homes or caregivers, so I think that the natural healing that the outdoors provides is a great way to do some of that healing and do that in community and without the stigma as well," Thompson explained. "It's so important for especially Black and Indigenous youth who have historically been dispossessed and disconnected from our relationship to the land in certain ways and also healing our relationships with the land."

The second part of the event on Oct. 24th was an outdoor excursion comprised of three parts that built upon the topics and ideas covered in the lecture and panel. The first part of the day-trip was canoeing on the San Antonio River. During the second activity — a hike led by Bailey and panelist Josie Gutiérrez from Latino Outdoors — participants enjoyed the crisp Autumn weather as they continued discussions from the night before and practiced mindfulness. Holmes and junior OREC Trip Leader, Grace Hanshaw, engaged participants' competitive spirit in a number of competitions that included trivia from the lecture portion.

The planned activities not only served as a reminder of all the benefits and enjoyments to be gleaned from going outside but also offered participants a chance to engage in a conversation about diversity and inclusion while thinking critically about the outdoor spaces they enjoyed.

COVID-19 safe, competitive activities to do on Halloween

Opinion: Quidditch and pumpkin carving are just a few ways to enjoy the spooky holiday



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Halloween is on a Saturday this year, and while life has changed a lot because of COVID-19, that doesn't mean you can't still make the most of Halloween! Here are a few suggestions for fun, active, and most importantly safe ways to spend your Halloween weekend.

Pumpkin Carving

Get your household together and do some pumpkin carving! You can do this inside or outside, but if it's chilly, make some hot chocolate to keep yourself nice and cozy. Here's what you'll need to get carving:

- Pumpkins: you can find these at HEB, Walmart, Costco, Whole Foods, and Home Depot.
- Knives: a serrated knife to cut off the top or bottom and a smaller sharp knife to carve, or an X-ACTO knife if you have it.
- Spoon or ladle to scoop out all the pumpkin guts.
- Newspaper or cardboard sheet to lay on the ground because it might get messy.
- Permanent or dry erase marker to trace or freestyle designs before you cut.

You can cut off the top or the bottom of the pumpkin, but you might want to try cutting off the bottom if you want to light up the pumpkin. This way, you can place the pumpkin over a candle rather than trying to lower it into the pumpkin. When you are scraping the pumpkin, make sure to get it as clean as possible. This

will help keep the pumpkin from rotting for as long as possible.

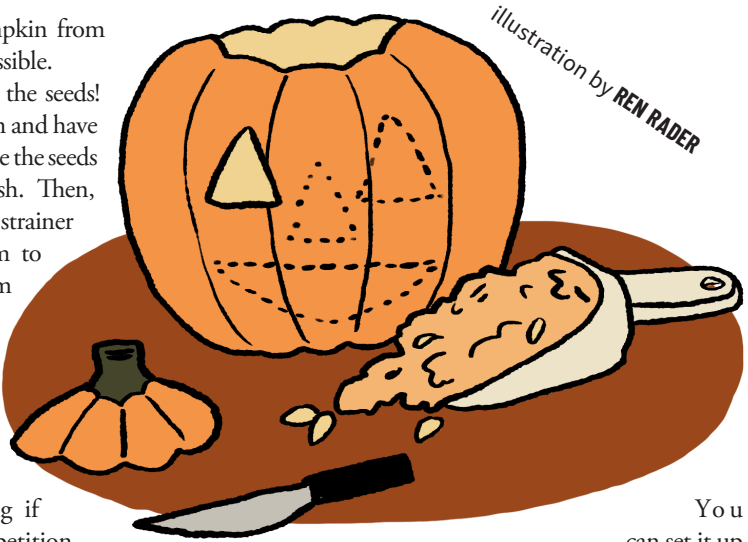
Don't forget to save the seeds! You can easily roast them and have a tasty snack. Just separate the seeds from the pumpkin flesh. Then, place your seeds in a strainer to run water over them to get them clean. Pat them dry and then put in the oven with butter, salt and pepper! There are a lot of recipes online, but those are the basics.

You can choose a theme for your carving if you want to have a competition. Try movie or TV characters, recreate famous paintings, or try to make the creepiest pumpkin. You can find stencils online and print them on campus if you don't have a printer at home.

If you don't want to go through the mess of carving, grab some paint instead. Getting some creative juices going is a great way to celebrate Halloween!

Quidditch Game on the IM Field

Most people are familiar with the game of Quidditch from the Harry Potter series, but this game is actually played in real life! There is even a U.S. Quidditch (USQ) organization that organizes and regulates the sport. It is not sponsored by or associated with J.K. Rowling or Warner Bros. I recommend that you make a memorable Halloween and get out there and play a game of Quidditch.



You can set it up on the Intramural (IM) field, and here's what you'll need:

- Regulations call for seven players on each side, and since there is some contact, you should probably wear a mask!
- A broom to "fly" on. In reality, you run with it between your legs, and this could be an actual broom, a pipe, or just a stick.
- Players will need something to distinguish themselves as the keeper, beater, chaser, or seeker within each team. This could be a headband, bandana, or even similar colored masks!
- For the snitch, someone should dress up in yellow and wear a shirt or flag tucked into their waist. Twenty minutes into the game, the snitch can start running around, and the seekers will try to take their flag or shirt.
- Next, you'll need hoops for the goals. If you feel like getting after it, you can get hula hoops and rig them to stand up like in the Harry Potter world. Otherwise, you can throw the

hoops on the ground for the ball to be placed into. You can also use trash cans to throw the ball into or create a space on the ground as a target.

- For balls, use a slightly deflated volleyball — so you can grab with one hand because you have to run with the broom — as the quaffle.

There's a more in-depth look at the rules, but basically, the chasers — who throw the volleyball — get 10 points for making it in the hoop, and catching the snitch is worth 30 points. The beaters try to knock players out by hitting them with the dodgeball. If a player gets hit, they must run back and touch their own goals before returning to play.

Dress up anyways

Even though it isn't safe to go to a Halloween party, you can still dress up with your household! This is how my household and I are spending Halloween: we have a theme and will decorate our home and dress up accordingly. You can make food and drinks according to the theme as well.

This is a great way to make a special occasion out of Halloween and break up the same old routine we have all experienced due to COVID-19 safety precautions. If you want to have a competition, you can virtually compete with other households and decide which one did the best!

I know options are limited with Halloween, but it's important to not dwell on how things aren't the same but to think of ways to enjoy this new way of life. We all need to stay safe and be conscious of how our actions impact others. Stay safe and happy Halloween!

ELECTION DAY

VOTING DETAILS

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

TU 2020 Census & Voter Engagement Task Force

**Tigers don't let
Tigers vote alone!**

Join your peers and
volunteers to walk
together and cast
your vote

1

*Meet at the stoplight at
Alamo Stadium between
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM*

2

*Walk with peers and
follow directional
guidance from volunteers*

REMINDERS!

Know your ballot!
(www.vote411.org/ballot)

Bring a form of photo ID

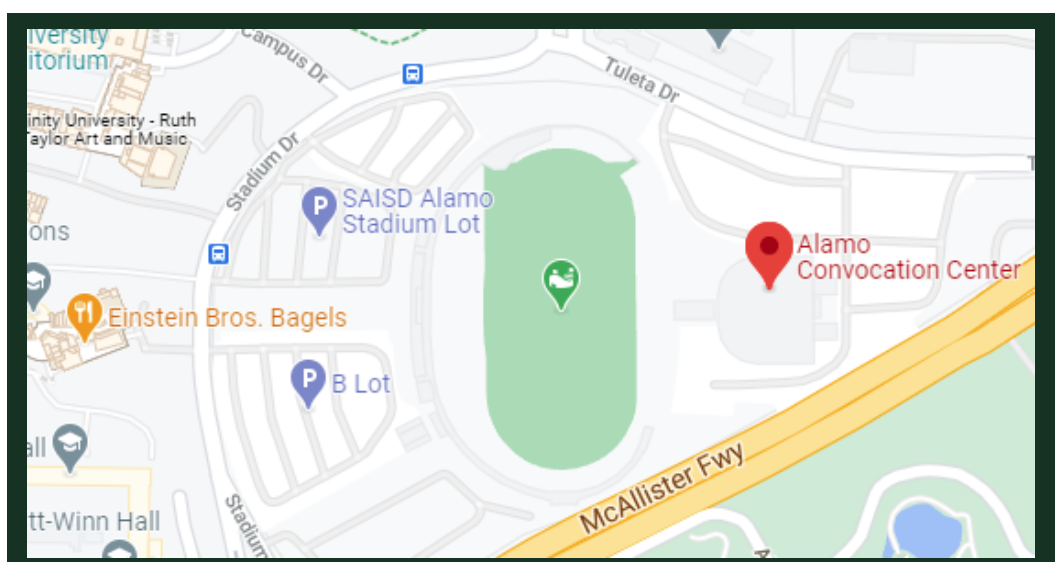
Masks & physical
distancing required

Did you know?

If you are registered in Bexar County you can vote at any voting center on election day!

Where is the closest location to campus?

Alamo Convocation Center
(on the East side of Alamo Stadium)



When can I vote?

7 AM - 7 PM

Not local?

Visit howto.vote



TUPS continues annual “Rocky Horror Picture Show” tradition

Performance is planned to be in-person through a shadow-cast performance with only five performers

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The musical comedy horror film Rocky Horror Picture Show has become a Trinity Halloween tradition that students look forward to year after year. This year, the Trinity University Players (TUPS) is maintaining this tradition by putting on an in-person performance of Rocky that abides by Trinity's safety guidelines, and they hope it brings some Halloween fun to Trinity.

To ensure a safe performance, director and senior Rachel Morris implemented a shadow-cast performance, meaning the movie is played in the background while the cast silently mimics what is happening and assigned each performer two roles rather than one in order to meet social distancing requirements.

“We started rehearsing at the beginning of the month. Since most of us are theater kids, we have other rehearsals. It's a very hectic and busy time of year, but everyone kind of rallies because it's ultimately worth it,” Morris said. “It has been fun coordinating when people should enter and exit and switch into their alternate characters.”

With a shadow-cast and double-cast performance, the TUPS Rocky crew has had to practice hard to perfectly match the movie to secure an accurate in-person performance.

“Our actors are really killing it. Most of them are first years, so they've never even done the production before. They are excited for it and are all playing two characters each, so they have twice as much things to do, but they've done it amazingly, and the production is really good. They adapted very well to COVID,” said junior



JUDE CASANOVA (left) leads the cast in a dance number during an outdoor rehearsal for the performance. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

Wren Ramos, who is in charge of the marketing aspect of the production.

Senior Judit Casanova, who is playing both Dr. Frank-N-Furter and Rocky, has been involved in Trinity's Rocky performance for all four years of her college experience.

“For the first two years, I was in the chorus. Last year, I directed the show. And now I'm playing one of the core characters. Frank is a character I have always wanted to play and I'm super happy to be playing them both. It's really hard switching between them, but it's still exciting to figure it out,” said Casanova.

Another challenge the performers experienced was finding a way to mimic and express actions requiring physical contact. However, this has allowed the crew to find unique and unexpected ways to express themselves.

“There's a lot of scenes where the actors have to be in close contact with each other. They had to find different ways to show that connection with each other. So, you know, it's hard to act sexy whenever you're not allowed to be very close, and you're both wearing masks,” said Ramos.

“This production has been a satisfying physical puzzle that we're all getting to figure

out as we rehearse. Rocky's a super physical show, so making COVID friendly has been the hardest part,” said Casanova. “There's a scene in Rocky where the characters are all in a pool, and it's basically like a pool orgy, where they're just moving around and touching each other. What we're doing is like flow-y movements around each other, so that it looks like we're in water. It's really fun, and we've had to think about new ways to do things.”

Although this year's production of Rocky has called for a re-envisioning of how it is traditionally performed, it has given the crew members the opportunity to still share their passion and appreciation for the show.

“I watched the production for the first time here at Trinity. After that, I was like, ‘I'm a theater major.’ It was that influential,” said Ramos. “I'm feeling proud about being able to get word out that TUPS is doing something different. Rocky is a very valuable show because it shows a lot of things important to college students, like freedom over your own body and not judging sex.”

“Rocky is a historically and socially important film. There's a lot of outdated things in there that we try to debunk for the audience in terms of language and displayed behaviors, but a lot of it is queer representation that you don't really see,” said Ramos.

If you're on campus, make sure to RSVP for their October 30th or 31st 10:30 PM show at the Intramural Field. The show is going to be broadcast through Zoom as well.

Follow TUPS' Instagram @tups_official for more information about upcoming performances throughout the year.

Exploring the afterlife of San Antonio's art organizations

Exhibits and galleries in San Antonio re-open as art directors adjust operations to maintain safety

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Local art venues like the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) and Artpace San Antonio have been anxious to re-open their doors to the public to ensure that creators and SA citizens alike could re-kindle their passions for art. When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit in mid-March, local directors at these organizations worked tirelessly towards making certain that their respective venues would operate as best as they could while remote. Once social distancing guidelines and ordinances allowed businesses and organizations to re-open their doors, SAMA and Artpace have both made adjustments to their previous operations and have since opened their doors back up to the public.

Émilie Dujour, P.R. and Digital Communications Manager at SAMA, describes the work that went on during the period of the pandemic where social distancing and quarantining were both very strict.

“You can actually register online on our website and go on different [online] tours and view artist [documentaries] and other stuff. We also created a page on our website that listed a bunch of digital things that people could do,” Dujour said.

Once purely online procedures morphed into work to re-open the museum, workers quickly implemented sanitation practices and hour shifts to invite the public to view exhibits again. In addition to opening the exhibits, SAMA will also be offering daily screenings.

“We train our staff about cleaning highly-touched surfaces everywhere,” Dujour said. We also created a way for our visitors to get their tickets online, so they don't have to interact with the staff.”



The San Antonio Museum of Art adjusts to new safety requirements to keep its doors open during the pandemic. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

Similarly, Artpace San Antonio worked very diligently to create remote work for employees, interns and artists when the pandemic had first hit. Founded in 1995, Artpace has always operated as an organization that invited national and international artists to reside here in San Antonio, where they can showcase their art. Once the pandemic hit, they were forced to quickly decide how they could continue to support national and international artists.

“We didn't want to eliminate any opportunities,” said Riley Robinson, Director at Artpace. “[Programs] aren't canceled but postponed for a year. We simply couldn't get them here.”

Despite having to postpone many events, the Artpace team worked on ensuring that people could still engage in activities at Artpace during the summer. They offered online exhibits, book clubs and internships for high school and

undergraduate students. It was important to them that they still connect with the community.

“We switched to a virtual platform. It was a way to keep connecting with the public and provide some source of educational and art-related material through our website,” said Ashley Mireles, Artpace's Education Coordinator.

Despite COVID-19 uncertainty, both organizations have seen opportunities to keep some of their new practices in motion to create more accessibility for the public in a post-pandemic future.

At SAMA, for example, virtual programming has provided great opportunities for the public to engage in art and education while at home.

“We want to be able to offer more videos and more digital things online, our social media channels and our YouTube channel. Our mission is to share our collection and to continue inspiring people,” Dujour said.

Artpace has spent a lot of time perfecting their social media outreach as well as their website to include programming that is accessible to those who aren't able to visit in-person.

“Moving forward, having seen how we're able to even reach more people through having things like virtual programming, Instagram Lives and other things that our communications team does is really cool to see. We're able to keep a lot of things going and extend our reach, you know,” Mireles said.

Artists, art directors and other local art workers alike have all been working rigorously to bring art back to the public during a time where community like this may seem lost.

“Artists are resilient. There's a lot of people in need of help, and frankly, the country is kind of tenuous at the moment. We've been working with compassionate flexibility towards our public,” Robinson said.