

- 4** OPINION

Why Quentin Tarantino sucks, a three-part series
- 7** PULSE

First-years share their uncertainty about housing options in the spring
- 11** SPORTS

Guest Column: Sue Bird is the role model we all aspire to be

Students contend with uncertainty of election

Days after election day, students of all political ideologies left hanging for results

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Days after election day, students of all political backgrounds are still anxiously waiting for updates on presidential election voting results.

“I’d always imagined, four years ago, that I would be in a totally different spot for the next Trump election, and I just felt like I was almost, Trinity is so problematic, and I feel like I was in the same community again as I was for the first one,” said Gabriella Garriga, senior sociology and economics double-major and member of the TU Census and Voter Engagement Task Force. “And it’s anxiety producing, you know, it’s still not called and it’s the day after.”

An election season unlike one ever seen before on Trinity’s campus, over half of students are living off-campus, eliminating the face-to-face interactions amid major elections known for having caused rifts before.

“It’s probably I guess a mixed blessing because you know, one of my professors was telling me kinda helping me you know the air was kinda sucked out of Trinity’s campus when [Donald] Trump won. Everyone was feeling blue, except for of course the one group of people who were really happy and they were all kinda waving flags around and everything and they were kinda just making people upset,” said Zach Neeley, senior political science major and vice president for Young Americans for Liberty (YAL). “... But at the same time, there is still kind of there’s not as many opportunities for people to try and engage

with one another and bridge the wide divide, because, again, I was kind of surprised by how many votes Trump was getting.”

While some elections results have been called by the Associated Press, questions are being left unanswered for the presidential election, the results of which are likely to be unknown until days after election day.

“Me and [Young Conservatives of Texas (YCT)] were rooting for Chip Roy to win CD-21, since we volunteered for his campaign this go around and in 2018. We were glad to see a win there,” wrote Emma McMahan, senior international studies major, in an email interview. “Some of us believe that President Trump will take the election to the Supreme Court. Another issue that comes up in conversation a lot is about the ballots and auditing. I hope that every ballot is counted accurately and truthfully before the race is over.”

Regardless of political student organization affiliation, each student shared the belief that a win by Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden is likely.

“I wouldn’t say for sure that he would, but if I had to pick one I would say Biden; I would give him two-thirds of a chance right now. I think especially with him winning Arizona, and having a decent shot at winning Georgia, that he still has the upper-hand right now, and I think he’ll win Michigan as well. It’s not going to be a blowout and we might not know until Friday at the latest,” said Jake Exler, junior political science and economics major and vice president for the Maverick Society.



CARMEN MERCADO leaves Alamo Stadium after voting as poll worker **AMY RIGGLE**, class of ‘09, waits outside.
photo by **KATE NUELLE**

“As of right now, it really looks like Biden will win, since his electoral votes are higher. However, one thing to keep in mind is that not all ballots have been counted, and there also may be auditing. Also, this election might go to the [Supreme Court], which may take a couple of weeks,” wrote McMahan.

Regardless of which candidate is elected president, Exler stresses that there are lessons to be learned from this year’s election trends.

“Whatever perspective you’re looking at it from, look where Trump and Biden made

gains and where they did better than expected, because those areas will likely become more important in the next election,” said Exler. “Arizona is a great example, which hasn’t gone Democrat in a while. Trump doing better in Florida than Arizona is pretty unusual. So, things like that, seeing the trends, Texas is obviously an easy example to look at with that. I just say, don’t just look at the surface level, at who just won the presidential race, and look beyond that at the margins.”

continued on **PAGE 3**

COVID-19 testing made available to students before break

Asymptomatic students will be able to test for COVID-19 prior to going home for winter break

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This Thanksgiving, students will be heading home not just for the week-long break but for the remainder of the calendar year. Trinity’s on-campus COVID-19 clinic is preparing in the coming weeks to send students home safely.

“We want to give everybody a chance to be tested prior to going home for winter break, so as a result of that decision, we’re going to be able to open up surveillance testing, asymptomatic surveillance testing, for everyone on and off campus the week of November 9,” said Tess Coody-Anders, vice president for Strategic Communications and Marketing.

By providing testing as an option to all on- and off-campus students regardless of whether or not they show symptoms, students will be able to receive treatment if necessary before potentially exposing family. Announced on Wednesday, campus-wide asymptomatic testing — being referred to as “go-home testing” — will be offered Nov. 10-12. That same week, 350 Trinity community members will also be selected for regular surveillance testing.

“The reason we chose that week is it will give us a chance to help any students who do come back positive to recover before they go home. At the same time, it’ll be really important that we provide some information to students about the steps you can take because you can get it any time, to make yourself extra safe before you return to a home environment that you’ve maybe not been going in and out of,” Coody-Anders said.



Prior to the announcement of upcoming asymptomatic testing, students could only get tested at the on-campus covid clinic if they expressed symptoms. Concerned asymptomatic students were referred to off-campus testing options.
photo by **DAISY CASTILLO**

The announcement of asymptomatic testing comes after a recent spike in campus community cases, which peaked at 13 last week — most of which were symptomatic. This on-campus spike reflects the spike seen both in San Antonio and across the U.S. as flu season and COVID-19 join forces.

“We’re currently seeing a significant trend upwards in the clinic. What that’s being reflected as is we’re having to test more students

with symptoms as well as quarantine and isolate more students,” said José Plata, medical director of Trinity’s COVID-19 clinic. “Last week we had about 13 positives, which in one week is the most we’ve ever had at Trinity. Overall last week, the positivity trend was at 3%, up from 0.5% at the beginning of October.”

Unlike the cases seen at Trinity before, the majority of those reported in the past two weeks have been symptomatic.

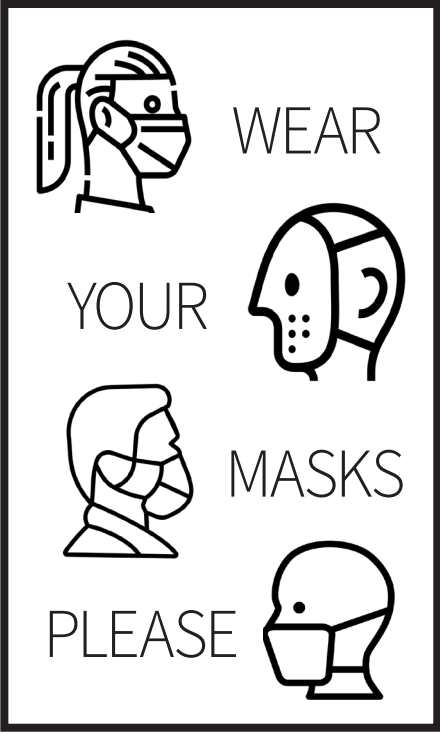
“Suddenly we have symptomatic cases, almost all of our positives have been asymptomatic, but suddenly we’re seeing symptomatic cases. I don’t know what that means, but it indicates that there’s been some change either in the virus or the way it’s affecting our population because we were not seeing symptomatic cases before.”

Most of the positive cases seen on-campus have not been from communal living or attending classes but from social gatherings. No reported cases so far have been from students living in City Vista.

“So, we’ve had several situations where, as a result of a social gathering, not only was one person positive and then everybody that was around them in quarantine, but what started happening is that several people that were in quarantine ended up being positive too. So clearly social events off-campus are at high risk for spreading the disease right now, and that’s not to say anything other than ‘Heads up,’” Coody-Anders said. “If you’re going to any kind of social event, off-campus and inside, you want to be really rigorous about asking questions about the size of the gathering, the nature of the gathering, are we all going to be okay wearing masks, social distancing.”

Because of the relationship between social gatherings and positive campus cases, the Residential Life Office and COVID-19 clinic are brainstorming ways to offer safe locations for students to gather socially on-campus. In the meantime, students are encouraged to keep a tight social bubble.

continued on **PAGE 3**



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Previously, on SGA: Talking through the chaos of the election

This covers the meeting on Nov. 4.

CLIMATE CHECK

Senator Armand brought up a concern students had over the changing policy for mask exemptions. Students have been wondering what these exemptions meant for their own safety. Advisor David Tuttle said that the university would be accomodating for people with registered disabilities.
Senator Donya Ahmadi expressed concern over self-administered COVID-19 testing for people who are regularly performing COVID tests on students. Senator Polo Perez responded to this by saying that self-administered testing is much safer, since they do not have to be exposed to anyone else as they get tested.

ACADEMIC HONOR COUNCIL

Mia Vu, external chair of Academic Honor Council, proposed expanding the size of the council because of there are not enough AHC members to navigate an influx in cases.

Vice President Chapin-Eiserloh asked AHC what the process for adding student and faculty advisors looked like. External chair Mai Vu said there is an application process those interested must go through. Faculty advisors are asked, and if they have the time in their daily schedules to look over cases; since most of the cases are reviewed in the evening and night. If the faculty member is added to the council, they receive a stipend which is already allocated in the budget.

2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SGA senior President Jaelen Harris opened up discussion regarding the ongoing election. Judicial Chair Mia Quintanilla says that professors are being accommodating amidst the election chaos.
Senator Nasim Salehitezangi spoke about Louisiana’s passing of an amendment that makes it possible for people who get abortions to face repercussions.

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 11/04/2020

OVERALL NUMBERS
Test Results to Date: **3,979**

Total # Active Cases: **6**
Cumulative Tested Positive: **20**

DISTRIBUTION

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Oct. 30: 661
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Sept. 18: 632
Sept. 10: 639
Sept. 4: 601

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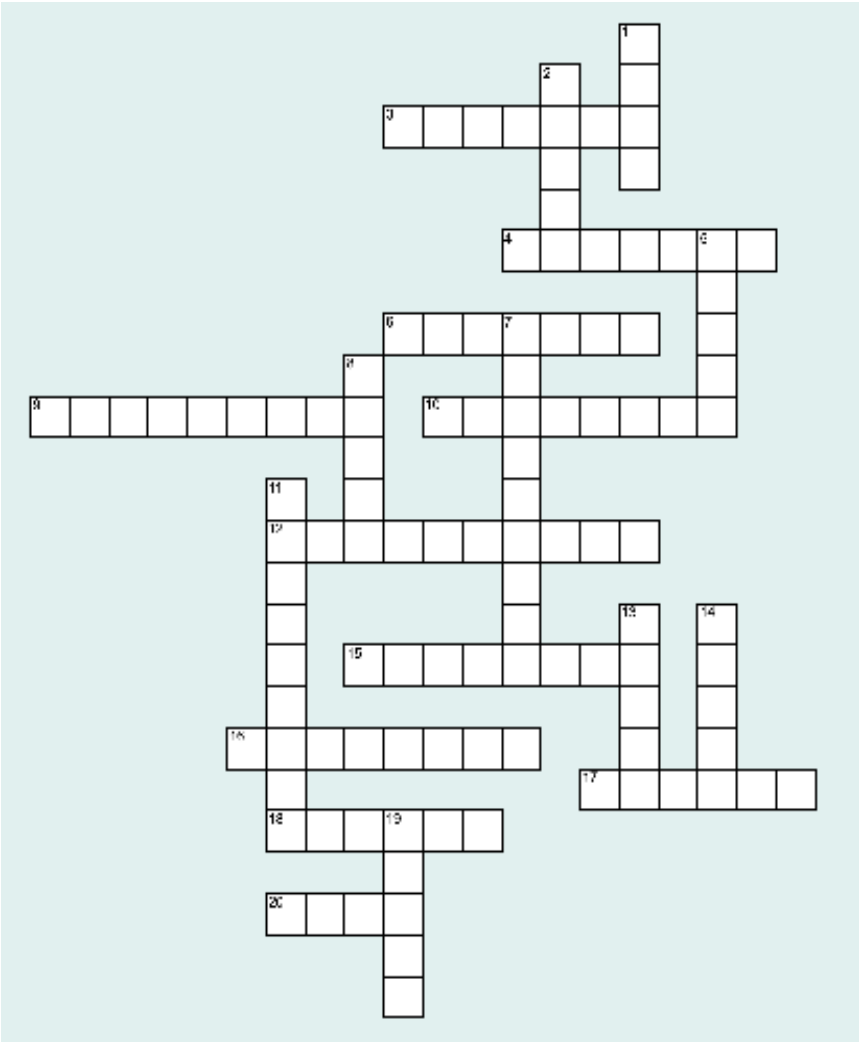
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CORRECTIONS

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Trinitonian November Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 3. Handy digits
 - 4. Popped maize
 - 6. Instrument that rhymes with monsoon
 - 9. Smallest continent
 - 10. Property trading board game
 - 12. Beats, Bose, and Sony makes these
 - 15. Acorn lovin rodents
 - 16. Normalized stimulant
 - 17. Pizza, nachos, and macaroni and have this
 - 18. Mistake-erasing rubber
 - 20. This bird is a symbol of peace
- DOWN**
- 1. A source of inspiration, also an English band
 - 2. Jiggle sweet, rhymes with yellow
 - 5. Mordecai and ____
 - 7. Tall, golden flower
 - 8. Cosmo and ____
 - 11. Hershey’s, Reese’s, Mars
 - 13. Five cards of the same suit
 - 14. Default Minecraft character
 - 19. Night activity

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

Presidential election results remain obscure

continued from **FRONT**

Attention not only should be directed towards the presidential election, suggested Neeley, but towards local- and state-level politics as well.

“Contrary to popular belief, there’s a lot of politics that happen, a lot of decisions that are made that affect us day-to-day that happen at the local and state levels. Don’t disengage, don’t become apathetic. Apathy is the no. 1 reason people don’t engage in politics, and the no. 1 reason people don’t vote,” said Neeley.

Juan Sepúlveda, professor of political science and co-chair of the TU Census and Voter Engagement Task Force, encourages students to not let their political efforts start and end at the voting booth.

“With elections, you have a deadline, there’s a day where it hits, and then it maybe takes a little time to finish the counting of the votes, but then it’s kind of done. The tricky part is that the issues that students are really interested in, there’s no deadline,” said Sepúlveda. “So I tell our folks that the best way to stay connected is to continue to follow and to have the passion that brought you to those issues, to stay on top of them. Let’s get together and talk about them, let’s

“I just want students to be very careful ... the state rate is 10%, so even though Trinity is up-trending, we’re still below the state average and a little bit below the San Antonio average,” said Coody-Anders. “I just don’t want their guard to go down — yes still go to school, yes still have social gatherings, but keep a nice, tight bubble. Don’t start seeing a bunch of people left and right.”

Until the announcement of upcoming asymptomatic surveillance testing, COVID-19 tests have only been administered through surveillance testing and instances a student is showing symptoms. Students who have had primary exposure or are concerned about exposure but do not show symptoms are advised to quarantine for 14 days.

“If I have a history of allergies, and I always have a runny nose, itchy eyes, and a cough at this time of year, we wouldn’t necessarily test you for that. But if a student comes in and says ‘I have those symptoms but also a fever,’ or they’re just doing worse than usual, that’s when we test them,” said Plata. “Or, if they did have a primary exposure — let’s say they went to a party last weekend and one of those individuals tested positive — if now four days later they think they have some muscle aches or fatigue, then we will get them tested. Any new symptoms that are out of the ordinary warrant a test.”

Due to the limited availability of PCR tests and the 14-day incubation period of COVID-19, asymptomatic testing has been of low priority to the clinic prior to the upcoming weeks.

“It’s not feasible to run 14 days of tests — the only result that matters is a positive. If you go and get a negative test, the next day, three days later, four days later, you’re still going to have to stay in quarantine for 14 days because it could be the next day if there’s enough virus in your system to get a positive.”

Once a student in quarantine begins experiencing symptoms, whether or not they were already in quarantine, it is advised that they seek testing at the on-campus clinic.

“If you were exposed, we’ve learned in the last few months that covid can take up to 14 days to show any symptoms. It can be on day one, or it can be on day 13 or 14. If you don’t have a positive result, I don’t know when it’s going

see how you can be involved in petitioning your government and pushing them and making sure that your voice is getting into the mix.”

While students may need time to recover from the stress brought on by the election, Sepúlveda also suggests to not block it out completely.

“A lot of folks are like, ‘Get me away from it,’ you know, and my advice is, ‘No.’ It’s important to take care of yourself along the way, but why stop now? You’re committed, you’re learning, you have really important issues that were important to you, now you want to see what the next new administration or the current administration is going to do for it, and making sure that your voice is in the mix with that as well,” said Sepúlveda.

Although numbers will not be released for up to eight months, the Trinity community has seen a growing conversation surrounding voting over the past six months, led by the TU Census and Voter Task Force. The task force, comprised of students, faculty and administrators, directed their efforts towards voter education and voter engagement programming.

“In September and early October we focused on voter registration. Specifically, getting accurate information to students (and faculty and staff) about how to register, where to register, and answering individual questions

to come back positive or when you’re going to develop symptoms. But I do know it can be up to 14 days. That’s why we put you in a 14-day isolation,” Plata said. “The beauty of a positive is ‘Hey, I already know that you’re positive,’ the virus kind of lingers for ten days and no more. There’s usually that three to four-day gap. That’s when most transfers or most spreads happen because the student doesn’t have any symptoms, but they’re out spreading the virus.”

Students looking to go off-campus to receive testing are encouraged to contact the COVID-19 clinic first for guidance.

“All tests are not created equal. Some tests are better for asymptomatic testing and some for when you’re symptomatic. I’d call the covid clinic in advance and get some advice,” Coody-Anders said. “Depending on what kind of test you get off-campus, we may need to repeat it anyway because it may not meet our standard. For example, those rapid antigen point of care tests, they can be up to 50% inaccurate, so we’re just going to have a really high standard on it.”

“We definitely want those results reported to us, especially if they’re positive. If they’re negative, it doesn’t change any isolation or quarantine, but if it’s positive, their 14-day quarantine becomes a ten-day isolation, so they save themselves four days,” Plata said. “When they’re positive, I usually call them and make sure that they’re not having severe symptoms because I can help them with medications and treatment plans if they’re not feeling that great, and that includes after-hours or on the weekends.”

As the semester nears an end and San Antonio sees an increase in positive cases, Trinity’s Nerve Center and administrators are looking at the possibility of shortening or removing spring break from the spring 2021 schedule. Universities across Texas and the U.S. have already made the decision to shorten or remove spring break from their spring plans, in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

“Obviously, it has some implications to the academic calendar, so I understand that it’s not something we undertake lightly,” said Coody-Anders. “If you think about it, 6-8 weeks from any sort of big holiday, you see a spike, so you know, everybody comes back at the end of January. Eight weeks later — we’re right there. So, it’s something we’re having to look at closely.”

for students with unique situations,” wrote Jamie Thompson, assistant Dean of Student, director of Student involvement and co-chair of the task force, in an email interview. “... And in the final weeks of voter registration, our very own VDRs (volunteer deputy registrars who were trained on campus in February) met one-on-one with students to complete paperwork and submit it to the elections office.”

Garriga, who has served on the task force since spring 2020, acknowledged the unique nature of high task force participation and involvement.

“It was encouraging to see the Trinity community, which is apathetic in general, come together behind a cause. Why the cause had to be voting, something that can be perceived as bipartisan, is a whole topic. I would have liked to see this energy for Black lives matter and what we can do to support food pantries in San Antonio, lots of other things that this could have happened with,” said Garriga. “It is significant that it happened with voting for sure, I do think that it did something, we did get people registered and ready to vote.”

As the nation continues its wait on election results, Sepúlveda recommends that students prioritize their mental health and take breaks as-needed.

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STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES INTRODUCES FACE-COVERING EXEMPTION POLICY

Members of the Trinity community were invited by the university, beginning Nov. 2, to provide feedback on a new policy exempting face coverings for select students. Introduced by Student Accessibility Services, the policy recognizes the difficulty that comes with wearing a mask for some people with disabilities. The new policy would provide information about appropriate instances for reasonable modification to Trinity’s face covering policy for students.

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to provide feedback on the policy prior to its implementation in spring 2021. All comments are due by Nov. 16.

ADMINISTRATOR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE EVALUATES ADMINISTRATORS

Five years into their term, most administrators are evaluated based on their leadership, as well

as the performance of their staff. This process is managed by the Administrator Review Oversight Committee (AROC), which typically comprises three faculty members and one staff member.

While the evaluation procedure varies based on the administrator, in some cases, the process involves interviews with faculty, staff, and students in order to assess how the administrator is viewed by their constituents.

Once the evaluation is complete, reports will be drafted and presented to the appointing administrative officer and the President of the University for review. This report will include recommendations for either reappointment or non-reappointment, as well as suggestions for improvement for the administrator.

According to Thomás Peña, junior business analytics & technology and finance double-major and member of an ongoing evaluation committee, while the results of these evaluations are not made public they are an important way to keep higher-ups accountable.

“[Evaluations] really gives voices to students, staff, and even faculty, and keeps their anonymity. It not only looks at the performance of the administrators, but [the process] also looks for room for growth,” said Peña.

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-Howard Luck Gossage

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

The American voting system must change

Well, the Presidential election couldn't have picked a worse year to fall on. With voting as inaccessible as it already is in the United States, the pandemic has only made it harder for people in marginalized communities to vote.

There's been lots of discourse on social media about voter suppression, unsurprisingly so. What about people who are in the hospital and can't make it to the polls? What about the threat that drive-by ballots wouldn't be counted in the official election? So many Americans shared their concerns on social media,

and were met with similarly confused and anxious voters and political enthusiasts who had the same questions.

One Twitter user from Germany was appalled at the voter suppression in the United States after seeing a tweet that showed a long line of voters who had been waiting for hours. He commented his own experience with voting in Germany, one that serves as a reminder that the voter system in America doesn't have to be so inaccessible.

According to the user, German people are registered at birth, and when they turn

sixteen, they receive a letter that notifies them of their eligibility to vote in regional elections. They can vote by filling out the letter they were sent or showing up at a polling station, which, the user notes, are in schools, banks, and city halls, among other accessible places.

Another user mentioned that in their home country, workers took ballots to all the patients stuck in the hospital, allowing them to vote from their bed.

There are ways to do things outside of what we've traditionally known, and it's time we started changing how we vote.

Why Quentin Tarantino's movies actually suck, Part I: Exploiting film actresses for his foot fetish



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DISCLAIMER FOR THE COMMENT SECTION: First of all, this is not a personal attack on your taste in movies; we were all hoodwinked by the same algorithm. I am also not implying that Quentin Tarantino (QT) is untalented at directing or creative writing and am NOT SAYING that I could do any better — but I usually can't sit through one of his films without wishing that I hadn't, and I am always left with the feeling that maybe Tarantino movies only maintain popularity because the writer-director uses a repetitive formula and Samuel L. Jackson to distract from red flags about possible sexism and racism.

I don't have the word count to dance around this first point against QT, so let's just delve right into the alleged foot fetish — the presence of which is not my problem. Although not officially confirmed, the leading actresses in almost every single one of his movies are often featured barefoot for no apparent reason and have reported in interviews that he was strangely particular about their feet. Close-up shots of the leading ladies wiggling their toes or taking their shoes off come off as quirky and innocent to me at first, and I wrote it off as some artistic choice to explore some facet of others we don't often see, etc.; but I gave too much undue credit. After watching several of his movies — with no prior knowledge of QT's sexual preferences — the sheer number of foot-based shots made it impossible to ignore the window for an easy abuse of power.

The objectification of women's bodies is so normalized that it's expected in Hollywood films, but both the accounts of actresses who describe their experience working with him, as well as his consistent denial of any such fetish — denial that would allow him to maintain the position of power with which he is able to exploit the women he works with — makes me suspicious that the number of female feet present in a Tarantino film appear only to be increasing due to self-gratifying motives, and not artistic ones.

For all the feet QT has directed to stardom, it is actually a movie that he wrote

and co-starred in alongside George Clooney, but did not direct, that best exemplifies QT potentially abusing his role to fulfill a sexual fantasy, and in doing so sexually harassing an actress. In "From Dusk Til Dawn," QT writes a scene in which a stripper, played by Salma Hayek, pours champagne down her leg and into Tarantino's open mouth for her performance's big finale. Armed with the combined knowledge that QT personally wrote the entire script for the movie AND is rumored to be attracted to women's feet, it is very uncomfortable to watch QT blissfully lick champagne off of Salma Hayek's toes, and it becomes difficult to view the scene as anything but a thinly veiled attempt of QT's to act out a personal sexual fetish by writing his character a scene quite literally dripping with it.

to add in some of the film's more "sadistic flourishes." While Thurman technically consented to these acts, QT leveraging his position as director and pressuring her into them indicates a gendered abuse of power.

The female characters in Tarantino films appear to be strong, empowered heroines who shoot and slash and dance their way to victory and apparently all hate shoes; however, they also all tend to suffer intensively in an extremely sexualized way throughout the film (see "V for Vendetta," "Death Point," "Kill Bill": Vols. 1 and 2 and "Django Unchained" for the best examples). The women are almost always given a cold, ruthless man to either fear, follow or both, and are portrayed as weak until they have undergone some extreme trauma or suffering that finally qualifies them as worthy of facing men who likely did nothing but sit on a barstool giving 20-minute dialogues for the whole movie. The majority of women I know have trouble watching QT movies at all due to the sheer number of scenes where women are brutally and graphically r*ped, shot, overdosed, tortured, abused, etc. Violence against women is already a too-common occurrence, and Tarantino's depiction of these events is so hyperbolic and unnecessary that it seems as if his films are obsessed with celebrating this violence to the point of fetishizing it too.

The takeaway from QT Sucks, Pt. 1 is not that foot fetishes are evil, but that A) Quentin Tarantula "allegedly" —but definitely — has a foot fetish, which B) he has expressed in movies, and C) he may seek to satisfy by abusing his position as writer-director and sexually exploiting actresses. Additionally, I believe his movies sexualize and promote comic book-like violence against women in a way that appears to be potentially desensitizing for male viewers, blinding them to the misogyny inherent both in sexualizing innocuous parts of a woman's body and especially in viewing even the fictional torture of her as entertaining and/or sexual. For these reasons, it is strike one for Quinoa Tarantino.

QT has so far merely toed — pun unintended, but awesome — the line onscreen between what can be considered poetic license and what crosses over into sexual exploitation, but taken as a collective, both his repeated, excessively violent depictions of women and allegedly questionable on-set behavior towards them gives one the impression of a closet misogynist hiding behind the label of "eccentric artist." The "Kill Bill" movie series (2003, 2004) and "Pulp Fiction" (1994) led Uma Thurman to accuse Tarantino in a New Yorker interview of forcing her to perform dangerous stunts she was uncomfortable with that left her seriously and permanently injured, as well as insisting that he be the one

Victoria Stringer is a senior neuroscience major.

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The harm in upholding pre-pandemic measures of success



In almost every single class I’ve had over the past three weeks, each of my professors has addressed how overwhelmed and drained we are — students and faculty alike. While we all can acknowledge this feeling and sympathize with one another due to the burden that it introduces to our everyday lives, we continue to face project deadlines, exams and work.

For me, it’s been one thing to struggle myself with course material or overwhelming demands, but to watch all of my friends and peers feel the same brings on a different kind of ache, a collective one at that. There’s no one solution to this feeling, and finding ways to cope with the stress and demands that many, if not all, of us are facing is far easier said than done. Over the past two months, no amount of sleep has felt like enough, nor has any amount of time spent trying to relax helped much. The entire time, all that I can think about is the work that waits for me and how little time I have to complete it all.

It wasn’t until I was sitting at my laptop, writing out my ideal spring schedule on my notepad and legitimizing taking 20 hours, that I realized how harmful these self-ascribed measures of success were.

Although it may not always be successful, it’s still important to actively try and work

time for rest into your daily schedule. Things are not normal right now, and it’s okay to step back from your work for a bit to take a deep breath — we’re literally living in a pandemic, a time when our physical and mental health are of the utmost importance. While it’s far easier said than done, as many of us are juggling our coursework with jobs, internships and other responsibilities, it’s essential for our wellbeing that we rest.

One aspect of this rest? Adapting the measures of success that we use to evaluate our pursuits and work to fit the obstacles introduced by our new learning and work environments. Regardless of whether you are living on-campus, off-campus in San Antonio or somewhere else entirely, the environment in which you are expected to learn and be productive is drastically different from that found in a pre-pandemic semester. To expect yourself to perform at the same level in virtual learning that you did when on-campus is unrealistic.

For many of us, these new environments mean being easily interrupted by the conflicting schedules of our roommates or families, struggling to focus when staring at screens all day and sharing a workspace or resources with others that are not always accessible. Why should we expect ourselves to be writing mind-blowing papers or acing every exam while also facing unexpected challenges and stress?

At a time when things are uncertain and we are lacking the mental stimulation provided by social interactions, we’re not always going to be able to perform at the level once expected of us. While this may not be the case for everyone — props to you if you’re doing just fine — it is a harsh reality for many of us, especially those who have struggled

with mental and physical health challenges even prior to the pandemic. You wouldn’t expect anyone else to deliver their peak performance during a time of struggle, so why should you do that to yourself?

Despite having struggled for weeks now with finding the energy to be productive despite snowballing responsibilities, it wasn’t until I was sitting at my laptop, writing out my ideal spring schedule on my notepad and legitimizing taking 20 hours, that I realized how harmful these self-ascribed measures of success were. It went against everything I have taught myself over the past decade.

We obviously don’t all share the same luxuries as one another, including whether

or not we can afford — financially or academically — to not take a full course-load next semester, but as we approach the time for spring 2021 course registration, I encourage everyone to consider whether or not what you’re doing is best for you. Try to craft a schedule that allows you to work time for rest into each of your days, and that doesn’t demand the world of you. If you’ve been taking 17-18 course hours this semester and can afford to take 13-15 next semester, take it into serious consideration because it is unlikely that the demands and environment of next semester will look very different from this one.

Dana Nichols is a junior sociology major.

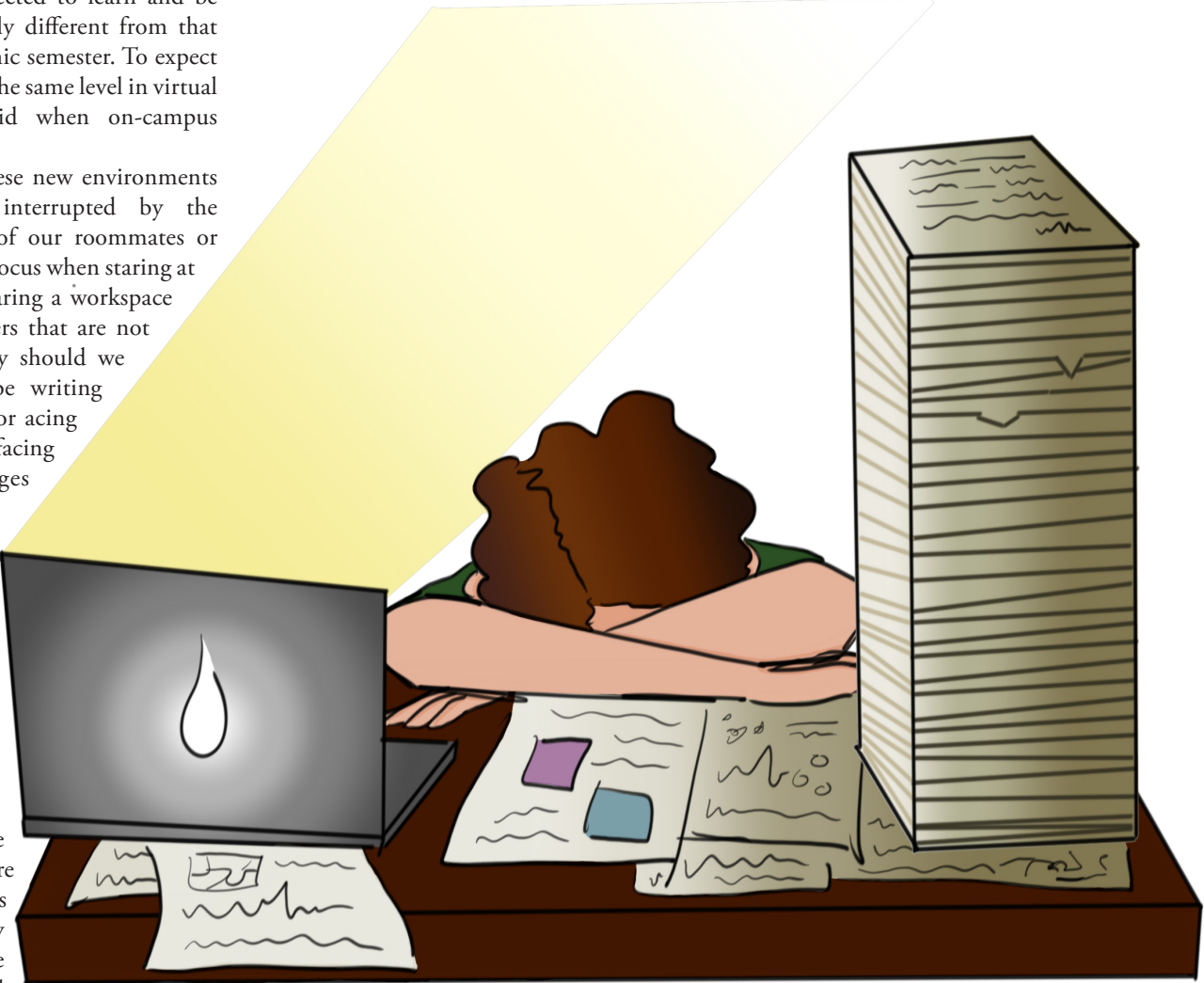


illustration by GRACEN HOYLE

Don’t fall into the trap of internalized misogyny



I was a “pick me” girl at one point. A pick me girl is a girl who behaves with the drive to impress or be accepted by men. This usually can manifest in putting down other girls to make the pick me girl appear special.

In middle school, I didn’t like traditionally feminine things, so I preferred the company of boys. I figured I’d fit in better with guys, but this led to me constantly feeling the need to impress them so I could feel accepted. I also started to put down who I perceived to be “girly girls.” Truth be told, I resented those girls because they fit a mold that I felt I couldn’t, hence why I turned to striving for the approval of guys. Of course, at the time I was unaware of this inherent misogyny, but now, looking back, I feel ashamed that I perpetuated a narrative that elevates male qualities while criticizing young girls for enjoying harmless activities that may come naturally to them. It’s clear to me now that my way of seeing the social hierarchy as boy versus girl was ignorant and childish.

There are a few dilemmas that surface when we set up our social hierarchy based

on gender. Gender is a spectrum, so if men already have a head start to reach the top of this social pyramid, then masculine traits will follow closely behind. And, as we all probably already know, men hold more positions of power than women and women have been oppressed and discriminated against for centuries, that’s a fact backed by history. This means that this hierarchy already favors men, and women now have to play catch up. Women should support women because, as most of us know, men generally won’t.

A great example of society idolizing masculine traits in women can be seen when we look at Hollywood’s depiction of the “cool girl.” The cool girl is an effortlessly beautiful woman with a twist. She eats, she drinks, she watches sports, and she is not emotional or clingy. She’s basically a stereotypical man in a Victoria’s Secret model body. The issue with this depiction is that the cool girl is supposed to be admired, not relatable. She is the ideal. Many women, myself included, fall into this trap of thinking, “I wish I was more like her.”

This is not to say women can’t be masculine, the problem lies in elevating these women over others. The YouTube channel The Take has a really informative video titled “The Cool Girl Trope, Explained” that does a deep dive into this type of character. The video points out that this girl was invented by the men

of Hollywood. This character is admired and strived for by so many women, when in reality these women are just a representation of the male fantasy.

Sometimes it has a sincere meaning like “You are unique,” but why when calling a girl unique must we compare her to other girls with the implication that the rest of the female population is basic?

I see a girl-on-girl sexism narrative projected by individuals and in mass media even today. Too often I hear “I’m not like other girls” or “I like the girls who can hang with the guys better.” These lines are projected by women, but what’s worse is men started using these lines first. “You’re not like other girls.” What is that supposed to mean exactly? Sure, sometimes it has a sincere meaning

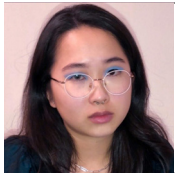
like “You are unique,” but why when calling a girl unique must we compare her to other girls with the implication that the rest of the female population is basic? A girl who appeals to a male standard is no better than girls who are interested in things that appeal to women as opposed to men. Just because Hollywood, and even sometimes men in general, project this does not mean we have to accept this as our truth.

There are so many layers to the hypocrisy of girl-on-girl misogyny. This can especially be seen most often when women slut shame each other, discredit those who prefer the company of other women, judge women who get their nails done or enjoy shopping and makeup, or women who don’t act “ladylike.”

The solution: education. I am under the impression that many women who express misogynistic views, whether they’re subtle or not, are unaware that is what they are doing, just like I was oblivious. Women are powerful and should be proud to be a woman and proud of other women as well. This is why I predict once one’s eyes are opened to the predominantly male powered factors playing a role in female-on-female misogyny, they would want to switch up. I know I would rather support female empowerment than live as a pick me girl. Would you?

Shelby Sperling is an undeclared first-year.

My morning/night routine for unplugging



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One of the things I miss most about living on campus is spending most of my time in proximity to others. Having a roommate and suitemates, the ritual of getting ready in the mornings and winding down at night was often a shared experience that I now lack living remotely. With nowhere to go early in the morning or late at night, I now have more time to myself and a more routine way of starting and ending my day. Because every day has been less eventful during quarantine, I think that being more mindful of daily habits will be helpful for my health in the long run.

With hours of Zoom classes a day, eye strain is a real struggle for many students. It has become more apparent that I need hobbies that don't involve screen time

MORNING ROUTINE:

7 a.m. Wake up

- 1. Phone time: check time, weather, put on music
- 2. Brush teeth (controversial order to do before breakfast)
- 3. Wash face
- 4. Gua sha/face massage using face oils
- 5. Double cleanse
- 6. Moisturize and use SPF
- 7. Drink water
- 8. Eat breakfast
- 9. Drink coffeee

- 10. Go for a walk/longboard
- 11. Make bed and clean at least three things in room
- 12. Make to-do list for the day
- 13. Zoom university

NIGHT ROUTINE (ON A RELAXED DAY WITHOUT A LOT OF SCHOOLWORK):

- 1. Bath/shower
- 2. Do “yoga” (stretch a little)
- 3. Schoolwork
 - 10 p.m. wind-down setting on phone (for social media), stop working
- 4. Brush teeth
- 5. Double cleanse
- 6. Night serums and moisturizer
- 7. Journal: (pre-made lists/topics make it easier to write every day)
- 8. Watch YouTube or Netflix or call a friend
 - 11 p.m. sleep

I wish I could wake or sleep without being on my phone or laptop, but it seems impossible if I want to feel connected to others during this time. With hours of Zoom classes a day, eye strain is a real struggle for many students. It has become more apparent that I need hobbies that don't involve screen time and to set daily limits on phone usage. For a month or so, I have also uninstalled Instagram and Twitter, which was a really beneficial reset for me. I thought I would feel more disconnected and “out of the know” by doing this, but I replaced this loss of connection by more regularly calling friends and family. Instagram and Twitter have more or less become a political playground, so my feed is filled with either politics or art, so my receptivity to both has decreased with overstimulation of information. Taking a break from the constant “feeding” of visual information helped me feel less anxious or frustrated, and in the realm of creative expression, allowed me to rely more on my own creativity instead of relying too directly on inspiration from others.

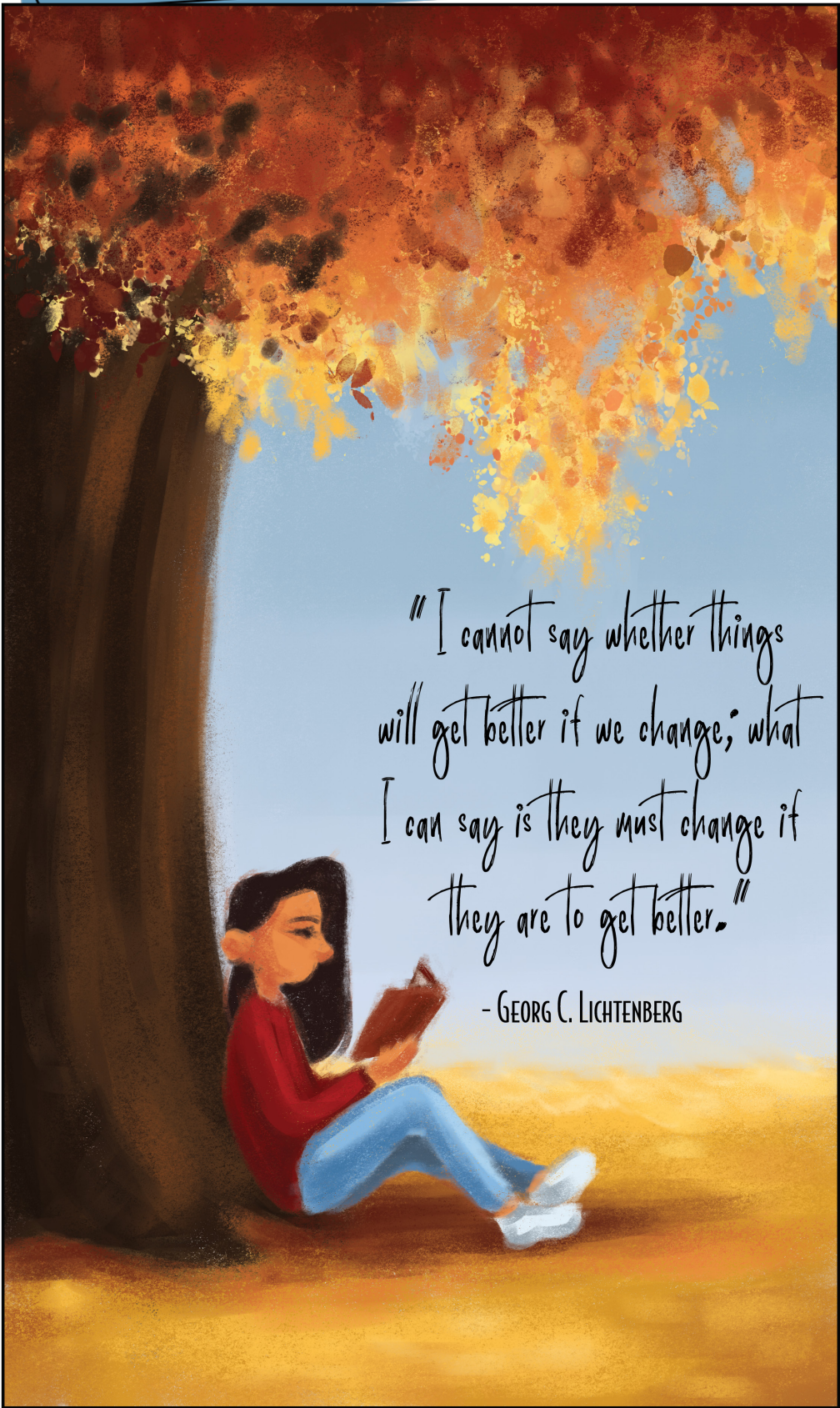
Yukiko Yamazaki is a junior anthropology major.



illustration by GRACEN HOYLE



illustrated by PHOEBE MURPHY



“I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better.”

- GEORG C. LICHTENBERG

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Advocates aim to increase youth voter turnout

Trinity University trains students from various organizations to encourage participation

VICTORIA HENRETTY | PULSE REPORTER
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This presidential election cycle, people are urging their peers to vote more than ever before. Social media posts, university emails, professors, friends, and family are all inundating us with messages about why we should go out and vote. To encourage the youth vote, Trinity invited students from different student organizations to learn how to be a voter advocate.

Caden Young, a sophomore Business Analytics and Technology and Computer Science major, says, “The goal was to learn how to use [voting] resources so we could share information with our peers—how to register or check if you’re registered, how to learn more about candidates, where and how to vote early or on Election Day, and understanding what happens after the election.” This information helped students become informed themselves and share it with their peers.

Voter advocates use their new knowledge in their networks. This follows the idea that every vote counts, so if voter advocates can encourage a few friends and club members to vote, they will be able to make a difference in this election.

“In September, I was encouraging people to register or update their addresses. Then in October, I was mostly posting about early voting—sharing links to polling locations and hours, explaining sample ballots, talking about the best locations for wait times, etc.,” Young said.

Young is hopeful that these actions will help make a difference. Because many voter advocates are very vocal about

voter advocacy people knew they could turn to him to ask questions.

Trinity has highly encouraged students to participate in this election, especially in comparison to the infamous 2018 senate race between Beto O’Rourke and Ted Cruz or in the local elections that have occurred in the meantime.

Nicole Cook, a junior accounting major, said, “I wish more was done to encourage young voters to vote in local elections as well.”

Local elections impact the lives of citizens of San Antonio immensely and giving just as much attention to them would help voter turn out.

Joy Patterson, a junior psychology major, said, “I think Trinity has always pushed for voter advocacy. So often on campus, there are booths set up or people coming up to you asking are you registered and registering students to vote. I just think that because of the last election and how many people did not vote, the importance of voting is emphasized more now by individuals and Trinity.”

Students have become deputized and helped their peers become engaged voters before but the wave of encouragement by the University to become involved politically is new.

Young believes that Trinity is responding to a generation that is very politically engaged online and wants to make sure that passion is translated to the polls.

“It’s not that they weren’t pushing it before, but that they’re working even harder now to help students become civically engaged,” Young said.



illustration by **KATE NUELLE**

Many people became interested in voter advocacy because of the numerous major political challenges facing Americans.

“The election has become a referendum on the pandemic, the economy, climate change, the justice system, and more,” Young said.

Much like the Bush/Gore and Obama/McCain elections people are calling this the election of our lifetime.

Young voters are feeling the pressure of the political climate and are looking for ways to relieve this stress.

“Women’s rights, healthcare, the Supreme Court, and climate change are all at stake in this election, so don’t focus on the

personalities of two candidates as much but focus more on the policies you would like to see upheld, dismantled, or created in these next four years,” Patterson said.

“I do feel that everyone should vote, elections usually do not make a massive change in the system, it’s not cool or revolutionary by any means but exercising your civil right to vote is one of the bare minimum things you can do and if you are privileged enough to be able to vote I believe you should,” said Cook.

As this election cycle wraps up, people are left more educated on the impacts of voting and how they can play a part in politics.

Trinity Housing: A New Year Brings New Fears

For students, individual housing plans for next semester remain complicated and uncertain

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Every Trinity student is dealing with a unique housing situation and, in most cases, a uniquely hard decision.

To understand the different housing situations Trinity students are facing, it is easiest to divide them into two types of students: the settled and the unsettled.

The settled students are composed of two groups. The first group is the students that are living off campus in San Antonio. The second group is the students that are living off-campus outside San Antonio and have decided they are staying home next semester.

The students living off-campus in San Antonio get the stability and the college experience. These students are settled because they know for sure where they will be living next semester, but other than that, their experience next semester will look very different.

Then there are the people deciding to live outside of San Antonio next semester. They have some hard decisions to make. They have to balance trying to make the most of their college experience and all their other concerns.

Faith Padgett, sophomore, spoke about the decision she had to make. “As much as I miss being on campus, it’s not worth potentially being exposed to covid. Additionally, many classes will still be online, and I’d rather take my classes somewhere I feel completely comfortable,” said Padgett.

Other students living off campus have different priorities and concerns. Kenneth

Nelson, sophomore, spoke of policies that are of particular concern to him.

“I imagine Trinity does have a policy about what happens if you get coronavirus. To me that policy was abundantly unclear. I haven’t seen anything in my email that changes that. The other thing is that keeping housing at the same price as it was pre-pandemic is absolutely ridiculous. Social benefits of living on campus denied greatly,” said Nelson.

On the other hand, there is the unsettled group of students. These students are those living on campus, mostly first-years, and those trying to live in San Antonio, whether on or off-campus.

First years have had probably the best housing situation they could during this difficult time. They are actually able to live on campus, but unfortunately, what they will do next semester is pretty unclear.

Dillon McManus, first year at Trinity, spoke about how nobody on campus, not even the first years, have been guaranteed housing next semester. “We have to move all of our stuff out of the room. They told us to pack lightly because there is a chance we are not coming back,” said McManus.

When it comes down to it, no one really knows what next semester will look like, which makes decisions even harder. “I feel like I have sufficient information, but not abundant. I know what to do next semester because it mirrors what I’m currently doing, but I feel that students hoping to change their living situation or experiencing new circumstances may not have the information they need to be completely confident,” said Padgett.



First-year **ANNE MICKELSON** poses in her dorm room. Many first-years opted to stay on campus this semester, but are unsure if they will be able to return for the spring due to upperclassmen returning to campus. photo by **MILLIE ECKEL**

However, this lack of information is pretty much unavoidable, and students understand that. “Things are constantly changing. I’ve heard that cases are rising in the last week. It is very unpredictable, so I don’t blame Trinity for not being able to get that much information out,” said McManus.

Trinity students also share their belief that the restrictions on campus are necessary. “Given what we know about the pandemic right now It is exceedingly likely

that we won’t have the pandemic under control. Letting everyone on campus seems like a bad idea,” said Nelson.

Regardless of what group they are in, all Trinity students share one thing in common: their housing situation was not what they expected coming into college. So when you wonder for the hundredth time what your living situation will be like next semester, you can be sure you’re not wondering alone.

Education Students Learn to Teach Online

Field-Based Education Classes Adapt to Online Learning Amidst Pandemic Restrictions

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Disciplines that require field-based experience have to completely reapproach how students will train and gain experience. Before COVID-19, education students would begin to gain classroom experience during their undergraduate career and even more so if they decided to pursue a master's in education.

"I'm afraid I won't get the opportunity to work in a classroom, again, during my undergrad," said Lexie Johnson, a sophomore Urban Studies major and Education minor. Education students are now facing two challenges: learning how to be remote students and how to teach remotely.

"The field experience classes have been the foundation of gaining confidence in the classroom for me. As a senior, I have not been deprived of this type of experience, but I can imagine what current sophomores and juniors will miss out on," said Lillian De La Rosa, a senior sociology major with a minor in teaching.

As the education adapts to teaching online, they are also adapting what students will be learning.

"I would expect [students] to be nervous because I think everybody is nervous about

what you don't know the answers to," said Education professor Dr. Courtney Crim.

Dr. Crim teaches Learners with Exceptionalities; while not a field-based class, it usually requires students to volunteer in person with students. This semester, students are working remotely to volunteer with students. For example, many students are learning how to tutor kids over Zoom.

"It feels like I have to re-explain things to my student because I can't physically be there with her," said Johnson.

Learning how to teach is a feat in itself, but learning how to do it online is an added challenge.

"I'm still learning what works for me while I'm learning online, but I do know what doesn't work for me so I think I will take that into consideration as I learn how to become a teacher," Johnson continued.

Having the perspective of being an online student might help these future educators know how to keep the classroom engaged.

In some ways, students are getting twice the education.

"In our field-based courses, we're still fully engaged with the teachers in the schools. There's no doubt in my mind that they're probably getting more experience than some of our past students in those

regards because they're seeing a lot of the opportunities and challenges," Dr. Crim said.

The field-based courses are all occurring online. Trinity education students are engaged in San Antonio K-12 online classes in order to gain their field experience.

Despite this added layer of education, students are still unsure if it will be enough.

"I have talked to my friends about how difficult it is going to be when we are allowed to go back to in-person instruction full time because both the students and teachers are going to be so out of touch with this experience," De La Rosa said.

De La Rosa, who has experience teaching students online, expressed that learning how to be an online teacher is a struggle.

"Creating relationships and connections with students and co-teachers were not as easy. I feel like this is a huge part of teaching, and why I enjoy it so much in the first place," explained De La Rosa.

Taking field-based classes will help prepare students for building connections while online.

"Mentor teachers are learning by the day, how to make connections with kids and keep them engaged, and you know, how to sustain relationships," said Dr. Crim.

There is sure to be a huge learning curve for mentor teaches as they enter classrooms,



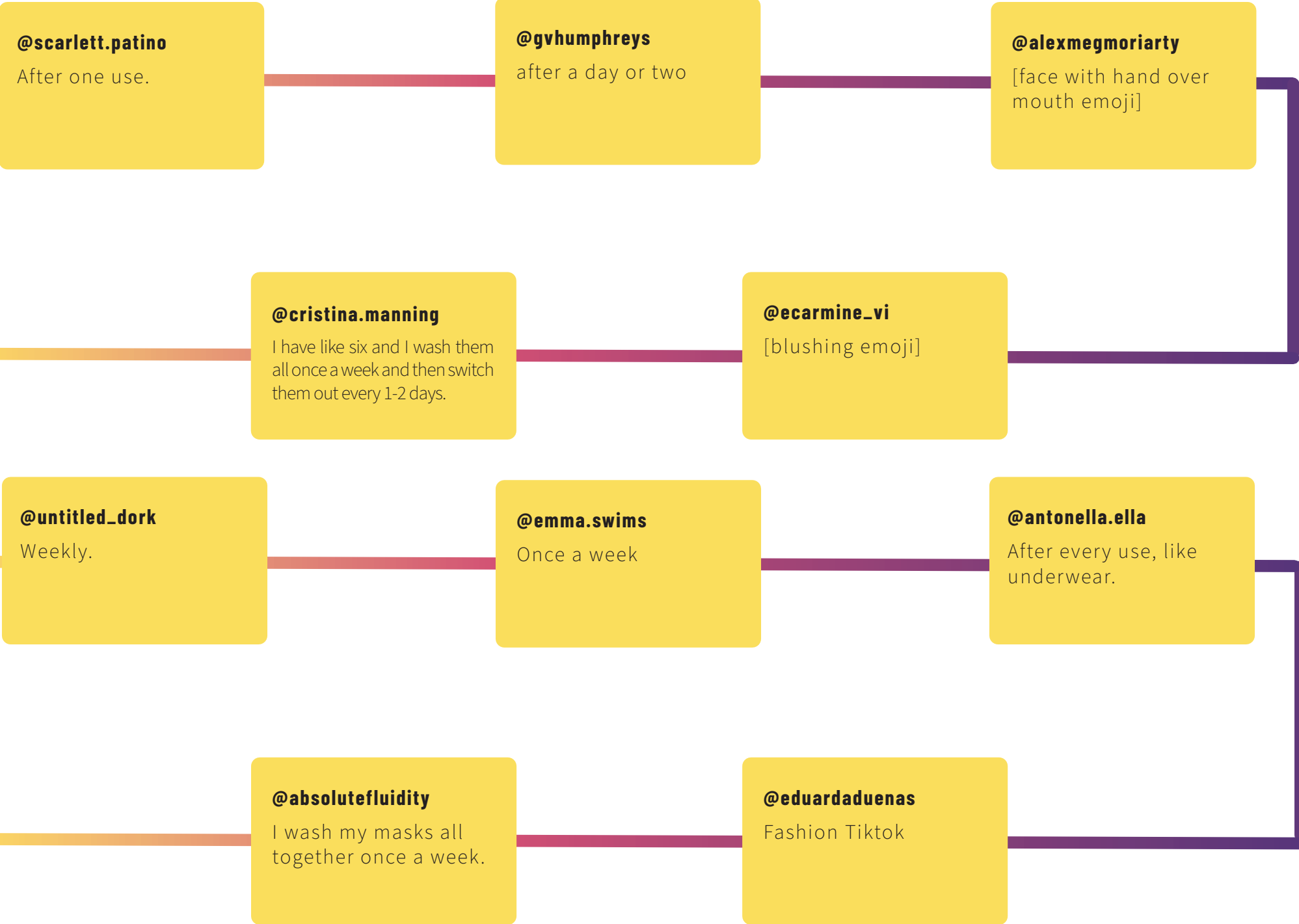
Education professor **COURTNEY CRIM** typically teaches a field-based course, which she has had to alter for this unique semester. photo provided by **COURTNEY CRIM**

whether that be virtually or months from now when they are allowed to be in schools. Educators already have to battle the immense stress of the pandemic, but they also have to face new challenges as teachers.

As De La Rosa said, "I do wish teachers had an adequate amount of support from their administrations and their local governments. To put it simply: I am hoping for the best, but expecting the worst."

INSTA-POSIUM

How often do you wash your mask?



TUPS presents “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare”

Theatre troupe adjusts to unconventional performance practices to follow safety requirement

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Hearing Shakespeare’s name takes me back to high school English classes where weeks upon weeks of his works were covered in excruciating detail. Here at Trinity, however, the Trinity University Players (TUPS) have a new approach to engaging us in his playwriting.

Before the pandemic hit, TUPS prided itself on putting on shows by students, for students. Being separated from the theatre department, particularly, has given TUPS more room to open their doors to students who may have not been a part of theatre before joining the Trinity community. Specifically, to make anyone on campus feel included and to reject the notion that one must be “good enough” to act in shows and foster community with other theatre enthusiasts.

“We became our own separate thing so that we could be more of a social club and have more opportunities for students to have fun and do theatre,” said Ramos.

This fervor for making theatre fun and accessible surely stands at the forefront of TUPS’ work nowadays as well. In Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield’s “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare,” TUPS actors will cover all thirty-seven of Shakespeare’s plays in a funny and satirical manner. With each section of the play being acted differently, one can expect to see unconventional styles of acting through sports analogies, fan-fiction references, and many other styles woven into classical Shakespearean works.

Co-directors and seniors Anthony Tresca and



ANDREW WALKER and **XANDER HANCOCK** rehearse their scene while following new safety requirements. photo by **CLAIRE SAMMONS**

Wren Ramos took on this play in a way that could engage anyone in theatre during a time where art can be inaccessible to many.

“Accessibility was a big thing that drew us both to the show, theatre can be pretentious and can talk down to audiences; we wanted to do something as anti-pretentious and accessible as possible,” said Tresca.

In addition to ensuring the show is likable and light-hearted, the co-directors took steps to re-write pieces of the play that are outdated. With the permission of the original authors and in addition to making the show more accessible,

they worked to filter out rather problematic aspects of the original play in order to make it audience appropriate and inclusive.

“There was a lot of rampant racism and sexism within the show that we wanted to exclude. It was written in the eighty’s, and we wanted to tailor it for Trinity,” said Tresca.

The show faced some challenges in its production, as actors and directors have put social distancing practices at the forefront of their work before safely presenting the play to the public. Every actor is masked and, throughout the entire show, stays six feet apart from others.

This has posed some new challenges regarding facial acting and the usual touchy, slapstick nature that Shakespeare can lend itself to.

“A lot of the expressions we use have to come from above the nose because we’re all wearing masks,” describes Andrew Walker, sophomore at Trinity and actor in the show.

The task of creating theatrical practices that accommodate social distancing has created some avenues for opportunity within TUPS and the broader theatre community, though.

“I think theatre in general has undergone an evolution during the pandemic in making shows available virtually. I think there is merit to learning how to present shows virtually and to help give shows to those who can’t be here physically,” said Walker.

Ramos also spoke to the value of practicing theatre during a time where people are distant from one another and where community is key.

“COVID taught people to be very independent,” said Ramos. “Not only how to be independent, but how to reach out to your communities. We’ve become very reliant on ourselves as well as our members to help us get stuff done.”

TUPS’ “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare” will premiere on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of November. It will take place in Laurie Auditorium on all three dates, and over Zoom for the final date. For those on Zoom, the performance is free while in-person attendees will pay \$5 for tickets. If you are interested in RSVPing to watch the show, sign-up through the online form, which can be found on the group’s Instagram, @tups_official.

For the Record: Pluko’s sophomore album “Color Blind”

“Color Blind” is anything but monotone as Pluko’s production skills showcase his colorful artistic talent

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illustration by **REN RADER**

For the record, Pluko is one of those artists I discovered completely by accident. One day after Spotify had exhausted my Discover Weekly playlist, it switched to a random radio station that featured a Pluko song in the setlist. I decided to look at the artist page and found “Color Blind,” Pluko’s sophomore album. The man behind the moniker is Sam Martinsen, and at only 20 years old hailing from a small town in Pennsylvania, he’s already accomplished quite a bit as a producer. From playing at festivals like Coachella, Firefly, and HARD Summer to opening for A-list acts like Odesza and amassing half a million monthly listeners on Spotify, his upward trend as an artist has been impressive. “Color Blind” arrived in

May of 2020 and showcases Pluko’s impressive producing skills and his ability to blend genres to incorporate a variety of sounds into his music. Drawing inspiration from artists like Flume and Louis The Child, “Color Blind” is a unique mix of experimental EDM and pop intertwined with an array of vocal performances. In Pluko’s words, “Color Blind represents a moment in time where music is the only thing that you let affect you.”

The 13 track album starts out hot. Gritty synths and bass lines are met with sharp percussion for an instrumental out of the top drawer of EDM production on the first song “go.” Pluko’s producing talent is on full display from the start — “go” is intense and heavy with emotional chords worked into the mix. The tempo switches up rather quickly, however, as the second song, “blessings,” sounds much more like an upbeat pop song with bouncing kick drums and different keyboard sounds throughout. “blessings” features the first lyrics of the album and gives an insight to Pluko’s relationship with music saying, “And I wonder if I make it out/ Another blessing comes falling down/I know you wanna leave but I need ya/But I need you now.”

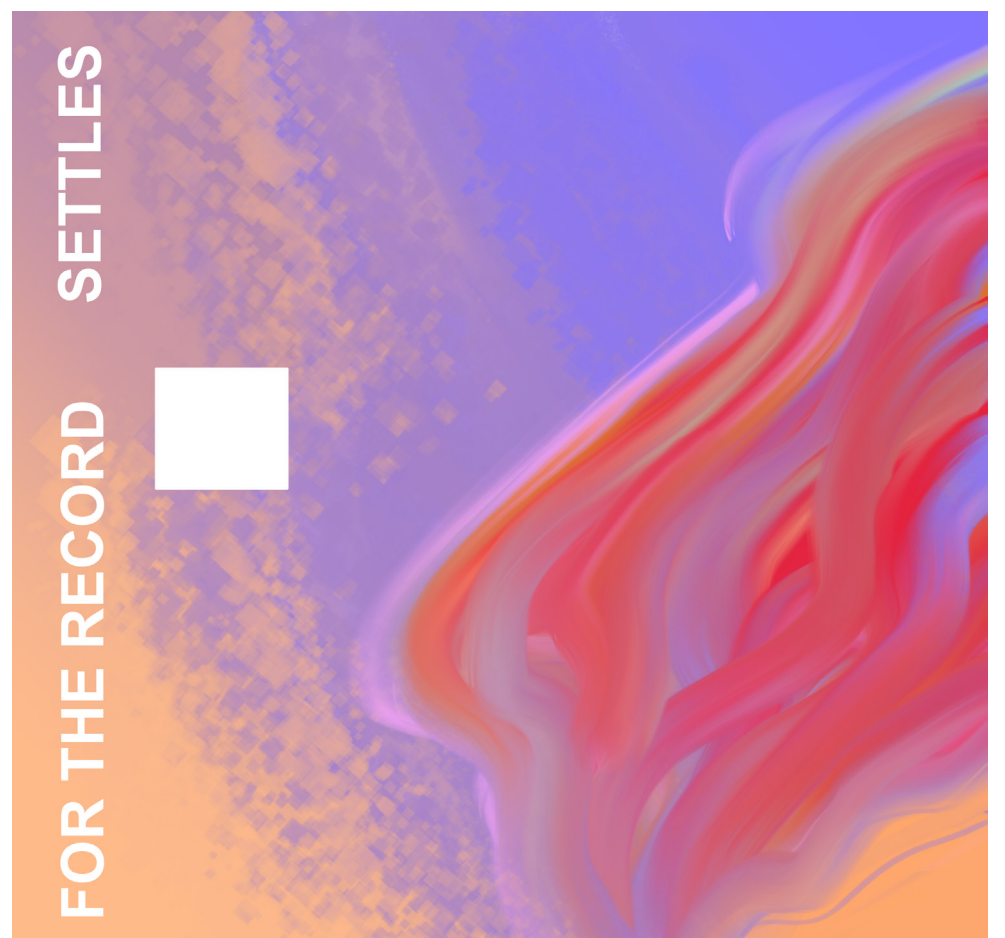
Tracks 3-5 return to the heavy bassline EDM sound with intricate synth work woven in. Track 4, “your skin,” my personal favorite of the album, is laid back and groovy with a steady beat and low pitched melody over a catchy bassline. The middle of the album slows things down with emotional and poppy sounding vocals paired with unique sounding electronic r&b instrumentals. The vibe definitely differs from the rest of the album about halfway through but seems to compliment the rest of the songs at the same time. The 10th song on the tracklist, “reality distortion” sounds just like it implies. The sound returns to aggressive beats and hard synths for an EDM-trap sound that took me by surprise

at first. It feels a little out of place compared to the rest of the songs and is a good example of my only critique of the album — that it sometimes feels overproduced. Pluko goes to great lengths to ensure no detail is left out in every sound in every song, but every once in a while it can be a little much.

Overall, “Color Blind” is an album that can be appreciated for the pure production talent and attention to detail. Although some of the songs

come on too strong for my liking, the project as a whole is wildly impressive for Pluko as a young producer. As a bonus, Pluko also released a complete album film to accompany his LP. The film features cinematic landscape shots and trippy visuals for each song that is pretty cool to watch. “Color Blind” is definitely an album I’ve enjoyed listening to and there is a ton of upside for Pluko moving forward.

illustration by **GRACEN HOYLE**



How TikTok helped me find my new favorite musician

Screamo music has a new up and coming face, and he’s a TikTok star

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Ok, I’m gonna say it. I am not a fan of TikTok. Sure, I have an account and watch singular videos that my friends send me, but I don’t post or scroll through it for fun. I guess it just never appealed to me. Consequently, I never know any of the trending songs or “dances” that gain popularity from there unless they are reposted and end up on my Instagram explore page. The only songs that I have significant exposure to are songs from bands that I like that just so happened to be picked up by the alt side of TikTok. But now, Kim Dracula, a stereotypical goth with long black and purple hair, has taken over my thoughts, given me an actual excuse to go on TikTok from time to time, and found his way onto my Spotify playlists.

Personally, I am drawn to music that fits into rock or metal genres (and the various sub-genres that fall under those as well). I’d like to think I don’t live under a rock, but I am generally one of the last people to know about trending songs outside of those genres unless their popularity is absolutely Earth-shattering.

To clarify, I by no means “hate” other genres of music. I believe music is entirely subjective and all genres have appealing elements that draw in their listeners. But for me, with some of my favorite artists being Fall Out Boy, Marilyn Manson, and Slipknot (and tons other questionable pop-punk and screamo bands), and spending years of my life hiding under the rock genre umbrella, I’ve never found the desire to venture into new territory. But, hearing Kim Dracula’s amalgamation of rap music and metal vocals has somehow managed to pique my interest.

His original tracks are unlike anything I have ever heard before. Though he only has three full-length songs produced as of now, each of them is completely different. “Killdozer” (my personal favorite) and “The Bard’s Last Note” are relatively similar with the latter being a little calmer and taking on an almost satirical sound with occasional upbeat track clashing with the lyrics and the heaviness of all other aspects of the song. They are

both composed entirely of screaming vocals and spoken word in his low, grating voice.

His most recently released song, “1-800-CLOSE-UR-EYES” includes a bit of screaming, but it features more of a different approach with the majority being comprised of actual singing and rapping. This one is definitely the most subdued and reminds me of a lot of other rap artists who have become popular. To me, it stands out the least of all of his songs because aside from his occasional screaming, it sounds like it could have been done by just about anyone else who is considered to be popular in the music scene. But, despite this, it’s pretty solid, and I can see how it has the potential to attract listeners who prefer more of the rap than the metal. All three are great in their own aspects and represent Kim Dracula’s abilities well. When I realized that there were only three out, I definitely wanted to hear more. They add a new and interesting sound to my playlists that I am always happy to hear when they start to play.

However, Kim Dracula’s claim to fame is arguably most attributed to his short, metal covers of famed TikTok songs and iconic songs from the past. This is pretty cool to me, not only because I could have never pictured “Hey There Delilah” or “Fergalicious” as anything close to emo or nu-metal, but because I feel as though it can show people that screamo and metal have their place in the music industry just as more popular sub-genres do.

Kim’s alternative vocals paired with the electronic vibes of the backing music may make it more appealing to listeners instead of the typical hardcore guitar riffs and lightning-fast drum solos. I have heard the same complaints over and over that screamo and metal bands are just “people screaming into a microphone” and that it “isn’t real music.” Personally, if Kim Dracula covering WAP on TikTok is what it takes to get one step closer to ignorant comments like this to fizzle out, then I am all for it.

Even though I will always prefer traditional hardcore music, Kim Dracula’s mainstream rendition is not something to disregard simply

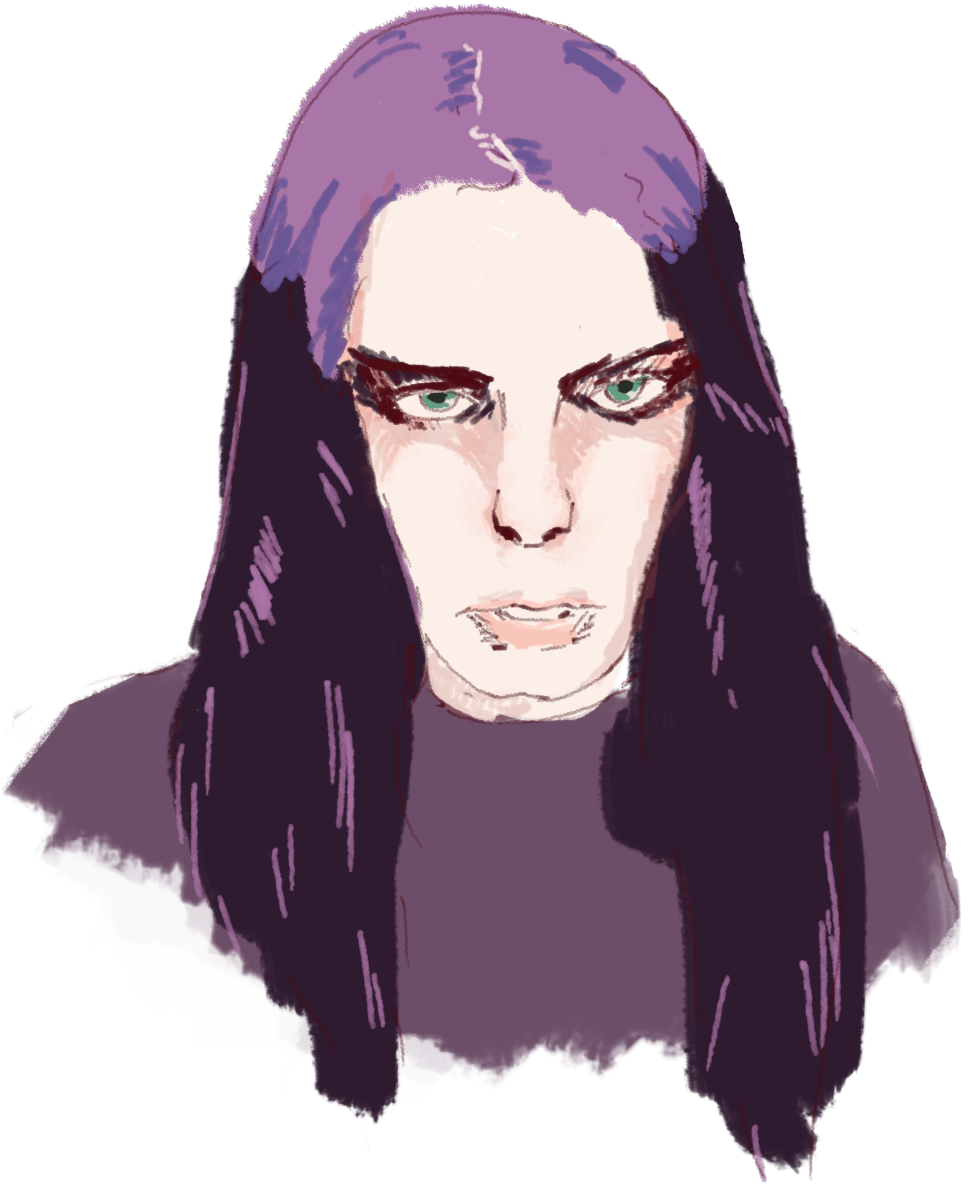


illustration by KATE NUELLE

because of the lack of physical instrumentals. Conversely, for those who enjoy more pop or rap sounds, give the vocals a chance. Kim Dracula proves that the imaginary gap between these two genres does not really have to be as far as fans typically make it out to be.

Though I’m not a huge fan of TikTok, I am glad that has introduced me to artists and genres of music that I normally wouldn’t find or even consider listening to. I hope that it continues to expose other people to new music and sounds that are outside of their comfort zones. Once you’re open to new things, you’ll be happily surprised with what you’re able to find.

SODA WORD SEARCH

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MRPIBB
MTNDEW
MUGS
PEPSI
ROOTBEER
SCHWEPES
SIERRAMIST
SPRITE
SUNDROP
SUNKIST
SURGE
TOPOCHICO

WNBA player Sue Bird remains consistent on and off the court

The four time Olympic gold medalist is a role model to all who aspire to be great



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Sue Bird is many things: Social justice activist, gay icon, bun extraordinaire off the court, signature ponytail wearer on the court, fashion icon, sneakerhead, co-host of the world favorite quarantine instagram live show: “A Touch More,” ginger beer enthusiast, four time WNBA champion, four time Olympic gold medalist for the United States, oldest member of the USA Basketball Women’s National Team, face guard model, best friend of Diana Taurasi, and fiancée of soccer super star Megan Rapinoe. To me, she is the leader I want to be.

Sue Bird is the 40-year-old point guard for the WNBA’s Seattle Storm. She is the most successful active team captain in professional sports anywhere on Earth. She is consistent, disciplined and dedicated. She’s confident in her play, goes out and gets the job done. Not only does Bird know the game inside and out, she knows what she has to do to get her teammates to play their best. Her ability to see the game in ways others cannot came in handy as she switched to more of a coaching role when an injury caused her to miss both the 2013 and 2019 seasons. More knee issues limited her to only eleven games during the WNBA season this summer.

In her ESPN 60 minute documentary there is an old clip of her saying, “I try and

lead [more] by example” and she certainly does. Early in her career she was known as timid, and she admits she spoke at youth girl’s basketball camps to overcome her shyness. “I think it’s important to show young girls that they can become strong, confident athletes,” said Bird. “When I was coming up, the WNBA was still in its infancy, but it’s important also for the boys to realize that hey, these girls can make it too.” Showing even in the early moments of her career she knew she had impact. Her University of Connecticut coach, the famous Geno Auriemma, has described her as silent but deadly. After missing much of her freshman year due to an injury,Auriemma took her aside the following year and told her that from then on, team failures would be attributed to her. Therefore, making her feel ownership for everything because he knew that the more responsibility she had, the more she would thrive. She relies on her mental toughness, “It’s all about maximizing your strengths and hiding your weaknesses.”

What makes Bird so impressive as a player is her consistency that comes from her consistency as a person. While Sue has thoroughly and thoughtfully answered countless questions, she is also incredibly private. Sue and controversy don’t really mix. However, when you ask her about hot button issues: racial inequality or sexism, she’s not afraid to speak her mind. When she’s not breaking records, she’s speaking out about issues that matter. She published a Players Tribune article in which she backed her fiancée Megan



Limited edition shoes from Sue Bird’s Nike Kyrie 5 Keep Sue Fresh collection released in 2019.
photo by **CECELIA TURKEWITZ**

Rapinoe amid backlash from President Trump over her comments about the United States Women’s National Team (USWNT) not visiting the White House. Bird also used her platform to explain her stance on the current movement toward equal pay within women’s athletics. And most recently, she has been a staunch supporter of police reform calling for the arrests of Breonna Taylor’s killers: Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove.

Sue Bird has taught me to be the best you can be for yourself first, and then use your impact to help your community once you have more influence. I admire the way she encourages people to listen, even when you don’t agree with their point of view. At the same time, she doesn’t concede and stays true to her beliefs. She teaches me that being feminine doesn’t limit you — you can be particular about your hair and still be fierce on the court — you don’t have to conform to any generalization. It’s important to put in the work behind the scenes to perform on the court. It sounds cheesy, but she reminds me to live my life, and not necessarily lead the charge. Your voice is shaped by the people you surround yourself with, the food you eat and the time you dedicate to yourself. Being a leader doesn’t have to mean being first to do something or come up with an ingenious idea, it means consistently choosing to show up and do the work.

Cecelia Turkewitz is a senior sociology major.



Are your sports opinions feeling unheard by those around you? Tired of tweeting into the abyss? We want to hear your sports opinions! Email sports editor Brian Yancelson, @byancels@trinity.edu, a sports column between 500-700 words by Sunday at noon to be featured in the following week’s paper. He, or editor-in-chief Kayla Padilla, will be in touch with you.



TRINITY DIVERSITY CONNECTION PRESENTS:

BEYOND VOTING:
THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING IN
ACTIVISM OUTSIDE OF ELECTIONS

Please join us in an engaging panel-led discussion about how YOU can partake in activism outside of electoral politics and why it is just as important, if not more so, especially when it comes to shaping the future of our society. We will also discuss the rationality of why some choose to not vote or partake in electoral politics. Additionally, we will discuss how and why one should support marginalized communities’ long-term, not just as educators/activists but also as creatives, business owners, etc. and how this translates to lessen burnout in advocacy.

DATE & TIME:
NOV 10 FROM
5:00-6:30 PM
LOCATION:
ZOOM WEBINAR



Join at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y3lm8ncf>

Students Share Their Thoughts on Fantasy Football

Players share the challenges they've encountered during the COVID NFL season

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Like many sports, the National Football League (NFL) has looked a little different this year, with limited or no fans allowed in the stands, rescheduled games and players contracting COVID-19 in the midst of the season. However, fantasy football still provides many people with the opportunity to connect with their friends while enjoying football.

Fantasy Football is a competition in which everyday people draft professional football players to be on "their team." These players accumulate stats in real-life games, but they also stack up points for their fantasy owners based on how they do on the field. It has become a way for fans to be even more involved when watching the NFL.

Matthew Garr, junior, has been playing Fantasy Football since he was twelve.

"I was first introduced to fantasy football by my dad when I was 12, and I've played in the same league as him every year ever since. What began as a fun way to bond and watch games together on Sundays has now expanded into a way to regularly talk and catch up even as I've moved off to college," said Matthew Garr. "It ensures that at least a couple times a week during the season, we're able to have something new and fun to talk about and participate in together even though we're not in the same place."

While some believe there is a great deal of skill involved, it often comes down to

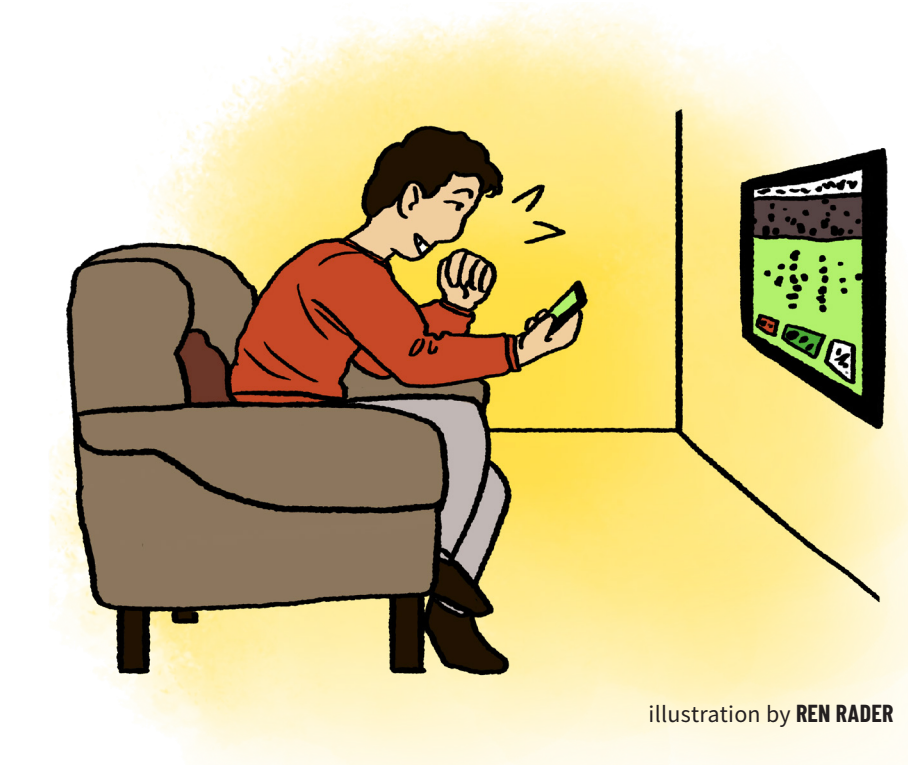


illustration by **REN RADER**

luck because, at the end of the day, there's nothing fans can do from home to change the outcome of games thousands of miles away.

"I like fantasy football because I know nothing about sports and I'm doing better than everyone that follows football religiously," said Taylor Rountree, junior.

Unfortunately, this season has plagued many star players with injuries, as well as a couple of players contracting COVID-19

during the season. Both Christian McCaffrey from the Carolina Panthers and Michael Thomas from the New Orleans Saints, who consistently rack up a large number of points per game on Fantasy Football, suffered ankle injuries in Weeks One and Two and have not returned since. Additionally, multiple players on the New England Patriots, the Tennessee Titans, and the Las Vegas Raiders, as well as other teams, have contracted COVID-19

during the season, forcing games to be rescheduled across the league.

Injuries on the field affect fantasy owners as well, as it forces them to find replacements just as any football general manager would do during an unexpected injury.

"Injuries have caused a lot of trips to the waivers and constant restructuring of my team. Most specifically, losing Julio Jones and Davante Adams for two-three weeks cost me several games," said Tristan Smith, junior. "Despite the injury bug, I still enjoy the competition with my friends and it gives us something to talk about and focus on besides the pandemic."

Junior Jacob Stubbs shared a similar experience in dealing with injured players.

"I drafted Christian McCaffrey first overall and he got injured like Week 2, so I've been having to live on the waiver wire for running backs since and it's pretty stressful. But I really enjoy a free agent pick up that scores a lot or anytime one of my players just has a great day and I know I'm going to win," Stubbs said.

Despite the injuries and the rescheduled games this season, many students have continued to enjoy fantasy football. For some, it's the one thing in this crazy year that remains normal.

"It's not about winning, not about the prize money or the glory of winning the league. It's about crushing the opponents' spirit again and again until they have lost all will to continue with the madness that is fantasy football," said Max Pettit, junior.

Don't let the cold weather keep you inside

The Cold Never Bothered Me Anyway: How to Stay Active in the Cold

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The thing about Texas winters is that they get just cold enough to make it uncomfortable to go outside but not cold enough for any stereotypical winter activities. Although winter doesn't technically arrive until Dec. 21st, with the weather getting colder, here are some ways to stay active.

DO IT INSIDE

One way to stay active is to bring your exercise indoors. Exercising inside is a great way to beat the elements and you don't necessarily need access to a gym to do it. Using dumbbells or resistance bands is a great way to get some gains. There are also tons of equipment-free workouts on the internet that are easy and fun to follow! Try some yoga to unwind as we start the stressful end of the semester, or try some cardio to get your heart rate up and your blood flowing. If you live in place with thin walls, like Witt-Winn or a small apartment, you can find low-impact workouts online so you can stay active without including your neighbors. I personally love to put in my headphones and follow along with a dance workout on my laptop! Not only is it fun, but it's also an easy way to stay active and get a boost of energy after a long day of online classes.

DO IT FOR THE PRIZE

With everything being online these days it's so easy to find yourself sitting inside all day. It's no secret that going outside is great for your mental health, but actually going outdoors when it's cold and when it'd be so much easier to wrap yourself in

a blanket and watch Netflix is tough. One way I like to incentivize myself is to have a warm treat waiting for me when I get back. The treat can be a hearty soup, a mug of hot chocolate, or even a bag of popcorn. I find it's best if I choose something that can quickly be popped into the microwave when I get back or something that I can leave in a thermos so it's still warm when I get back.

The point of this warm treat is motivation, but it also helps if you have a concrete goal. When I go out for a walk on a cold day, I make it a point to go a certain distance before I let myself turn around and head home. You can set a minimum time limit, a minimum distance, or walk to a landmark and back. Setting a goal you can reach is a great way to motivate yourself to stay active, and when you reach that goal it makes the warm treat you've set aside for yourself feel all the more earned. On days when I go for a bike ride, I combine my goal and my reward. Instead of having a mug of hot chocolate waiting for me at home, I bike to a nearby coffee shop or bakery. Not only is it nice to rest after tackling San Antonio's brutal hills, but it's also a great way to support local businesses (just don't forget to bring your mask!).

DO IT WITH A FRIEND

Another way to make the cold more bearable is to be active with a friend. Of course, it is important to be safe and socially distanced if you're going to be around other people, but taking a hike with a friend is a great way to enjoy nature and another person's company. However, be careful when picking a trail. A mask is useful in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping your face warm,

but on a challenging hike it can make it very hard to breathe. Trails like the ones at Brackenridge Park that are fairly flat are great for socially distanced hikes with a friend, but if you want to tackle the more rocky trails at Friedrich Wilderness Park, it's best to do those solo or with a member of your household.

Socializing outside doesn't necessarily have to include exercise. Just being outside and enjoying nature allows you to reap the many benefits that the great outdoors has to offer. One way to do this is to have a socially distanced picnic in a park. Try going around noon to avoid the coldest

parts of the day and be sure to bring extra blankets—some to sit on and some to wrap around yourself. Alternatively, gather with your friends at an evening bonfire. There's nothing like a toasty fire and s'mores to warm you up on a chilly night, and it's a perfect opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and good company. Plus, it's so easy to socially distance so long as everyone sits six feet apart.

Don't let the cold stop you from being active. As long as you follow these easy tips, you'll make the most of your Texas winter!

illustration by **REN RADER**

