

Top 5: Things to Do before Review Period  
Prepare to prepare for finals with Features' list of "must-dos". **pg. 6**

Alpha Delta Phi Essay Contest  
The winning submission on the 2008 Presidential Election supports Barack Obama's victory. **pg. 7**

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# The Trinity Tripod

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## SGA FUNDING REMAINS INTACT

Despite Economic Crisis, Student Activities Fund Still Unrestricted

**MATT FUENTES '09**  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Oct. 30, President James F. Jones, Jr. sent out a campus letter that discussed the school's current financial difficulties, and he notified both students and parents that he had decided to freeze all but necessary spending. The long time campus pub project was abandoned right after it seemed that it would finally go through, and there was the prospect that

many other plans might be cancelled.

Yet despite President Jones' sweeping mandate, the Student Government Association (SGA) looks to be largely unaffected, and students will not have to worry about activities being cut. "The money that students pay as a Student Activity Fee is set, administered, and controlled by the Student Government Association. There have not been any mandates or restrictions placed on this money," said SGA

President Nathan Kirshbaum '09.

At the beginning of the year, a student receives a student activities fee bill in addition to the standard tuition and housing bill. This money is pooled into the Student Activities Fund (SAF), which is responsible for student organizations, Entertainment Activities Council (EAC), Trinity College Emergency Response Team (TCERT), the college radio station, and other groups.

"How much money the SGA gets or how much money the SAF gets each year is up to the SGA, so it does not need to be negotiated with anyone," said Vice President of Finance Whitney Merrill '09. Since the full sum money has already been collected, it will not be affected by the radical changes in the school's economic plan.

The student government has the benefit and the luxury of funding itself directly from the student body, and the College's administration has no jurisdiction over those finances. "There have not been any mandates or restrictions placed on this money," said Kirshbaum.

This fiscal independence should allow to SGA to function fairly normally regardless of Trinity's overall financial strug-

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## WRTC to Distribute Online via Podcast



Emily Gittleman

**ANNE BENJAMIN '10**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Trinity Radio Station WRTC-FM (89.3) recently underwent significant changes, including adding listener-friendly features to their Web site, www.WRTCFM.com, and working with new student publication, MUSAIK.

Visitors to the Web site can now enjoy an improved streaming feature, and can visit podcasts.wrtcfm.com to download a selection of Podcasts to their personal computers. When the interface is completed, the feature will be available on the main Web site. Starting on Nov. 13, WRTC started streaming to

their Web site in 128k MP3 stream. Previously, they had been streaming at 32k MP3 quality, which sounds more like an AM frequency. Now at 128k, the stream is CD quality.

Musaik, the recently formed student group and cultural house that support's student musicians on campus, has a biweekly radio show. It takes place from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every other Friday. Their first show was on Nov. 21 and featured pre-recorded student music and a live performance by Matt Sullivan '10. In working with Musaik, the station hopes to provide students with another resource to access music created by their peers.

Hilary Ladov '09, a co-founder of Musaik and an active producer at WRTC, explained that the inspiration for Musaik's show was "to feature Trinity musicians on Trinity's radio station." With luck, more musicians will use their Friday nights to share their work and to entertain Hartford.

While the amount of students in this student-run organization is relatively small, the station serves as a point of overlap between Trinity students and Hartford residents, as people from Hartford utilize the station to promote their own musical endeavors. Each hour, WRTC airs a community calendar that lets people know about events going on in the area.

Currently, there is room on the station for student hoping to get involved and contribute. Sean Donnelly, WRTC's Chief Engineer, suggested students put together a similar calendar resource for students on campus. He also suggested that students could chat with

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*see MUSAIK on page 4*

## Former Sweatshop Laborer Provides Relevant Insight

**ALEXANDRA KLESTADT '09**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're not sitting so visibly in Peter B's, you might want to turn around and look at the tag of your shirt right now. Gap? Polo? Abercrombie and Fitch? Have these companies all "sworn" to abstain from sweatshop labor? Yes. Have they actually abstained? No.

Current issues involving sweatshop labor in the United States go surprisingly unrecognized. On Tuesday, Nov. 18, Carmencita (Chie) Abad, along with the Global Exchange alliance and the Campus Progress group, spoke to Trinity students about her experience working under such conditions. Abad was brought to Trinity by Director of the Women & Gender Resource Action Center (WGRAC) Laura Lockwood, in conjunction with the Women, Gender, and Sexuality (WGS), International Studies, Public Policy and Law, Political Science Departments, and the Ivy Society.

Surprisingly, the job in which Abad was employed, and spent upwards of \$5,000 to attain, was in a U.S. commonwealth. Despite fervent labor laws in the United States, commonwealth areas such as Saipan, in the Pacific Island region, go under the radar.

Abad knows firsthand what it is like to work in a sweatshop. She spent six years as a garment worker in Saipan. During that time, she endured wretched working conditions, frequently working 14-hour shifts in dangerous conditions. "If we were stitching, for example, an arm sleeve onto the

main part of the shirt," she recalled, "the supervisor would say that we had to complete 100 an hour. But you knew, we knew, that this was not possible. You could make 90, on a good day. Then you had to do overtime to make up the 10 lost each hour — for free."

When one of these supervisors noticed that she could practice a relatively sophisticated level of math, she was immediately promoted. That

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## Most of NESCAC Without Fraternities

Trinity Maintains its Greek Organizations Despite Local Trends

**REBECCA BROWN '11**  
NEWS EDITOR

Trinity College is one of the last small, liberal arts colleges in the United States actively funding on-campus Greek organizations. Besides Trinity, the only comparable schools with fraternities and sororities are Tufts University, Wesleyan University, and Middlebury College. The seven remaining members of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) have either banned or never had Greek organizations.

President James F. Jones, Jr., believes that the persistence of the College's fraternities and sororities is due to Trinity's location in downtown Hartford: "Compare [Trinity] to anywhere, go down to Middletown and look at the number of bars, bookstores, little restaurants, etc. that surround Wesleyan. Look at The Square at Harvard or The Corner



Photo Archives

Fraternities, as in 1957, prove an integral part of the social scene at Trinity College.

at the University of Virginia. With the most cursory of reviews there are legitimate places for gathering, across the street from the school. There is not a one here, now that The Tap is closed. With the exceptions of Trinity Restaurant and a few shops on New Britain, there is nothing

around here that will serve the role of a social venue."

Jones hopes that, when the economy improves, plans for a campus pub in Mather Hall will move forward. Until then, he believes that Greek organiza-