

Members of College,

When I finished my first year at Trinity, I was under the impression that there was the quintessential Trinity Student, and that for you to be successful here, you had to mimic that ideal student to the best of your ability. I am sure that impression has been left on some of you as well — the impression that you have to be involved with certain clubs, or certain committees, or even certain people if you want to have a shot at one day becoming TCM Chair or Head. One of the resulting outcomes of this culture is extreme competitiveness. There are only so many "important" positions for your year, and you have to question your every move because it might hurt your chances of getting those positions or impressing those people.



I say fudge that. This culture of competitiveness and conformity for the sake of success sucks. Imagine you could walk into Strachan and just, oh I don't know, be entirely yourself? Not worry about being judged? Imagine us creating an environment where everyone feels comfortable enough to be themselves in their purest form. My hope is that, as a result, new clubs would spring up from the woodwork that is our community, and perhaps even new committees and Trinity governance positions would arise.

Our community should be a reflection of the individuals within it. It should be a mosaic, not a stained glass window made up of three colours that don't really match or work well together.

So, if any of that resonated with you — read on. During my first month in my first year of Trinity, I never thought that I would run for a Head's position. But eventually I found myself caring about certain issues and someone suggested I run for the Equity Committee. I cautiously dipped my toes into the water of the "intimidation station" that is the TCM, and somehow I got elected First Year Representative of the Equity Committee. Yes, I screwed up in my speech and yes, people laughed. But after about five seconds, that laughter disappeared and the worst was over. Once I realized that the humiliation I had so feared was virtually non-existent, I began to get more involved.

Since being elected First Year Representative of the Equity Committee, I have been in one TCDS play, served as Junior Representative to the Senate's Community Affairs Committee, been a Frosh Leader, returned to the Equity Committee, organized a group trip to a TIFF world premiere, started SELFLESS SELFIES, and joined the Arbor Journal as Senior Editor for the Humanities. A Head of College needs to be able to manage multiple priorities and initiatives without getting overly stressed, and my experience here has prepared me well for that.

If elected, I'll work with the Heads team to do everything I can to get Trinity all that it deserves (and more) from the UTSU, as well as find creative ways to incentivize Trinity students actually coming and voting. Together, we will make Trinity a more inclusive, hospitable, stimulating, creative, and fun place to go to university. One of my top priorities is to **entirely destigmatize Mental Health Issues**, because whether we like it or not, they are something we will all have to deal with at some point in our lives. A College such as ours should be the support system our students deserve. I'll continue the **push for an equitable College** by encouraging clubs like PoC at Trin, Rainbow Trin, and TASA to organize and host events, parties, High Tables and more. **Changing the current attitude towards the TCM**, is another top priority of mine, and I will attempt to do so by hosting Pre-TCM Pre's in Welch Common Room, so that all of-age students can get loose before getting intense. As future leaders, I believe we really need to have a **stronger focus on College-wide philanthropy**. Lastly, we need **more sick parties**.

Anyways, it is with the utmost sincerity when I say to you all that I promise I'll wake up every morning thinking of ways to represent this College as accurately as possible, and how to contribute to a culture of acceptance, fun, and positivity.

Met'agona,

Lorne Levy