



TRITON VOICE

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OPINION: Rotary Rage A Review of Newburyport's Traffic Circle

By Talia Strauch & William Hight
Staff Writers

As you travel over the bridge heading into the Newburyport Rotary, machinery interrupts the cardinal road that directs you towards numerous locations. Dirt and rock have been destroyed for the primary function of "fixing" the dangers that the rotary harbors. Aggressive pavement markings limit road space forming additional lines. As a result, drivers are questioning the reliability of this traffic circle.

The Newburyport Rotary is a staple landmark serving to direct traffic. Bounded by two lanes the rotary has undergone minor, yet lengthy, construction, shrinking driving lanes. Surrounded by food chains, retail plazas, and residential areas, the rotary remains a center circle for directing traffic. Connecting Newbury, a more communal town, and a coastal city, Newburyport, the rotary includes both drivers and pedestrians who are put in danger simply by accessing a confusing traffic circle.

Prior to the changes, the rotary remained a double lane with yields on two areas of oncoming drivers. Existing problems involved the Clipper City Rail Trail, which put many citizens in danger due to the high speeds of oncoming cars.

The road conditions of the two lanes, over the train station, are treacherous as they are filled with potholes. Beyond being in dire need of paving, it makes most logical sense to keep the lane setup throughout

the circle. However, since recent construction, more lines have been added which confuses the way of direction. Before adjustments, the rotary setup remained simple with two lanes adequate to the amount of space without buffer zones.

But now, entering the Newburyport Turnpike bridge, the two lanes split into a wider area. Neighbored by the Dunkin Donuts and Domino's plaza, it is empty unusable space restricted by yellow lines. That specific area could, instead, be utilized for those who intend to pull off into the nearby food stops, limiting the number of cars in the circle at once.

Heading towards Salisbury, the rotary also now fades into a single lane, creating a chaotic merge. Many people aren't comfortable or experienced enough to properly yield, making the situation worse.

Pedestrians are a separate issue at the rotary. It's unnecessarily dangerous for the Clipper City Rail Trail to intersect the rotary traffic, putting both parties in danger.

With multiple rotary entry points, there are cars to worry about from all directions, each with yield signs. We have watched numerous collisions narrowly avoided due to negligent drivers ignoring crucial road signs. Unfortunately, both tourists and locals are to blame for the newly-updated rotary as some take advantage when it is less busy and fail to use caution.

Before the new construction, driving during rush hour or heavy traffic brought enough stress to a

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Life After Triton

Three Seniors' Perspectives as Graduation Approaches

By Reaghan DeLisi, Marvens Pierre-Jules,
& Billy Thistlewood, Staff Writers

Some students have their whole lives planned out for what they are going to do after receiving their high school diploma. Others don't even know what they are going to wear to school tomorrow.

We spend approximately 720 days in high school, from about age 14 to 18. The first real step toward adulthood is taken as we walk the high school hallways. Different students have different outlooks on life after high school. Methods of learning and life experiences here can play a role in what you walk out with after crossing the stage with your high school diploma. High school is supposed to prepare students for what is after graduation, but many students question if they are ready to go into that life or not. Three Triton Voice reporters asked themselves, has high school prepared you for the real world?

Billy's Point of View: "Not Scared"

I am not scared of the real world. When I graduate I am planning on being an apprentice for my brother who has his own plumbing and HVAC company. I'm planning on being an apprentice for him for about six months, and then I want to go to school to become a firefighter, which means working two days a week and then on my other days, I plan to become a plumber.

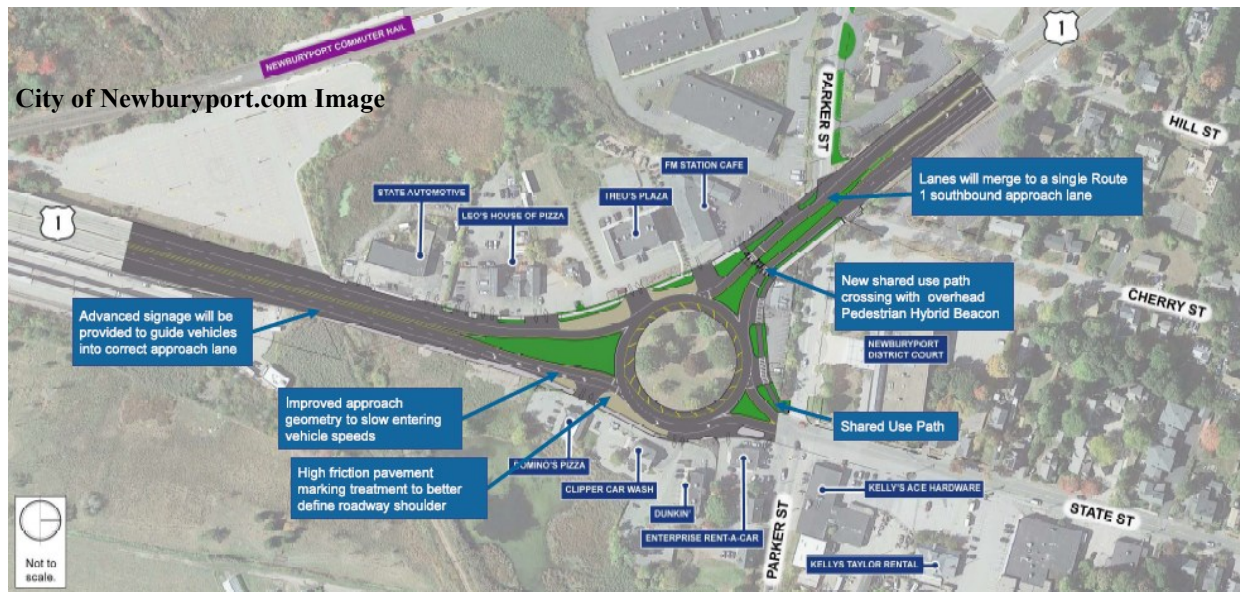
I feel like Triton has not prepared me for the real world. I personally believe Triton doesn't do a good job with the basics you need after high school, yet they spend most of their time preparing you for college.

I am very excited for after high school. I feel like it will be a new start, and I will get to do the things I truly enjoy. Just because I am excited for this doesn't mean I am fully prepared. I feel as if Triton could've done better in helping kids who aren't going to college by helping them truly understand what the real world is from a true perspective, not just from a book.

Reaghan's Point of View: "Nervous"

I am nervous about life after graduation. After graduation I am planning on taking a gap year and working. I hope to do something with children in my future. Before I begin to do this I need to think about many things such as where I am going to

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Where is the Best Place to 'Ski the East?'

By Andrew Balkus
Staff Writer

"Ski the East," a phrase skiers and snowboarders on the East Coast know by heart. Skiing in New England is a challenge, battling unpredictable weather, snow one day, rain the next, but this all brings us to a highly debated question. What is the best mountain for skiing in the East?

Size does matter when it comes to skiing and snowboarding. Many flock to the bigger mountains, such as Sunday River, Loon, Stowe, or Killington, which offer a greater terrain variability, and mountains farther north tend to receive more real snow. The Triton Voice asked THS skiers and snowboarders their favorite mountains and why, in hopes of settling the debate.

"Easily Stratton Mountain up in Vermont," said senior skier Ben Chadwick. "(It is a) really diverse mountain, good selection of terrain parks, and some fantastic backcountry skiing."

Vermont has some fantastic mountains to ski and snowboard, receiving large amounts of snow and a compre-

hensive trail selection. "I am a major fan of Loon and its terrain park," said senior skier Jackson Goodrow. "It is very well made and that mountain tends to get more snow than many parts of New Hampshire."

Skiing and snowboarding at larger resorts are not only fun, but receive lots of snow, have a variety of groomed and ungroomed trails, and have a bigger budget to keep a hard working staff running the mountain.

But if these mountains were so perfect there wouldn't be a debate. So a major factor when attempting to ride larger mountains is money and distance. Loon is the closest big mountain and is still pushing two hours away, not easy for a quick day trip and you will spend a fortune on gas. Additionally, just a day ticket is valued at around \$150-200 if you are lucky! Being a season pass holder such as those with an IKON or Epic pass is the only way to make these mountains affordable.

Is there any way to ski/ride close and affordably? Yes: there are many smaller mountains within an hour to

hour and a half away.

"My favorite mountain has to be Crotched; it is perfect for a day trip, cheap lift tickets, and a great terrain park," said junior Kaiden Fowler, a snowboarder.

Crotched is a smaller mountain located in Bennington, New Hampshire, a little over an hour away. Crotched is a favorite mountain by many who enjoy riding in the terrain park, but it does not offer many diverse and difficult trails and tends to lack snow. T

his leaves us with the question: what is the best place to ski the East? In all honesty there really is no right or wrong answer. If you enjoy skiing a larger mountain with more trails available for harder terrain then going farther up north is a better option. And if you are a beginner or strictly like to ride terrain parks for a quick day trip, closer mountains like Crotched and Gunstock are very easy options..



The author hits a jump on a recent snowboard trip (Balkus photo).

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REVIEW

Prepare Yourself for the 'Saltburn' Movie



By Kiara Kenney
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The following movie review contains spoilers for those who have not yet seen it.

The movie "Saltburn" isn't the innocent love story that it looks like in the beginning. Eventually, you will realize it's really about obsession and desire. The movie raised people to have a lot of negative and positive feelings about the make of the movie. Who would have known that it turned out to be one of the craziest plot twist movies of 2023?

"Saltburn" is about a scholarship student named Oliver who attends Oxford University (Barry Keoghan), and who befriends a popular classmate, played by the heartthrob Jacob Elordi, Felix Catton. After finding out that Oliver is poor, Felix invites Oliver to "Saltburn," his family residence, for the summer. The audience was aware of Oliver's admiration for Felix, but not to this kind of extent. As Oliver starts to get to know Felix and his family, Oliver starts to have some pretty strange and obsessive behaviors towards Felix. As the movie goes on, we start to find out who Oliver really is. From the beginning of the movie, Oliver had been trying to destroy the family, one by one until he was the last one standing... or alive.

Critics of the movie have discovered that Keoghan actually improved one of the most twisted scenes in the movie (Felix's grave scene), which shows how much effort that he put into his role as Oliver. The interesting part about the movie is that Oliver was the main character *and* the villain. The audience will always root for the main character, even if they are the villain because we sympathize with them. We get an idea of what goes through their head and have a better understanding of their perspective, more than the other characters. The creators used this technique as an advantage to trick us into not believing that Oliver was in fact, a sociopath. While watching the movie, we didn't want to believe that Oliver was the villain until his true colors were revealed at the end. That is what created such a big plot twist.

Throughout the movie, there were subtle signs hinting that Oliver wasn't who he made himself look like. He would watch Felix bathe, and then drink his contaminated bath water. He began an intimate encounter with Felix's sister, Venetia. When he was caught by their cousin Farleigh, he lied about it and began an intimate encounter with Farleigh as well. In the middle of the movie, we find out that Oliver had lied about being less fortunate, which technically ends their relationship. But since the family planned a big birthday party for Oliver, both had to pretend as if nothing happened until after the party. During the party, Oliver tries to apologize to Felix about his dishonesty, but Felix doesn't accept it, which results in Oliver drugging Felix. This shows that Oliver is not okay in the head. By the end of the movie, you can put together that Oliver was the sociopath because he showed no remorse for the pain he caused. He admitted that he planned everything—starting from the moment he laid eyes on Felix, to one day being more powerful than his family.

"Saltburn" was controversial because of the explicit scenes and violence throughout the movie. Some believe that it was a satire "eat the rich" movie, but others think the movie was completely unnecessary. According to the article, "Saltburn" Backlash Is Another Weirdly Personal Campaign Against Emerald Fennell by Anna Menta, Menta says "Critics who disliked "Saltburn"—which currently has a 70 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes—have zeroed in on this twist. They take issue with the revelation that "Saltburn" is not, in the end, a movie about evil rich people, but instead a movie about evil middle-class folks who covet the rich lifestyle." See, many people did question whether it was a diss towards rich people.

This movie had me thinking about it for days after. I was in utter disbelief, not just because of the plot twist, but from everything that Oliver did. It's one of those movies that you want to rewatch again, to see more hidden clues and foreshadow. It made me feel crazy for giving Oliver the benefit of the doubt. After watching, I was trying to piece the movie together to make sense of it. To this day, I can't fully understand the point of the movie.

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learning driver or even those who are elderly. The rotary isn't the hardest roadway to get used to as a local, but it makes sense that someone new to the area would be confused. Looking at the design plans for the rotary, one can see where drivers would get confused. With all the new additions to the road, improvement is still required to create the safest possible environment to direct travelers.

"Sunburn" by Dominic Fike:

A Journey Through Honesty and Versatility

By Bryant Monaghan, Staff Writer

The year 2023 brought listeners all across the genre spectrum a plethora of new music, with artists spanning various musical cultures making their mark. Among the highly anticipated releases from the likes of Travis Scott and Lana Del Rey, Dominic Fike's "Sunburn" emerged as a standout album. After delving into numerous projects, both from major industry artists and smaller artists, I firmly believe that "Sunburn" is the pinnacle of musical achievements in 2023, standing alone as the best album released all year.

Background & Evolution of Dominic Fike

Dominic Fike first gained major traction in 2019 with the support of the popular boy band "BROCKHAMPTON," which released a music video on their YouTube channel for his single "3 Nights." Following "3 Nights" success, Fike released "Don't Forget About Me, Demos," an EP which had a remarkable track list. Over the years, he cultivated a devoted following, releasing his debut album, "What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" in 2020. However, a period of silence from Fike left fans craving something new and substantial, something different than what fans had previously heard. This anticipation culminated in the revelation of Fike's sophomore project, "Sunburn," which resonated deeply with fans and is hailed months later as one of his most cohesive works.

Album Overview

Released in the early summer months of 2023, "Sunburn" features 15 distinctive tracks showcasing Fike's musical evolution. Many fans were shocked when they noticed the opening track was a grail previously locked away in Fike's musical archive. "How Much is Weed?" is the opener to this album, a track that was long awaited by fans, preceding the "What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" era of Fike. This is a great song to set the tone for an album that defies conventional rules. Notably, Fike's hands-on approach to production adds an extra layer of impressiveness, as he took charge of most instrumentation.

Honesty Unleashed

One of the album's standout features is Fike's unapologetic honesty, something very rarely seen on an album of this caliber. The raw emotion and openness displayed in tracks like "Ant Pile" and "Think Fast (feat. Weezer)" provide listeners with an intimate look into Fike's mind and experiences as a young artist. These tracks go back to back on this album despite being entirely different moods. "Ant Pile," a lead single for the album, has a beat centered around the electric

guitar and is by far the most upbeat song on the album. "Think Fast" is very different, with a very slow melody and vocals that almost sound like a dream. The difference of these two songs adds depth and authenticity, showing that Fike may be happy at one moment and sad in the next.



Sunburn Cover/Columbia Rec.

Narrative Journey

"Sunburn" unfolds as a narrative journey through Fike's mind, exploring diverse themes from memories to relationships. Tracks like "Sick" delve into Fike's past relationships, serving as effective transitions between different emotional moods. The album strategically places lead singles like "Dancing in the Courthouse," "Mona Lisa," and "Mama's Boy" to create a dynamic listening experience, showcasing Fike's genre-bending capabilities. These three singles are all entirely different songs at their core. The constant changing of moods makes this project feel like a walk through the mind of Fike over the course of many years. Immersing yourself into this album as it plays takes you step by step through Fike's relationships, personal struggles, and many other things.

Emotional Arc

The album's emotional arc is evident in its structure, with the initial tracks reflecting on memories, followed by a section dedicated to reminiscing, and concluding on a darker note. Songs like "Pasture Child" and "What Kinda Woman" reveal a side of Fike previously unheard, providing a comprehensive exploration of his personal struggles and relationships over the years.

Conclusion

"Sunburn" proves to be an immersive masterpiece that surpasses expectations. Fike's ability to seamlessly blend upbeat alt-rock, rap, and emotional pop songs demonstrates his versatility. The album's release marked a significant milestone in Fike's career, showcasing that talent prevails over influence. In the landscape of 2023's music releases, "Sunburn" stands tall, surpassing major albums like "Utopia" or "Did You Know There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Boulevard?" Despite minor improvements in mixing on some tracks, the writing and lyrical prowess make it Fike's best work and the unrivaled album of 2023, earning a solid 9.5/10.

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live, how much I need to get paid to live a stable life, when I will become financially stable to live on my own, and many other factors that need to be taken into consideration before going into the real world. I am going to live with my family while I work and become capable of living on my own.

I believe high school has not prepared me to be on my own. I believe just because the majority of seniors plan to go to college after graduation, the administration fails to talk about alternative career paths for students who don't have interest in furthering their education after high school. High school could have connected students that aren't planning to go to college to a work force or trade that they see themselves doing. They could have talked more or had a separate class such as a guidance seminar for students who are going to college as well as one for students who are not.

High school has had an impact on the way I feel about leaving Triton, which is a feeling of being scared, uncertain and unprepared. In the real world you have to be responsible, take over your own bills, get a full time job, get a house/apartment and even do things as little as cooking your own meals. After you graduate high school, most kids are completely on their own and that's a scary thought that I don't think high school has made me ready for. It is definitely a factor in my choice of not pursuing college.

Marvens's Point of View: "Ready"

For me, these four years of striding through the halls of Triton have taught me some of the most essential lessons and has placed me one step closer to achieving my dreams of a successful future.

My freshman year was probably the most challenging. Having to begin high school on an 11.6-inc computer screen is not something I would ever wish on anyone. COVID-19 played a major role in my high school experience, and an important lesson I learned



Pierre-Jules Image via Adobe Express

from that is that nothing in the real world is a set-in-stone plan, and it is important to always be aware that not everything will go exactly how it is planned. I need to be ready for whatever life throws at me and be able to stand back up after a fall to pursue my journey, as long as I am breathing and healthy.

Looking back, I can definitely say that I have matured, from having to learn to manage my time properly, to prioritizing my work over absolutely everything, is something I wouldn't have gained without school, and a big part of it was the exposure that high school gave me to sports. Playing a sport during my high school years has taught me just as much or even more than being in classes. It has taught me to balance out my priorities, that to succeed in one thing I need to excel in another, and that going out in the real world, I must learn to understand and be able to work with others. A key to succeeding is being able to receive feedback and use it positively to build progress. Other keys to success I have learned are to properly manage my time with school, homework, sports, clubs, and more.

After graduation I will attend a four-year college, and pursue my dream career: business and marketing. A lot of the classes I have taken have helped prepare me for that career path. Extracurricular activities such as the DECA club, have exposed me to that field of study, enlightened me on the subject and helped reduce the stress of selecting a career.