



TRITON VOICE

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A Family Built on Hope An Escape from Genocide, a New Life Built

By Brandon Somaïy, Brian Clark, & Tyler Brosch, Staff Writers

As a young boy, Kenny So witnessed the devastation of his homeland under the brutal Khmer Rouge regime.

"Since we were children, we had to steal food if we wanted to not die from hunger. If they caught us, they would shoot us," recalls So, now a Salisbury resident and father of four. Growing up during the chaos of war, So retains few memories of life before the Cambodian Genocide. After Cambodia's government was overthrown, the Southeast Asian country fell into the hands of the Khmer Rouge, a communist party that controlled every aspect of life and executed those who opposed it.

Next spring will mark the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Cambodian Genocide. From April 17, 1975 to April 2, 1979, the Khmer Rouge regime carried out mass murders in Cambodia that are estimated to have killed between 1.7 and 2 million people. The goal of the Pol Pot-led dictatorship was to make Cambodia a socialist society. The Khmer Rouge executed, forced into labor, and starved all those who were thought to be political leaders, religious leaders, or educated people with ideas opposed to the socialist way of governing. The genocide destroyed the Cambodians' way of life and left an imprint on the nation that lasts to this day.

So has vivid memories from his time under the dictatorship, which he lived through as a young boy.

"(I) watched my best friends get taken away by the soldiers, and shot, away from sight," he recalls, his voice trembling with the weight of memory. "From April 17, 1975, to 1979 were the scariest years. The communists killed any educated people. The government was scared that they would rebel," said So, explaining the suspicious nature of the regime.

As So grew older, the situation became even worse. His family, like many others, lived in constant fear. They knew that staying in Cambodia meant a slow and inevitable death. When So's family decided to flee the country, the journey was extremely dangerous. They needed to evade the Khmer Rouge soldiers, travel through harsh terrain, and survive with very little food or water. Still, they attempted escape.

"One day, we hid in a pile of leaves for hours to not be seen by the soldiers," explains So. On that day, communist soldiers had been chasing them on horse-

back with guns. This was one of the most terrifying memories So recalls. But the family was successful.

Eventually, So escaped with some of his family, making it to the border of Thailand. The escape was nearly impossible while trying to avoid land mines and patrols. Many did not make it out, and some of these were his family. Of his six family members, only three made it out alive. Sadly, his father and mother were killed, and So was also separated from an older brother, whom he presumes was killed.

Those fortunate enough to escape — including two brothers, who now live in Texas, and one brother who lives in Cambodia — found themselves in refugee camps in Thailand. These camps forced the people to live in harsh conditions.

"(There were) kids all around, very skinny, bones and dying every day," explained So. Food rationing and starvation led to a large portion of populations dying out day-by-day. After weeks of waiting, So was transported to another camp where he was sponsored by a friend, who had escaped earlier from the war, to come to the US.

So was brought here on a plane with his family, finding a home in Houston, Texas. So had spent most of his life learning only how to live to see the next day, so the American lifestyle at the time came as a shock. He never attended American schools, so most of his knowledge is based on friends and experiences. He was able to find a job in construction, which led him to travel across the country for work.

Years later, he would meet Bopha "Monica" Maiy, in Lynn, Massachusetts. Maiy was another refugee of the Cambodian Genocide with her own incredible story of escaping the Pol Pot regime. Years later, they would get married and give birth to four children: Julia, Britney, Brandon, and Justin Somaïy. Recently, Julia and Britney graduated from Baylor University while Brandon and Justin attend Triton schools.

So now works full-time at a manufacturing company called Skyworks Tech in Woburn, MA.

This past April, for the first time in 40 years, So returned to Cambodia as a visitor. While he enjoyed his time there, the harsh memories of the war will forever stay with him. The family that was built on hope now lives in Salisbury and passes their memories down to their children along with instilling in them the importance of knowing their history.

Desperation & Despotism Images from Inside a Genocide

The photos below were taken by the family of Kenny So and Monica Maiy, two survivors of the Cambodian Genocide which took place from 1975-1979. The Somaïy family now lives in Salisbury and two of their children attend Triton Schools.



A village devastated by the Khmer Rouge communist regime



This makeshift camp was built on a mountainside by those fleeing Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. People were "hiding and living in tents made out of their blankets and clothes," said Monica



Refugees amass in Cambodia on its border with Thailand to escape the brutal Khmer Rouge regime.



"This lake is where the Khmer Rouge dumped all the dead people after they killed them," said Monica Maiy.



This crowded refugee camp in Thailand was where Monica Maiy and her family spent two years of their lives before emigrating to the United States.

Origins: A Short History of Cambodia

Cambodia is a richly-cultured southeast Asian country known for its art and architecture, a culture which many of its citizens say reached a pinnacle of wealth and leadership in the 15th Century.

Following European colonization, Cambodia gained its independence from the French after a war in 1953.

However, from that period through 1979, "Cambodia cycled through many different forms of governments, political systems, and sweeping social and cultural changes ushered in by war, modernity, globalization, and radical communist ideology," according to the state of California's Asia-Pacific Curriculum program.



A view of Cambodia relative to the rest of the globe (asiapacificcurriculum.ca).

Today, Cambodia is still healing from the scars of the 1975-1979 period that saw the murder of 1.7 to 2 million of its people. This time period is known as the Cambodian Genocide. Cambodia is now a Constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament.



Cambodian flag (Wikipedia).



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REVIEW of “Tortured Poets Department”

By Lee Warren
Staff Writer

Taylor Swift, arguably the world's most famous popstar in the world, recently released her long-awaited 11th album, *The Tortured Poets Department*. After announcing it at the 66th Grammy awards in February, Swifties have been eager to hear it, and figure out who and what it is written about.

Despite being leaked the night before its release, this album smashed records that were previously broken by Swift herself, with up to 300 million debut streams.

At 2 a.m., Swift released *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*, a double album with 15 more songs, totaling 31 overall songs and 2 hours and 2 minutes long. While this double drop did not gather as much attention, it was still highly streamed and loved by fans.

“Fortnight” (feat. Post Malone) is the first song and lead single of this album. In my opinion, this is one of her best opening tracks. It's catchy, not too fast, and not too slow. Some fans say they didn't hear Post Malone much or felt like his feature was “useless,” however, he's heard quite frequently as backing vocals and Swift gave him the entire bridge, which for a Taylor Swift song is a VERY high honor.



The title track is also one of my favorites on the album. The backtrack, especially the drums, sound almost like an 80's pop song. It's a beautiful song that deeply describes the downfall of a relationship.

“So Long, London,” her track 5 of the album (if you know the significance of that), was devastating. The very beginning of the song sounds like wedding bells, maybe referencing the wedding that should've happened but never did. The lyrics seem to describe how she felt like she was constantly fighting to keep a relationship, but she was the only one fighting, and the other side lost himself to his depression and negative emotions. It's an incredible song that really describes how mental health can not only affect you, but those who love you.

“But Daddy I Love Him” very quickly became a fan favorite. The lyric “I'm having his baby/no I'm not/but you should see your faces” gained a lot of attention, with people posting their reactions to hearing that lyric in shock. Personally, this song is not my favorite, but I did find that lyric, and the way she broke the fourth wall, very funny.

“Fresh Out The Slammer” is an underrated masterpiece that everyone skips. I don't understand why. It is one of my favorites on the album- along with “Guilty as Sin,” which is THE best song on the album. The chorus sounds just so beautiful, and it's so immersing. I could never EVER get enough of that song. If someone were to ask for song recommendations, “Guilty as Sin” would be the first one I suggest.

The Anthology is filled with much more raw emotion, and was produced by someone else giving it a more indie folk sound.

I truly believe this album is one of Swift's best works. This is her first breakup album since *Red* in 2012, and she never misses with the diversity and emotion that comes with a breakup album. In my opinion, I prefer *The Anthology* half over the first half, but both are genuinely beautiful. However, if someone were to start listening to Swift, this wouldn't be the first album I recommend. There is a *lot* to process, as a very long album full of gut wrenching feelings. But overall, it's a beautiful piece of work.

Cassidy Beebe, a sophomore and Swift super fan, agrees this is one of Swift's best works.

“It's definitely in my top four favorite albums,” Beebe said. “I love the way that it's different from all her other albums and I just love the overall vibe of all the songs, they really tell a story and how she felt in that time period.”

Beebe also stated that though it was hard to pick, her three favorite songs, they were “I Can Do It With A Broken Heart,” “Chloe or Sam or Sophia or Marcus,” and “But Daddy I Love Him.”

“I think all the lyrics flow so good together in all her songs in the album and really express her true emotions she felt, and how it's okay to feel that way, which she always proves to her fan base,” said Beebe.

Senior Week Makes Memories

Four Days of Fun Has Led up to Graduation Tomorrow

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

This week, Triton seniors woke up Tuesday morning, headed to the mandatory graduation rehearsal, then prepared for a week of fun.

Along with prom and graduation, the last units of school work were crunched and finals finished. This time of year is both fun and busy for the graduating class of Triton. Senior Week had been long-awaited and many seniors were eager to see the schedule of activities. Each day a students participated cost \$20 and had to be paid ahead of time in order to attend the event.

“We chose to do these senior week events because they all lined up with our schedule really well,” Triton senior class officer, Ryan Walsh, said. “These places were flexible, not too far away and matched within our budget for the class account to make more affordable tickets for everyone.”

The Senior Week schedule kicked off with no school Monday, then a mandatory graduation practice, Boda Borg (an escape room), Prince Pizza and Giggles comedy on Tuesday. Wednesday was the Bradstreet Tavern yearbook signing and senior awards night. Thursday consisted of a mandatory graduation practice, cap and gown pick up, elementary school walk and ended with a fun night at the Red Sox game. Finally, Friday was spent at the Hilltop Fun Center, and the weekend will begin tomorrow with the day everyone has been waiting for: Graduation, which is followed by an optional fun night of Gradventure.

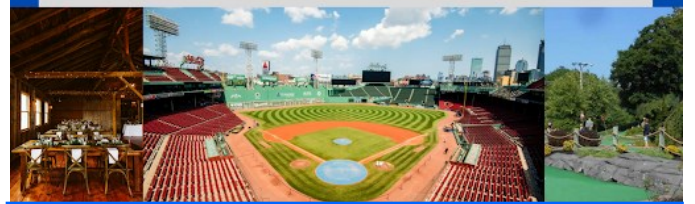
“I am choosing to do all of the events, mostly just because it is something to do on our first week out of school with the other graduating seniors,” said Triton senior, Alex McManus, “I am most excited for Boda Borg. I think it will be fun being able to split into your small friend groups but still all be together as a class so I think it's a cool way to celebrate graduation.”

Other students worked or decided to take the week off to rest and gear up for graduation doing activities of their choice.

“I am only participating in the Red Sox game event for senior week,” said Triton senior, Ricky Stanley. “I have other plans for the rest of the week like fishing and work. The other activities didn't really catch my attention as much as the Red Sox game.”

Senior Week SCHEDULE

MON	27	No School- Memorial Day
MAY		
TUE	28	8:30-10:30 Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal 1:00-9:00 Boda Borg: Prince Pizza and Giggles Comedy
MAY		
WED	29	10:45-1:45 Bradstreet Farm Yearbook Signing 6:30-8:30 Senior Award Ceremony
MAY		
THURS	30	8:30-10:30 Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal 10:30-11:00 Pick up Cap and Gown 11:00- 1:00 Elementary School Walk Through 4:30-11:30 Boston Red Sox V. Detroit Tigers
MAY		
FRI	31	12:30-4:30 Hilltop Fun Center
MAY		



A poster displays this year's senior class events (Karol image).

Between Prom, Senior Week, and Gradventure, many students have found themselves paying at least \$280 to participate, not including events such as prom and graduation attire and preparation like hair and nail appointments for these special events. Money has been a big factor with the student attendance to these activities and many have wondered why everything is so expensive.

“We are not profiting from these activities whatsoever,” explained class advisor, Ms. Theresa Karol. “Most of these days, per person we are looking at about \$100 plus to go to these events. That includes food, bussing, and the actual activity. We only charge \$20 a day because we have done such great fundraising throughout the four years and we had the money left over from your class dues from the last four years as

Greek Orthodox Easter

Explaining the Best Holiday No One Knows About

By Jonathan Hight
Staff Writer

“What even is Orthodox Easter? “Why is it so late?” “Isn't your Easter bunny brown?!” These are questions Eastern Orthodox Christians hear every year around our Easter season.

From Greek to Russian, Ukrainian to Romanian, and Bulgarian to Georgian, the Balkans have a deep spectrum of cultures through country and religious traditions. In America the Greek Orthodox Church is the largest Eastern Orthodox church, with a little over 1.5 million members. At Triton, the population of Greek orthodox kids is small.

When Easter comes around there are a variety of traditions that come out for Greeks every year. A big part of this tradition is food. A food that is almost on everyone's plate on Greek Easter is lamb. In orthodox faith, lamb symbolizes the renewal of Jesus, which is one of the biggest parts of Easter.

“I always look forward to eating different types of Greek cookies,” said Triton Senior Talia Strauch, “People always share different types of desserts with me and my family every year.”

Desserts are also a big part of the spread with a wide range of Greek cookies such as Kourabiedes, which are an almond butter cookie usually eaten on Christmas and Easter. Koulourakia is another type of cookie which has a similar taste to a butter cookie but just twisted with a hint of vanilla.

Another important tradition that Greek Easter brings along is Tsougrisma, where celebrants of the holiday will dye hard boiled eggs red. On Easter Sunday celebrants hit the red eggs together in a tournament-style series of faceoffs, and whoever's egg isn't cracked wins.



A very common comparison people make is Western Easter to Orthodox Easter, since most people don't understand why it falls on different dates every year. There is history behind it, and it's not some random reason for orthodox people to celebrate on a different day. To start off Orthodox Easter is determined by the Julian Calendar, whereas Western Easter follows the Gregorian calendar. The two calendars calculate the date of Easter differently.

The Julian calendar is 13 days behind the Gregorian, which is why Orthodox Easter is typically later. Eastern Orthodox Easter falls on the Sunday following the first moon after the Vernal Equinox, when the length of daylight and night are of equal length. Since the Vernal Equinox isn't always of the same date that makes Orthodox Eastern is different every year.

Eastern Orthodox Easter is different in many ways from Western Easter but a tradition they always share is spending time with family and friends, having a big spread every year, and celebrating a time of renewal for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“I participate in the church and celebrate with my family to keep the tradition,” said Jimmy Decoulos, uncle of Triton students Jonathan and William Hight.

Even if you're not religious or don't have Orthodox family you can still have a good Easter and celebrate.

“Since only half my family is Greek I basically have two Easters,” said Junior Scott Holscher. “Even though only part of my family celebrates, I still enjoy the culture and especially the food.”