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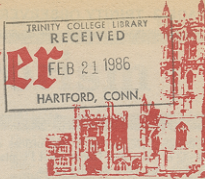
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Founded in 1983

"Conservatism happens to be true" - George Will

VOL. III NO. 3

TRINITY COLLEGE, HARTFORD, CONN.

DECEMBER 13, 1985

Human Lives Are Worth More Than Revenge

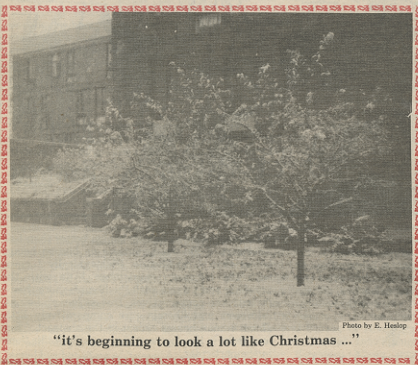


Photo by E.L. Hooley

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ..."

by Clyde D. McKee, Jr.

Professor of Political Science

When Ronald Reagan campaigned for President in 1980, he promised that under his administration terrorism would be met with "swift and effective retribution." On the day he raised his right hand and pledged to uphold the U.S. Constitution, American hostages were released from the American embassy in Teheran. It was a time for jubilation. Five long terror-filled years have passed. What does an inventory, analysis, and evaluation of our experiences with political terror reveal and portend?

The statistical compilation has been completed. According to the Rand Corporation, which has hosted five international conferences sponsored jointly by the U.S. departments of State, Energy, and Justice

and published numerous reports on this problem, the first three years of the 1980's saw an annual increase in international terrorism of approximately 30 percent—twice the rate of the 1970's. The bloodiest year, according to a Rand report in 1984, was 1983 when terrorist actions cost 720 people their lives and injured another 963. Car bombs killed over 500 persons and injured more than 600. The truck bombing of the U.S. Marine Barracks in Beirut, which killed 241 people, was the deadliest single terrorist attack in history.

1985 has been a terror-packed year. Last September Moslem extremist kidnappers released Rev. Benjamin Weir after 16 months of captivity in Lebanon. These terrorists said this act was a warning to the President that they were ready to kidnap and possibly execute more Americans if there were no response to their demand for the release of 17 terrorists imprisoned in Kuwait. In October four Palestinians hijacked the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* and held 511 passengers, including a dozen American citizens, hostage. They demanded the release of 50 Palestinian guerrillas held in Israeli prisons or they would kill the passengers and crew.

During November we witnessed via television a terrorist drama that culminated in the death of 60 people at Malta. Before the Egyptian commandos stormed the hijacked *Egypt Air* jetliner with gunfire and explosives, the terrorists had shot to death an American woman and attempted to execute two Americans and two Israelis. These deaths occurred before any political demands had been made.

Most of the attention of the media has focused on the loss of lives and the demands and costs to governments. We tend to forget that the attack at Muniz Air Port in Puerto

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Death Penalty: Out of Right Field

by Doug LaMonte

In most circles, if a person is considered politically conservative, it is safe to assume that the individual supports the death penalty. This is a most unfortunate concept because death penalty legislation is both legally and morally flawed.

From a purely legal standpoint (and for those who remain unconvinced that political views are an expression of morality), the death penalty is unconstitutional and ineffective. Congressman John Conyers Jr. is one of many legislators who have studied the facts and come to this very conclusion. Conyers' opinion (which appeared in the July 1 edition of the *New York Times*), was reflective of the grounds upon which the issue is being debated presently. Regardless of the futile discussions relating to the founding fathers' perception of the word "cruel," death penalty legislation is unconstitutional because of its "unusual" manner in which it is applied. Conyers pointed out that of the over 35,000 individuals convicted of murder, less than three percent were given the "maximum sentence." Even more telling was the fact that 90% of those on Death Row did not have the funds necessary to hire a lawyer for their defense. In simple terms, *only de poor ones is dyin'*.

Another problem with the death penalty lies in the misguided contentions of its proponents that it serves as a deterrent. When was the last time any sound evidence was presented to support this position? Study after study has shown that the deterrence effect is a myth. Conyers indicated that while the homicide rate declined nationally last year, it increased by 5.1% in Florida, where the greatest number of executions were performed in 1984.

In my mind, there is an additional strike against the deterrence advocates. If the purpose of the death penalty is to deter crime, as they allege, then why

have new ways to make execution more "humane" often been sought? Might not increased press coverage combined with more "inhumane" executions increase the deterrent effect?

I feel that this question leads indirectly to the real question behind the death penalty debate. Is it ever humane for a person or group of persons to put another individual to death? Webster defines humane as "Having feelings and inclinations creditable to man..." Each of us must decide on our own whether or not an execution is, indeed, a credit to humanity. I hold that it is not morally justifiable. One person's life or death is simply not the prerogative of any other person or group of people.

A frequently employed response by

death penalty advocates at this point is the question, "What would your reaction be" or "How would you feel if someone you love were the victim of some heinous crime?" Since I have never had such an experience, it is impossible to say for sure. However, I suspect that the need for retribution that so many others have felt might indeed be my first feeling. It is natural for someone to feel hatred and the need for revenge. However, laws must not be rendered based upon emotions which emerge at times of great anguish or fury. Rather they must be the products of reason.

For me, the conclusion that the death penalty is immoral, unconstitutional, ineffective, and improperly defended, is inescapable despite my conservative label.

Summit Lacks Good Faith

by Tom Swiers

The grand summit between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. has passed into history. At this stage it appears that little was accomplished in the way of arms control. Reagan and Gorbachev did agree to schedule more meetings. Reagan and Gorbachev also agreed to increase cultural exchanges, to allow each country to establish consulates in New York and Kiev, and to set up new air-safety regulations in the Northern Pacific to prevent the Soviets from embarrassing themselves again by blowing away another lost jetliner.

Gorbachev sincerely expressed his horror at the prospect of chemical warfare, and he made it known that he felt discussion was necessary to reduce and eventually eliminate the chemical stockpiles of both countries. In the meantime the Soviets are increasing their chemical

stockpiles with newer and quite lethal forms of chemical and germ weapons. More Soviet troops are receiving training in how to fight and exist in a combat environment contaminated by chemicals. Soviet military doctrine includes the use of these weapons particularly in using these weapons on urban areas to flush civilians from the cities in order to clog the roads with refugees. There is also evidence that the Soviets have tested their military doctrine in Afghanistan and South-East Asia.

The major issue of the early 1980's was the deployment of short-range missiles into Western Europe by N.A.T.O. The Soviets during the deployment used all possible means including a walkout to frustrate the deployment. A fact not overly noticed was the Soviets started the buildup with their deployment of the SS-20, a short range, nuclear missile

with the capability to hit Western European cities in around twenty minutes. If there has ever been an act on the part of either superpowers

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THE OBSERVER

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Greetings

Observations

"National Review is to the offices of the West Wing of the White House what People magazine is to your dentist's waiting room."

President Reagan at N.R.'s 30th Anniversary dinner in New York last week.

The Observer must be in the East wing.



Only in California West Hollywood Mayor Valeria Terrigno says she's going to stay on as head of the city despite her pledge to turn over the mayoralty to Councilman John Heilman. So is this little power dispute headed for the courts? Nope. The issue will be resolved at a weekend group therapy session for all council members at a cost of \$4,000 in taxpayers' money. Council members would be urged to talk openly about their goals and pressed to understand the views of other members, says the shrink who's running the weekend encounter meeting. Sorry, but neurotics who aren't on the city council have to pay their own way.



Q: What's worse than being kidnapped by the PLO?

A: Being rescued by the Egyptians.



"He could be a maneuvering swine which no one ever realized. Now, since his death, he's become Martin Luther Lennon."

Paul McCartney on his former Beatles Colleague, John Lennon



The students at the little rural high school in Princeton, California, might not exactly fit the definition of struggling family farmers, but they collected \$7,087 in federal farm...subsidies last year. The subsidies, called deficiency payments, went to the high school's Future Farmers of America chapter because a couple of its members enrolled their 60 acres of rice in the support program. "This gives them experience, a learning experience," said Andy Ferrendelli, agriculture teacher and FFA adviser at Princeton High. "They go out and get loans and they farm the land just like the other farmers around here."



Soviet weekly "Literaturnaya Gazeta" claims to have traced the beginnings of the AIDS virus: It is "the fruit of CIA experiments in biological warfare."

from National Review



From the "No friendship ring" department: "We don't have a very personal relationship." President Reagan on Libyan Bigwig Muammar Khadafi after the Washington Post revealed U.S. efforts to overthrow him.



I ran into an old friend who was working on the nuclear-freeze issue for the Audobon Society. He said, 'We're concerned about the impact on wildlife if there is a nuclear war,' I said, 'I can tell you what the impact would be. There wouldn't be any birds.'

Former Interior Secretary James Watt in an interview with US News and World Report.



"This Gorbachev is nothing but a Khrushchev in a \$700 suit."

Jimmy the Greek's analysis of the Soviet leader prior to last month's summit.



White House polls taken after the Geneva summit gave President Reagan a 77% overall approval rating and 81% approval for his performance at the meetings.

"I like regulars as human beings better than I do reformers. I like conservatives as human beings better than I do liberals. Philosophically I agree with the reformers more than I do with the regulars, and I agree with the liberals more than I do with the conservatives. But as human beings, reformers and liberals care comparatively little about human beings except in the abstract. They love them in the abstract; they just don't like them in the particular."

Mayor Ed Koch, from his new book "Politics."



Trinity Papers Seeks Scholars

As has been the tradition, the President's Fellows have again decided to publish a fifth edition of *The Trinity Papers*, an annual journal of outstanding undergraduate scholarship. The *Papers* will consist of superior student fictional work, essays, papers and scientific research reports. All undergraduate Trinity students are encouraged to submit work done for courses, seminars, independent studies, and essays written specifically for the *Papers*. The work must have been done while the author was a student at Trinity. *Papers* can be on any topic but only those of exceptional quality will be published.

Requirements for submitted work are as follows: as a rule, papers should not exceed 25 double spaced typed pages, and editors may require revision before publication. All work submitted will be reviewed by an editorial board drawn from the President's Fellows. Assistance and opinions of faculty members, administrators, and other student who have special knowledge in the area of a particular paper may be sought by the editors. However, final decisions for publication are made by the editorial board and are final.

The deadline for submissions for the fifth edition of *The Trinity Papers* is Monday, January 27, 1986. All materials should be addressed to "The Trinity Papers", Box 1396. To eliminate personal bias, identifying numbers will replace the author's name on each paper before the editorial board undertakes consideration. Those papers not accepted for publication will be returned to their authors. All students are encouraged to consider submitting their best efforts from their course work; it's worth a try!!

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Paying the Price of Terrorism

(Continued From Page 1)

Rico in January 1981 by the Macheteros destroyed nine A-7 aircraft, costing \$45 million. According to a 1981 Rand report, businesses paid an estimated \$250 million, \$125 million contributed by U.S. firms, for the return of their kidnapped executives. Far beyond these direct private sector costs are the indirect costs. Shortages of materials are able to shut down production, bring distribution of products to a standstill, and force firms to ship machinery back to the states for overhauls because trained technicians are embargoed. The greatest costs to American businesses, however, have been the purchase of sophisticated equipment and the employment of literally thousands of new security personnel.

How successful have governments been in responding to terrorist activities? During 1982 and 1983, governments significantly improved the physical security of terrorist targets, and embassies were turned into virtual fortresses. West German police captured the operational heads of the dangerous Red Army faction. Using a new law providing reduced sentences for terrorist informants, Italian police were able to put most of the Red Brigades in jail. This year there were a number of dramatic military actions taken against terrorists. Flying 1,600 miles and refusing to land, Israeli warplanes destroyed three personal headquarters of Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, in a mid-morning bomb and missile attack near Tunisia. This mission to kill Arafat was not successful, although his buildings were demolished and 70 of his people were killed.

In November Colombian troops used dynamite to blast the Palace of Justice. The April 19 Movement composed of 70 leftist insurgents held dozens of hostages, including the president of this nation's supreme court. After 27 hours of terror, President Belisario Betancur rejected the rebel's request for a dialogue and ordered an attack which resulted in 100 people killed, including the head of the supreme court and eight other judges. Also dead was Colombia's three-year-old attempt for a peaceful dialogue and understanding with the guerrillas.

The United States has also had its plans to combat international terrorism end in disappointment. This past fall *Washington Post* reporter, Robert Woodward, who broke the "Watergate" story, revealed that President Reagan had authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to undermine the terrorist regime of Libya's Col. Moammar Khadafi. We will recall that in 1981 Khadafi allegedly dispatched a "hit team" to assassinate President Reagan and other top U.S. officials. But the United States, like the Israelis, failed in its attempt to remove the head of a terrorist organization.

The expansion of international terrorism and the rising costs in lives and property have put great pressure on both the internal and external policies of the United States. A result of the misuse of the resources of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency by President Nixon was new laws and court rulings which placed tougher controls on methods for collecting intelligence. A 1982 study by the Rand Corporation found that the CIA had impaired the ability of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies

to anticipate terrorists incidents and to identify persons engaged in politically motivated crime."

In response to these restrictions the CIA attempted to avoid the oversight of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Vermont's

activity and governmental responses, what new policies should the United States adopt? For more than a decade the official policy of this country has been to define political terrorists as criminals with whom we would not negotiate. But



"I'D LIKE TO SEE THE OVERSEAS COMPARTMENTS OF THESE SEAT. A PORTION OF YOU."

Khadafi.

Given this brief review of terrorist Senator Patrick J. Leahy clashed with CIA Director William Casey. Leahy accused Casey of wanting to go back to "the good old days" which produced the Bay of Pigs disaster. Casey responded by accusing the senators of "repeated compromise of sensitive intelligence sources and methods," an indirect reference to leaks to reporter Woodward about the CIA plan to destroy in late November of this year this

policy was changed, and President Reagan is now willing to "negotiate directly with terrorists as long as concessions or blackmail were not involved." Because the United States has usually stood alone on this policy of non-negotiation and has been subjected to intense internal pressure from relatives and friends of hostages, a change in policy is appropriate and feasible.

In early December it was reported that the United States is considering the creation of a new small team, counter-terrorist specialists, who will be based in the area of greatest terrorist activity. Current policy supports Delta Force, a military unit stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. The proposed plan calls for a civilian-military unit that would be based overseas permanently and be equipped to move rapidly against terrorists. This new strategy would bring the United States close to the well-established position of Israel, which is to fight terror with terror.

There are obvious dangers in this new policy, which has frequently led to government agents killing innocent persons on their home soil. But we must recognize that there is growing public support for a policy change.

Recently David S. Broder advocated "a realistic anti-terrorist" policy, asserting that a "we are coming after them" is the best insurance policy against terrorism we can buy." Broder did not, however, point out that such a policy would require major changes in our traditions, values, Constitution, and national statutes.

One of the reasons hijacking and kidnapping by terrorists is so painful for us is because we place a high value on the lives of individuals. Our political tradition has always been to give as much attention to means as ends, and we have long rejected the Machiavellian concept that ends justify means. There are solid reasons why we should not follow a pragmatic course that leads us to forsake some of our most cherished ideals. When President Reagan took his oath of office he promised to uphold the Constitution. This promise takes precedence over a campaign promise for "swift and effective retribution" - with a devaluation of individual lives. The wisest policy on this issue is to stay the course.

Elites Fall Flat

by Ellen Garrity

Trinity College has long been a haven for preppies. Being preppy at Trinity is no big deal, as it is at other colleges, because there are just so many preppies that they all blend together. This abundance of preppies has eliminated the most essential characteristic of preppiness that of being elitist.

With so many preppies at Trinity, and consequently so many aspiring elitists, there exists a desire among the preppy elite to be the elite of the elite. Those who so desire the status are concerned with nothing else. Perhaps those who are so preoccupied with being the elite of the elite are just a bit insecure in how elite they are themselves. Regardless of whether or not such striving is rooted in insecurity, those who so intensely desire the status are among the elite are doing more than social climbers.

Trinity's social climbers do not necessarily conform to the preppy principles of dress. Rather, they tend to possess the qualities which are intrinsic to the preppy heritage: good breeding, good schooling, and, of course, wealth. Despite these elitist credentials, some have the desire to climb the ladder of Trinity's social life because they absolutely have to be among the elite. Social climbers are never satisfied with their status, and it may be, so they are constantly reaching toward their goal of being among the most elite.

Social climbers at Trinity cannot really be distinguished from all the other preppies by looks alone. What sets social climbers apart from all

the other preppies is personality, conversation and actions.

The typical social climber attends all the "right" parties at Trinity. He or she isn't really concerned about who might be at a specific party; rather, a social climber places more emphasis on being seen at the "right" parties. But if one is seen at too many "right" parties - as impossible as that may seem - then one is eventually branded a social climber and ascending the social ladder becomes justly impossible.

A social climber's favorite topic of conversation include parties (of course), travel, and shopping. Name-dropping predominates throughout their conversations and a social climber who has successfully mastered this technique manages to mention in one conversation all the "right" people she knows, what "right" people share her alma mater, and what prominent person her father had lunch with last week.

How much among the elite of the elite a climber actually can be reinforced by mentioning what recent social events the social climber attended (actually, where the social climber was seen) in all the "right" cities - New York, Boston, Philadelphia and, of course, Palm Beach. If it weren't for that nasty jet lag, social climbers would attend parties in all the "right" parties in Europe and consequently be seen by more of the "right" people.

Social climbers love to talk about their adventures traveling - abroad, of course. Travelling abroad enables a social climber to obtain all sorts of hard-to-find attires. Shoes from Italy, a watch from Switzerland, pants

from France, a pin from an antique store in London - all are essential to a social climber's wardrobe, not so much because of the value of having such interesting and unique pieces of clothing, but more because these pieces are great ways to bring one's foreign travels into a conversation at a "right" party.

Shopping is another favorite topic of conversation for social climbers. Talking about one's recent shopping spree emphasizes two things: that the social climber has lots and lots and lots of clothes, and that the social climber can easily afford to blow a couple of thousand dollars in an afternoon without affecting the family's financial situation.

The key to being a successful social climber lies in subtlety. A social climber cannot possibly ascend the ladder of society if the rest of the world is aware of such activity. The successful social climber name-drops occasionally (but makes sure the "right" people hear it), attends most the "right" parties, doesn't wear too much one-of-a-kind, hard-to-find, unique clothing (just one item will suffice), and doesn't talk about shopping too much.

Social climbing has little, if any, redeeming value. Those who are successful at social climbing receive satisfaction in being among the elite of the elite, while those who fail see as if they are the scum of society. Perhaps the best thing about social climbing lies in its value as a spectator sport. Just try watching a couple of social climbers at a party (a "right" party, of course) and see how much fun it is to watch them make complete fools of themselves!

While You're at SAGA, Your Roommate Could Be Stealing Your Yearbook

by Jennifer Zydny

—And, now, a few thoughts as the *Observer* concludes its Fall 1985 operating season:

Security! Janice Stewart, director of Campus Security, has diagnosed a new disease just in time for the Christmas season — a symptom of the dreaded desperation for some extra-Christmas-spending money may be *internal theft*. As prevention, she cautions all students and faculty to keep a careful eye on personal valuables, especially cash, credit cards, Barney cards, checkbooks and jewelry. ... As evidenced by the small number of Security Alerts, incidences from the evil outside forces lurking around campus are on the decline. Especially reassuring is the absence of vehicular incidences since the apprehension of a couple of car thugs two weeks ago. Locking doors and parking in well-lit and/or observable areas are still advised, of course ... Ms. Stewart is also pleased to announce the birth of the Trinity Loan-a-Battery-Cable-and-Flashlight Program. You'll have to provide your own Friend-With-a-Working-Car-Battery because jumping cars is against Security policy (they've got better things to do with their time), but a Trinity I.D. or Driver's License will enable any member of the Trinity Community to borrow these tools in time of need.

'Last time I wrote an article on Security, my car was broken into the day after the article appeared in print. I'm hoping to avoid a repeat of this irony.

*And any radios that you might have purchased from the new audiovisual department at Follett's the world's third largest department store, Macy's and Harrod's still have the edge, but Follett's might try issuing their own credit card.

Saga: Speaking of birth announcements, Saga Bob must be bustin' out all over because of the new addition to the Saga decor: new salad and soup bars. An informal poll concludes that their resemblance to the Wendy's motif is incredible, and it's worth a lousy Wednesday night dinner just to view them in their full splendor. Well done, Saga Bob, but where are the beads? Now all you have to worry about is the food and the service, but elaboration is not needed as, I'm sure, everyone takes time daily to gripe about the Unidentified Food Objects and the interminal lines ... Our poll also reveals a problem that has caused at least one member of my room (me!) to con-

template using a bent fork for purposes other than eating soup. There is an unattractive and mighty dirty dog who has been frequenting the hallowed halls of Saga all semester, and its presence is less than welcome by most of us. There are those who seem to delight in feeding this animal, although I haven't the faintest idea why *anyone*, especially the crackerjack Saga crew, would tolerate its presence. This dog should be barred from Saga and blacklisted from even attempting to get on the meal plan. (Please don't accuse me of being a dog-hater. My own dear pup has recently passed away and I'm still in mourning. It's actually cats that I hate.)

Yearbook: Finally and speaking of

passing away, I'd like to let it be known that the 1984-1985 yearbook has died. Its editor abandoned the nowhere-near finished project without telling anyone. Still sharp five months after graduation, several 85ers noticed the absence of the book at Homecoming. A team of specialists, headed by Dr. Lee Coffin, have been called in to attempt to resurrect the patient. My spies tell me that Dr. Coffin (who, when not playing doctor, is the mild-mannered Assistant Director of Alumni Relations) has put on his Mr. Spock Ears and is IN SEARCH OF ... anyone who might happen to have the studio pictures of the entire Class of 1985.

Soviets Prove Unchanged

(continued from page 1)

that was destabilizing, the deployment of the SS-20 was a textbook case. Gorbachev tried to resurrect the issue, but little was accomplished due to Soviet determination to keep a missile advantage.

Gorbachev was most vehement in his objections to SDI (Star Wars). Gorbachev complained that the United States is militarizing space. Gorbachev neglected to mention the research the Soviets have been doing in this field for the past two decades. Another area neglected was the Soviet investment in killer satellites.

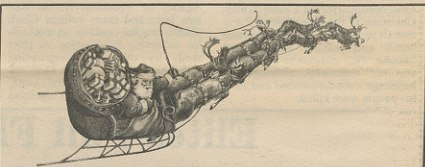
The United States had hopes that trouble spots of the world would be discussed and some sort of agreement could be reached. The Soviets were quite willing to discuss South Africa and Central America as these are areas that can prove embarrassing to the United States and the Soviets can gain everything and lose nothing. Attempts to discuss Afghanistan were rebuffed by the Soviets.

Due to liberal pressures at home

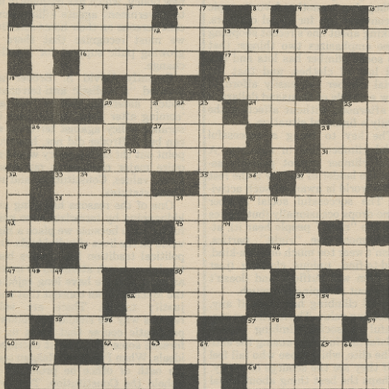
and in Western Europe, President Reagan has been forced into a summit and the possibility of further talks where the Soviets will only come to agreement when they perceive they can gain some sort of long term advantage over the United States. The Soviets demonstrated that they are only willing to discuss issues of direct importance to the United States while refusing to discuss areas that they find sensitive or potentially embarrassing. The Soviets continue to accuse the United States of militarism and starting new arms

aces. Many in the West seem to forget that the Soviets have already researched the new arms races and started them. The main example would be space. There appears to be little hope in talks with a nation that starves her civilian sector of goods and services in order to continually build up her military and seeks legitimization of her belligerent policies.

It is interesting to note that the first thing Gorbachev did upon his return to Moscow was blast the imperialist United States and denounce Reagan. So much for civility.



Observer Crossword



Across

- college greens
- Pennsylvania
- cultural mecca
- foe
- Tai's mom
- London park
- Joan of
- your sorrows
- like a fox
- she's a '10'
- group of three
- natural fabric
- non-fascism in America
- disciplinarian
- masse
- loud ringing
- for two
- singer Davis
- Lives in an ugly white house
- Stellar
- speak pompously
- I'd rather be at _____
- tedious
- shepherd's cane
- Georgia Rep. Gingrich
- anti-tax congressman
- and others (Lat.)
- high-pitched sound
- distress signal
- Actress Patricia
- Wednesday night party giver
- Raiders
- not a short stroll
- lass
- Trinity style
- tops in his field

Down

- wharf
- Soviets' rival
- fit to

- brouhaha
- scornful smile
- snoop
- astatine (abbr.)
- injury marks
- parody pgm.
- school rag
- when the sun rises
- health center
- Greek mathematician
- local pub
- Jackie Onassis is one
- possess
- sorrow
- lives on the Quad
- Anne and the arch
- teaching asst.
- dead
- sick
- he's always on the Quad
- found in a pod
- authorize
- conflagration's residue
- porn palace
- long road to suicide
- football receivers
- weather wd.
- extra-terrestrial
- pale
- horse sound
- spoken
- one Swiss mountain?
- loser in 1936
- Halloween hosts
- she puts us up, sort of
- not UPI
- NE state
- McGarrett's nemesis
- a deer, a female deer

Puzzle by John Stratakis

Trinity Trends

by Andrea Bici and
Elizabeth R. Heslop

For too many years the Trinity student body has been known for being "uniformly preppy" (thank you, Lisa Birnbaum). Though our preppy side cannot be denied, the students here have also developed their own style of chic. The campus fashion tends to be a mix of "trendy-preppy": a shetland sweaters with Guess Jeans and Benetton shirts with khakis and weejuns. The post office certainly sets a weekly deluge of catalogues: L.L. Bean, Land's End, Talbot's. But there are some who either deny

Greenwich Village or the punk section Georgetown. These students invariably smoke, drink "designer coffee" by the gallon, and always say ciao before leaving or entering a room.



New York is where I'd rather stay

If you don't go to Europe, the next best thing is to go to New York! Manhattan chic can be found in unlikely places: in the library next to a jock in sweats or dancing at AD. Somehow, those elegant dressers seem out of place in SAGA, but add some class to tacos and spaghetti.

Naturally Trinity has its share of grinds and jocks. A number of students insist on wearing shorts



"Uniformly Preppy"

their preppiness or rebel from it. Yes, you must admit, even those of you who pretend to defy prep pull out those Bean boots on a rainy day. Practicality ultimately wins out. And how many Oxford button-downs (100% cotton, of course). Ninja sweaters (that's "nowreigen" to you amateurs), and khakis do you own? But Trin can boast some diversity—if only in our manner of dress.

First, there are the JYA (Junior Year Abroad) students, easily identified by leather skirts, splashy prints and wild hair-dos. The total



Eurowear on the quad

effect they present cannot be duplicated, no matter how many hours you spend shopping in

through November despite the weather. Being a hearty New Englander is all very well, but...get a clue. If its cold enough for a turtle-neck, its cold enough for long pants!

Laura Ashley may be dead, but she is not forgotten. The period of mourning is over and female students once again enjoy the nostalgic prints of these romantic dresses. (A fashion note: To those of you under 5'11"...avoid wearing "short" dresses by L.A. that go down to your ankles!)

We can be proud that Trinity is not a mindlessly preppy institution. Lisa Birnbaum might well take a fashion lesson from Trinity's sharp dressers. Clothes certainly do make the man/woman. Let others know who you are and what you stand for by wearing your heart on your sleeve, or sweater, or loafers.

Educational Vouchers Promise Reform

by Professor Gerald Gunderson

This spring several students were discovered to be enrolled illegally in Bloomfield, Connecticut's public schools. Their circumstances went far beyond common cases of borderline eligibility such as when families are moving or separating. Their parents understood that it was illegal to enroll them but considered the risk worthwhile in order to improve upon the education the schools in their Hartford neighborhoods provided.

State officials, who saw themselves simply upholding the law, were shocked at how much sympathy they received when they were indicted. The officials were accused of bad motives including racism and their predicament was accentuated by national media coverage. The State decided to drop the charges but it was evident that very powerful feelings had been uncovered and would resurface if provoked again.

It is understandable that parents would think of jumping district lines as a means to obtain better opportunities for their children. When we dislike a service our instincts tell us to switch brands or go down the street to another merchant. Experience has taught us that exercising such alternatives keeps suppliers on their toes. But because of the structure which public schools in the United States have taken on, that relationship is distorted, indeed virtually inverted. Every resident must contribute to the local schools (in accordance with their individual tax liability, of course) and the law requires them to enroll their children there unless they are willing to go to the extra pains of arranging private education. Parents, in other words, are captive buyers. Short of moving out of a district they can neither withhold their payments nor switch suppliers.

Several justifications, including helping to assimilate immigrants and providing equal opportunity, have been offered for relying on public schools to educate most American children. But whatever the original rationale, it is becoming increasingly evident that they are no longer meeting current needs and are even becoming an obstacle. An array of indicators, such as scores on standardized tests, suggest that public schools would benefit from the stimulus of serious competition. That is why it is important to consider the arrangement which has been developed to deal with precisely this problem - educational vouchers.

A voucher is a certificate given for each eligible student which pays the school in which the student enrolls. Public authorities can set maximum amounts and other conditions but the pivotal choice of schools resides with the parents.

There will be objections that considering vouchers only distracts attention from the central issue, which is the need for more money to attract the best professionals into public education. Recent experience suggests just the contrary, however. Americans have been quite generous with their schools in that both spending per student and overall appropriations have grown much faster than the economy. Meanwhile total enrollments have stopped growing so that in many areas the ratio of teachers to students has risen markedly. This, much like recent

stories about the Pentagon, suggests that the bureaucratic instinct to consume resources is winning out over efforts to convert them into better services.

The manner in which the educational system has responded should not surprise us. Another governmental monopoly, the post office, has provided a ready model. The educators and public officials who operate the system, no matter how well intentioned and capable, are steered by the incentives in the system. If they succeed in reducing costs their only reward is a smaller budget for the next year. On the other hand, when they can justify larger operations, their services appear needed and undergoing a growing demand. Vouchers, in contrast, reward those educators who deliver better services. Parents will seek out the schools which improve their child's progress.

Vouchers will almost certainly be alleged to discriminate against the poor and minorities on the grounds that the costs of serving them are assumed to be higher and, given the choice, schools would want to exclude them. Ironically, poor parents should be among those who gain most in leverage over schools. In larger cities where many weak schools are located, school districts have been especially prone to acquire bureaucratic overhead. Parents are unlikely to find that expenditure worthwhile and thus the competition under a system of vouchers would eliminate it.

Moreover, the curriculum of schools serving poorer students is likely to undergo the largest innovations once they are freed from the present monopolistic structure. They have been shaped by middle class concerns, which are often well removed from the immediate needs of the clients. At the same time, however, the opportunity to attend schools beyond their neighborhood would be very valuable for aspiring students with special interests, such as music or science.

It is noteworthy that airline deregulation was opposed on similar grounds that service to (presumed underdog) smaller communities would be destroyed. In fact, just the reverse occurred. The general reduction in costs increased service almost everywhere, but eliminating regulations particularly encouraged new forms of service to dispersed markets.

Recently there has been a flurry of proposals to attack the problems of the public schools, most of which imply spending much more money. But the basic problem appears to be the structure of the school system. Until that is corrected, further money will be mostly wasted to the frustration of everyone - students, taxpayers, teachers, administrators, politicians, and parents alike. Vouchers promise a way out of this dilemma by substituting incentives for innovation, efficiency, and individual choice for the present misaligned system.

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Letters

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Please send them to The Trinity Observer, Box 11000, Trinity College.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Lemon 'Aid': Good Will Gestures Turn Sour

Enough is enough, already. As much as I love music, I don't think I could handle another music-aid-a-Band Aid, Live Aid, USA for Africa variety. I'm about as saturated as someone can get and there doesn't appear to be any end in sight. Why can't all these do-gooder musical types just bandy together and join forces with Jerry Lewis. One megatelethon ought to accommodate everyone and clear out our airwaves once and for all. I think I'm too optimistic.

I wasn't always so hostile to the concept of "music-aid." Last December I thought "Band Aid" was a rather novel idea. Ethiopia's plight was just beginning to be fully realized and the British effort seemed like a decent thing to do, especially at Christmas. Besides the fact that I like British music anyway, I thought their manner was pretty clever. So, like millions of others around the world, I ran out and bought a copy of "Do They Know It's Christmas/Fed The World." I

somehow there was not harmony in Charity Land. "We Are The World," which spotted a "Who's Who" cast of American music also sported much bickering amongst the do-gooders. Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, the original "USA for Africa" duo, were miffed because forty of their colleagues wanted to join them. Billy Joel and Huey Lewis voiced concern over some of the production's procedures and purpose: both performed but eventually opted not to do an encore at "conspicuous" for their absence, were berated for not joining in the fun. Rumblings aside, "We Are The World" was still a musical and commercial success, debuting on *Billboard's* Hot 100 at #2. The possibilities seemed endless.

Just as "USA for Africa" fever subsided, Geldof resurfaced with plans for the trans-Atlantic Live Aid in July. This "once in a lifetime" concert attracted huge media coverage and thousands of people

ironies involved in the show seeming most ironic. Could not the costs of broadcasting and organizing the show, construction the stage, transporting celebrities, and designing that spiffy African continent guitar logo been better spent had it just been quietly contributed to African famine relief. I realize the concert raised millions for the cause, but that amount is lost, in my mind, by all the pageantry associated with the event. The two do not go together. Live Aid was too slick and too commercial, for its primary purpose.

Live Aid, again naturally, gave way to Willie Nelson's "Farm Aid." I groaned at the announcement of its conception, but I was more relieved to learn that its proceeds would benefit Americans. Not that Ethiopians are not worthy of aid - I had just always marveled at how people could get so caught up in a cause like Ethiopia, South Africa, etc., while ignoring problems like inner city poverty, racism, and yes, the farm crisis, that exist here in America. On that count, kudos to Willie Nelson.

For the record, there are some tasteful and unpretentious "music-aid" projects in existence. Billy Joel's "You're Only Human/Second Wind" song and video, designed to help combat teenage suicide, and Dionne Warwick and Friends' "That's What Friends Are For," whose profits go for AIDS research, both promoted a cause, yet neither seemed to wallow in that fact. Both songs quietly accomplished their goal; in Warwick's case, few listeners were even aware that the song was a music-aid type venture. She could have called her group "AIDS-Aid" but didn't. She chose to proceed on her own merits and donate the monies to medical research without a lot of fanfare.

But then there are the songs that have no clear-cut mission. "Artists United Against Apartheid" broke

Nelson, and John Cougar Mellancamp's planned benefit for the Hell's Angels Legal Fund, of all things. It is the manner with which these productions have been handled and marketed that irritates my sensibilities. True, the music industry does market music but Ethiopia, South Africa, and the like have been marketed, in a sense, too. OK, so Artists United Against Apartheid are just that. What does their catchy dance tune and snappy video seek to accomplish? Do the proceeds go to overthrow the South African government? Do they hope the song will encourage divestment? Such things are not clear and that leads to the somewhat cynical belief that the purpose of these united artists is to appear to be "social doers." Personally, I find it hard to be morally moved by rock stars who spend fortunes on drugs, cars, expensive homes and alcohol who suddenly feel they must enlighten me, via music, to the evils and inequalities of the world. I already know apartheid is evil; everyone knows apartheid is evil. You would have to have been in a coma not to be aware of it. In that respect, AUSA is making a point that really doesn't need to be made. Why bother?

Geldof deserves credit for his initial idea but he has also perpetuated his creation to the point where its effectiveness has been muted by saturation. There now comes news of "Fashion Aid" for African relief. Do the organizers not see the irony in auctioning off thousand dollar dresses to feed hungry people? Somehow, I really doubt that the people who buy the records, hum the songs, see the videos, and buy the dresses are supporting "the cause."

They probably just like the items they're buying and don't really think about its symbolic value. I hum "Sun City" because I like the beat, not because I necessarily agree with its pro-divestment politics.

A VOICE FROM BEYOND

Lee Coffin

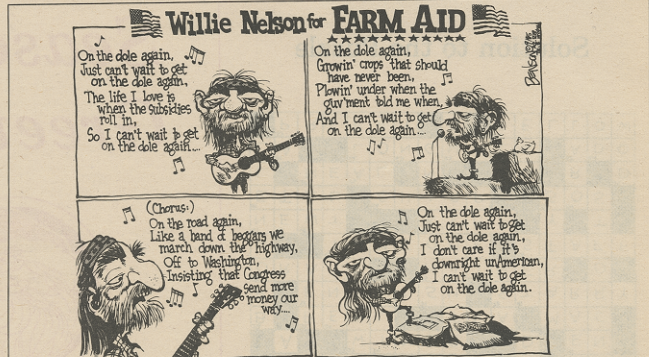
liked the tune, I liked the lyrics, and I figured my \$1.99 was going to a good cause. Never did I anticipate the onslaught of imitations that would ensue, just because Band Aid had made a good record and upset million people had decided to buy a copy. At the time, I thought, "Gee, what a nice thing for these guys to do." The fact that all my favorite rock stars appeared on the same MTV video was a nice bonus but didn't really figure into the purchase.

Apparently, I wasn't the only one who was impressed with Band-Aid last December because it soon became the first in a long line of ever increasingly corny and gimmicky creations aimed at "doing something" for these peoples; I just think that there might be a better way to do it. But, the music industry being the trendy business that it is, I suppose it was the natural progression for Band Aid to breed a swarm of successors. And as Joan Baez, herself a Live Aid and USA for Africa veteran, says, these musical good-will gestures "are good career moves" for many performers, with "the benefits of participating involving virtually no risk." Herin lies my biggest gripe and the host of Band Aid rip-offs was spawned less by a desire to help others as by a perception that such involvement was "the thing to do." Accordingly, "Band-Aid" begat "USA for Africa," which begat Los Hermanos' "Canta Cares," "Live Aid," "Live-Aid-The Movie," "Live Aid-The Book," "Farm Aid," "Fashion Aid," "Artists United Against Apartheid," "Hands Across America," Billy Joel's "You're Only Human," Dionne Warwick's "That's What Friends Are For," and the list keeps going. I'm still sure why "Cool Aid" hasn't merited a song, but I suppose there's still time for that.

While Band Aid was created somewhat simultaneously by Bob Geldof and friends, with very little hoopla, later enterprises were not blessed with such anonymity. Indeed, Baez' assessment was correct: an act of "charity *vis a vis* an afternoon sing-a-long could aid the unfortunate and add some lustre to an already shining star. But

who yearned to be "a part of history" (as the promoters had promised. Apparently, many people wanted to be a part of history, as thousands turned out in London and Philadelphia to hear Baez proclaim, "1985, this is your Woodstock!!!") Oh great, I thought, so this is the sinister plot behind all this raucous 1960s types were trying to be a part of a "cause." Somehow, I think that idea belittles the situation in Africa they were gathering to rectify, but who am I to complain?

My fears were confirmed when Bob Dylan emerged on stage. His "USA for Africa" stint had puzzled me. Who was this guy with the nast-



ly voice? Not being old enough to recall Woodstock and Dylan, I wanted to know who told Mr. Dylan that he could sing. Try as I might, I could decipher no musical quality to the sounds emanating from his lips. Oddly enough, Dylan was part of the finale that Dick Clark had promised to be "the best thing I ever saw." I wasn't impressed. Again, the connection between all this show-biz glory and Africa famine relief was a little hard to follow.

Live Aid amounted to an overblown, expensive bore, with the

new ground with "Sun City." The anti-apartheid piece boasts many new and unrecognizable faces, although Dylan and Bruce Springsteen do mug for the camera as they hop yet another social bandwagon. There used to be a time when Springsteen shunned such appearance: now try and find one without him.

The basic problem with these musical protests/benefits is not that the performers are supporting a bad cause, although it is tough to find a plausible cause for Joan Jetz, Willie

Bill Cosby has plans of organizing a "Hands Across America" on Memorial Day, 1986. I'm not sure what cause he's promoting but I seem to recall a Vaseline Intensive Care commercial with similar choreography. Well, whatever the cause, I'm sure we'll hear more about it in the days to come. 'Tis the season for such events, you know. Chances are, there'll be many more after that, too. Success always breeds success, even if the cause isn't always apparent, and thefad has become cliché.

Cartoons and Credit Cards:

Is This Christmas?

by Elizabeth Heslop
and John Stratakas

The Christmas season is once again upon us.

Actually, valetime has been around since mid-September in its most vulgar and commercial forms. Many department stores (including Hartford's own G. Fox & Co.) have displayed their festive decor since before Halloween. It used to be we could take one holiday at a time, but with all the money to be made from overzealous shoppers, retailers cannot help but elongate their shopping season. Christmas carols are piped into the store's speaker system so that folks walking through will be taken in by the merry environment and release their purse strings.

The problem, alas, does not end with shopkeepers. Local radio stations are also getting into the act. Under the guise of altruism, stations such as WTIC are fulfilling the Christmas wishes of selected listeners, then proclaiming to the world what wonderfully generous types they are. A recent segment involved the return of a recently widowed grandmother to her family for Christmas. Rather than stop with the teary thanks of an ever-grateful listener, the station could not resist a plug: "We've just sent grandma home for the holidays! Another great deed by WZYX." What a wonderful station: I think I shall listen to it everyday now.

Here at Trinity, the Christmas festivities cannot really begin until the last final is completed. With papers, exams, theses and a host of other concerns, students couldn't be bothered with the commercial aspects of the holiday, right? Wrong! Multi-colored Christmas lights adorn countless windows and Christmas trees decorate many rooms. At the Follett's bookstore, a lovely aluminum construction is covered with tinsel and garland, and

trees in the Elton-Jones quad once again flash with holiday glitter. In the Cave, TV Christmas specials are an almost nightly routine as multitudes gather to view the Grinch on forty five inches of living

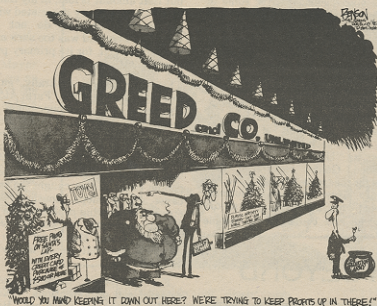
origins of the celebration, convincing his peers that pink trees and tacky decorations are not really in the spirit of the holiday.

Last Sunday, the chapel rang with the voices of students and

forget the real reason for celebration. Christ was sent down from heaven as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind. What began as a simple gathering of animals and wisemen found a manger has developed into a capitalist sugarplum dream.

Hannukah has been swept up in the wave of Christmas-manner as well. The festival of lights is frequently overshadowed by the presents and parties, and occasionally even by Santa.

This is not to say that the family celebrations and gift-giving are bad. Christmas is a wonderful time of sharing and loving. It is important, though, to give in the right spirit, in the spirit of Christ rather than the spirit of Santa. It is so easy to get caught up in *Rudolph* and "Bing Crosby Christmas Carols." But take a few moments to reflect that Christmas break does not simply mean that finals are over; it is an opportunity to surround yourself with people you care about and through your gifts, share your love. It seems every year, some weirdo comes around and tells us that Christmas is a special time for giving and caring, forgiving and accepting. But invariably, we pay him no heed. We go right on flashing those credit cards and showing aside all those in our path. I guess this year I am the weirdo and here again is the plea to be kind and generous and thoughtful, not just to friends we already love, but to strangers in the mall or old acquaintances of whom we haven't thought of in a while. Understanding the meaning of Christmas does not necessarily mean believing in the birth of Christ, though that certainly helps. It means opening yourself up to enjoy and appreciate what and who you have, and help those who could use a smiling face in their presence.

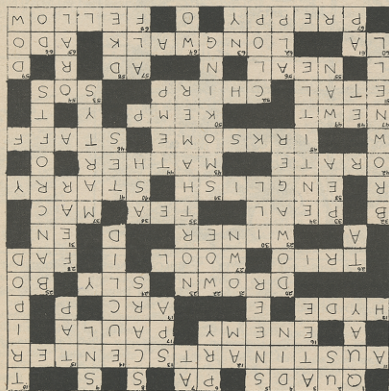


color. When the set flickered for a moment during "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown," hordes of mature, intelligent students panicked and squealed in frustration.

If all these images represent the flashy, commercial side of Christmas, then what is Christmas really supposed to be about? What should it mean to us all? Ironically, those questions are addressed in the "Charlie Brown" special. Linus delivers a monologue on the Biblical

faculty as Trinity celebrated the annual service of Lessons and Carols. Breaking the darkness of the unlit nave, the procession of singers carrying candles set a mood of serenity and celebration. As the service progressed, the chapel was filled with the essence of the true meaning of Christmas - the celebration of the birth of Christ. Often it is hard to believe that this is what Christmas really represents. Somehow between the εσθρον and the mistletoe, we

Solution to the Puzzle



Season's Greetings



From
The Observer