

## TrinVotes! and Elections

BRENDAN W. CLARK '21  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

page 3 Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, TrinVotes! plans an active fall semester to encourage voter registration.

## Title IX Board

LIZ FOSTER '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

page 4 Title IX Advisory Board will be seated by the end of the fall; Saul, Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr retained to review cases.

## Weekly Skylights

JOEY CIFELLI '23  
A&E EDITOR

page 10 Our weekly cloud review by the indomitable Joey Cifelli will surely lift your hearts to the sky.

## Training Issues

ANNA BAUER '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

page 12 Athletes faced technical difficulties signing up for lift times at Ferris this week.

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## Trinity and Testing: A *Tripod* Investigation

KAT NAMON '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

In order to bring students back to campus this semester, Trinity employed a COVID-19 testing program, along with additional requirements of submitting daily symptom reports through the CoVerified app. The College is also providing the community with an online dashboard that is intended to keep the extended community aware of the number of negative, positive, and invalid cases, both active and inactive on the Trinity campus. Trinity has also relaxed enforcement of some coronavirus precautions, electing in numerous cases to not enforce the non-socialization mandate on the main quad and other outdoor public spaces from Aug. 24 to Sept. 7.

Despite efforts made by the College to ensure a smooth process in testing everyone who enters campus or is currently residing there, the College has reported numerous invalid cases (as of Sept. 11, there have been 107 since Aug. 17 when the testing program began). This discrepancy is largely tied to the self-swabbing requirement, the *Tripod* has learned. Director of Athletics Drew Gailbraith expanded that self-swabbing is the only way that the College could adhere to CDC guidelines for mass-testing individuals, adding that "while there are a number of different COVID tests reaching the market and in the FDA-approval process, the ability to efficiently administer the test to 950-1,000 community members per day made the self-swab an attractive choice for Trinity and over 100 other colleges in New England." Galbraith did indicate that some measure of invalids were anticipated as the Broad Institute, Trinity's testing partner, was expecting "2.5% of the tests to come back invalid because of collection." "Our number of invalids," Galbraith noted, "while still under 2%, should come down as students, faculty and staff become more experienced with the swab over the course of the semester."

The *Tripod* spoke with Practicing Director of Student Health Services of Campus Care Martha O'Brien, who added that she contacts those who receive an invalid result through email. In the email, O'Brien requests a repeat test for each invalid and TNP result. Students are then urged to schedule another test as soon as possible "so we can be thorough and test all of our community," though it is not clear how the College follows-up directly with those who do not submit to prompt retesting.

Many students and community members remain confused by the terminology and frequency of updating the Trinity College COVID-19 Dashboard. According to the webpage, the website is updated "twice per week during business hours."

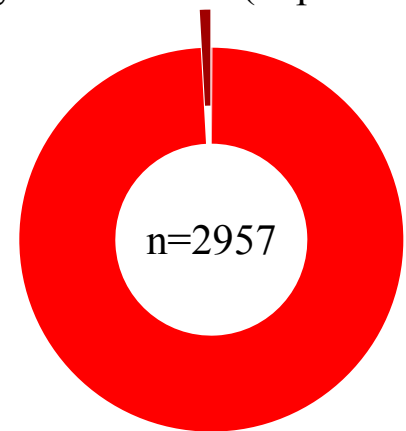
However, last week, the dashboard was updated several times, including after a College employee tested positive Wednesday afternoon. Vice President for Communications and Marketing Angela Schaeffer clarified to the *Tripod* that "currently active cases" and "positive tests," as referred to on the dashboard, are two completely different metrics. Schaeffer suggested that "currently active cases refers to the number of people who have recently tested positive and are currently in isolation (whether on campus or elsewhere) per CDC guidelines." Schaeffer went on to add that "positive tests are not representative of a number of people, but rather a number of tests (some individuals may be retested and receive multiple positive tests)."

Schaeffer went into detail about the reported "prior" cases of COVID-19 on the College's dashboard. These cases are reported because "there were a small number of students (now four) who arrived on campus having tested positive for COVID-19 at some earlier point, but past the point at which the CDC would consider them contagious. Those individuals shouldn't have been included

see TESTING on page 3

## Tracking Coronavirus Cases at Trinity

### Trinity Test Results (Sept. 7-Sept. 11)



0.10% Positive  
99.02% Negative  
0.88% Invalid

DANIEL NESBITT '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

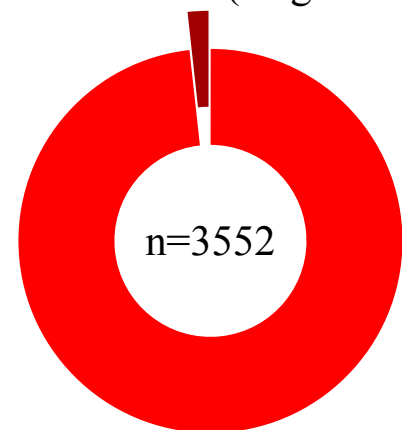
Examining the data available on Trinity's COVID-19 Dashboard, the College has reported that a total of 2957 COVID-19 PCR tests have been completed between Sept. 7 and Sept. 11, with only three positive tests. Additionally, there have been a total of 26 invalid tests in that time period. The test outcomes are shown in the figure above. Between Sept. 7 and Sept. 11, the positive test rate was just 0.10%, while the invalid test rate was 0.88%.

The testing outcomes between Aug. 24 and Sept. 7 are shown in the figure

below. Within this time frame, the positive test rate was just 0.03% compared to this week's 0.10% rate. In addition, the invalid test rate was approximately twice as high as that of Sept. 7-11, with an invalid test rate of 1.75%. Out of the 3552 tests conducted between Aug. 24 and Sept. 7, approximately 98.23% came back negative – a positive sign for the College.

The decrease in invalid test rate over time could be due to individuals' improvement in self-sample collection, however, more data is needed to adequately examine this explanation and assess its validity at Trinity relative to other options.

### Trinity Test Results (Aug. 24 - Sept. 7)



0.03% Positive  
98.23% Negative  
1.75% Invalid

# The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904  
"Now then-Trinity!"

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## Trinity College

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**CORRECTIONS**

## Tripod Editorial

### Admin, Exercise Your Authority

The *Tripod* recently critiqued the College's complicated approach to enforcing its policies surrounding COVID-19. In particular, it appeared unclear at best who and what could be held accountable for certain actions that may or may not violate policies outlined by the school. Though only a "small number" of students have received warnings, what infractions exactly warrant a warning, along with the number of warnings that warrant a student's removal from campus, remains unclear. Various dorms and houses on campus have been "busted" by campus safety officers for larger gatherings, but whether more serious action is taken following these reprimands is unclear.

Transparency is key in addressing a serious crisis on our campus and the telling absence, despite multiple *Tripod* questions, of direction and candor on the subject of College enforcement policies and mechanisms is deeply troubling.

The College also maintains that the issue of personal travel is up to a student's own personal discretion. The COVID-19 Travel Policy asks campus residents to "carefully consider the potential impact of personal travel on individual and community health," but no means of regulating student travel on and off-campus have been implemented.

Restricting students' ability to travel is a legal issue in its own right, but

the College's encouraging students to remain on campus while simultaneously enforcing no consequences for those participating in non-essential travel provides no motivation for students to respect the policy. Students jetting off campus to grab a quick bite at Barcelona or Bartaco, when other students are unable to complete thesis research because of the College's policies, is a stark contrast for which justification seems sorely lacking. What prevents a student from leaving to visit a library if others are going to happy hour? Why have a policy at all if its provisions act as mere suggestions, binding upon neither party?

Just as with travel, the College took no action to restrict student parking on campus and has, by Dean DiChristina's own admission, taken no action to regulate student vehicle use. Why should we go on permitting the use of cars as if nothing has changed? There is no Constitutional right to having a car on campus (first-years are routinely denied parking passes anyway). Why Trinity elected not to take actions within its power to restrict student use of cars is a mystery, it seems, that alludes us.

Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas affirmed the need for students to be "active partners" in the fight against COVID-19. He referred to those who were not "active partners" as "exceptions," presumably those who are

a member of the "small number" of students either received warnings or were evicted from campus. The College cannot rely upon "active partners" alone as a means of keeping its student body safe. The virus does not discriminate between those many who elect to follow the rules and those few who do not. It knows no boundaries and, as social distancing measures grow relaxed and students become more restless, so too does our hold on its ability to spread.

Should the number of COVID-19 cases on campus rise rapidly, the current relationship between the administration and students would allow the responsibility of the outbreak to fall primarily onto the student body.

Students can and should be held accountable for their actions. But so, too, is the administration responsible for implementing serious measures to keep their students safe.

There are a plethora of options available to the administration to enforce policies. Clearly communicated punishments and limitations on student parking, both within the ambit of possibility, have not been among the arsenal adopted by Trinity College's administration during the course of the pandemic. The time is now to change our practices and the *Tripod* wholeheartedly calls for administrative introspection here.

-The Trinity Tripod

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# NEWS

## Trinity and COVID-19 Testing: An In-Depth Exploration

continued from page one

in the campus testing at this point, but they were inadvertently tested upon arrival. They are not and never were active cases on our campus.” According to an email from DiChristina Monday evening, Trinity’s case count is now at eight positive cases among students and one positive case among employees. There are six currently active cases, with two previously active cases having been released “because they did not exhibit symptoms after the required 10-day isolation period.”

With regards to addressing positive cases, Schaeffer stressed that the College is not automatically sending home students who test positive for the virus. She went on to clarify that “all active cases are monitored daily, and those individuals can return to their regular activities (that is, attending in-person classes, living in their regularly assigned residence hall, etc.)—per CDC guidelines—once 10 days have passed without symptoms—or 10 days since the date of a positive test in the case of those who never experienced symptoms.”

In addition to new testing procedures this semester, the College has indicated that the administration would be employing stricter disciplinary actions for students who did not adhere to either testing guidelines or social distancing requirements. The severity of these disciplinary actions was emphasized prior to student arrival to campus in an email from Dean of Campus Life and Vice President for Student Affairs Joe DiChristina.

However, during the

first several days of student return to campus, DiChristina and College administrators elected to not enforce certain policies. In an email to students August 18, DiChristina noted that the College would not “allow individuals to socialize in spaces (e.g., on the Main Quad, the LSC quad, athletic fields, lounges/common rooms) until we get past this first stage of arrival, August 24-September 7.” During that period, multiple groups socialized on quads and keycard access to some lounges and spaces for study, particularly in academic buildings, remained accessible without restriction. DiChristina subsequently permitted socialization on public spaces, limited to six individuals, via an email on Sept. 14.

When asked to comment on this discrepancy in policy enforcement, DiChristina told the *Tripod* that the administration “will continue to engage members of our College community on the expectations and responsibilities we all have in maintaining a healthy campus community. As we have encountered individual students or small groups of students in public areas, we have chosen to speak with them and remind them of expectations in the community contract and in our policies.” Any decision on increased gathering sizes in indoor and outdoor spaces will be made “during the week of September 14,” according to DiChristina.

A number of students have experienced disciplinary actions since arrival to campus, with DiChristina adding that “as of Sept. 7, a small number of students have been removed from on-campus

housing and are now learning remotely. Since Aug. 24, numerous students have received disciplinary warnings.” He noted that the “vast majority of students have shown care for our community by abiding by the expectations of the community contract” and that the administration “will continue to work with students as matters arise.”

In the College’s Community Contract, it was suggested that off-campus travel may be severely limited by the College. However, this provision has not been enforced, with multiple incidences of off-campus travel to restaurants and other social venues being well-documented via social media and other platforms. When asked about the contract and how students have been operating since their return to campus, DiChristina clarified that the “restrictions don’t apply to personal travel” but that the administration is asking for community members to “carefully consider the potential impact of personal travel on individual and community health given the increased risk it can cause.” He also added that if the number of cases increases on campus, the College “will provide additional guidance regarding travel as necessary.”

The Community Contract, meanwhile, does not function as a waiver of legal liability for student health, injury, or death if the coronavirus were to be contracted while on-campus or from another student of the College. When pressed if the College viewed the contract as a liability waiver, DiChristina asserted that the administration “does not view the community contract that way.”

## TrinVotes! Adapts to COVID Restrictions

BRENDAN W. CLARK '21  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TrinVotes!, a voter education initiative at Trinity launched in February, intends to continue its engagement work in the fall in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election. The initiative sees support from students, faculty, and staff, and includes collaboration with the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG), the Student Government Association, and the Office of the President.

In March, TrinVotes! held a watch party for one of the Democratic debates and has since sought to adapt their offerings to accommodate the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the fall, TrinVotes! aims to ensure that every Trinity student is registered to vote in Connecticut or in their home states in advance of Election Day on Nov. 3. Bailey Cook '21, a Public Policy and Law major and ConnPIRG intern, indicated that there will hopefully be a “debate watch party...recognizing National Voter Registration Day, and [opportunities for education] on the process of voting and mailing in absentee ballots.” Liliana Polley, also in the Public Policy and Law program, indicated that TrinVotes! is looking for “safe and responsible ways to host phone banks” in addition to debate watch parties.

The *Tripod* spoke with Associate Professor of Policy Studies Adrienne Fulco, who described the initiative as a “community effort” and added that “many organizations that are on-campus are involved.” This is “one of the things we’re so happy about,” Fulco added, citing the effort of the community, which includes leadership from Fulco, Di-

rector of the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement Joe Barber, and Director of the Office of Community Relations and Trinfo.Cafe Carlos Espinosa '96, M '98, and Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas, among others.

Fulco stressed that TrinVotes! is completely “non-partisan” and is dedicated to both “voter registration and voter education broadly.” This commitment, echoed Polley, is part of what inspired her to join because of her belief that “voting and participation in elections is one of the key freedoms of American life.” These broad education efforts may take several forms, including access to resources and a “concerted faculty effort,” Fulco noted, as well as education among small groups and student organizations across campus.

“Regardless of whom you support, it is important to exercise your rights,” Polley continued. Cook, similarly, stressed that the initiative is critical due to “the lapse in voter turnout among young people,” especially those who are “college-aged [and] college educated.”

Especially during the pandemic, Fulco noted, students need access to registration information so they can be “educated and aware of the practicalities around voting in their particular state.” TrinVotes! is a part of the larger NESAC Votes All In Challenge that seeks to increase student civic engagement across colleges.

Fulco also envisions the work TrinVotes! does during this critical year as “creating a blueprint” of how to continue voter education in the future.” Further information about the TrinVotes! initiative will be communicated to the campus community in the coming weeks.

## College Campus Safety Report: Sept. 7 - Sept. 14

Monday, Sept. 7  
*Ferris Parking Lot*

Larceny - Theft from Motor Vehicle  
This case remains open.

Tuesday, Sept. 8  
*Clemens Parking Lot*

Larceny - Theft from Motor Vehicle and Vehicle Vandalism  
This case remains open.

Tuesday, Sept. 8  
*Jackson Hall*

Liquor Law Violation  
Seven students received disciplinary referrals.

# Title IX Advisory Board Advances; Law Firm Retained to Investigate Allegations Relating to Sexual Misconduct

LIZ FOSTER '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

Trinity's Title IX Advisory Board, together with a new Title IX officer, will be appointed by the end of the semester as a part of Trinity's commitments to combatting sexual misconduct in the wake of student concerns raised over the summer by the activist Instagram account @trinsurvivors. The *Tripod* has also learned that the College has employed the firm of Saul, Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr, LLP of Philadelphia, with offices in Boston and New York, to oversee the investigation of anonymous claims on the @trinsurvivors account.

In her email earlier this month, Berger-Sweeney apologized for the "amount of time it is has [sic] taken" for the administration to respond, indicating that the delay was necessary to craft a sufficient response. A previous email from Berger-Sweeney in late July had drawn ire from the account and other students for its inaction. The College indicated last week that senior administrators had met with representatives of the account earlier this summer.

A Title IX Advisory Board, consisting of students, faculty, and staff, will be formed in an effort to provide recommendations for various

"programs, policies, and educational initiatives." Berger-Sweeney will not exclusively be appointing members to the board, according to Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas, and the College will "work with students and the Student Government Association to identify student members of the advisory board." The Board will be seated by the end of the semester, Rojas continued, and is part of the College's asserted "unwavering commitment" to combatting sexual misconduct.

The board will work alongside the Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator on relevant issues surrounding sexual misconduct. The board will also have access to the 2019 spring campus climate survey results. Regarding the position search, the College is "engaged in the process of interviewing candidates for the position," according to Rojas, and Trinity will "make a decision during the fall semester." A series of virtual, public interview sessions of potential candidates are scheduled for Sept. 15 and Sept. 17, among the "ample opportunities" outlined by Berger-Sweeney earlier this month for community input. The session on Sept. 15, how-

ever, was postponed due to unresolved on-campus internet connectivity issues.

Trinity's selected firm, Saul, Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr, retained in late August, will "review and analyze the allegations on @trinsurvivors and @blackattrin Instagram accounts" and produce a "comprehensive report" that will impact the College's future actions in response to allegations of discrimination at Trinity. Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas indicated that this firm was selected because it had "significant experience in Title IX and other anti-discrimination laws." While the firm will not "investigate specific allegations or complaints," it will produce a confidential report that will be used to review "relevant college policies and procedures."

The firm may also conduct "informal interviews, as necessary and appropriate." The report will remain "confidential" despite not considering specific allegations or complaints, as Rojas indicated that the matters are "sensitive" and "should be handled in a confidential manner." Rojas declined to specify whether the firm would attempt to corroborate anonymous accounts with filed reports, though did note that the firm has been "asked to review all relevant reports

that we are aware of."

Trinity's Interim Title IX policy, created in response to the Department of Education's guidelines, was released to the community in mid-August. The Title IX working group which evaluated and revised the interim sexual harassment policy, as previously reported, has met "almost weekly over the past three months" and will revise the policy after additional public comment and input.

The interim sexual harassment policy, Berger-Sweeney added in her September email, will continue to "use the 'preponderance of evidence' stand for adjudicating complaints," rather than the "clear and convincing" standard permitted by the Department of Education. Continuing the use of the "preponderance of evidence" standard was among the demands of @trinsurvivors circulated in July.

Preventative practices serve as another measure of protecting against sexual misconduct, Berger-Sweeney explained, emphasizing that sexual assault is "not tolerated and must be eliminated from campus." The administration also plans to enforce "sanctions that discipline violators appropriately, prevent recurrence, and

remedy the harm to individuals and the community as a whole." Referencing the College's commitment to "eliminating sexual misconduct," Berger-Sweeney further explained that it would address "campus climate" and strengthen "policies and procedures" related to sexual assault education. Trinity committed to continuing "Title IX education and prevention programs including Green Dot" and intends to have mandatory training on "sexual assault prevention and bystander intervention strategies" for juniors and seniors. Those workshops are set to occur in the 2020-2021 academic year and will begin in "mid-October," according to Rojas.

Trinity also pledged "\$100,000 to support these important educational and prevention efforts." Those funds, according to Rojas, will be allocated "to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, of which WGRAC [Women and Gender Resource Action Center] is a part." While WGRAC will be a "recipient of a substantial amount of those funds," Rojas indicated that the diversity office "more broadly will continue to work collaboratively with many campus partners to support a range of educational and prevention efforts."

## Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

### Bowdoin College

In light of increased focus on racial justice activism, a Bowdoin student, Preston Anderson, and member of the sailing team "led the charge to change his conference's bylaws and to implement mandatory race relations training in the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NEISA)," according to the *Bowdoin Orient*.

Anderson, along with other members of the Bowdoin sailing team, created a committee within the NEISA known as the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (TIDE) committee, which has been charged to determine how sailing can be made more inclusive, as it is typically regarded as a white, upper-class sport. Per the *Orient*, the TIDE committee is aiming "to create a curriculum for race training that will be mandatory for all teams in the conference starting in the fall of 2021." Members of the committee hope that TIDE could act as an early example for similar committees in the NCAA or NESCAC and could have a positive influence in developing further programs.

### Wesleyan University

On Sept. 4, Wesleyan's Black Student Union, Ujamaa, released a letter to the Wesleyan University administration with a detailed list of demands, coming in response to previous communications by members of the Wesleyan administration on the subject, as well as general increased focus on racial justice across the nation.

Within their list of demands, the Ujamaa Manifesto Committee discussed past writings of Wesleyan University President Michael Roth, criticizing him for "defend[ing] a racist article published under the guise of free speech" by former *Wesleyan Argus* editor Bryan Stascavage. The Ujamaa Manifesto Committee went on to "demand that President Roth clarify the shift in his thinking and take ownership over his past perpetuation of racism on our campus."

In addition, the Committee also demanded that "every student at Wesleyan take an African American Studies course in order to graduate," while also calling for the incorporation of mandatory anti-racist training.

### UConn

In a Sept. 1 press release, The People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) requested that State Auditor John C. Geragosian audit "the use of public money, personnel, property, equipment, and space by the University of Connecticut (UConn) for animal experiments deemed non-essential during the COVID-19 pandemic," claiming that this "led to the euthanasia of animals in the school's laboratories. According to the *Daily Campus*, UConn Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz "maintained that UConn researchers were not directed to euthanize animals used in experimentation or otherwise." Rather, Reitz stated that research was simply scaled down while maintaining the necessary infrastructure and animal populations to resume research in the future. Speaking to the *Daily Campus*, Reitz stated the amended procedures included a "halt on order or breeding animals," which in turn "prevented the number from increasing." Additionally, the procedures allow for the resumption of research activities in May 2021.

# OPINION

## Quarantine: Ramblings from the First Day of Isolation

LIZ FOSTER '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

Prior to my return to school, I often mused with my friends that a COVID-19 outbreak was inevitable. At the very least, there would *have* to be a plethora of scares and subsequently students in quarantine. Little did I think that I would be a part of what Dean DiChristina called a “small number of students” who are now in quarantine for the next two weeks due to potentially being infected with COVID-19. However, I’d like to take advantage of this situation to transparently show the student body what their quarantine could potentially look like.

For fourteen days, I have to sit in my bedroom. I’m permitted to leave only to pick up meals and get tested for COVID-19. As of now, I’ve tested negative for the virus, but who knows what the next four tests have awaiting for me! My time in quarantine could be worse. As of now, I’ve presented no symptoms and am not *really* living alone. Granted, my

interactions with my roommates consist of sitting in my door frame while wear-

ing a mask and yelling out to the common room, but it’s the little things in life that we have to treasure.

*“Little did I think that I would be a part of what Dean DiChristina called a ‘small number of students’ who are now in quarantine for the next two weeks due to potentially being infected with COVID-19.”*

ing a mask and yelling out to the common room, but it’s the little things in life that we have to treasure.

Before I dive into the technicalities of this experience, I’d like to take a moment to give readers a long-awaited gift: a Liz Foster food review. Unlike other schools like NYU, students who are in quarantine can still leave the dorm to go pick up their meals. Between the hours of 12:20-12:50 and 5:20-6:00, quarantined students are served. Instead of going into Mather or the Bistro, students meet near a small tent behind Mather. There aren’t any signs or indications that this is a place for people to acquire food, but

in Mather. Now, I’m not going to pretend like I am not a cafeteria food snob. I’ve made it a point to address how few times I’ve been to Mather in the past two years at Trinity in many conversations, so the bar was already very low for me. My primary meal was chicken, rice, and mysterious vegetables. The chicken and rice were both lacking in flavor and the former had a bizarre texture. Given that I also had no knife, and only a spork, eating a chunk of meat proved difficult. I also received a banana that was already turning brown when I went to eat it a few hours later and an orange that I could not open, but this may be a

product of my own physical incapacities rather than a result of the fruit itself. The oatmeal raisin cookies looked totally fine, but I’m not big on raisins! For dinner, I had a stronger plate of chicken (shout out to that glaze!) and a bit more flavorful rice and veggies. I didn’t finish it because something about the rice texture was off-putting, but I had a nice pre-packaged brownie to wash it all down. The free water bottles have been making it worth it.

My classes remain

what’s going to happen. I have homework sitting before me, but all that’s on my mind is watching *The Lighthouse* as I’m about to become Robert Pattinson. In my time in quarantine, I hope to develop new skills and improve my wellbeing. However, it’s only day one and I’ve failed to learn the skill I committed to: making paper planes. If anyone has any advice on crafting notebook fighter jets, let a girl know. As of now, all I can do is sit wistfully in my Jarvis suite, staring

*“Unlike other schools like NYU, students who are in quarantine can still leave the dorm to go pick up their meals. Between the hours of 12:20-12:50 and 5:20-6:00, quarantined students are served. Instead of going into Mather or the Bistro, students meet near a small tent behind Mather.”*

largely unaffected because we’re already going to Zoom University. If I actually get sick, who knows

down at the people below me on the quad who frolic in freedom. Enjoy it while it lasts, Bantams.

## The Uneducated Redneck: How the Economic Power of Corporations over Local Government Impacts Advances in Education for Rural Americans

SKYLER SIMPKINS '23  
OPINION EDITOR

When you think of hell, what comes to mind? Perhaps the biblical landscape of a fiery, inescapable prison or, maybe, something much more tangible. When I think of hell, I think of a life void of freedom and defined by utility.

I am from Arkansas, a very rural state by comparison to those in the Northeast. Most of my family is from the poorest and southernmost areas of the state.

In the most rural parts of Arkansas—where a two-bedroom trailer is considered a mansion—the people are considered pawns in the hands of factories and surrounding governments. Their teachers are uneducated and many students—some of my family included—graduate without the ability to read.

These children lack crucial education and cannot advance in life. They are condemned to the work of their neighbors—farming or poultry plant work. The corporate brands Ty-

son and Walmart have a strong grip in Arkansas’ economy, and their powerful economic presence has a rippling effect on the surrounding population. While it is fortunate that these companies provide basic labor jobs to help our failing economy, I think the lack of educational quality that drives students to blue-collar work is a forgotten hell in today’s world. Government caters to these corporations and betrays the individual—the centerpiece to republican government—in favor of a utilitarian collective.

Many of you might see the parallels in this piece to *Brave New World*. While my recount is much less narratively enticing, it is real; and I believe freedom is better than the euphoric ignorance of manipulated education and job placement. I do understand that these individuals working for these powerful corporations are making the choice to do so, however, the faculties of lifestyle improvement are stolen from them

without their consent.

Some of you may be thinking about the students that receive higher education in Arkansas, those that want to improve themselves. To those, I must point out a community college in Morrilton, AR, where there is an adjoining education program for truck driving. Below I have quoted from the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (UACCM) website: “According to the Arkansas Department of Labor, commercial truck driving is a high demand occupation. The UACCM Commercial Driver Training Program prepares you for not only the commercial driver licenses written and skills exam, but prepares you to be a safe driver.” As one can see, even in higher education Arkansasans are continually pushed into low-paying, unwanted work. Why invest money into improved education when these individuals will produce more for the state as a blue-collar worker?

Truck drivers are critical to production, and their work is quite honorable in my opinion; nevertheless, individuals with unfavorable backgrounds should not have educational quality stolen from them to suit the demands of economic powerhouses. This cripples the importance of individual creation in favor of human’s utility to the collective.

The problem is not only an Arkansan one, however. It is a much more wide-reaching societal problem. The southern stereotype of the uneducated redneck has been propagated not only by the Arkansan environment, but also the American opinion of the south. Just last week I heard a student in one of my classes talk of how southerners cared only for their farms while those from the Northeast were concerned about business. This ignorance is strengthening the divide and allowing the most unfortunate rural Americans to be forgotten.

I believe it is important to understand the power corporations have over government and the consequential effect it has on those without the faculties to escape their reign. Blue-collar work is honorable and the most valuable work in this country, but work should never be assigned to a person based upon their birthplace. Governments should stand for the people, and not the economic powers that use their wealth as tools of corruption. This life will continue for rural Americans until governments begin to value their constituents over the money of corporations. It is our responsibility to promote government for the people, and to understand the reality faced by rural Americans instead of condemning them to the stereotype of uneducated rednecks. Individuals should be able to pave their own destiny and achieve the American Dream which eludes so many rural Americans regardless of background.

# Featured Opinion: Dekulakization: Human Nature, The Dangers of Resentment, and How it Led to the Death of Millions of Innocent Russian Farmers

JACK P. CARROLL '24  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Our undergraduate careers are an intense and rewarding time period in our lives. We all are working diligently to perfect our resumes and land our dream job or be admitted into a top graduate program. As we begin this journey, it is crucial—for the well-being and future success of everyone in our class—that we work hard and develop a supportive community in which we actively encourage and congratulate one another's academic progress and accomplishments.

A failure to remain encouraging and respectful of each other's successes could potentially lead to the development of a hostile community that facilitates the immaturities of jealousy and hatred. These immaturities lie in infamy as they, historically, have stunted individual success and ruthlessly destroyed some of the most productive communities.

In order to truly grasp the perilous consequences that are associated with resentment, it is crucial that we recount the brutal massacre of a population of Russian farmers, commonly known as the kulaks, in the early twentieth century as part of a Soviet sponsored initiative known as "Dekulakization."

Before recounting the tragic death of the kulaks, it is important to obtain a clear and concise understanding of resentment to better understand the intensity of the underlying negative emotions that motivated the barbarous persecution of some of the most innocent and undeserving of people.

As defined by Merriam-Webster, resentment can be regarded as "A feeling of indignant displeasure or persistent ill will at something regarded as wrong, insult, or injury."

In other words, resentment is a negative emotion rooted in the individual's inability to overcome one's jealousy of others, as well as one's failure to make up for one's own displeasure and personal shortcomings. With these par-

ticular definitions in mind, let us now revisit and deconstruct the devastating plight of the kulaks and better assess how to avoid

gains. As best summarized by Peterson, the Soviet's purported the resentful and politically charged lie that the kulaks had

*"A failure to remain encouraging and respectful of each other's successes could potentially lead to the development of a hostile community that facilitates the immaturities of jealousy and hatred."*

this infamy and jealousy.

As described in the 2018 internationally best-selling book *12 Rules for Life* by the renowned clinical psychologist and professor of psychology at the University of Toronto Dr. Jordan B. Peterson, the kulaks were "the most skillful and hardworking farmers" as well as a "small minority of people" who were responsible for most of the agricultural production throughout the Soviet Union.

As a result of their productivity and agricultural skill, the kulaks were also the "richest peasants" and enjoyed relatively profound economic success, that is, for what the times and government

"gathered their wealth by plundering those around them." The Soviet's further justified their false and inhumane depiction of the kulaks' success by promoting the pseudo-moralistic and power motivated principles that "wealth signified oppression" and "private property was theft."

While stringently following the previously quoted economic principles in the name of equity, the Soviets shot and killed thirty thousand kulaks, raped their women, confiscated their property, looted their personal belongings, and exiled millions to Siberia where many died in the process of traveling from a myriad of severe illnesses including typhoid,

*"...the Soviet's purported the resentful and politically charged lie that the kulaks had 'gathered their wealth by plundering those around them.' The Soviet's further justified their false and inhumane depiction of the kulaks' success by promoting the pseudo-moralistic and power motivated principles that 'wealth signified oppression', and 'private property was theft.'"*

would permit. The typical kulak, as Peterson notes, owned "a small number of cows, a couple of hired hands, or a few acres more than was typical."

However, in the eyes of a resentful ruling class, that is, the Soviet Union, the financial success of the kulaks was unacceptable in those times. In response to their success, the Soviets developed a vicious propaganda campaign in a desperate attempt to villainize the kulaks' economic success and financial

measles, and scarlet fever. As a result of the mass exportation of the kulaks, the proceeding agricultural decline led six million people in the Ukraine to die from starvation. With regard to the death toll of the kulaks themselves, it is speculated that three million were killed under Stalin's Five-Year Plans alone, a devastating loss that demonstrates the worst of humanity.

Some who have read up to this point may regard the connection of resent-

ment to Dekulakization as a deliberate exaggeration, or perhaps even a provocative stunt. Such dismissive claims only reveal that the person making them has not deeply considered the monstrous implications of resentment, or their own proclivity for evil and destruction as humans capable of possessing and acting upon such negative emotions. One then may be inclined to ask, "Why would one avoid contemplating such pressing behavioral and societal issues which concern our own human nature?"

ognize one's self as a complex being that is capable of pursuing both destruction and virtuosity—chaos and order, if you will.

Returning to my original message, I hope we are able to recognize the plight of the kulaks as a constant reminder of the devastating consequences that are associated with resentment. While such negative emotions are not likely to result in anything akin to the suffering experienced by the kulaks, they are, as revealed by the biblical story of Cain and Abel, guaranteed to

*"Some who have read up to this point may regard the connection of resentment to Dekulakization as a deliberate exaggeration, or perhaps even a provocative stunt. Such dismissive claims only reveal that the person making them has not deeply considered the monstrous implications of resentment, or their own proclivity for evil and destruction as humans capable of possessing and acting upon such negative emotions."*

For the very reason one may pose this question: such thoughts concern our own human nature. In modern society, it appears as though any thought of ourselves as being anything but moral creatures that are for the public and social good are bound to evoke internal feelings of guilt and discomfort from which we feel morally obligated to reconcile.

Indeed, as revealed by the moral justness and divinity through which the Soviets viewed their persecution of the kulaks, the existential struggle of the

plague personal well-being and close relationships with chaos and distress. In the context of school, when we find ourselves becoming resentful of, for example, a high-achieving friend or classmate, it is imperative to recognize our own immaturity and lack of gratitude before lashing out and subjecting the target of our frustration to undeserved suffering—as the Soviet's once did to the kulaks.

As was once cautioned and warned by the renowned 19th-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, "Nothing

*"While such negative emotions are not likely to result in anything akin to the suffering experienced by the kulaks, they are, as revealed by the biblical story of Cain and Abel, guaranteed to plague personal well-being and close relationships with chaos and distress."*

human race has forever concerned the individual's refusal to objectively rec-

on Earth consumes a man more quickly than the passion of resentment."

# FEATURES

## Seven Tips for Mather To-Go: How to Be Waste Conscious and Contribute to Making Trinity Green

BAILEY MCKEON '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

Visit: <https://www.trincoll.edu/sustainability/>

### 1. Bring a reusable water bottle.

Rather than taking a fountain cup or asking for a bottle of water, bring your water bottle and use the soda fountains to fill your glass with your drink of choice. Reducing your use of non-reusable items directly reduces your waste.

*How to get involved?*

*Join Green Campus!*

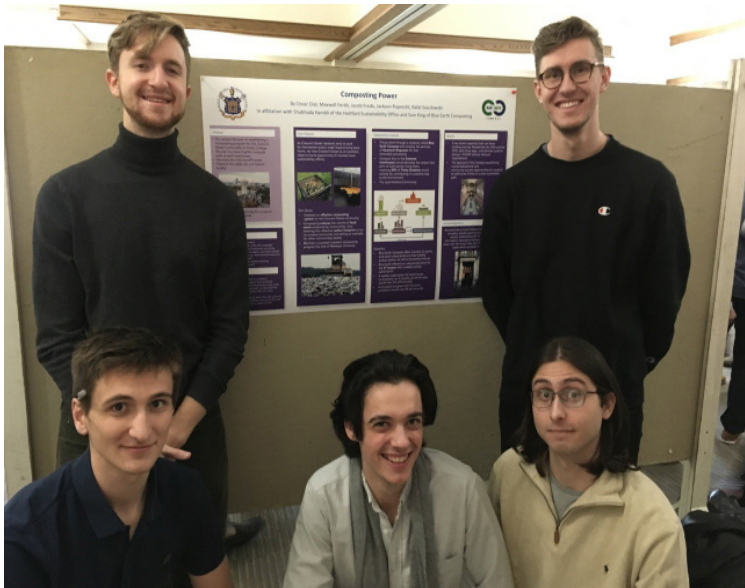


### 5. Be mindful about what you are actually going to eat.

With everything packed up to-go, it's easy to grab a few different meals, only to go sit down to eat and realize you aren't going to eat about half of what you took with you. Only take what you are actually going to eat to avoid generating unnecessary food waste. You can plan your meals ahead of time by using the app "DineOnCampus," which posts what is "on the menu" at Mather and the Bistro for the day. Pre-planning your meals will help you avoid grabbing random things that you may later decide you aren't going to eat.

### 6. Separate items that can be recycled.

Reducing your waste is the best way to be more sustainable, but with the items that are necessary for you, please take the extra time to decipher which ones are recyclable and find a place to recycle them. Hartford is unique in that its recycling system is single stream, meaning that all recyclable items can be recycled together. This makes recycling much easier, so please take the time to do it. Don't surrender to the convenience of a trash can!



MAX FERTIK '19

### 2. Invest in reusable utensils.

Buying a set of utensils that you can use each time you pick up to-go food from Mather will entirely diminish your need for the plastic spork provided for you.

### 3. Don't take what you don't need.

If you bring a reusable water bottle and have reusable utensils, don't grab the blue fountain cup only to throw it out when you leave. This is wasteful and without reason!

### 4. Trash your items wisely.

It's devastating to walk by Mather and see the trash cans outside overflowing with trash from our to-go meals. If you see a trash can already overfilled, or one that is entirely stuffed, find another trash can to deposit your waste.



JOE BARBER

The annual Do-It Day often features service projects that involve sustainability-related initiatives. Photo from 2019.

(Left) Members of the class of 2019 began a composting program on Crescent Street implemented last fall. They were inspired by taking an environmental science course at Trinity.

7. Compost if you can! Although there aren't really many composting options back at your dorm, if you find a way to compost on campus, please do so (and share how to with the rest of us so we can all learn how to be better)!

# Where Trinity Football Stands During Pandemic

ALEX CHAMBERS '22  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The stands are filled with students, parents, and alumni. Athletes file in, still carrying their gear from their respective practices. Unfortunately, Saturdays like these will be missing from Trinity's fall calendar.

Due to the potential elevated risk of contracting COVID-19 during sports competitions and gatherings, football, among Trinity's other fall sports, will not be competing this semester. The program, however, known for its tradition of excellence, is determined to stay focused amid our new normal.

In place of their regular nine-game season, the team will be practicing in "pods" of about 25 players. Starting Sept. 18, these pods will be able to have shortened, one-hour practices.

Head Coach Jeff Devaney said that the practices "will be no pads and no competition, so it will be all development work." With these restrictions, it will be difficult to develop the team in a traditional sense. To this point, Devaney said the team "will be enjoying each other's company and [ability] to be out on the field together, but we're not going to be nearly as productive in practicing our sport as we will be in normal times."

Devaney pointed out that team culture will be another challenge for the team during COVID. Without opportunities to meet together as a full team, little can be done to foster a comparable team dynamic. Devaney mentioned that the team has "30 incoming first-years who aren't able to be indoctrinated into what [our] culture is all about."

Despite the challenges to do things the way they normally do, captain Matt McCarthy '21 is optimistic, emphasizing that the team is "lucky to have a coaching staff that puts in countless hours in order to keep that team culture the same way it's always been at Trinity."

As soon as restrictions are lifted, the coaching staff plans to begin holding team meetings and finding other ways to engage players. Devaney said that once they are allowed to, they will "have meetings every night, and they're going to have nothing to do with the sport of football. They're going to have everything to do with our team's culture, our team's mission statement, and discussing social injustice and racism."

The team plans to take advantage of this unprecedented time to focus not only on football, but also on

coming together and making a difference both on and off the field and at Trinity.

McCarthy added that "Our goals, for the most part, will remain the same.

We hope to become a better football team despite not having any games. It also allows us to set goals off the field and become more involved in our community."



BANTAM SPORTS

**The Trinity Football Team, despite not being on the field this fall, is making strides in engaging with the community**

# Faculty Welcome New Appointments for Academic Year

KATIE CERULLE '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

This past Tuesday, the faculty met to welcome new members of the faculty to campus. The opening remarks of the meeting were to the same extent of many introductions students have been hearing this week; how unfortunate virtual interactions are but how grateful we are to have some sort of human contact.

Heads of each department introduced newly tenured and visiting faculty. Professor of Anthropology Jim Trostle introduced Professor Amanda Guzman, who is a visiting fellow in both the Anthropology and American Studies departments. She has a PhD in American Studies from UC Berkeley and received her undergraduate degree from Harvard in Archaeology, with a minor in Latin American History and Spanish.

Associate Professor of Classics Martha Risser appeared to introduce Visiting Assistant Professor Kelly Dugan. Professor Dugan completed her PhD from the University of Georgia in the spring of 2020, has MA's from University of Georgia, Ohio State and University of Kansas, and received her BA from the University of Minnesota. Professor of Economics Carol Clark introduced

two new assistant professors, Peter Bent and Chitra Jogani. Professor Bent is a macroeconomist who explores financial fragility from a historical perspective. He will be teaching a new class in the Economics department about reading and writing macroeconomics this fall. Professor Jogani joins both the Economics and International Studies departments. Her expertise lies at the intersection of development, political economy, and statistics with a strong interest in economic policy as applied to developing countries. Professor Jogani is also offering a new course during J-Term on Economics and big data. Her new course in the International Studies department is centered around global capitalism.

Professor of Economic Innovation Edward Peter Stringham introduced Professor Signe Thomas who will be joining to teach Formal Organizations and Market Behavior. Professor of International Studies Seth Markle introduced Professor Natassja Gunasena, a visiting Assistant Professor from Dubai, but originally from Sri Lanka. She received her BA from Minnesota State University, her MA from the University of Texas at Austin and her PhD in African Studies at University

of Texas at Austin. Associate Professor of Biology Lisa-Anne then introduced Dr. Benjamin Tuscano. He has been teaching at Trinity since 2018 and is on tenure track as of this fall. Professor of Language and Culture Studies Johannes Evelein introduced visiting Assistant Professor Carole Delaitre. She will be teaching a few language classes and some core content classes at Trinity this fall.

Professor of Mathematics Paula Russo introducing Professor Matthew McCurdy, who received his PhD from Florida State University in the spring of 2020. He will be teaching calculus and numerical analysis. Professor Branning from the Physics department introduced Professor Austin Reid. Professor Reid is teaching the introductory physics courses in the fall. Professor of Political Science Stephanie Chambers introduced Professor Anna Terwell, Professor Hernan Flom, Professor Kevin Funk and Professor Pony Manento. Professor Terwell has been a visiting assistant professor since 2017, but has recently been put onto tenure track. Professor Hernan Flom, whose research lies in political science and Latin American Politics, earned his PhD from UC Berkeley and will teach courses in

comparative politics. Professor Kevin Funk will be teaching courses focused on international relations and comparative politics. Professor Cory Manento, who received his PhD from Brown University in American Politics, will also begin his time at Trinity this fall.

Professor of Psychology Dina Anselmi introduced two visiting assistant professors; Professor Alisa Holland and Professor Kelly Ferreira. Professor Holland is a long term lecturer in Psychology. At Trinity, she will be teaching Introduction to Psychology and become the Psychology 101 coordinator. Professor Kelly Ferreira is a visiting lecturer in psychology. She received her PhD from Catholic University. Professor Preston of Theatre and Dance introduced Professor Terrell Sledge and Professor Terri Incampo. Professor Sledge received his BA in liberal arts from Yale and his MFA in acting from Brown University. Professor Incampo received her bachelor's from Trinity College, then her MA from Tufts in 2018. Professor of International Urban Studies Garth Meyers introduced Professor Laura Humm Delgado as this year's Jeff Kelter Post-Doctoral Fellow. She will be teaching community development strategies this fall and

in the American Cities Program next semester.

Professor of Chemistry Tim Curran introduced Professor Michael Young. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in the areas of neurobiology, pharmacology and physiology. He will be teaching Introduction to Chemistry this semester as well as Neurochemistry for the Neuroscience department. Anselmi also introduced one of Professor Masino's colleagues to the Neuroscience department—Professor Sally Seraphin. She will be teaching in the Neuroscience department as well as the Psychology department.

Dan Hitchell, the Vice President of Finance, introduced Michelle Cabral who has been appointed the permanent Assistant Vice President for Human Resources. Finally, Michelle Cabral also introduced Tapiwanashe Nhundu, who joined the College in the spring of 2020. She will be working in a recruiting and onboarding for the College's administration.

The faculty will convene again on Tuesday, Sept. 15 to approve September degrees and hear an annual address on the state of academics from the Acting Dean of the Faculty Sonia Cardenas.



# Arts & Entertainment

## New Nolan Film *Tenet* is Riveting Tyler, The Existentialist for a Socially Distant Audience

CAROLINE RICHARDS '22  
A&E EDITOR

*Tenet*, Christopher Nolan's newest action-masterpiece starring John David Washington and Robert Pattinson, couldn't have premiered for worse luck with timing. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the movie's release date was pushed back three times before its tentative release in the UK on Aug. 26 and later in the US on Sept. 3.

And yet, despite the pandemic and the drastically low movie attendance rate, *Tenet* has somehow turned out okay; it is the fifth highest grossing film in 2020 even with the pandemic still in play. What this says about Nolan's cult-following is obvious: people have been anticipating this movie for a long time now. It seems, so has Nolan, who took five years writing the movie and nearly a decade deliberating the plot. This could explain the strict, if obsessive, secrecy behind the movie as well. Washington and Pattinson were only permitted to read the script in the Warner Bros. Production's compound while locked in a room. Michael Caine, another member of the cast, was given his scripted pag-

es only on the day he was meant to film. If anything, this only made the anticipation more unbearable for Nolan's eleventh film.

Luckily, and perhaps to my great relief, the film lives up to my personal expectations. I will not provide any spoilers, but I will say the action is wild and viciously intense. The plot moves quickly and, at times, in complete zigzags that left me lost for a while before I regained my footing in late scenes; the pacing is incredible, as I find to be true in all of Nolan's movies. The tension a director must create between what is happening before your eyes and what is made obviously missing, or meant to be inferred, is a fine line on which Nolan balances seamlessly—and the cinematography used in order to pull it off is outstanding. While I was hesitant to see Washington and Pattinson act together (I was uncertain about their quietly-serious personalities working side by side), they both delivered impressive performances.

I always have trouble breaking Pattinson out of his Edward Cullen character, perhaps to my own detriment, but I was pleasantly surprised by how easily his character caught on.

What was most striking for me about the movie was the music. While Hans Zimmer is usually Nolan's go-to partner when it comes to music, Zimmer had previously committed to Dennis Villanueva's newest movie *Dune* and was unable to work with Nolan on this project.

Nolan and Zimmer's previous projects together has produced some of the most incredible scoring in film: *Interstellar*, *Inception*, and *The Dark Knight* trilogy are all included. However, Ludwig Emil Tomas Göransson's (*Fruitvale Station*, *Black Panther*) score is gorgeous and compelling. The pacing of the movie is only made more effective by the music and the way Göransson captures Nolan's characters is stunning.

In the end, Nolan's determination to release *Tenet* in theatres (insisting that the sound and visuals were a must-see for the big screen) was the right move.

The movie's time-warping cinematography and bizarre sound-mixing was worth it to see in theatres, and I highly recommend it to everyone. And if you do decide to venture out during the pandemic, please make sure you wear a mask and social distance!

## Tyler, The Existentialist

LIZ FOSTER '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

Jean-Paul Sartre and Tyler, the Creator are two names that should never coexist within the same sentence. However, "Analog 2," a track off of *The OF Tape Volume 2* by Tyler's former collaboration project Odd Future, begs one to question if the rapper and philosopher are more alike than initially anticipated.

Tyler opens the song with the lyrics: "Bitches think I'm crazy, but I'm normal / I just come off as a psycho maniac when I'm performin' / That's an act so I won't bore you to death, 'cause I adore you." Having listened to this song for over five years, I found it remarkable that it took this long to realize the genius behind these three lines. Tyler begins with the notion that "bitches" think he's "crazy." He diminishes the importance of those criticizing him with this derogatory term and simultaneously lessens the impact of their statement by reducing their perception to just "crazy." This word is so loosey-goosey that it could be thrown at anyone acting out of the norm, and thus its value is depreciated.

Tyler continues that he appears a "psycho maniac" when he's performing on stage. In this lyric, Tyler introduces one of Jean-Paul Sartre's philosophical concepts: being-for-others. Be-

ing-for-others indicates that one exists as an object for another (or the general "others" consumption). Here, Tyler is performing both literally and figuratively. He continues that this is an act so he doesn't bore "you" to death because he adores "you." The you at hand may very well be our consciousness. He seeks to entertain his audience, both the ticket buyers of his concert and the eyes of each and every person perceiving him.

Tyler works to get a firm grip on the people that make or break him, and that includes *everyone*. He hopes to be one of the more entertaining, exciting perceptions that his fans experience. By loving the metaphysical "you," he further demonstrates Sartre's notion that humans inherently "put on an act" for the approval and love of others. One molds themselves into what they hope to be perceived as through another's eyes.

In acting like a psycho-maniac hoping to not bore his audience, Tyler, the Creator proves himself to be a true existentialist. Sartre's philosophical ideologies around identity appear in even the most out of pocket places. Existentialism sneaking its way into 2010s rap reveals a cleverness and intrigue that both listeners and philosophers alike can all-knowingly nod towards with their complete approval.

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MAT-Secondary  
Educational Leadership  
Instructional Design<sup>1</sup>  
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Sports Journalism  
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# Weekly Skylights: The *Tripod* Looks to the Clouds

JOEY CIFELLI '23  
A&E EDITOR

(Right) There are shadows plastered against the wall of your bedroom. The small light in the corner, a miniature snowman holding a single bulb of frosted glass. Warm light rolls off the bulb and forms the dark shadows, the heavy shadows. They sink into the cracks and corners of your bedroom. Outside is the waxing gibbous moon. You can see it through your blinds, cut into little strips. And through the blinds filters in the moonlight. It's piercing and weightless, and the shadows that spread away from the places it touches are smaller, and they lie on the smooth parts of the wall like lazy moths, flapping once or twice. The streetlamp on the curb is there, like always. You feel the battered old light's humming and occasional creaks. The light that makes its way through the windows is electric and yellow, washing over your bedroom like a coat of lacquer. You watch from your covers, thinking, and after some time you begin to drift off into sleep, your head filled with kaleidoscopes and emptiness. **9.2/10.**



September 6, 2020

(Right) "What do you think of the colors?" the purple one said, "looks a little sparse to me, frankly. Too much blue. Too much white." They leaned back into the sofa. "It doesn't have anything to say. You've got to say something with it, otherwise there's no point." The pink one thought for a second. Then they said, "I think they've been chosen well. Looks at the patterns, for example. They look natural, but there's a lot of thought put into them. I'm impressed. I think the point is that you don't need so many colors." The pink one sipped something from a cup and took a bite of something else. "Plush-mmfp, exshcuse me," the pink one said, full of crumbs, "plus there're those green bits at the edges. That definitely adds." "Suit yourself," the purple one sighed. They checked off a box on their clipboard and piloted the saucer away from the Earth. **7.4/10.**



September 8, 2020



September 10, 2020

(Left) Almost always, I try to get some trees in the bottom or the sides of these photos. I think they add some stability and can be a pleasant textural and coloral contrast to the sky. Usually they stay on the fringes. I've been looking at this photo for a while now, however, and I am enjoying the mound of tree rising out of the center. The image feels so spacious now that the typical borders are gone. It's like the slope of the leaves are pushing the sky outward, sort of splitting your vision off to the sides rather than drawing it toward the center. This probably sounds like I'm fawning over nothing, but for all the shifting of the sky, the format on this end hasn't changed in a very long time. Here's to trying new things. **7.8/10.**

(Right) ATTENTION. ATTENTION. THIS IS A PUBLIC BROADCAST: Attention citizens, this is a public broadcast. There is a chameleon hiding in the air. I repeat, there is a chameleon hiding in the air. What you see above you is the distress pattern of the chameleon. Beware the aerial super-predator. Beware. Do not engage the chameleon hiding in the air. Any deaths caused by engaging with the chameleon will not be eligible for tax deduction. You have been warned. This concludes the public broadcast. Your performance has been rated: **7.2/10.** ATTENTION. THE PUBLIC BROADCAST HAS ENDED. RESUME ACTIVITIES. BEWARE. BEWARE.



September 11, 2020

# SPORTS

## Football is Back: The *Tripod* Looks into the Action of the NFL's Week One of the Regular Season

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

After much anticipation and the long-awaited delay, the *Tripod* is ecstatic to report that football is back in full swing. Although fans will not be present for most teams, there is still a great deal of action. The recent arrival of new players and, of course, recent trades were occurring in full swing this past week. The NFL started off the show strong with a game on Thursday night, with the Houston Texans facing last year's Super Bowl champions, the Kansas City Chiefs. Houston controlled much of the field during the first quarter and did not let the Chiefs into the end zone. However, after the first quarter warm-up, the Chiefs began to have long, continued drives into the end zone. After their first quarter slump, the Chiefs kept putting points up on the board and had an easy win of 34-20 against Houston. With a very strong showing, last year's champions showed they are still in good contention this year to make another run at a Super Bowl title. However, perhaps the most anticipated game of the opening week of the sea-

son was saved for Sunday night as many were waiting to see how Head Coach of the New England Patriots Bill Belichick would be able to lead the team without Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski. Despite their absence, the Patriots seemed to be running as efficiently as ever, putting up 21 points against the Miami Dolphins to secure their first win of the season. Cam Newton had a strong showing for his first game and evidently demonstrated that this Patriots team has a lot of talent that will be on display for the season to come.

Throughout the game, it was quite clear that Miami was not able to penetrate the Patriots defense and make a clean attack at the end zone. One of the Patriots defensive players was out in full swing, and the team was relentless in their ability to lock down any open space and limit the ball mobility. On the offensive side of things, the Patriots did not give the Dolphins a break and kept the defense on their toes, with a lot of short passes. These short passes allowed the players to explode down the sidelines.

On the flipside of the conversation, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers did not do

as well as everyone would expect for having both Brady and Gronkowski. During the game, Brady threw for 239 yards and two touchdowns, yet hit a slump during the second quarter, during which the team fell behind and could not catch up to the New Orleans Saints. Another area of focus was on Gronkowski, as his performance on the field was not what most were expecting, with just eleven yards in total ball movement. The Saints defense was able to keep Gronkowski under control, and as a result limited his effectiveness throughout much of the game. While this first game might not be what many expected for Brady, there is still plenty of time for the team to revisit their strategies and move forward more effectively. There is still a lot of football left in the season, and the energy that has already been brought to the first game is quite amazing.

However, out of all the games from yesterday the best matchup of the week by far was the LA Rams against the Dallas Cowboys. The Rams had a strong start during the first quarter with the offense shutting out the Cowboys and putting up a touchdown early on. With that being said, the Cowboys came back in the second quar-

ter and responded with two touchdowns, managing to steal the lead from the Rams. The true nailbiter of the match-up occurred during the third quarter, when the Cowboys were only able to get a field goal kick and the Rams pushed through for a touchdown to seal the game at 20-17 and take the win. Much of the fourth quarter can be summed up as a battle of the defenses, as the Rams attempted to hold on to the win and Dallas did whatever they could to break through. With seconds left on the clock, the Rams were able to just barely secure their first win of the season. Yet, if you happen to be a Cowboys fan, there should be some key takeaways from this game that may show a promising future for Dallas.

The first interesting highlight from the game was the return of Alden Smith, Cowboys defensive end, who played for the Raiders in 2015 but had a few legal issues, including a DUI, hit and run, and multiple other offenses as well as an NFL suspension. For his first game back since then, he achieved 11 tackles and a sack. He has definitely shown that he can

still hold his own and will prove to be a critical part of this Cowboys defensive lineup throughout the season.

Second, Ezekiel Elliott seems to be regaining his former All-Pro status after carrying the Dallas Cowboys offense through a majority of the game with a total of 96 rushing yards and a touchdown. Despite what others may argue, Elliott is still in his prime and demonstrating that he is still a powerhouse on the field.

Lastly, this was Mike McCarthy's first game as Head Coach of the Dallas Cowboys, and he has proved that he has a lot to bring to the team. While he is still following precedent from prior coaching by allowing Elliott to take most of the offensive workload, it is evident that during Sunday's game, he has reformed the defense and greatly improved their chances of making the playoffs. His coaching style gives avid football watchers another thing to look forward to as the Cowboys prepare this week to face the Falcons on Sunday. While this year's 2020 season may be shorter, there is no doubt a higher level of skill being demonstrated by all the teams from the improved practice time and general team reforms.

## FIFA Announces Potential Funding of Anti-Corruption Agency Following Multiple Recent Sports Scandals

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SPORTS EDITOR

Due to the uncertain and ever-evolving circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the sports world has adapted in such a way that marks the first time multiple championship competitions and seasons will overlap in history. An immense number of sports seasons from hockey, to biking, to football, are all proceeding concurrently. You can practically turn on the television and watch any sport you want, at any time.

That being said, it can be hard to choose which relevant competitions to spend your time watching, as well as which issues within the sports world you should give your undivided attention to. A particularly interesting

situation one may want to devote some attention to would be the evolving area of FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association, or International Federation of Association Football) funding anti-corruption agencies for sports competitions.

According to the *Associated Press*, FIFA President Gianni Infantino, speaking at a United Nations event in Austria, stated that the agency wanted to take more efforts to stop and prevent corruption from occurring within the sports realm and take positive action to correct these wrongs. This is a historic action given the corruption scandals in recent years that have plagued the competition circuit.

Most recently, former FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke had his po-

sition terminated in 2015 due to corruption within the Caribbean Football Union after the realization that multiple transactions totaling over \$10 million had occurred without authorization. It is no surprise that FIFA chose to take on these steps to end corruption, as this past weekend Valcke and many others involved in the corruption scandals were placed on trial in Switzerland. Even the former UEFA president Michel Platini stepped down from his position after a discovery of funds linked to unauthorized World Cup bidding.

Infantino's serious approach to ending corruption is long overdue for the organization, and it will be interesting to see how the events unfold as they embark upon this journey to purify and improve the quality of the sport. Infantino stated that

he would not allow for corruption within the industry to continue, stating, "Never again. Never again corruption in football."

Another of the largest issues facing the FIFA organization currently is the vast number of leagues and subgroups within the organization that hamper its ability to organize and effectively resolve issues. This influx of leagues and subgroups makes it difficult for authorities to regulate their activities, leading to increased instances of corruption across teams nationwide. Another issue that Infantino alluded to was the lack of checks and balances within FIFA's organizational structure, along with the possible use of special task forces that allow for more accountability within

the actual administrative structure. This approach as a whole is quite interesting in that FIFA is fully acknowledging and attacking the issue head on, dedicating a large portion of their funds and efforts to preventing corruption.

While FIFA has attempted to address these issues, past administrations have been slow-going and halfhearted in their approach to the issues, and so it remains to be seen whether or not this current effort will succeed in improving fairness. However, the current administration, along with Infantino, have made it clear that they intend to attack the issue head on and prioritize it as an area of focus for 2020-2021, and they will likely restructure a lot of what we currently know about FIFA.

## This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

### Athletes Face Technical Difficulties in Utilizing New Online System to Sign-Up for Lifting Times

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SPORTS EDITOR

This past week, Trinity's athletes were sent an email by Head Strength and Conditioning Coach Bill DeLongis detailing the weight room rules and how to sign up for training sessions. What was supposed to be a rather straight-forward process had a few glitches.

To give background, athletes are offered three different workouts from Monday to Thursday under the College's COVID-19 protocols: (1) Wildcard Workout on GLAX/Field Hockey field, (2) Lift in Ferris, and (3) EDT Circuit in Tent 1. The hope is that students will be able to complete 2 to 3 of the workouts, and there are bonus workouts available for those wanting more.

In a world free of COVID-19, the lifting sign-up process would have been done, and has been done in the past, a little differently. Fall teams would have signed up for

their sessions in person during their pre-season camp (which did not happen this year), and the winter and spring teams would typically have a mix of both small group lifts and team lifts. Small group lift sign-ups would have happened at team meetings, and team lifts did not require any sign-ups because the sessions were done at times of the day when no classes were occurring. However, given the adjusted class schedule and the new capacity limit in the weight room, alterations to lift and how to sign up for lift needed to be made. Accordingly, the athletic department decided to use services provided by Sign-up.com.

While there were a few complications with the sign-up process, the website was not the source of them, so it will be used again. DeLongis explained that the first issue with the process was that "some students didn't follow the instructions" and signed up "for only certain weeks

or different times each week." This was easily fixed by communicating to the athletes that their week one times were the same for all five weeks. The second issue was that the email sent out was supposed to be automatically sent at 8 p.m. via ARMS to each team. However, the program had a glitch and sent the emails out at various times, resulting in certain teams getting the signup sheet before others. However, there are 360 workout slots available each day for athletes to choose from and, at the moment, only seven out of the 25 workouts have reached capacity. So, while the more popular times may already be filled, athletes can still log on to the website and review an array of options.

DeLongis proudly detailed his opinions on last week's minor complications stating, "the process wasn't as smooth as we had envisioned but what a great problem to have and to fix. — We have in person learning, we have athletes who want to train and get better,

and I continue to have the best job in the country." Clearly a Bantam until the end, DeLongis is confident about the direction the fall 2020 athletic season is headed and hopes that a slow progression to what practices and activities usually look like can be made by mid-to-late Octo-

ber. However, as one might assume, this is entirely dependent on virus levels staying manageable not just on Trinity's campus, but within the surrounding community and Connecticut as a whole. So, to all the athletes, keep the faith and hopefully we will see you in games soon.



BANTAM SPORTS



TRINITY TRIPOD

### Women's Rowing Looks Forward to Potential Spring

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FEATURES EDITOR

The Trinity College Women's Rowing Team has endured many substantial changes this semester, all of which the rowers have been mentally and physically adapting to. Similar to other sports teams across campus, the women's rowing team has had to postpone the start date of the season.

With COVID-19 here to stay for the time being, the women's rowing team has committed to not partaking in regattas. What is unique about rowing, however, is that it is a two-season sport. As such, the athletes have a special scenario in which they are able to practice, get faster and stronger in the fall, and hopefully apply those improvements in the spring when the women

are competing for a title.

A natural air of competitiveness is derived from rowing, especially since each girl is fighting for a top spot in a top boat. However, with no clear racing schedule this fall, many women are finding that they need to up their mental game in order to keep in top shape.

Team member Isabella Bianchini '23 offered the *Tripod* her take on the current situation: "Usually at the beginning of each rowing season, we are in top shape from the summer, hoping to be put in the top boat to race at the most important race of the season. We all look forward to and work for one of those eight seats... this means we need to be even more mentally tough this season to keep in shape for the other people on the team."

In order to adhere to social distancing rules, rowers cannot technically row in doubles, fours, or eights anymore, thus presenting a new challenge to some who do not have experience rowing in singles. Nonetheless, both experienced and inexperienced scullers will be refining their skills this fall.

Rower Claire Griggleson '21 added that "the opportunity for everyone to practice in singles this year is really unique and will benefit us when we transition into team boats... sculling develops a strong sense of boat feel and improves technique. I am excited to see people's progress, and some inter-squad competition."

While freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are able to look forward to getting stronger over the coming years, the seniors on the team now have to prepare themselves to compete in

the spring, or perhaps not compete at all. Griggleson added that it is "hard to rationalize why one should keep training when you may not have another season of racing. What I say to myself, and to my teammates, is that, despite everything, if I am given the opportunity to race

this spring, I want to be as prepared as possible."

Although everything is up in the air at the moment, according to Griggleson, the seniors on the team will walk away with no regrets this year. "I don't want to wonder what could have been. I want to look back and know I gave it my all."



GOPRO