

# The Trinity Tripod

-ESTABLISHED 1904-

Now then-Trinity!

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Volume CXVI  
Number III

## WIFI Down; Cyber Attack

KIP LYNCH '22  
NEWS EDITOR

Following a string of cyber attacks in Connecticut, the *Tripod* looked into the recent wireless outages across campus.

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KATIE CERULLE '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

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A&E EDITOR

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MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

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### To Our Readers:

Keep your eye out for the *Tripod's* new Sunday morning feature series on issues of critical importance to the Trinity community. Check it out on Instagram or our website, [trinitytripod.com](http://trinitytripod.com).

This week, Kaylen Jackson '21 sits down with SGA president Giovanni Jones '21.

## The *Tripod* Reviews Quarantine Policies

KAT NAMON '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

The significant coronavirus case increase at Trinity has prompted a *Tripod* review of Trinity's contact tracing protocols and an examination of student living conditions in the Doonesbury dormitory, where positive-case students remain in isolation in order to limit the spread of the virus across campus. The *Tripod* has also learned additional details concerning how the College is approaching and evaluating this significant uptick in cases in relation to operations and precautions.

There are presently 13 students in isolation, the *Tripod* has learned, with a possible fourteenth following an increase in the positive case count to 15 when the College's COVID-19 dashboard was updated

Monday evening. The increase of nine cases reported over two days early last week appears to qualify as an outbreak under the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended definition issued earlier this year. That guidance specifies that an outbreak has occurred when "two or more contacts are identified as having active COVID-19, regardless of their assigned priority" or when "two or more patients with COVID-19 are discovered to be linked, and the linkage is established outside of a case investigation and contact tracing."

At least two cases last week were related to students residing in the first floor of the Jones dormitory, according to an email from Dean of Campus Life and Vice President for Student Affairs Joe DiChristina

see POLICY on page 3

## Trinity Rises by Two Points in Rankings

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

The *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for 2021 were released on Monday, Sept. 14, placing Trinity in a tie at #44 among National Liberal Arts Colleges, an increase of two from last year's #46. Trinity tied for #44 with Denison University in Granville, Ohio and Union College in Schenectady, New York.

Though President Berger-Sweeney has not yet published any official communications on the matter, Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas told the *Tripod* that though "rankings are not an adequate reflection of quality, we are pleased that others are taking notice of our progress and that the measures in which we improved align with

the things we care about."

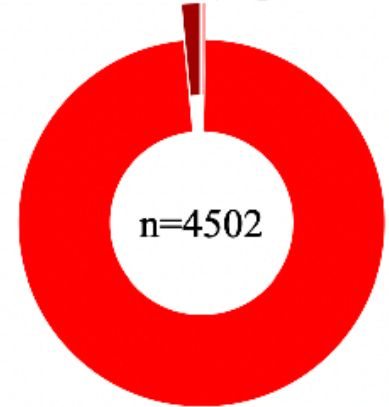
In an email to alumni, Vice President for College Advancement Michael Casey wrote that Trinity's increase in rank "was driven by steady improvements in a number of categories" including "graduation rate performance," "social mobility," "alumni giving," and "financial resources." His email also announced that the College is "planning an exclusive webinar that will go into a bit more depth on the rankings sometime in the very near future," however no further details have been announced as of Monday, Sept. 21.

This year's *U.S. News* rankings methodology saw graduation rate performance, as measured by a comparison of actual and

see RANKINGS on page 4

## COVID-19 Update: Case Increases at Trin

Trinity Test Results (Sept. 14 - Sept. 21)



0.33% Positive\*  
98.11% Negative  
1.55% Invalid

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

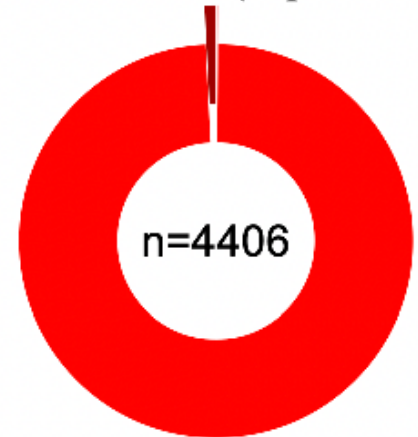
Examining the data available on Trinity's COVID-19 Dashboard, the College has reported that a total of 4,507 COVID-19 PCR tests have been completed between Sept. 14 and Sept. 21, with a total of 15 positive test results.

Trinity has recorded 23 positive cases total among students, 9 of which have been "prior," referring to "test results of individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and received another positive test result less than 90

days from the first." According to the Dashboard, "In some cases, their original positive test was before their arrival on campus and they were never active cases on campus."

As shown in the figure above, the positive test rate between Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 was approximately 0.33% (\*including 5 "priors"), a significant increase from last week's (Sept. 7 through Sept. 14) positive test rate of 0.14% as shown in the figure below. In addition, the invalid test rate for this week was approximately 1.55%, nearly double last week's invalid test rate of 0.82%.

Trinity Test Results (Sept. 7 - Sept. 14)



0.14% Positive  
99.05% Negative  
0.82% Invalid

# The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904  
"Now then-Trinity!"

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### CORRECTIONS

## Tripod Editorial

# Remembering Justice Ginsburg

Few acts are so solemn as to eulogize those who pass from among the living. While Justice Ginsburg may not have attended Trinity, she was intimately tied to the country from which our institution is inseparable. In a way, the acts of the Supreme Court—her court for that transitory moment that is life—had a profound and everlasting impact upon the lives of students, alumni, and staff from all corners of the nation.

On this Tuesday, we remember her legacy: of judicial eloquence, fierce advocacy for the rights and interests of the United States and its people, and an everlasting resolve for and faith in progress.

Her impact seems almost a constant and, as so many have reflected, a titanic presence in the world of law and the world of cultural discourse.

From zealous advocacy for the interest of gender equality as a young attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union to her interests in the often-arcane vagaries of civil procedure (among the few women then in the field, she taught a course at Columbia while a faculty member), Justice Ginsburg's mark on generations of clerks, students, and aspiring legal practitioners is indescribable.

Her favorite quote, too, from Justice Felix Frankfurter, epitomized the value of procedure in the momentum of progress: the "history of liberty has largely been the history of observance of procedural safeguards."

Her opinions have

shaped progressive jurisprudence and her cases have been leading and definitive on so many issues that shape our national discourse. *United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. 515 (1996), which struck down Virginia Military Institute's male-only admissions policy, held that "women seeking and fit" for a VMI education were entitled under equal protection.

That decision is emblematic as any of her unbroken resolve that women, as much as men, are entitled to the same treatment and the same opportunities across these United States.

Likewise, her dissents have positioned her as a scion of Warren-era judicial activism in an age that has seen the Court drift increasingly more conservative: her *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, 573 U.S. 682 (2014) dissent, whether you agree with her position or not, reflects the carefully-crafted jurisprudence that elevated her to the nation's highest court. Here, a rigorous analysis never falters in pushing the Court to explain its position and rectify its argument with landmark cases that concern judicial questions of compliance and exemption from the law. She mounts an impassioned plea, even in dissent, for competing interests of authority: Congress' Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate.

This final decade of career may even permit her, if only for a moment, to apt-

ly steal the title of "Great Dissenter" from Justice Harlan. Any admirer of judicial discourse and legal thought would recognize that—policy preference aside—Justice Ginsburg argued admirably and forcefully for the positions she saw the law permit.

She was, too, a beacon for what makes America the place it is as much as a progressive icon: her close friendship with the late Justice Antonin Scalia, despite their judicial and political differences, remained among the most cherished aspects of her life. She reminds us today of the best we can be, in this time of great national division. She helps us to recall that through it all we remain united on the same team. Moreover, sometimes, she says, there are more important things than politics (like a night out at the opera with a friend across the aisle).

Regardless of our political positions, we should look toward Justice Ginsburg as a model American in all respects. One who fought for so many, in the name of equality and justice, and who always reminded us of the importance of a well-defended opinion without forgetting who we are.

And so, as she is laid to rest, we implore you to appreciate and reflect on her legacy on our nation's judicial system and on her impassioned work for so many across our country.

-The Trinity Tripod

## Letter to the Editor: Register on National Voter Registration Day

To the Editor:

Does a 50 year old voter have the same ideas and opinions as a 20 year old college student? Definitely not!

If there are lessons we have learned over these past couple of months due to pandemic quarantining and social unrest over police brutality, it is that America's student voices are not being heard. Despite issues like college debt and the lack of jobs post college, a study from

Tufts University found that less than half (40.3%) of students around the nation vote. While we have made great strides from the 2012 election, there is still room for improvement. It is more important now than ever for students in our generation to go vote.

ConnPIRG is a non profit organization working to change that by registering voters. Today, on National Voter Registration day, if you have not registered to vote already, please register to vote or

update your registration at [studentvote.org](http://studentvote.org). It is our duty to engage our generation and work towards building a better future.

Our generation is at a turning point and soon we will be leading our country. We have the power to become an extremely influential group of voters and need to take advantage of this opportunity.

-Olivia Wentworth '21  
and Sydney Bell '21

# NEWS

## Contact Tracing and Doonesbury Quarantine Reviewed

continued from page one

to impacted students on Tuesday, Sept. 15, suggesting a linkage. The CDC does, however, indicate that an outbreak is “relative to the local context.” It remains unclear if the 40 students in isolation for possible contact, identified in an email from DiChristina on Sept. 16, remain in quarantine.

Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for External Affairs Jason Rojas indicated that the College’s “Hartford Healthcare infectious disease specialist” does not consider the cases last week an outbreak and instead defined them as “an uptick in cases.” Rojas went on to clarify that “with efforts to isolate and quarantine students, our focus is to limit further transmission.”

Following this uptick, the College did not rescind its guidance on student gathering last week, electing to allow students to gather in groups of six outdoors. The *Tripod* inquired about what factors the College is considering in deciding whether or not to permit outdoor gatherings. Rojas indicated that “testing has given us, with some degree of certainty, a sense of what we should do from a public health perspective.” Because of rigorous testing procedures, the administration believes “that it was allowable, at this moment, for very small groups to gather outside. People wearing masks and physically distancing outdoors in very small groups appears to be one way that students can socialize in a safe manner.” Rojas cautioned, however, that this privilege could “change at

any moment, depending on whether conditions improve or worsen.” As of Monday evening, the College’s alert level remains at yellow.

### Investigating the Contact Tracing and Relocation Process:

For any student who tests positive, Trinity has advised them to “return to your residence and stay there with your mask on until a healthcare professional or on-call campus staff member contacts you.” Students are encouraged to “begin to pack necessary belongings” in preparation for moving to Doonesbury. Student dormitory rooms are then sanitized by the College. Impacted students can walk to the dormitory or may elect to be driven by a nurse.

Trinity’s Health Center informs professors about positive results and that students will be participating in classes remotely during the duration of their quarantine. The *Tripod* has reached out to Director of Student Health Services Martha O’Brien for a comment and has not received a response but will update if one is received. DiChristina, however, told the *Tripod* that students are first “advised to contact staff for support,” which includes “staff in the Counseling and Wellness Center and the Health Center.”

Students who test positive also receive notice from contact tracers. The College’s guidance indicates that the tracer asks for a list of names of individuals “with whom you have been in close contact for the two

days prior to the collection date of your positive test.” According to multiple students who tested positive, however, contact tracers only ask students to name those they had been in close contact with while indoors and not wearing a mask. This informs contact tracers of who the positive individuals had put at a medium-to-high risk but does not inform them of those that they encountered outdoors or in classes and other activities where masks were worn.

Those with possible exposure are advised to quarantine in their dormitories and are “contacted by the College’s State of Connecticut Department of Public Health trained contact tracers based on reports of direct exposure, assessments for mask-use and social distancing, among other factors, to determine who is at risk,” according to Rojas. Individuals who are not in contact with a known case “are not contacted because they are not at risk from the known positive case,” Rojas continued.

### Examining the Quarantine and Isolation Experience for Positive Cases at Trinity:

The *Tripod* spoke with students who are in isolation, who have indicated that meals have been small in size in comparison to those for non-isolated students, with deliveries occurring at noon and in the early evening. Students have also identified concerns with support in quarantine and supervision of the Doonesbury facility.

DiChristina commented

that the College ensured that “the space was cleaned, AC units [were] put in each room, the kitchen was ready as a place for us to bring food, and we set plans for cleaning the area each day.” He clarified that all these precautions were taken “within the guidelines of CDC” [sic] and that “protocols are followed by the ABM staff for cleaning.” Doonesbury is able to house as many as 31 students but, according to Rojas, the College has “secured additional facilities if needed.” As of Sept. 21, at least 13 students were in isolation in Doonesbury.

Individuals who are residing in Doonesbury for a ten-day isolation period receive meals “twice daily...between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m...and from 5:45-6:15 p.m.” Breakfast is delivered with the evening meal delivery. In an email, Residential Learning Coordinator Joel Copperthite cautioned students to only take their designated bags, as otherwise they will “be depriving another resident of their meal.” DiChristina did add that the College can “certainly can let one of the staff in student life know of any concerns” relative to dissatisfaction with the College’s policies.

Students are quarantined across three singles, which are connected by two different doors. Groups of three infected students share the same bathroom, according to reports from students who have tested positive.

The College appears to permit infected students to engage food delivery services such as UberEats and DoorDash. Students who

test positive, according to a Sept. 21 email from Copperthite, are asked to “let us know if you intend on ordering food or not prior to the day’s deliveries” to avoid waste in the delivery of College meals. That same email encouraged students to “be sure to order contactless delivery only.” It did not appear that the College was utilizing Campus Safety or any other individuals to monitor or enforce that contactless requirement. The *Tripod* reached out to Copperthite for a comment and has not received a response at the time of publication but will update accordingly if one is received.

Students also expressed that Doonesbury lacks regular supervision and monitoring of its interior facilities. Students do receive daily calls with members of the faculty and healthcare professionals who evaluate how they are feeling “every few hours.” According to DiChristina, there is a full-time nurse available who “is on campus but not living in Doonesbury.” He stressed that the College “wanted to be sure to have the type of coverage of needed” and that “Campus Safety can access the nurse at all hours to coordinate any responses needed.” However, while nurses are available, students have been encouraged to contact emergency services in the case of a medical emergency.

DiChristina told the *Tripod* that he and Dean of Student Life Jody Goodman are aware that “this is a stressful situation for our students,” adding that they “want to be attentive to their needs” as much as possible.

## College Campus Safety Report: Sept. 14 - Sept. 19

Saturday, Sept. 12  
*Hansen Hall*

Liquor Law Violation.  
Four students received disciplinary referrals.

Sunday, Sept. 13  
*Wheaton Hall*

Vandalism - Property  
This case remains open.

Sunday, Sept. 13  
*Wheaton Hall*

Liquor Law Violation.  
12 students received disciplinary referrals.

Tuesday, Sept. 15  
*Non-Campus*

Aggravated Assault.  
Referred to Title IX Coordinator.

Wednesday, Sept. 16  
*On Campus*

Stalking and Harassment.  
Referred to Title IX Coordinator.

Wednesday, Sept. 16  
*Mather Hall*

Larceny - Theft from Non-residential Building.  
This case remains open.

Friday, Sept. 18  
*High Rise*

Drug Use and Liquor Law Violation.  
Two students received disciplinary referrals.

Friday, Sept. 18  
*Elton Hall*

Liquor Law Violation.  
Five students received disciplinary referrals.

Saturday, Sept. 19  
*Jackson Hall*

Drug Use and Liquor Law Violation.  
Three students received disciplinary referrals.

# Trinity Moves to 44th in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

continued from page one

predicted six-year graduation rate, accounted for 8% of the overall ranking. Similarly, social mobility as measured by the graduation rates of Pell Grant students accounted for 5% of the overall ranking. Alumni giving, measured as the “average percentage of living alumni with bachelor’s degrees who gave to their school” between 2017 and 2019, accounted for only 3% of the 2021 overall ranking, a decrease from 5% for the 2020 rankings. It remains unclear to what extent Trinity’s improvement in alumni giving, as described by Casey, is responsible for Trinity’s increased ranking given the lower importance of alumni giving in this year’s methodology. Finally, financial resources, measured as the average per-student spending on “instruction, research, student services and related educational expenditures in the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years,” accounted for 10% of the 2021 overall ranking.

When compared to the rest of the NESCAC, Trinity has the second lowest ranking, ahead of only Connecticut College ranked #51. The next lowest ranked NESCAC school is Bates College, ranked #22, followed by Wesleyan University at #20 and Colby College at #15. Among the other NESCAC schools, Amherst, Bowdoin, Hamilton, Middlebury, and Williams are all ranked within the top ten of the 2021 rankings. Tufts University, however, is ranked within the “National Universities” category instead of the “National Liberal Arts Colleges” category. Overall, Trinity’s current ranking remains significantly lower than the rest of the NESCAC, with Connecticut College being the only exception to the rule.

*The Tripod* also examined

the change in U.S. News rankings over time among NESCAC schools using a historical dataset available online at andyreiter.com. The 1-year, 10-year, and 20-year change in U.S. News rankings is shown in the figure below. Trinity, along with Hamilton, was one of only two schools in the NESCAC to improve in ranking from 2020 to 2021. Over the past ten years, however, Trinity’s *U.S. News* ranking has decreased by eight, tied with Wesleyan for the second largest decrease in the same time period for NESCAC schools; only Connecticut College’s ranking decreased more in the same time period. Both Colby and Hamilton increased in ranking by eight and nine respectively over the same time period. Over ten years the rankings for Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, and Williams have remained consistent, while Middlebury’s ranking has slightly decreased.

Over the past twenty years, Trinity’s *U.S. News* ranking has decreased by 21, the second-largest decrease behind only Connecticut College whose ranking has decreased by 24 in the same time period. Wesleyan’s ranking has suffered a decrease of ten over the time period, while no other NESCAC school ranking has decreased by more than three in the twenty-year period. As shown in the figure below, the rankings of Hamilton and Colby increased by twelve and four respectively, while Williams has risen by a total of two spots from #3 to #1. Tufts was excluded from analysis due to its separate classification within the “National Universities” Category.

The *Wall Street Journal* Times Higher Education (WSJ/THE) College Rankings for 2021 were also recently released on Thursday, Septem-

ber 17, with Trinity ranked #92, a decrease of five from last year’s #87. Compared to the rest of the NESCAC, Trinity has the second-lowest ranking, ahead of only Connecticut College ranked #106. Amherst and Williams ranked highest among NESCAC schools, tied for #21. Unlike the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, the *WSJ/THE* rankings do not split the rankings into “National Liberal Arts Colleges” and “National Universities,” which could explain for the generally lower absolute rankings among the NESCAC schools.

The *U.S. News* and *WSJ/THE* rankings each have unique methodologies for determining school rankings. The former considers 17 different metrics while the latter considers 15 metrics, and though some of the metrics are similar, many are also weighted differently across the two methodologies.

With respect to COVID-19’s potential impact on rankings, *U.S. News* made clear that “the data used in these rankings pertain to fall 2019 and earlier,” meaning the disruption caused by COVID-19 on higher education “could not impact the data schools submitted to *U.S. News*.” Additionally, the *WSJ/THE* rankings clarified that the regular survey related to student engagement “had to be canceled for this year,” so the rankings used the student engagement scores “obtained by institutions last year.”

The *Tripod* reached out on Thursday to Rojas and Director of Media Relations Stacy Sneed for comment prior to the publication of this article. Rojas acknowledged receipt of the questions, but indicated that the College would likely be unable to respond to questions by the print date of Sept. 22.

# Trinity Endures Extensive Cyberattack

KIP LYNCH '22  
NEWS EDITOR

Trinity College began experiencing numerous issues with its servers and network devices on Saturday, Sept. 12. Vice President for Information Services and Chief Information Officer Suzanne Aber first informed the student body of systems interruptions via email on Sept. 12 before revealing the following day that the systems interruptions were the result of a “sophisticated cyberattack.” The main campus Wi-Fi network, “eduroam,” would not be restored until the night of Wednesday, Sept. 16. A Cyber Alert brief by the Connecticut Intelligence Center, obtained by the *Tripod*, revealed that Trinity College may be one of eight school systems that were targeted by cyberattacks during the week of Sept. 6.

Suzanne Aber first informed the Trinity community of the systems interruptions in the late morning of Saturday, Sept. 12, stating that “IT Services is currently experiencing sporadic issues with a number of servers and network devices.” She updated the Trinity community later that day, revealing that the ITS team expected services to be impacted through the evening of Sept. 12. The following evening, Aber would reveal that the ITS team was responding to a cyberattack. She further stated that “we caught the attack early and do not believe any personal or institutional data was accessed.” The *Tripod* would later speak to Chief of Staff and Assistant Vice President for External Affairs Jason Rojas. On when the administration first learned that the internet issues were the result of a cyberattack, he stated that “Our staff continue to do our due diligence in gathering information on the nature and impact of the disruption. Once we determined we had a clearer understanding of the situation we informed the campus community.” On whether the administration could state with certainty that personal or institutional information wasn’t stolen, Rojas stated that “We continue to review the matter and will provide an update when we have additional information to share.” Additional updates on the security of personal information have not been provided.

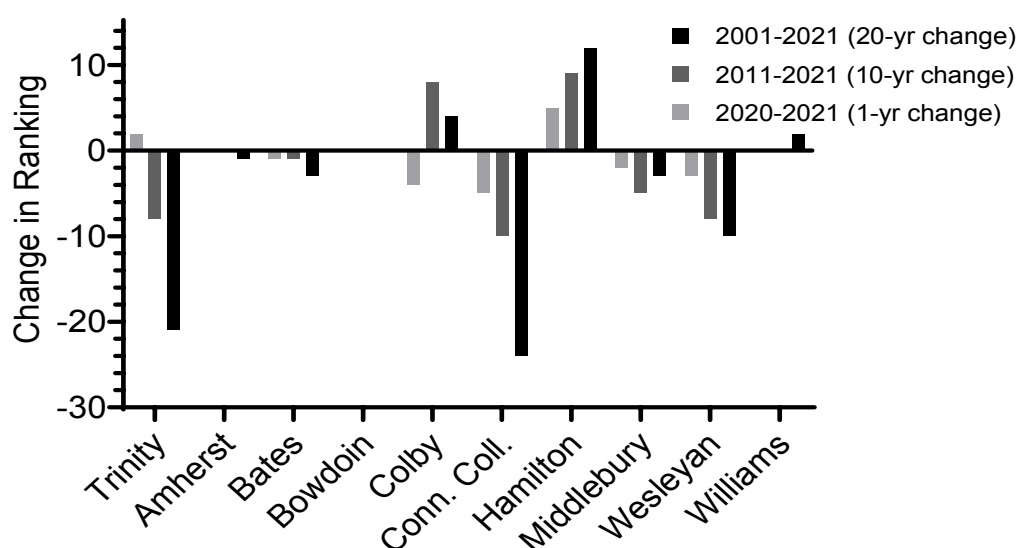
In an email sent to the student body in the evening of Sept. 14, Suzanne Aber informed the student body that the ITS team was working with two cybersecurity companies and that “significant progress was made today in ensuring that the quality of our infrastructure is in place to allow us to start bringing services online tomorrow.” Changing priorities and delays would result in the network being restored two days later. Although no specific cybersecurity company was mentioned, Trinity College has highlighted its relationship with alumnus Matthew Prince '96, CEO and Co-founder of Cloudflare, and previously hosted a Zoom meeting between him and President of the College Joanne Berger-Sweeney on May 27, 2020. Founded in 2009, Cloudflare is notable for mitigating some of the largest ever recorded DDoS cyberattacks as well as for its pro-free speech stance.

According to the Cyber Alert brief, obtained by the *Tripod* through an anonymous source, “eight (8) different school systems in the State of Connecticut were targeted with DDoS attacks.” The brief further stated that “It is common to see a rise in DDoS attacks being carried out against schools at the commencement of a school year, or after an extended break. Additionally, the implementation of remote learning environments has not only made many more schools more vulnerable to DDoS attack, but also created an environment where successful attacks are even more disruptive.” It is not immediately known whether Trinity is included in the tally of school systems targeted with DDoS attacks. It is also unclear whether Hartford Public Schools, which also experienced a DDoS attack forcing the school system to postpone the start date by one day, is also included in the tally.

A distributed denial-of-service attack, otherwise known as a DDoS attack, is a cyberattack where a perpetrator floods a targeted machine or resource with requests from an array of sources.

The *Tripod* reached out on Sept. 18 for further clarification to the administration’s previous comments, which went unacknowledged by Rojas as of publication Monday evening.

Change in U.S. News Rankings among NESCAC Schools



# OPINION

## The Quarantine Diaries: What Needs to Change

LIZ FOSTER '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

Hey, it's me. I'm in quarantine, remember? Yeah. So here we are. As I enter into my second week of sitting in my bedroom for the entire day, I've noticed a few flaws in the system that's supposedly keeping myself and my peers safe and healthy.

On Sunday, as per usual, I was starving until lunchtime. I was ecstatic to meander over to the quarantine meal tent behind Mather, but discovered upon my arrival (at 12:40 p.m., within the time span during which meals are provided) that there was no food. No one, neither faculty member nor student, was there to hand out the designated packaged meals for quarantined students. I departed around 12:50 p.m., the end of the quarantine lunch period, without a meal. Another student mentioned that an incident of this kind had occurred previously and I found myself aghast.

Students in quarantine are instructed to only leave

their individual bedrooms for three reasons: using the restroom, attending mandatory COVID-19 testing, and picking up lunch and dinner. Those in quarantine are discouraged from ordering UberEats to avoid potentially transmitting the virus to the greater Hartford population and are restricted from swiping into Mather or the Bistro. Some students are fortunate and have non-quarantined roommates who can bring them food, but not all are afforded this privilege. Due to the College's negligence, several students have been left without food.

When telephoned by COVID-19 contract tracers, one is informed of their quarantine status, questioned on any other potential contacts to the COVID-19 positive individual, and instructed on how to isolate properly for the next two weeks. However, on my phone call I was given unclear information on how suitemates should proceed. Given that suitemates share bathrooms and interact in common

spaces, should they not receive guidance on how to properly conduct themselves following another's condemnation to isolation? My suitemates elected to quarantine until all of us received two negative test results in a row, but this decision was made on our own accord. Other rooms may elect to simply go to class and socialize as normal despite living with someone who is potentially carrying the virus. If this unclear instruction continues, the College's recent uptick in COVID-19 cases will only grow further.

Key card access, or rather lack thereof, is similarly confusing. My ID was rejected at Mather when one of my suitemates attempted to use one of my meal swipes but worked normally when it was used in the laundry room of my dorm. Curious to see the limitations of my key card, I attempted to unlock a door to the C section of Jarvis and was able to, despite my living in a suite inaccessible through that entrance. Though all of Jarvis

constitutes the residential community, card access for all entrances when one is in quarantine seems egregious and unnecessary.

The most pressing issue I've experienced as a result of the College is the severe anxiety between my COVID-19 tests and receiving the results. Though I've now exited the hotzone of corona incubation without testing positive, each

quarantining. While I, the most high-risk person in my room, waited for my results, the rest of my suitemates rejoiced in negative tests. Providing students with even a rough estimate of when to anticipate their test results would aid in alleviating this anxiety.

No institution of higher learning was adequately prepared to return to "normalcy" in the age of

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*"...I ask you all to wear your mask, be safe, and don't be stupid."*

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time I waited for an email or CoVerified notification over the past week I was riddled with anxiety. Every moment my phone lit up I was convinced it was a call from the Health Center saying to pack my bags. Though it's impossible to promise a student exactly when their test result will come in, the discrepancy in receiving results is a massive stressor on students already put in the mentally exhausting position of

corona. Expecting Trinity to have a proper response to the coronavirus when more financially stable, alumni-backed schools like Harvard University have chosen to wait until spring for in-person classes was naïve. As I sit in bed for the eighth day in a row with one of my twice daily provided Aquafina bottles, I ask you all to wear your mask, be safe, and don't be stupid. The College, quite literally, cannot care for all of us.

## Infectious Disease Discrimination and the Coronavirus

SKYLER SIMPKINS '23  
OPINION EDITOR

When all other options fail, acupuncture is often recommended for those suffering unbearable neuropathy. My father, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year, developed severe neuropathic symptoms as a side effect of chemotherapy. His doctors recommended that he receive acupuncture after a plethora of other treatments showed no improvement. The appointment was made and my father was optimistic. A short time before the appointment, the therapist called him and cancelled his appointment due to suspicion of coronavirus infection. The only basis the therapist had for cancelling treatment was that my dad had recently traveled to Florida, a coronavirus hotspot. My father was denied life-altering treatment due to mere suspicion. It was at this moment that I saw the effect of coronavirus anxiety on the health of a loved one, and I quickly realized an egregious problem in our modern, pandemic-defined society.

In the age of coronavirus, we have seen the reemergence of infectious

disease discrimination. While this discrimination has always existed, it is now more prevalent and apparent than ever. This can be experienced on a daily basis when we—for example—visit a store or take public transportation. I would believe that most of us would agree with this, as do I, because these are private businesses enforcing their own jurisdiction over their property. Also, many of us would agree that this discrimination is better for the world since it is helping prevent the spread of coronavirus. But what about healthcare institutions like the one mentioned in my example above? Should private healthcare institutions be allowed to discriminate based upon coronavirus suspicion? While legally these institutions have the right to discriminate upon the basis of infectious disease, healthcare professionals have a much higher ethical obligation to the patient that overrides any legal or constitutional argument applicable.

There are two fields of thought to ponder in this argument over the right to discriminate over infectious disease. First, the legal and second, the ethical.

Legally a privately owned American business has the right to discriminate on the basis of infectious disease precaution. As stated above, I wholeheartedly agree with this right as it protects the community

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*"If we allow healthcare workers in privatized businesses to neglect their ethical obligations, we permit the societal abandonment of the most needy."*

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(if they choose to disallow those potentially exposed to or with coronavirus) and protects the sanctity of privately-owned business. It's when these private businesses are based around health care that I perceive a startling reality.

The Hippocratic Oath calls upon physicians to swear to uphold ethical standards in regard to their medical practices. This oath holds physicians to do what is good for the patients—and one could assume that this promotes anti-discriminatory practices. While not all medical students and doctors explicitly swear upon the same oath, we could extrapolate the premises of

this oath to the plethora of others sworn by medical professionals every year.

When a doctor sees a patient in need, they should treat them as it is their ethical responsibility to do so. Today, many

doctors—mostly in private practices—deny patients out of fear of a coronavirus outbreak. While some may say this is out of caution and for the greater good, the physician denigrates the patient in favor of their own personal safety. Some may argue that the physician is protecting the community as well as themselves; however, if we start to care only for the greater good, we put the most helpless and feeble in danger.

When a healthcare worker enters into their field of work, they accept a formidable task—whether literally or theoretically. Healthcare workers devote themselves to their patients and those in need.

They help without discrimination—especially when it's the most helpless. Why, then, do healthcare workers in private institutions neglect these standards when infectious disease is introduced? While I understand physicians are not contractually bonded to these standards, these standards are bound to their work. When physicians deny individuals—like my father—they lose their perceived higher moral standing in society. These physicians that neglect the individual are no more of an upstanding citizen than the lay people as they care only for themselves when anxiety is high.

If we allow healthcare workers in privatized businesses to neglect their ethical obligations, we permit the societal abandonment of the most needy. We must remind healthcare workers of their obligations and their predecessor Hippocrates who would look down with shame at how these physicians and specialists are conducting their work. We must protect those discriminated against and ensure the care of all—unhealthy or well—in these trying times of uncertainty and fear.

# The Republicans Cannot Repeat Hypocrisy in 2020

MIMI MILLIGAN '24  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The United States truly suffered a devastating loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg over the weekend. Even the notoriously uncouth President Trump offered a sincere and complimentary comment on the trailblazing Justice of the Supreme Court. In what seemed like nearly the same breath, however, Trump also announced his intention to move forward with the process of nominating a replacement justice to the court. It is difficult to not draw comparisons to President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court in 2016 after the passing of Justice Scalia. This nomination from Obama, in his final year in office, was immedi-

ately thrown out by Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) and the Republican-led Senate, who argued that it would be inappropriate to nominate a new justice before a presidential election.

There are some key differences in the 2016 case to our current situation. President Obama was in his eighth year of presidency, meaning he could not stand for reelection, in comparison to Trump, who may still be in office for another four years. While Obama nominated Merrick Garland, who was introduced to the American people as something of a moderate, Trump has his sights on a nominee ideologically opposed to Ginsburg. Amy Coney Barrett has emerged as one of Trump's potential selections and she is known for her staunch, an-

ti-abortion opinion rooted in conservative ideology. To confirm Barrett or another nominee through the Senate, a majority of senators would need to confirm Trump's choice in a particularly speedy process before

ident's term—I would say that if it was a Republican president." Of the very few Republican senators that have voiced concerns with this speedy nomination process as proposed by Trump, Rubio seems

Court is another example of the lack of respect toward order and democracy. It also shows how voting this fall—for young people, for underrepresented groups at the polls, and for all Democrats—remains more important than ever.

As Mitch McConnell said in March of 2016, "The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president."

With Biden's popularity surging in some polls, it makes sense for GOP senators and Trump himself to want to push a conservative justice into the Supreme Court, where Ginsburg previously served as a reliable vote for the opposite end of the political spectrum.

Hopefully, the matter will be first allowed to be put in the hands of American voters in November. Anything otherwise would be disservice to Justice Ginsburg's memory and legacy on the bench.

*"I am hardly the first writer to point out the blatant hypocrisy of the Republican party."*

*"This also shows how voting this fall—for young people, for underrepresented groups at the polls, and for all Democrats—remains more important than ever."*

Inauguration in January.

I am hardly the first writer to point out the blatant hypocrisy of the Republican party in the current moment, however, the GOP's divergent political policies to fill both the seats of Justice Scalia and Justice Ginsburg are truly astounding. When Obama was tasked with filling the conservative Scalia's seat, Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida) said, "I don't think we should be moving on a nominee in the last year of this pres-

to stand behind the Republican president 100%.

This absurd hypocrisy from Republican leaders is not just something that can become an Instagram meme or a joke on late comedy—it seems to be a grave indicator of the crumbling of the democratic process under Trump and an increasingly divided America. The made-up rule (described by *Slate* magazine as a "bogus precedent") that a president in an election year cannot nominate a justice to the Supreme

# The President, Despite Objections, Can Fill the Seat

KIP LYNCH '22  
NEWS EDITOR

Although you will rare-

"My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." Despite her

that Garland receive a vote were nothing more than political posturing given that they knew full well that votes are not required and that he wouldn't receive a confirmation. Joe Biden, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, once said that he would not consider any Supreme Court nomination by George H.W. Bush during the presidential-election year of 1992. Then, in 2016, he castigated McConnell for refusing to hold a vote for Garland.

McConnell was similarly hypocritical when he stated that he would move forward with President Trump's nominee this year while stating in 2016 that the American people "should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court justice." Senator Chuck Schumer, for all his valid criticisms of McConnell, is foolish when he states that Republicans have "no right" to fill the Supreme Court vacancy.

His threats to pack the court and reduce it no more than a political instrument are no better than Trump listing sitting legislators as potential Supreme Court picks. Speaker of the House

Nancy Pelosi, too, refusing to relent from the possibility of impeachment, reflects just how disingenuous and fractured our political system has become. Exercising one power to trump another is no path to moral redemption.

Precedent is only use-

been confirmed. Republicans only aligned themselves to the imaginary "Biden rule" of waiting until after the presidential election so long as it was feasible in 2016. They have obviously now abandoned it for the sake of political expediency.

*"In this sea of hypocrisy, one must look to the law. The Constitution clearly states that the President has the power to nominate a person to fill a seat on the Supreme Court."*

*"His threats to pack the court and reduce it no more than a political instrument are no better than Trump listing sitting legislators as potential Supreme Court picks."*

ly hear a Republican praise Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her decisions while an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, she rightly deserves praise for her determination to overcome the sexist barriers of the late 20th century and serve as a litigator and champion fighting for equal rights for women. According to her granddaughter Clara Spencer, Ruth Bader Ginsberg stated that

achievements, Republicans are under no obligation to fulfill her dying wish.

In response, Democrats frequently raise the issue of Barack Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland in an attempt to illustrate Republican hypocrisy, and perhaps rightly so. Nevertheless, while I disagreed with Senator Mitch McConnell's decision to not hold any hearings, his decision was perfectly legal. The Democrats' demands

ful to Democrats and Republicans so long as it furthers their own political goals. Although Democrats point to precedent on why Trump should not present a nomination to the Supreme Court during an election year, they took no issue with Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland during an election year. Their attempts to point at precedent are also feeble, given that there have been 29 such vacancies and, in each case, the president made nominations.

It is true, however, that said nominees have rarely

In this sea of hypocrisy, one must look to the law. The Constitution clearly states that the President has the power to nominate a person to fill a seat on the Supreme Court. That person can fill the seat only with the advice and consent of the Senate. While procedural postulations might reveal the erroneous tendencies of many legislators, the fact remains: Trump, even as a lame duck, retains the authority to nominate.

Anyone who pretends otherwise is a fool.

*"Nevertheless, while I disagreed with Senator Mitch McConnell's decision to not hold any hearings, his decision was perfectly legal."*

# FEATURES

## Inside the Umoja Coalition: BIPOC Students Fight For Their Rights on the Trinity College Campus

KATIE CERULLE '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

The brutal murder of George Floyd this past May sparked protests across the United States, calling attention to the many systems within our society that are coded with underlying racism. These practices within racist institutions are unfortunately nothing new, but are often concealed by both the mainstream media and several American politicians. Trinity College is no exception to these inherently racist policies. In response to the College's various policies and procedures, a combination of Black organizations titled the Umoja Coalition presented a list of demands to the College seeking to improve the experience of Black students on campus.

The Umoja Coalition is a working group composed of seven Black organizations in the Multicultural Affairs Council (MAC) that are fighting for the rights of Black students on Trinity College's campus. The coalition is built on infrastructure that has been a part of this campus for upwards of 40 years. "This is all very cyclical, these are problems that

persist" states Jederick Estrella '22, a member of the coalition. Estrella also mentioned that the coalition creates a platform for these Black organizations to come together and speak as a singular, unified voice. On a budgetary level, creating more organizations puts more money into Black organizations and presents more opportunity to throw events. These events, such as the Caribbean Student Association's fashion show or the Hip Hop festival, are attended by hundreds of people and are vital in changing the narrative of and within the Trinity community.

This summer, the Coalition assembled a list of demands for the College in order to identify the specific changes that must be implemented in order to make our community more equitable. Estrella explains that the list is split into six articles that address different departmental categories of Trinity, separating out the Administration and the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and the Administration handles the financials of the institution, making it vital to hold them individually respon-

sible. "The business model of Trinity College needs to be restructured to take into account the Black students that go here" states Estrella. However, all of the departments that have been addressed are held to a similar list of demands as the Board of Trustees and the Administration, because funding and operations of campus activities go hand in hand, Estrella explained. Also on the list of demands to the faculty is an increase in Black professorship on campus. The lack of representation in some of the most popular majors on campus remains evident, and not having these mentors for BIPOC students create barriers unbeknownst to legacy college students.

After the list of demands was sent, the College released an email that stated their commitment to changing the structure of internal organizations in order to coincide with the demands. They specified their actions in line with the document, separating it into sections and providing a concrete action plan. Estrella explains he is most excited to work with Career Development as they are restructuring the way they operate with

BIPOC students in order to be more equitable.

Right now, the Coalition is in the process of electing representation from each of the seven organizations. As the group solidifies their structure as an organization, they will open positions and meetings to the general public.

Their operation strategy will run similarly to SGA in the sense that their meetings will encourage community participation. Assuming that COVID eventually ceases and in-person meetings return, showing support for the coalition can be as simple as showing up.



JEDERICK ESTRELLA '22

**Members of the Umoja Coalition. From left to right, Top: Jederick Estrella '22, Chidinma Nwodo '23, Natalie Millington '20. Bottom: Jordan Lewis '22, Dakota Foster '21.**

**This summer, the Coalition presented a list of demands for the College which were addressed by the administration in July.**

## National Voter Registration Day: Register to Vote on Campus with the New Voters Project Campaign

OLIVIA PAPP '23  
FEATURES EDITOR

With the ceaseless bustle of activity on college campuses across the United States, the act of voting is not often at the forefront of students' minds or priorities. The process of registering to vote seems a daunting, time-consuming activity which leaves students setting the mundane task aside until it is too late.

There are several different initiatives through ConnPIRG Students at Trinity which aim to solve social issues. One of the initiatives this non-partisan organization has taken on is called the New Voters Project Campaign. Maddy White '22, the New Voters Project Campaign Coordinator, has helped

students navigate the process in registering to vote at Trinity.

The goal of this project is to not only educate students about voting, but also to register as many as possible to vote. Voter Registration Day, happening this Tuesday, September 22, is crucial for the upcoming election in November. ConnPIRG Students extol the importance of voting through virtual events being held this Tuesday, in collaboration with Trinity's TrinVotes! initiative.

Students who are members of the New Voters Project strive to make registering to vote an easier, more attainable process. White reflects on her past voting experiences, saying "My freshman year, I almost didn't vote in the midterms because it took

so long to request an absentee ballot. Registering at college is hard, which is why we're here to teach people about voting at college. We break barriers down so we can make sure young people are represented."

According to White, voting is key for students. "Students need to know how to vote, how to register to vote. It's our job to make sure students have everything they need to vote," said White. In prior years, volunteers would situate themselves outside Mather Dining hall and provide students the opportunity to register to vote on paper. However, given the circumstances of COVID-19, the team has found a great alternative for voting that is now online.

On Tuesday, each event will be virtual. First, there is a panel event from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. featuring many knowledgeable sources. Participants featured on Tuesday's panel include: Denise Merrill, the Connecticut Secretary of State; Angela Barney, the Assistant Director of the Program in Community Action at the Holleran Center at Connecticut College; Jordan Lewis, the Vice President of Communications for the Student Government Association at Trinity College; and Abigail Williamson, Charles A. Dana Research Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy & Law at Trinity College. Following that event, there will be a social media call to action held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., called "Remem-

ber to Register." This event will entail spreading and circulating information about voting via Instagram accounts. The Connecticut Secretary of State, Denise Merrill, will be leading "A Call to Action," a seminar in which she will lead the audience through a game of trivia. Given the turnout of these events, the goal for the New Voters Project is to register approximately 300 Trinity students to vote this semester.

"In the 2016 election, only 46% of Trinity students voted," said White. The current, tense political climate of 2020 paired with the plethora of virtual voting registration events this year, will hopefully encourage students to be more mindful about the importance of registering to vote this autumn.

## New Faculty Spotlight: Physics Dept.'s Prof. Austin Reid

ALEX CHAMBERS '22  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall 2020 may not appear as the most ideal semester to join the faculty of Trinity College. However, Professor Austin Reid, the new visiting professor of the physics department, has been inspired by the challenges of teaching remotely for Physics 141. To this point Reid said, "It's really exciting to be able to engage with students and to actually get this level of direct interaction that normally isn't possible."

While Reid is new to Trinity, he is far from new to physics. After completing an undergraduate physics degree at Davidson College, a liberal arts school in North Carolina, Reid worked as an engineer. However, he soon realized that he wanted to

shift his focus away from engineering: "It's fun to build racecars, but 'how do I make this go around a corner faster?' is not what I wanted my legacy to be... Getting to ask bigger questions about how the universe came to be... these are big questions that I was excited to build a career around." So, after adjusting his focus from engineering, Reid began a PhD program in physics at North Carolina State University and, following that, started postdoctoral research in experimental nuclear physics in 2018 at Indiana University.

His postdoctoral fellowship was expected to be two to three years, and since he still had one year left of his fellowship, Reid was very selective in the schools he applied to: "I only applied to re-

ally good, selective liberal arts schools. Trinity easily made that list." Having studied physics at a liberal arts school, Reid relayed the value he places on a well-rounded STEM education in saying, "It's a technical skill to write and communicate well, and it's not something that scientists are good at teaching. The real benefit [of a liberal arts education] is becoming a better communicator and a better writer. Coming in you have a writing seminar. That means that after your first year, professors in every class can expect students to be competent writers. That's not something that is guaranteed at other institutions."

Reid is enthusiastic about this semester and explained his love for teaching physics. "I like to reexamine what I know

and how I view the world and the easiest way to do that is to teach what I know to 18-year-olds who don't know any of it. So, to go back and see it from the start again is fun; and to see those students catch some version of what I think is beautiful and what I think is important is deeply rewarding."

This may be a difficult semester, but Trinity has brought in no one short of qualified to help guide physics students through these trying times. Reid emphasized that he is "excited to be here and [has] been really impressed by the students [he has] met with and worked with so far." He is "looking forward to seeing what this semester looks like and what we'll be able to do in the spring."

Outside of the class-

room, Reid has lifelong experience as a choral singer and has had training as a science communicator, or someone who is versed in explaining fundamental topics, serving to bridge the gap between the public and scientific knowledge.

At one point, Reid developed his own demonstration table entitled "Look Closer: Seeing Part of the Particle Zoo." He has also contributed his expertise in physics at NCSU's "Packapalooza", a University wide annual block-party that serves as one of the top festivals in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Reid has also participated in Indiana University's "Science Fest," another setting in which he has contributed his love for and knowledge of the subject of physics.

## Acting Dean Sonia Cardenas Addresses 2020 Academic Goals

BAILEY MCKEON '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

This past Tuesday, the faculty assembled to hear the annual address on the state of academics, given by the Acting Dean of the Faculty Sonia Cardenas. In the address, Cardenas shared her thoughts about the year ahead, a year which she believes to be a genuine opportunity for reflection and growth. Cardenas emphasized how crucial it is that the faculty move forward together this year, despite the pandemic, so that they, and Trinity, may emerge from this time stronger and more prepared for the future.

Her presentation addressed an outline of six goals that serve to shape the faculty's work in academic affairs this school year.

She credited and praised the faculty for their agility in the past few months, adopting a new academic calendar, revising academic policies, changing their schedules, and switching to remote learning, while she states the first goal: to "cultivate a culture of flexibility and support." She encourages the faculty to continue this, approaching the year ahead with understanding and spirit.

Cardenas' second

goal is to "implement Trinity's new curriculum... it defines a college and constitutes the essence of who we are as an academic institution," Cardenas said. Therefore, it is crucial that the faculty do not wait to implement the new liberal arts curriculum that had been approved before the COVID-19 outbreak. Despite the challenges that COVID-19 restrictions will bring in implementing this curriculum now, Cardenas hopes to make monumental strides in Trinity's diversity by "accelerating faculty diversity and inclusion."

Cardenas aims to diversify the faculty, noting that there are currently only nine black tenure line faculty members, including President Joanne Berger-Sweeney. "I feel a real sense of commitment by this faculty," Cardenas said. "But what we've been doing, as important as it is, is not enough." This goal urges the faculty "to do better providing a more inclusive climate for all," Cardenas continued.

The fourth goal focuses on faculty compensation, most importantly on restoring faculty salaries that were reduced as a result of the pandemic. Further, she plans to review all faculty salaries

and address equity issues, a task that she says is "long overdue."

In stressing the importance of Trinity's connection with Hartford and the world, the fifth goal of the year is centered around "collaboration to meet our urban and global strategic goals." In order to do this, Trinity must "collaborate more fully and inclusively," Cardenas noted.

The final goal Cardenas shared was the "expansion of Trinity's innovative programs." Cardenas stated that "we have to be willing to experiment at the margins so we can sustain the core."

Cardenas ended the address by promising to support the faculty in all of their endeavors so long as they "maintain hope and forward momentum this year, plan ahead while caring for and supporting each other, let [themselves] be inspired by the primary mission of educating students and, no matter what, hold onto the belief that [they] will get through this together and come out better and stronger."

The faculty will continue to meet in a remote capacity this semester because of the pandemic and will convene again in several weeks.

## Fall 2020 Online Involvement Fair

SHAWN OLSTEIN '22  
NEWS EDITOR

This Friday, Sept. 25, S.A.I.L. will host the annual involvement fair from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. However, this year's involvement fair will be hosted virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. After reviewing a variety of methods and platforms on which to host the involvement fair, S.A.I.L. has decided to host the fair on Airmeet. Unlike other video conferencing platforms such as zoom, Airmeet best replicates the traditional set up of the involvement fair. Students will be able to access the platform via their Trinity emails, which will authenticate them into the site, and they will be prompted to create a profile.

Upon entry, students will see organizations assigned to tables that they can connect with over a video conference feature at each table. At each table, current members of that organization can "take a seat" at the table; once attendees "take a seat," a video call (similar to Zoom) will be initiated amongst everyone sitting at that table. The conversation can only be heard by those at the table, so it doesn't distract from oth-

er calls happening at other tables. It also allows organization members to share their screen for content and to really connect face-to-face with those interested in joining. There will also be a few tables called the Social Lounge, that students can utilize to connect with their peers.

S.A.I.L. has sent out a sign-up link to clubs and organizations across campus in order to request a table at the fair. Requests closed Monday at noon, and over the next few days leading up to the fair S.A.I.L. will be organizing and assigning tables for the fair. Typically, organizations are assigned based on categories (Academic, Performance, Club Sports, etc.) to make it easier for attendees to navigate the various groups at the event. So far, S.A.I.L. is anticipating on having at least 75 groups in attendance.

Despite going online S.A.I.L. encourages students to attend the event and get involved on campus. Assistant Director of S.A.I.L. Sarah Lucas told the *Tripod* "we are marketing the event to the campus to ensure students are aware of the upcoming event and what they can expect from this virtual experience."



# Arts & Entertainment

## *The Social Dilemma* Fails to Blame the Individual

JACK P. CARROLL '24  
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to watch the critically acclaimed 2020 social media and technology documentary, *The Social Dilemma*, much to my disappointment. The film, which “explores the dangerous human impact of social-networking, with tech-experts sounding the alarm on their own creations,” fails to attribute responsibility for the rise of various political and public health crises via social media, to irresponsible decisions made by individual users online.

Even more frustrating, are the far-reaching arguments and accusations that are used by the big tech insiders interviewed in the documentary, such as former Google design ethicist, Tristan Harris, in order to scrutinize various social media conglomerates and hold these companies in contempt for virtually all of the national and global crises that have occurred within the last decade.

When discussing the rise and popularization of misinformation, for example, the documentary pulls a clip from a lecture given by Harris where he addresses the matter. In his presentation, Harris recalls the instance in which the famous basketball player, Kyrie Irving, publicly stated that he believed the Earth was flat.

After noting that Kyrie later apologized and blamed the YouTube algorithms—which (surprise, surprise) recommend videos in accordance with the viewer’s interests in order for viewers to stay on the website and gain exposure

to the website’s advertisers—Harris takes a very deterministic stance on the spread of misinformation.

Harris implicitly suggests that web platforms, such as YouTube, are responsible for “tilting people in crazy directions.” In other words, according to Harris, the internet and the internet only determines people’s beliefs as opposed to other individual factors that one has conscious control over such as one’s ability to conduct research and critically think about complicated issues.

On another serious note, the film presents CDC data which reveals that since 2009, the year when social media was first mobily available, U.S. suicide rates amongst young and teenage girls per 1,000,000 girls have increased by 151 percent.

Afterwards, the former director of monetization at Facebook, Tim Kendall, goes on to state that “these services are killing people and causing people to kill themselves.” Harris also reappears once again to note that web designers are “manipulating” younger people’s attention which in turn, makes it impossible for them to “do their homework” and leads them to constantly “compare themselves” to others.

While I have no doubt that social media is capable of influencing young people to make self-harming decisions that are consequential and potentially life-threatening, as well as influencing younger persons to use their time unproductively, it is rather naive to suggest that only the digital platforms and their attention-drawing algorithms are to be

held entirely responsible for these devastating and unfortunate outcomes.

Before blindly assigning the entire weight of responsibility for the harmful effects that social media can have on young people to the tech companies that develop the apps, it is imperative to consider all of the other factors in one’s life that could influence one to make some of the serious and costly life-decisions that were previously noted.

Prior to pointing the mighty finger of moral scrutiny to the tech companies, each of the following questions, amidst an even longer and more comprehensive list of others, should first be honestly considered: How involved are one’s parents in monitoring their child’s social media usage? At what age did one’s parents enable their child to use social media and was he/she mature enough to take on that responsibility? Is one’s child academically motivated and, if not, why should he/she be entrusted with the privilege and responsibility to use social media? Does one’s child have any serious medical conditions (both mental and physical) that could negatively influence one’s behavior through extensive social media usage?

While I understand that attempting to encourage a generation of young people, such as myself, who have grown up with social media to honestly reflect on their usage is bound to evoke an emotional response, personal agency is, nevertheless, essential in avoiding and overcoming the detriments of irresponsible social media usage.

Furthermore, when one considers the structure of virtually all social media platforms in an objective manner—as opposed to the socially woke and anti-big-tech lens to which many people blindly subscribe—one will quickly realize that popular apps such as Instagram and Twitter, to name a few, depend upon individual user participation. Indeed, social media platforms, just like the real world, are composed of single users who have the potential to act in a variety of ways. Therefore, before playing the blame-game all the way up the corporate hierarchy of executives and software engineers whose jobs it is to increase usership and advertisement revenue through the development of strategic marketing tactics and attention-drawing algorithms, users must reflect on how their social media usage impacts their lives in light of this information which is widely known and frequently disregarded.

The film’s director, Jeff Orlowski, is more intent on producing a doom-and-gloom narrative that leaves little room for the individual to take control of one’s social media usage and overcome its negative effects—as opposed to providing his audience with an objective analysis of social media usage that holds all parties, the users and companies alike, responsible for its harmful effects.

Furthermore, given the director’s rather deterministic agenda that has been made extensively clear thus far, it is worth highlighting one rather humorous moment in the documentary when several of the former big-tech executives

proudly claimed that they do not allow their own children to use social media.

By the end of the documentary, it is not clear what exactly its real purpose or message is aside from evoking fear and suggesting that the human race is doomed as a result of social media. Given the unprecedented levels of hypocrisy that are reached in the film—as displayed in the previously mentioned example, as well as the fact that the former big-tech executives who were interviewed continue to use social media in their own daily lives—the audience is led to question and doubt whether this documentary was ever supposed to be of any educational value.

On a personal note, I am convinced that the melodramatic movie scenes throughout the film—which display a distressed family, whose teenage son, Ben, is arrested at an extremist protest movement after viewing political propaganda on social media—are nothing more than a desperate attempt to advance the acting careers of consistently underwhelming Hollywood actors.

If you are still interested in watching *The Social Dilemma*, I recommend that you do so at your own risk, because according to the deterministic makers of the film you do not have the individual power to develop any opinions outside of its content. Also, while you’re at it, don’t even bother trying to further develop your outlook on social media and adjust your usage—your entire brain and decision-making skills are completely controlled by big-tech companies in San Francisco.

## *The Nice Guys: A Criminally Underrated Film*

MACIEJ PRADZIAD  
A&E EDITOR

Shane Black’s *The Nice Guys* is an action-comedy film meticulously created with layers of subtle character development, endless witty quips, and scenarios that will keep you rolling in laughter throughout its almost two hour run time. Shane Black and Anthony Bagarozzi have written a screenplay that is so clever and has so much heart that it can convince anyone of having a little bit of optimism even in the face of completely hopeless odds. To top off the fantastic writing, Ryan

Gosling and Russell Crowe turned in a two-man comedy performance so impressive that you’ll wonder why this film didn’t get the rightful attention that it deserved back in 2016.

Set in 1970s Los Angeles, a down on his luck private investigator named Holland March (Ryan Gosling) is set on figuring out the mysterious death of a famous porn star. The case becomes more complicated when a girl named Amelia (Margaret Qualley) becomes a person of interest, leading to March crossing paths with his illegal private eye counterpart, Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe).

The screenplay by Black and Bagarozzi has more wit than any typical Hollywood shlock made in the past ten years. Not only is this film incredibly clever, but the cleverness actually functions within the story by either revealing character development, intricate plot points, or subverting the typical cliches of “buddy cop” films. The dialogue is in the perfect realm between completely unbelievable and humanely real, where the language is elevated just enough to heighten the inherently absurd peculiarities of human behavior and speech.

The only potential problem with the screenplay is the structure itself and how the main villain of the film isn’t revealed until halfway through the film. However, as a typical noir-ish mystery film, fun lies in figuring out the secretive person, or persons, that are creating havoc within the popular porn industry of that time, making for a very thrilling, and hilarious ride.

The performances from Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe were genuinely masterful. No two combination of actors could have ever brought the script to life the way

these two men do. The little intricacies and quirks these two performers add to their characters make them feel like they’re real people with problems bubbling underneath the surface that come out in extremely subtle ways. Furthermore, when these problems need to explode out for comic effect, they do it in spades with their perfectly timed back and forth dialogue delivery and physical comedy.

Shane Black’s *The Nice Guys* is a criminally underrated masterpiece from a screenwriter who has constantly renovated the action-comedy film formula.

# Weekly Skylights: The *Tripod* Looks to the Clouds

JOEY CIFELLI '23  
A&E EDITOR



September 16, 2020

(Left) A little bird flies in the open air, surrounded by nothing, a little gray speck in an ocean of blue. Through the howling winds and freezing rain the little bird flies, through hail bigger than its own feathered body it goes. A little bird picking up twigs along the way in the endless blue, clutched in its talons and beak. On the sunny days, the few of them, it flutters down and perches on a branch for a while, sleepy and content. In the storms, the many of them, the little bird is buffeted wildly and falls from view more than once. It has dropped more twigs than it can remember, and still it gathers more. And one day, when the sky is speckled with clouds, and there isn't so much wind, and the air is warm and comfy, the little bird glides down to a little crook in a strong, towering tree, builds itself a little nest and settles into it, and after sitting there for a time with drooping eyelids and slowing breath, drifts into sleep for a long, long time. **8.8/10**

(Right) What's behind the static on your television? A blank screen, perhaps? If you could pull it back, suck it up with a vacuum cleaner maybe, or push your fingers into the fuzzy, prickly snow and split it open, what would you find looking back at you, trying so hard to hide itself from view? Your reflection: as shocked as you are. A distorted cloud, shedding static like a cat in spring. All the channels that aren't in your package, or anyone else's. Maybe there's nothing there at all, not even a screen, and you crawl inside and tumble down into the black plastic darkness until eventually you reach the bottom, the wall covered in the same hissing static, and you pull it apart to find yourself staring back at you, the reflection on the other side of the screen. **6.4/10**



September 17, 2020



September 18, 2020

(Left) Not to shock anyone, but you may have noticed that clouds have different textures. Common adjectives to describe these may be wispy, and that's all I can think of right now. The very long cloud taking up the bottom portion of the photograph has a particular texture that to me must be like a dense, chewy power bar. The kind that you can bite into and pull a few feet away from your mouth and some strands of peanut butter or nougat still connect the pieces. And that makes me wonder what a cloud tastes like. I won't be so cliché and say marshmallow, that's overdone and frankly not very interesting. I'm saying something with the texture of popcorn with no kernel, and it's probably rich and buttery, with a hint of vanilla. Good hot or cold. **7.6/10**

(Right) Another abyss today. Another endless gaze into the void. I'm not saying I don't appreciate these cloudless days, but there's only so much you can say about them before you start to go numb in the brain. I feel similarly about minimalism as a general principle. It's refreshing to see once or twice, every so often, but once everyone starts doing it something gets lost in the excitement. Or lack thereof, I should say. So, today, instead of spinning up a tale or a poem or something or other, I think I'll leave you with a little saying: a blank abyss is dismal bliss, and no one wants that feeling, better to paint and miss than reminisce, and feel your soul start healing. **7.2/10**



September 19, 2020

To view this week's photos in full color, check out the digital edition of the *Tripod* at [www.trinitytripod.com](http://www.trinitytripod.com)

# SPORTS

## The NHL's Stanley Cup Battles Continue This Week: Dallas Takes on Las Vegas; Tampa Takes on Islanders

ANNA BAUER '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

Devout hockey fans have probably kept up with the Stanley Cup Playoffs, but if Trinity's WiFi struggles have made doing just that difficult, here's your recap for the past two weeks.

The week of Sept. 7, the Dallas Stars faced the Vegas Golden Knights three times. The first game was played the week prior and the Stars had defeated the Knights by only one goal, so the teams appeared to be quite evenly matched. In the second game of the Western Conference Final, the two teams entered the second period tied 0-0. Not even five minutes in, Max Pacioretty sent a slick pass to Paul Stastny who scored, giving the Golden Knights a one-point lead. Less than four minutes later, William Karlsson scored on a power-play making the score 2-0, Golden Knights. The Knights then scored for a third time with a tic-tac-toe passing between Nicolas Roy, Chandler Stephenson, and Tomas Nosek.

Enjoying their three-point lead, the Golden Knights sailed into the third period and sailed right out of it with a

win, tying the series 1-1.

When the two teams faced each other for a third time, the Stars held their own and the teams remained in a standoff at 0-0 for almost two full periods. With less than 20 seconds left in the second period, Jamie Oleksiak amazingly scored a breakaway goal, breaking the tie and giving the Stars a 1-0 lead just before the clock ran out. Scoring a power-play goal, Shea Theodore brought the game back to a tie of 1-1.

Following this, Stars' player Jamie Benn scored and then the Knights' Alex Tuch did too. The teams were tied again, 2-2, and went into overtime where Alexander Radulov won the game with a rapid shot, giving the Stars a 2-1 lead in the series.

When the teams played each other for a fourth time, the reason they won was quite evident: Anton Khudobin. Blocking 32 out of the 33 fired shots, Khudobin had successfully shut down the Golden Knights' offense and only let one goal through. The Stars won this game 2-1.

At this point, the Stars had won three out of the four games played and just needed to win the fifth to go to the Stanley

Cup Final. If you're a Dallas fan, you're going to be happy with the results as the Stars won in overtime against the Golden Knights!

Entering the third period, Vegas had a 2-0 lead, but that clearly didn't shake the Stars' spirits as captain Jamie Benn scored, cutting the Knights' lead 2-1. Joel Kiviranta then scored on a power-play and sent the game into overtime. With Denis Gurianov's score in overtime, the Dallas Stars were deemed the winners of the Western Conference and, for the first time in 20 years, have reached the Stanley Cup Final!

While the Western Conference needed five games for the Dallas Stars to win the final, the Eastern Conference needed six to determine their victor. By the fifth game, the Tampa Bay Lightning was in the same position as the Dallas Stars with a 3-1 lead on the New York Islanders. Their fifth game was going to determine if the Lightning could go the Stanley Cup Finals without playing another game against the Islanders. However, New York had other plans.

Shooting on a power-play in the first period with just over four minutes left on the clock, the New York

Islanders took the lead 1-0. Then, early in the second, Victor Hedman tied the game at 1 for the Stars. The Islanders almost scored again but the referees called off-sides, keeping the score 1-1. No shots were scored in the third period, so the game went into overtime. Again, however, no shots were scored so they went into double overtime where Jordan Eberle, assisted by Anders Lee, scored for the Islanders and won the game 2-1.

Entering the sixth game, the stakes were still very high for New York as Tampa Bay only needed to win one more game to move into the Stanley Cup Final. Within the first five minutes of the period, Devon Toews scored for the Islanders, but this lead was not long-lasting as Victor Hedman tied the game roughly three minutes later. No shots were made in either the second or third period, so the game went into overtime. With just under seven minutes left, Anthony Cirelli scored, and the Tampa Bay Lightning were going to the Stanley Cup Final.

On Sept. 19 at 8 p.m., the Dallas Stars faced the

Tampa Bay Lightning in the first game of the Stanley Cup Final. 5:40 into the first period, Dallas' defenseman Joel Hanley scored. From there, Yanni Gourde tied the game at 1 after a series of bounces. Moving into the second period, Jamie Oleksiak, one of Dallas' big defensemen, broke the tie 2-1. Just 27 seconds left in the second and Joel Kiviranta shot the puck, it was deflected by Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy, and then Kiviranta, in a perfect move, collected his own rebound and scored!

Entering the third period, the Stars were still up by two and Khudobin wasn't letting anything through as he saved 35 out of the 36 shots fired. With just a minute left, Jason Dickinson scored on an empty net from halfway up the ice, solidifying the first win of the final and bringing the score to 4-1.

The Tampa Bay Lightning will play the Dallas Stars for their second game in the Stanley Cup Final in an exciting match in Edmonton, Canada on Sept. 21 at 8 p.m.

Tune in next week to check out the *Tripod* sports page to see how the game turned out and see what's up next!

## Trinity College Student Athletes Undergo ECG Testing

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

As Covid-19 still causes chaos across the globe, an interesting element that was yet to be explored is the long term health effects that this has on athletes that are in the recovery phase. Trinity is taking steps towards approaching this study as the College explores the effects of Covid on athletes that have already made a full recovery and/or have tested positive for the antibodies. In order to be cleared for any athletic activity, an athlete must first consult with their trainer and go through an ECG heart scan as well as additional steps during their team session to ensure that there would be no risk if the student were to partake in athletic activity.

The difficulty when making policy surrounding Covid is that there are very

few research studies that have explored the effects of Covid. One concerning study that has recently come out as a result of the effects of Covid concerns the cardiovascular system of an athlete, which could show signs of permanent interruption or injury, especially if an athlete recently recovered from the virus. While the severity of injuries vary from person to person, it is still a concern that is worth looking into. After contacting the College's athletic trainers, the *Tripod* was informed that the NCAA worked with the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the American College of Cardiology to develop recommendations for returning athletes to sport. Trinity adapted those guidelines in helping athletes return to the field.

The process includes an initial screening of

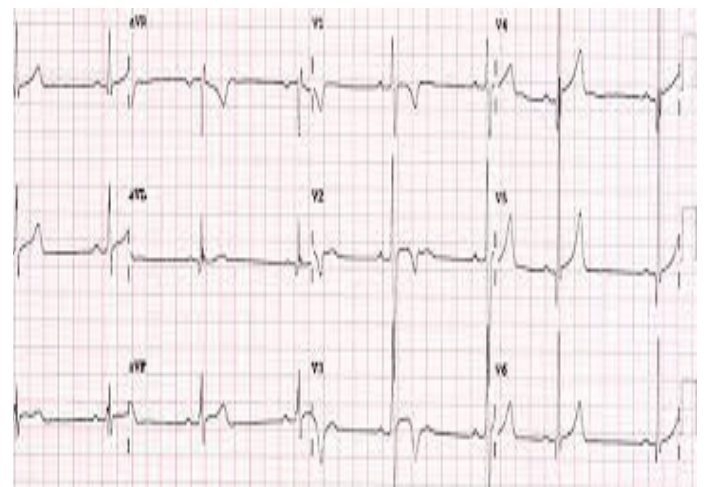
athletes for history of past positive Covid tests or symptoms related to the virus. Student athletes must then go through an ECG test and pass this screening.

However, if there are some abnormal results that come back for the test, athletes must see a sports cardiologist for consultation. It is very common for athletes to experience changes in ECG scans and the trainers expect athletes needing a cardiologist be cleared and changes to be considered benign. The Trinity Athletics department pointed to the Hartford Healthcare partnership as effective in streamlining the process for athletes that must be cleared. The College's athletic trainers have direct contact to the sports cardiology department at Hartford Hospital and allow for a large number of athletes to be screened and cleared as efficiently as possible.

At the moment, the push for all of this research is the lack of current knowledge that exists surrounding Covid as well as the unknown risk of myocarditis and cardiac concerns. These factors have been driving reasons behind canceling the Big 10 and Pac 12 Division 1 athlet-

ic competitions this fall.

As data from ECG scans are used alongside other studies, the role of Covid in college athletics will be furthered understood. Until then, it is better to be safe than sorry and take as many precautions as possible to ensure athletes can properly return to the field of play.



A typical ECG scan that a Trinity student might receive.

## This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

### Senior Spotlight: Rowing's Andrew Frankini '21

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

Andrew Frankini '21 is a current senior and the subject of this issue of the *Tripod's* athlete spotlight. A four-year starter on the varsity men's crew team, Andrew heralds from Long Island. While an incredibly accomplished rower, his success cannot merely be defined by his achievements on the water.

On campus, Andrew is a neuroscience major holding a 3.5 GPA. He is currently writing his senior thesis, researching the effects of nutritional supplements on insect muscle growth and their electrophysiological properties. Andrew is the vice president of Tri-Beta (Trinity College's Biology honor society), a USRowing certified level 2 coach, and is also a lab teaching assistant for PSYC 261, Brain and Behavior.

His on-the-water accomplishments are just as impressive. As a high schooler, he rowed at the Oak Neck Rowing Academy, one of the best high school rowing programs

in the country. He decided to take his talents to the shores of the Connecticut River thanks to the support shown by Trinity rowing alumni from his hometown.

At Trinity, he has shown his dedication and commitment to excellence, serving as the stroke seat, the rowing position viewed as the most technically proficient on the boat. Andrew has served as stroke seat for every boat he has aced in. He competed at the Head of the Charles Regatta for three consecutive years—a monumental accomplishment for any rower. Now, in the waning months of his collegiate rowing career, Andrew is happy with his previous success, but is itching for more.

However, his path to success has not always been so easy; in fact, it is his ability to overcome obstacles that he values as his greatest asset. Being a STEM major and a rower is not an easy feat. For Andrew, this was made even harder by the fact that he suffered a critical head injury coming

into his first year at Trinity. Despite this setback, he was able to muster the strength, motivation, and perseverance to succeed.

Assistant Rowing Coach Jake Filby told the *Tripod* that “[Andrew] Frankini is one of the best teammates on the squad, and his commitment to bettering the team energizes us every morning. His impact cannot be overstated.”

But this determined attitude is reflected in everything he does, not just rowing. Andrew's career as a Trinity College rower

may be coming to a close, but he knows that these four years spent here will remain within him for a lifetime. He has already left an indelible mark on Trinity rowing; everyone involved during his tenure knows him as a hardworking and passionate leader who is always willing to put his team first.

When asked about what he wants his legacy to be at the College, he stated simply that he not only wants, “the fundamental and core values of rowing to remain long after I'm gone, but

also for every oarsman on the team to know that we all have each other's backs when it comes to balancing academics and rowing.”

Andrew is currently seeking a profession in the sciences and plans on pursuing a graduate degree after his time at Trinity comes to a close. If he were to give all undergrads, upperclassmen, and incoming students a word of advice, it would be this: seek help when it comes to balancing your activities at Trinity. “None of us are in this alone.”



TRINITY COLLEGE ATHLETICS

### Tripod Sports Explanations: Ice Hockey for Rookies

ANNA BAUER '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

Attention everyone who has ever wanted to know how the game of ice hockey works! For whatever reason you are reading this, maybe to impress someone or because the game just seems like a lot of fun, welcome to the first “Sports for Rookies” segment!

The object of the game is pretty straightforward: score more than your opposing team. The rest is just details.

There are six players on the ice at a time. This six is composed of a goaltender, three forwards and two defensemen.

Each game is divided into three 20-minute periods. During regular season, if the third period ends and the score is tied, the teams will play with three skaters for one five-minute overtime pe-

riod; the first team that scores, wins. If it is still tied at the end of this, the game will go into a shootout. In the Stanley Cup playoffs, however, there is no shootout and the overtime period is instead 20 minutes with five skaters per team—it's sudden-death.

The Stanley Cup is the Holy Grail for ice hockey players. Most dream of winning it. The Isobel Cup is the equivalent for women.

The big difference between how men play the game versus how women play is checking. Women are not allowed to make a direct body check, while men definitely are—the blood and gush is part of the fun.

In order to understand a game of hockey, you definitely want to know the basic dos and don'ts, so here they are:

Each play begins with a faceoff and ends either when an official blows their whistle or a goal is made. The most basic rule of the faceoff is that only two players are allowed in the circle and each faces their opponent's end of the rink. Once the official drops the puck, the players battle for it and try to knock it out to their teammates to run it down the ice.

Only a goalie can catch the puck, so if another player accidentally catches it, they must immediately knock it back down to the ice. A violation of this could result in a two-minute minor penalty.

Penalties are divided into three categories: minor, major and misconduct. Minor penalties result in a player sitting out for two-minutes in the penalty box while their team plays one-man down. Major penalties require five-minutes in the penalty box, and misconduct penalties vary. When this

happens, the other team has a great advantage and tries to score while playing five on four. If a shot is made, this is called scoring on a power-play.

The two other big things you should know are icing and offsides. Icing can be confusing, but essentially it is just when a player hits the puck from their team's side of the red center line, and it crosses the red goal line at any point that isn't the goal itself. Since it is not allowed, when it hap-

pens the referees return the puck to the other side of the ice and instigate a faceoff. Now, offsides is just when any member of the attacking team crosses the defending team's blueline before the puck.

Now, there is so much more to hockey than just this. So, if you're intrigued, the *Tripod* encourages you to check out our own amazing hockey teams this winter—fingers crossed they'll be playing—to further your hockey knowledge!



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