

The Trinity Tripod

-ESTABLISHED 1904-

Now then-Trinity!

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Volume CXVI
Number IV

Title IX Coordinator

WILL SCANNELL '24
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Trinity held public forums last week for the two finalist candidates to fill its Title IX Coordinator position this fall.

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Facing History Summit

KATIE CERULLE '22
FEATURES EDITOR

Trinity's Facing History Summit examined the important issues of race relations and the history of racism for students.

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Lighthouse Review

LIZ FOSTER '22
MANAGING EDITOR

Acclaimed *Tripod* arts critic Liz Foster '22 reviews A24's absurd film *The Lighthouse*.

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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.

This week, the *Tripod* considers the history of the Chapel and its principal donor William G. Mather.

Psi Upsilon in One Week Quarantine

KAT NAMON '22
MANAGING EDITOR

and
DANIEL J. NESBITT '22
MANAGING EDITOR

The *Tripod* has learned that the Psi Upsilon fraternity has been issued a mandatory quarantine for a total of seven days, as of Wednesday, Sept. 23. The mandatory quarantine was issued following the increase in coronavirus cases on campus in mid-September, along with the positive test results of six members of the fraternity itself and subsequent issuing of a heightened alert level on campus in which the College alert level was raised to "yellow."

According to a communication to members of the fraternity that the *Tripod* independently reviewed, members "that are cleared from isolation do not need to quarantine or get tested." This course of action is similar to how the College

responded Sept. 15 when some students in Jones Hall were quarantined as an entire floor. The *Tripod* spoke with President of Psi Upsilon Eric Thronson '21, who declined to comment on the situation. According to an anonymous member of the fraternity, "the brothers are adhering to quarantine guidelines and remain compliant with the expectations we've been given."

The *Tripod* reached out to Dean of Students Joe DiChristina and Chief of Staff Jason Rojas for further clarification on the situation regarding members of Psi Upsilon. According to DiChristina, the situation was being monitored "as the first positive cases began to present themselves related to the organization..." and they are proceeding forward this way "out of an abundance of caution."

see PSI UPSILON on page 4

Lessons from Past College Campaigns

BRENDAN W. CLARK '21
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

and
KIP LYNCH '22
NEWS EDITOR

Trinity College has continued to raise funds for the Bicentennial Comprehensive Campaign during the COVID-19 pandemic despite little to no advertising by the College while the Campaign has remained in the "quiet" or "nucleus" phase. Since Nov. 2019, the College has raised an additional \$64 million bringing the total to \$182 million as of Sept. 24 out a goal of \$435 million. This comes as the College continues to experience low rates of alumni giving, hovering around the mid-30s after reaching a peak of 53% in 2010. In order to understand these changes and the history that inform the present campaign at Trinity, the

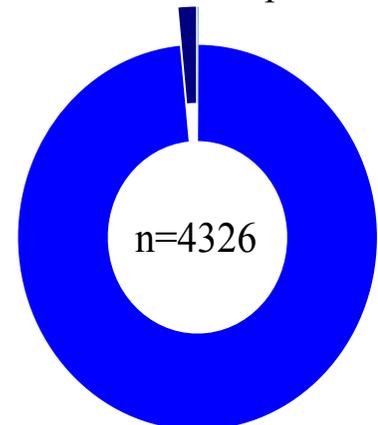
Tripod spoke with several individuals involved in previous campaigns, including former Trinity President Evan Dobelle and former Director of Alumni Relations Jerry Hansen '51.

Regarding the current campaign, the *Tripod* spoke to Assistant Vice President for Advancement Christina Posniak on the current status of the Bicentennial Campaign. Posniak initially indicated that the College had "no update at this time," but later clarified that the College is "continuing to focus primarily on current support and, in particular, how we can provide direct support for students and families through the Trinity College Fund, current financial aid and the Student Emergency and Equity Fund just as we did this past year."

see CAMPAIGNS on page 3

COVID-19 Update: Positive Tests Decrease

COVID Test Results: Sept. 21 - Sept. 28



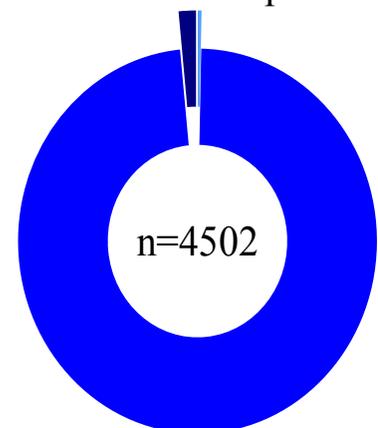
0.09% Positive
98.34% Negative
1.57% Invalid

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22
MANAGING EDITOR

Examining the data available on Trinity's COVID-19 Dashboard, the College has reported that a total of 4,326 COVID-19 PCR tests have been completed between Sept. 21 and Sept. 28, with a total of 4 positive test results. A breakdown of this past week's testing results is shown in the figure above, while a breakdown of the previous week's testing conducted from Sept. 14 to Sept. 21 is shown in the figure below. This week's positive test rate of just 0.09%

is a significant decrease from the positive test rate of 0.33% between Sept. 14 and Sept. 21, and this decrease mirrors the decline in overall active cases which decreased from 15 on Monday, Sept. 21 to 6 cases as of Monday, Sept. 28. The invalid test rate remained nearly unchanged at 1.57% this week compared to 1.55% for the week prior. As of Monday, Sept. 28, Trinity has run upwards of 18,500 total tests since testing began Aug. 17, with an overall positive test rate of approximately 0.15%, including positive tests denoted as "prior" under the Dashboard.

COVID Test Results: Sept. 14 - Sept. 21



0.33% Positive
98.11% Negative
1.55% Invalid

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Established in 1904
"Now then-Trinity!"

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The Trinity Tripod is always looking for student contributions in photography, writing, and graphic design. Anyone interested in joining the *Tripod* can email tripod@trincoll.edu.

All requests for advertisement placement in the *Tripod* can be found by consulting the newspaper's business manager at tripodads@trincoll.edu. Additionally, our website holds information regarding standard rates for advertisements.

Trinity College

HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

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CORRECTIONS

Tripod Editorial

On Administrative Comment

The *Tripod* holds a responsibility to provide the student body and greater Trinity community with information that they may not be able to obtain elsewhere. In order to do so, the Editorial Board, writers, and Executive Editorial Board members must maintain constant contact with professors, members of the administration, and the President's Office to ensure that we are providing readers with the most accurate information in a timely manner. This task grows even more difficult when a struggle to receive responses from authority figures at the College becomes apparent.

Requests for comments are at times met with indirect answers or selective avoidance. At times, the College refuses to acknowledge blatant contradictions between the emails it communicates and the realities of campus.

High ranking officials at an elite liberal arts College should anticipate inquiries from, at the very least, their student-run newspaper. Those inquiries may come at inconvenient times and on the weekends: such is the way of the world. Adults existing in executive roles may not set aside their tasks in the

midst of a pandemic merely because the calendar insists it is a Sunday morning.

Further, Trinity, as with other institutions, faces scrutiny from established national newspapers and seems able to respond to these requests for comment promptly, oftentimes overnight. The decision of when to respond—and if at all—is a matter of priority. The College places the *Courant* ahead of the *Tripod*. Such, then, may be the way of the world, but this decision speaks volumes to the editors of this publication.

While we may ask a myriad of questions and the task of response may seem burdensome, that is the solemn charge and responsibility of those in leadership receive significant and adequate compensation for their work. Woe to he who makes \$280,000 and must reply to emails on the weekend.

Take, for instance, a recent email to the College community from Dean of Students Joe Christina addressing the College's updated COVID-19 alert level. That email and its acknowledgment of "requests for more information about when the dashboard will be updated each week" provided a re-

sponse to questions the *Tripod* had pressed since August.

This example is but one of many occurrences that we have encountered throughout our time with the paper.

We have no doubt that the College makes an effort to respond and that these administrators remain busy. We are grateful for what information we can glean.

But when we are told administrators are busy, let us not forget that so, too, are we busy with our study of academics and the production of this paper. So, too, is the doctor busy in their work. And the lawyer. And the accountant. To attempt to suggest that one is "busier" than another misses the mark. Adults are obliged to manage our time as we see fit.

The College may surely elect to respond as it pleases, but should know that the *Tripod* will not wait for its employees to find space in their schedules to permit response. The news waits for no man. The *Tripod* can and should be a priority of the highest degree for this institution for the sake of its student, faculty, and alumni readership to whom we remain committed.

-The Trinity Tripod

On The Politics of Confirmation

There is, yet again, a fallacious line of reasoning in Washington which seems to suggest that any one individual or party can act to safeguard the great "morality" of a nation. Today, this is embodied in what is certain to be a contentious month of legislative discourse and dissent over the appointment of Amy Coney Barrett to fill the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

By many a great philosophers' estimations, morality is inherently subjective in character, subject to the will and exercise of individuals' freedom. Plato, as well as a coterie of other Greeks, found at the root of ethics the pursuit of happiness or well-being (*eudaimonia*), which became the ultimate objective of adherence to a moral code. More recently, Michel Foucault, scion of the French philosophical tradition of the mid-20th century, recognized a freedom in subjecting oneself to a moral authority or set of ethics. Such acts were squarely within the domain of the individual, the result of their free exercise and decision to align their morality with a creed which most

closely matched themselves.

These philosophical abstractions, then, can be applied to the instant matter. They, and the historical course of action, belie any sense of rationality in the arguments for or against appointment. Hypocrisy—a word we hesitate to use lightly—is present in the contentions of our nation's stalwart political factions. Self-interest guides and dictates this current decision, as it has for generations, in pursuit of the happiness-gained by political expediency.

James Madison, in Federalist No. 10, recognized explicitly that these "dangerous vices" of factions were inevitable in a system founded upon these common precepts of liberty. Madison writes "it could not be less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction, than it would be to wish the annihilation of air, which is essential to animal life, because it imparts to fire its destructive agency."

We see that invariable factionalism play out here and, with regret, the founders' lofty conception of controlling factionalism has failed. It did not take long for faction-

alism to envelop the nation: the ratification debate itself evinced a division between Federalists and Anti-Federalists. In time, modern political parties would be forged.

Today, the value of those individual interests will become apparent in the political battle for the Supreme Court seat. Democrats, in 2013, extended Senate rules and utilized the so-called "nuclear option" to eliminate the 60-vote rule for filibusters of nominees for the federal court. In turn, Republicans exercised the same to end debate on the nomination of Neil Gorsuch. And so, individual interest begets individual interest.

Though each party will ceaselessly attempt to proclaim the moral high ground, neither party has any room to stand. Renowned economist Thomas Sowell put it best: "No one will really understand politics until they understand that politicians are not trying to solve our problems. They are trying to solve their own problems—of which getting elected and re-elected are number one and number two. Whatever is number three is far behind."

-BWC & DJN

NEWS

Tripod Examines History of Fundraising, Campaigns at Trin

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The *Tripod* also spoke to Chief of Staff and Assistant Vice President for External Affairs Jason Rojas, who stated that “Our priorities have not changed but we have adjusted our emphasis and our approach. We continue to focus on securing support for the Trinity College Fund, and financial aid, for example, as well as the Student Emergency and Equity Fund, all of which provide direct support right now for our students and families. As we previously noted, the timing of some of our larger capital initiatives have been adjusted and we will reevaluate their status as appropriate.”

As the *Tripod* previously reported in Nov. 2019, the campaign intends to raise \$435 million, with \$360 million in current gifts and \$75 million in bequest intentions. The most recent fundraising campaign at Trinity was the “Cornerstone Campaign,” which took place from 2006 to 2012 and raised \$281.1 million out of a \$300 million goal. A concurrent “Legacy Campaign” surpassed its goal of \$75 million, raising \$87.9 million. The current “campaign follows what is ‘an industry standard,’” a quiet phase until you have “roughly 65% to 75% (between \$282.75 to \$326.25 million) in hand and then enter the public campaign,” Posniak added, noting that keeping the public period of the campaign brief was important, as “if the campaign progresses publicly for too many years, you will lose momentum and energy.”

The *Tripod* spoke with several former administra-

tors and alumni to understand how Trinity College’s previous fundraising campaigns and alumni relations initiatives have occurred and what lessons can be applied to the current campaign.

Hansen advocated for a strong alumni association and fundraising through “area clubs centered around major cities,” citing this as among the most significant aspects of previous campaign successes and as an excellent way to encourage continued alumni engagement with special guests, such as members of the faculty. Hansen indicated that these “networks” were “key to the College’s financial achievements” in previous campaigns. Citing his three major campaigns, among others, in his 32 year tenure in Alumni Relations at Trinity, Hansen noted that campaign initiatives have always involved those donors who “stay with the College and see past personal disagreements in management,” realizing that they “received a great education at Trinity and owe a great deal to the institution.” Campaigns have often been issue-focused, Hansen added, a fact reflected in the division of the current campaign in, for instance, athletics and financial aid. Hansen advocated for more “scholarships,” stressing their value for bringing good students to the College.

Dobelle addressed Trinity’s placement and sense of brand, noting that it was “the ninth most selective [small liberal arts college] in the country during the late 1990s.” While acknowledg-

ing concerns with rankings, Dobelle noted that they are “skewed toward money” and that a campaign is an effective opportunity to make improvements in that category. Referencing his tenure, Dobelle added that Trinity was “about 21st” and noted that it was his “goal [as president] to be on track to 15th.” Dobelle lauded alumni at Trinity, together with a strong Board of Trustees, who he said were critical to the success of past fundraising efforts.

“Alumni responded extraordinarily [to this ranking plan],” Dobelle continued, citing it as helping to spur an increase in alumni giving of around “39% to 53% over the course of six years.”

Dobelle stressed that this increase—which also came around the time of a three year campaign in celebration of Trinity’s 175th anniversary—relied “not only an increase in annual giving but also an extraordinary number of wealthy alums who wrote significant checks, one million dollar checks, in support of Trinity.”

Also key to the College’s past successes, Dobelle emphasized, was the College’s brand. Citing Trinity’s inclusion on the front page of the *New York Times* for its work in Hartford, Dobelle noted that fostering a sense of pride is essential to successful financing. “Trinity has to have a brand that is powerful, is clear, is progressive in the sense of higher education, and is somewhere that you are proud to give to,” he noted. “If you don’t have that, you’re not going to be able to convince others to write a check.”

Forums Held for Title IX Coordinator Candidates Last Week

WILL SCANNELL '24
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last week, the College’s Title IX Coordinator Search Committee invited students, faculty, and staff to a virtual forum to meet and learn more about the two final candidates for the position of Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator. The final candidates are Sophia Brelvi and Kelly Yough, each with extensive backgrounds in student affairs and Title IX.

According to her résumé, Brelvi majored in political science and graduated cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She went on to graduate with a JD from the Michigan State University College of Law, where she received the Jurisprudence Reward for International Business Transactions. From 2015 to 2019, Sophia Brelvi was the Director of Compliance at Morehouse College, where she helped facilitate the process of reporting incidents of potential discrimination, harassment, and related inappropriate conduct. From May 2019 to present, Brelvi was the Senior Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Dartmouth College where she was responsible for developing and conducting campus-wide training programs to educate students and staff on Title VI, Title IX, and other relevant legislation.

If Brelvi were to be appointed to the position at Trinity College, her main goals center around education on legal processes and ensuring that the voices of students from all backgrounds are heard. She expressed her desire to make Title IX “the most accessible we can of all the communities involved...more so for the disenfranchised and marginalized communities...”

Brelvi acknowledged the difficulty of having uncomfortable conversations among students, faculty, and staff. She stated that “Dartmouth has a very broad range of students. We have the highest percentage of indigenous students and we also have the highest percentage of one-percenters. So, noting that there is a huge dichotomy there and

trying to bridge that gap has been a struggle since I’ve been there...But I feel like we’ve made good strides more recently because it’s really just chipping away at that block.” According to a study by the *New York Times*, Trinity College enrolls the highest share of students in the 1%, with 26% of the student body coming from the that category. Dartmouth is ranked at No. 11 in the study, with 21% of the student body coming from the 1%. Brelvi further stated during the forum that, “at the outset, it’s tough to make any sort of change.” She emphasized the importance of “being as transparent as possible... being that face and having those conversations.”

Kelly Yough is also a finalist for Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator. Yough attended Seton Hill University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Mount Saint Mary College, where she received her BA in marketing management, MA in student affairs in higher education, and her MBA, respectively. Yough has extensive experience working in the world of student affairs and Title IX. According to her résumé, as Dean of Student Affairs at Mount Saint Mary College from 2013 to 2018, Yough worked to ensure “compliance with NY Education Law 129-B, Title IX, Clergy Act, VAWA, and other relevant legislation.” Yough also co-managed the Department of Justice OVW three-year grant to reduce sexual misconduct on campus with the “oversight of a coordinated community response team.” In addition, Yough has held positions at other schools including Athletic Director and Fourth Grade Co-Teacher at Bishop Dunn School, Resident Director/Intramurals Coordinator at Chatham College, and other positions that involve student affairs.

While the *Tripod* was able to attend the forum for Brelvi, the *Tripod* was unable to obtain access to the virtual forum on Thursday, Sept. 24 for Yough. The *Tripod* has sent requests for the recording of the forum, which was not immediately available.

College Campus Safety Report: Sept. 20 - Sept. 28

Wednesday, Sept. 23

On Campus

Stalking/Dating Violence/Threatening Behavior/Weapon Possession.

An arrest was made and the case referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

All Members of Psi Upsilon Face Required One Week Quarantine; College Issues Warnings to 108 Students for COVID Violations, Sends “Small Number” Home

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He stated that the administration and testing facilities “performed dynamic testing and direct testing similar to how we managed the situation in Jones Hall, first floor.” The administration and testing staff considered that it was most important to find out which members had experienced direct, high-risk contact with any positive cases, “which allowed for a different response than a 14-day quarantine.”

DiChristina clarified that members of the fraternity are required to quarantine for seven days because it is “the necessary duration of time to obtain a second negative test result this upcoming week...” and that this “evaluation is in effort to mitigate transmission during the period of time where the potential for infectivity is highest.” In terms of the cause of this increase in cases, DiChristina assured the *Tripod* that Greek organizations in particular “have followed the guidelines established by the college” in that there have not been any “registered socials.”

Director of Student Life, Kathryn Wojcik declined to comment, referring the *Tripod* to direct all questions on the matter to DiChristina and Rojas.

According to the COVID-19 dashboard as of Monday, Sept. 28, there are six active cases, all of these cases being students and none of them employees and affiliates. DiChristina told the *Tripod* that this tally of active cases includes all positive cases “regardless of where they are isolating,” be it at Trinity or if the individual elects to return home. In an email sent to the community on Friday, Sept. 25, DiChristina provided an update on the campus alert level and stated that progress has been made in terms of the number of cases on campus since the heightened alert level was issued. He stated in his email that this progress is “no doubt due in large part to our collective efforts to be vigilant in following health and safety protocols and the steps we took quickly to limit the spread we were seeing in residential areas.”

DiChristina noted that many students remain in quarantine, but that some on-campus gatherings will be permitted starting Friday, Sept. 25. These permitted activities include “organized groups of limited size... 12 students outdoors and six students indoors.” Additionally, DiChristina provided an update of student violations of COVID-19 rules and reg-

ulations. He indicated that 108 students have received written warnings about COVID-19 rule violations, ranging from not wearing masks in their residence hall rooms to gathering outside in large numbers. The *Tripod* sought a more detailed breakdown of the 108 students who have received written warnings, however, DiChristina stated that the warnings are not tracked by class year and that “warnings are not tracked by offense type.”

In his email sent Sept. 25, DiChristina also wrote that a “small number of students have had to leave campus to complete the remainder of the semester remotely due to violations of our COVID-19 rules.” When asked precisely how many students have been forced to leave campus, DiChristina declined to provide a specific number as the College “feel[s] it’s best to acknowledge the actions of students who are showing care and concerns for each other” rather than “focus[ing] on some mistakes that have been made.” Additionally, DiChristina emphasized that with regard to disciplinary matters, “it is important that we do not publicly share information that could be personally identifiable.” According to DiChristina, those students that “were requested

to learn remotely have had two violations.” He clarified that after students receive one violation, “a second will result in a removal from campus and a move to remote learning,” though it is not immediately clear whether this policy is explicitly stated in writing in the Community Contract or any other College policy.

DiChristina added that Campus Safety will “continue to monitor compliance in residence halls and around off-campus to ensure our students are adhering to the guidelines as stated in the community contract.” The email also sought “to remind students that they should only travel off campus for essential reasons” and that “students should not travel off-campus to engage in social activities (e.g., dining at a restaurant) or participate in other functions off-campus that result in potential additional exposure to COVID-19.” When asked whether the College has issued any warnings for non-essential off-campus travel, DiChristina told the *Tripod* that “if we were to receive reports for students travelling for non-essential reasons, we will review the matter and make a disciplinary decision.” On Aug. 4, DiChristina previously confirmed to the *Tripod* that the College “do[es]

not have a legal basis” to restrict student travel.” He added that the College has allowed students to travel for family emergencies upon request subject to “quarantine and testing protocols upon return.”

DiChristina also referenced that Governor Ned Lamont has recently issued an executive order that states individuals who are not following the state of Connecticut’s requirements for wearing masks and socially distancing in public areas “can be fined \$100.00.”

In a separate email to the campus community on Monday, Sept. 28, DiChristina announced that the campus alert level was lowered back down to “green” from “yellow” due to a declining number of active cases at Trinity and within the surrounding community. The level had been raised earlier this month in response to an uptick in cases among residence halls. DiChristina clarified that the alert level “is determined not by a single number, but rather by several factors” including the availability of PPE [personal protective equipment] supplies, among others. The email also announced that the COVID-19 dashboard will now be updated by 8:30 A.M. every Monday and Thursday.

Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

Middlebury College

According to the *Middlebury Campus*, Middlebury College required that a total of 22 students leave campus after two separate incidents of COVID-19 policy violations on the night of Sept. 17.

Public Safety officers discovered one group of 14 students and one group of 15 students in the Atwater residence halls, both being over the maximum occupancy limit of six for the spaces as well as the indoor gathering limit of ten people. Several students with the group of 15 students were able to dodge Public Safety. Despite an appeal, all 22 students were informed that they would be required to leave campus within 24 hours on night of Sept. 20. While some professors were willing to make concessions for students who were only left with the option of online classes, one professor reportedly notified a student that they would need to drop the course. According to the *Campus*, the College’s success relies on peer-to-peer accountability measures where students can report others through Middlebury’s website.

Williams College

Turning Point USA set up a table on the campus of Williams College on Sept. 17, in direct violation of the College’s COVID-19 regulations according to the *Williams Record*.

The nonprofit Turning Point USA, led by conservative activist and writer Charlie Kirk, aims to “promote the principles of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government.” The representative of Turning Point USA, Savannah Coelho, is not a student at Williams College. Turning Point USA’s visit was not in compliance with the College’s COVID-19 regulations, which state that “In an effort to prioritize people’s health and safety, the college has made the difficult decision to close campus to all visitors.” The *Record* reported that it was not immediately clear if the College’s administration was aware that Turning Point USA violated the policy prohibiting all visitors. The *Record* noted that even without the COVID-19 policies in place, the College does not allow political groups to canvass on the campus and that their presence would still constitute a violation of their policies.

University of Connecticut

On Sept. 18, the *Daily Campus*, the school newspaper at UConn, reported that the University of Connecticut recently committed to the addition of Black Lives Matter (BLM) patches on their women’s and men’s basketball uniforms for the 2020-21 season. On Aug. 20, the Big East conference decided that UConn and other schools would wear a patch to continue anti-racism and social justice efforts.

This decision came after Coaches for Action, a group of assistant coaches, pushed for the patches. Daniel Glinski, UConn’s assistant athletic director for equipment services, expressed concerns over the BLM patch in emails written to members within the department. “Will all student athletes be required to wear the patch or is this an individual choice?”, he wrote. “There will need to be an understanding that if we put a patch on the uniform, that will not be taken off, once applied.” An ESPN article hinted that UConn officials have also been considering similar uniform alterations for other sports teams.

OPINION

An Update on the Livelihood of Vegans at Trinity

KAT NAMON '22
MANAGING EDITOR

Last February, I contributed an article recounting the vegan experience at Trinity College, and I relayed my frustration with the fact that there were few options available for those who chose to adhere to a vegan diet and lifestyle. This year, I am happy to say I feel like many

regarding Trinity's ability to provide for its vegan students. Now, I no longer have to wonder if a pre-made salad or wrap is vegan because it is clearly labelled on the packaging for all to see. Although I am on a reduced meal plan because of the fact that I was unable to have the same number of options as other students because of my dietary restrictions, I

food item. While I am not personally bothered by this, I know of many other vegans who would find the possible cross contamination unacceptable. Fortunately, this is no longer a concern because there are no self-serve options left on campus this semester. I did enjoy the self-serve aspects of Bistro, but feel like the replacements of newer to-go items and fresh produce have made up for this loss.

At a certain point during my freshman year at Trinity, I considered putting a stop to my vegan diet because it was difficult to continue with the lack of options Trinity made available to me. I would constantly get questions on how I managed to get enough food to function and still get these questions to this day! I am not one to preach about veganism, which may seem like a lie since I am writing an opinion article about it, however, I am glad that I am contributing to a cause that puts the environment before myself. My reasons for being vegan have shift-

ed as time has gone on from purely dietary and health-related, to more centered around my mor-

how hard it is to be vegan at Trinity, I will honestly say it just takes some getting used to and—most

“This year, I am happy to say I feel like many changes have been made to the variety of options available at Bistro and Mather.”

changes have been made to the variety of options available at Bistro and Mather. I find the Bistro to be a much quicker, easier experience. Further, I am almost always satisfied with the options available for vegans, and I am always happy with my meal.

The variety of to-go options this year, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, have definitely contributed to my change of heart

feel confident I could find enough to sustain myself just by going to the Bistro, and in turn I save a lot of money and time in that I no longer have to buy groceries as often.

The self-serve aspect of Mather was once a negative part of being vegan at Trinity—as I pointed out in my last article—because of the abundance of cross contamination of non-vegan food items with vegan

“I am elated that I no longer feel as if I may have to give up these values while at school. I feel confident in Trinity's changes...”

al and ethical values. I am elated that I no longer feel as if I may have to give up these values while at school. I feel confident in

importantly—patience. Thanks to Trinity's devotion to providing vegan options to students, vegan students can thrive

“Now, if anyone asks me how hard it is to be vegan at Trinity, I will honestly say it just takes some getting used to and -- most importantly -- patience. Thanks to Trinity's devotion to providing vegan options to students, vegan students can thrive successfully and healthfully.”

Trinity's changes—especially since now is not the time to be making numerous grocery store runs. Now, if anyone asks me

successfully and healthily. I sincerely hope that this more vegan-friendly system will continue in a post-COVID world.

The Apparent Inconsistencies at Trinity's Testing Center

SKYLER SIMPKINS '23
OPINION EDITOR

Twice a week, I walk down to Ferris to get my COVID tests. Every time that I am at the testing facility, I see some glaring differences from the last time. Whether this is with the “check-in” tent outside Ferris or at the testing stations themselves, there are continual inconsistencies that

would feel tangibly safer.

We should begin with the check-in tent outside—and I use the term “check-in” lightly. While this station does not need to be professionally staffed, there should be some uniformity instilled within the protocol of those stationed there. Some of the staff are adamant about checking your Co-Verified app while others pay little attention to the passers-

stationed at this tent could be slightly more involved, I believe the entire Trinity community would feel more confident about our makeshift testing facility.

Now, we can move on to the formal check-in where students get their ID scanned and receive a test tube with the appropriate label. I have to commend these workers and Trinity on this section of the facility. I have never had a problem with this check-in and I have only seen it run smoothly. While these nurses might be bored of the monotonous tasks, I can assure you that I and much of Trinity feel very comforted by the ease of formal check-in and the uniformity of the process.

Lastly, the testing section of Ferris. Arguably the most important station, this final destination of one's journey through Trinity's testing center has some startling inconsistencies that worry me especially about the validity of the COVID test results. This inconsistent behavior has gotten better the longer I have been at Trinity; however, I am only there for twenty minutes a week. When I first arrived on campus, my check-in

went smoothly. When I approached the testing desk, the nurse asked me to open my test tube and

student or sat on the testing table. The third time I went to get tested, I confidently removed the cap

“While this may seem like an insignificant difference to some, any change in medical protocol can usher in immediate and possibly profound repercussions.”

place both pieces on the table. I immediately did so as I believed that the “sterilized” table was the best place for the tube to remain uncontaminated. I finished my exam and left the facility. The next time I came, I was told to hold the test tube. While this may seem like an insignificant difference to some, any change in medical protocol can usher in immediate and possibly profound repercussions. I spent much of my highschool career in the main operating room of a local hospital, and I know how the smallest changes in protocol can invalidate medical methodology or cause harm to a patient. While this change in protocol did no harm to me, I began to question the sanitation of the test tubes either being held by the

from the test tube and the nurse abhorrently gasped. There was no uniformity in this process throughout my first two weeks on campus, and that worried me as I did not know if my test tubes were being inappropriately contaminated by the environment.

I am happy that Trinity has a testing center on campus and tests us twice a week; however, when the majority of the stations at the testing center lack uniformity I begin to worry about the validity of our tests and their attendant results. My hope is that there is more uniformity established in the protocol of the testing center, and that all Trinity students can sit back and have confidence in the accuracy of our testing center during this unusual semester.

“Some of the staff are adamant about checking your Co-Verified app while others pay little attention to the passersby and are instead mesmerized by their phone screens.”

cause some concern. The only stability that I have witnessed throughout my first five weeks on campus are the nurses scanning people's ID's and handing them their test tubes. Though instability is not a direct path to failure, it can be worrying when Trinity's coronavirus cases rise. If the testing center had more stability in their employee's protocol, then I—and much of Trinity—

by and are instead mesmerized by their phone screens. Some of the staff tell you to blow your nose and put on hand sanitizer while others just watch you walk through the doors. While I know this is a relatively unimportant station with regard to the testing facility, it would be much more comforting to perceive some kind of consistency in the “check-in” process. If these individuals

A Modern Dilemma: Who Watches the *Watchmen*?

LUC BRYANT '22

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anyone keeping up with popular current events might have viewed last weekend's Emmy Awards for prime time television programming. One of the more standout productions was HBO's *Watchmen*, which was nominated eleven times and received awards for lead actress, supporting actor, outstanding writing, and outstanding limited series. The series takes inspiration from both the graphic novel by Alan Moore and the adapt-

"It is quite ironic how this premise, while perhaps unconsciously predicting the current complications of social interaction, introduces an interesting theoretical dilemma with the concept of masked vigilantism..."

ed film from Zack Snyder, yet its brilliance comes from the original and timely script from show runner Damon Lindeloff and his company of writers.

The show expands upon the source material's perception of trauma and history being the driving force in the minds of people who exact the change they wish to see in the world, which manifests in these worlds as fighting crime. The series sets this up in its initial moments: a black cop is shot in his vehicle by a suspected member of a white supremacist group, and the entire police force of Tulsa, Oklahoma is called into action as a response. This force includes masked and denominated vigilantes (Sister Night, Red Scare, Looking Glass, etc.), among a thrall of

retical dilemma with the concept of masked vigilantism, as well as the acceptance of vigilantism as a reliable deterrent of crime. In August, Billy Woods, a sheriff of Marion County, Florida, banned the use of masks for county deputies, explaining the need for "clear communication and for identification purposes of any individual" while on the job. The sheriff fought back against "anti-cop sentiments" that the deputies should prioritize the well-being of those citizens which which they

come in contact. He said, if questioned, the deputies could "politely and professionally tell them I am not required to wear a mask nor will I, per the Order of the Sheriff."

It seems Billy Woods and others would agree with the idea that the identification of a cop as an upholder of the law is rooted in their identification as a human as well, and that perhaps the human face is key to his or her recognition. Withstanding political association, it is not too tough to agree with Woods, that we should require the law to have an identifiable and unambiguous symbol—especially nowadays, when insecurities against law enforcement reach all-time highs. For symbols, we have many: the scales of justice, an of-

al agendas. The vigilantes each adopt a specific persona and emblem to highlight their idiosyncratic personalities and stories. These idiosyncrasies allow for some excellent backstories. Looking Glass wears a reflective mask due to an accident in a hall of mirrors. He becomes a master of interrogation: when his perpetrators look into his mask they know exactly what he sees in them. Hooded Justice, once a victim of an attempted racist lynching, wears a hood and noose around his neck to remind himself of his own goal as he hunts down underground Klan members. The agendas of these characters turn into idiosyncratic approaches of enforcing the law. Sure, fighting Neo-racism is important and necessary on all accounts, and makes for some great dramatic storytelling, but it doesn't become the only form of justice that matters.

A mask can take many forms when considered as a symbol for the removal of identity. Most recently it has taken the form of a slogan which carries great severity: defund the police. Though it is fair for the people to advocate for their own form of justice in the society in which they live, those that ceaselessly chant away should know the full implications of their assertion. When funding does not prove adequate to support the organization, critical processes that ensure the abolition of discrimination and injustice within and outside the system become obsolete. This idea goes beyond law enforcement, as fiscal responsibility is a critical doctrine of the way of the most superior American organizations. When you remove the power of an organization, a little bit of its identity goes with it, and where there is a gap in discretion, everyone has differing ideas of how it should be filled.

In comes the idea of vigilantism. When there is no popular identity of law enforcement, it can take any shape people want it to. Without a unifying symbol, these *de facto* law enforcers with no formal training rule by their individual whims and biases instead of the written, universally understood law. In 1984, Bernhard Goetz shot

four unarmed black men in a New York City subway, and was later heralded as the "Subway Vigilante." Goetz claimed he feared for his safety and that the four men were trying to rob him, but after the facts

In the stories they were the be-all-end-all of good in the town, but in reality this can never be the case. In *Watchmen*, the vigilantes have their own stories and justice to car-

"Without proper deterrent by the disillusion of these issues, a vigilante only sees his heroics passed through the space which he purveys."

of the incident came to light during trial, it turned out he had shot one of the men multiple times while he was down. After Goetz was indicted, the director of the NAACP during the

ry out, and this takes precedence to them over the law of their country. It is a premise that works for screen and comic books, but not one that works for the governing of man.

"Anyone who has ever seen a Western can attest. U.S. Marshalls who decide to take the law of a town into their own hands were seen as undaunted heroes. In the stories they were the be-all-end-all of good in the town, but in reality this can never be the case."

year of the shooting, Benjamin Hooks, said "The jury verdict was inexcusable. It was proven—according to his own statements—that Goetz did the shooting and went far beyond the realm of self-defense."

When the vigilante takes it upon himself to face the chaos of a people without a governing law

There is such a thing as too much power. When a person comes into substantial wealth, it is common for their own personal desire to drive them to spend frivolously. Vigilantes, if awarded an unrealistic level of power, can corrupt the morals of written law. If they have society's approval, they

"A recurring theme within the Watchmen series is the use of masks to hide identity as well as personal agendas."

unnamed and likewise masked police officers. The rest of the series dives into the psyche of its forefront vigilantes, explaining their backstories in a way befitting of the title *Watchmen*.

It is quite ironic how this premise, while perhaps unconsciously predicting the current complications of social interaction, introduces an interesting theo-

ficier's badge, a gavel, and the police uniform and its stylization are universally recognized among Americans. When we muddy the identities of the protectors of the law, we simultaneously muddy our trust with those protectors.

A recurring theme within the *Watchmen* series is the use of masks to hide identity as well as person-

enforcement, he takes upon himself the burdens placed upon all workers of law enforcement. Without proper deterrent by the disillusion of these issues, a vigilante only sees his heroics passed through the space which they purvey. Anyone who has ever seen a Western can attest: U.S. Marshalls who decide to take the law of a town into their own hands were seen as undaunted heroes.

can now pioneer their own powerful structure of law or governmental administration, and then we are right back at the beginning of the problem. Police stand for more than just the words written in our Constitution. They should be the standard bearers for peace and the idealistic humanity of the American Dream. Without a face, then their humanity is hidden from our view.

FEATURES

Bantam Daniel Santos Ramirez '23 Develops A New Fundraising Platform for Venezuela Humanitarian Crisis

MAURA KEARY '22
FEATURES EDITOR

Sophomore Daniel Santos Ramirez's home country, Venezuela, is currently experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the Western Hemisphere's history. For the past five years, the country has been facing extremely harsh economic, social, and political conditions. To address this, Ramirez and his team of eight have been working on a project that they named "Yakera," meaning "gratitude" in Warao, an indigenous language in Venezuela. Yakera is a crowdfunding platform developed by Ramirez and his team, created to provide financial support to Venezuelans in need. With Yakera, those affected by the crisis in Venezuela can have access to funds from donations and philanthropy abroad.

In January, a close friend of Ramirez's in

Venezuela contacted him with the idea of Yakera, and the project expanded from there. Ramirez relayed that he "saw the problem that your typical platform, like GoFundMe, has very high barriers to entry... you need a U.S. address, U.S. bank account. Most Venezuelans who are in extreme need don't have those things," and that "there are currency exchange controls in Venezuela, so you can also not freely exchange Venezuelan currency into U.S. dollars, which makes everything even more difficult."

The issues that Venezuelans are facing today are very close to home for Ramirez. He explained that, since around 2014, Venezuela has been undergoing an extreme crisis marked by hyperinflation and the current highest inflation rate in the world. The scarcity of products compounds that problem as people cannot find basic

goods. If they are available, the goods will be sold at an extremely high cost, so most people cannot access them. This, in addition to high crime rates and violent police forces, has created social and political violence in many communities. Ramirez said that five million Venezuelans have fled the country, an immense number considering its prior population of 32 million residents. Ramirez explained that the tragedies afflicting the country "[carry] heavy in our hearts, and we wanted to do something about it."

Ramirez and the team plan to carry out a Yakera launch phase in December 2020, before initiating the full project. Speaking on the project's goals, Ramirez explained how, "We wanted to do a pilot project in December in a specific community in Caracas, the capital city. We are going to work with 14 campaigns in a small community and the idea

is to work with them and evaluate the impact of the platform on that community." They will use these results to showcase what they can do in the future. To establish funds for the pilot project, the group is trying to raise \$7,500. After about 10 days, \$2,240 has already been collected.

Ramirez explained that, prior to the pandemic, the group intended to travel to Venezuela for the launch phase. He explained the "original idea for the pilot project was to raise funds to go to Venezuela, engage with the community and then launch the pilot on site. We have a local partner and NGO in Caracas that promotes community organizing in the country. We were working with them and we were going to help them. But because of this [COVID-19], it is impossible to travel there. So, we are going to work remotely with our partners, and they are going to do pretty

much all of the logistical work."

Given the current pandemic, countries like Venezuela are in need more than ever. When asked about how COVID-19 has altered his platform, Ramirez mentioned, "we started planning this before the pandemic hit; we just wanted to help the situation in Venezuela, but this whole thing has changed dramatically. Humanitarian need has become even more dramatic because of it and when the dust settles, the places the pandemic hit the hardest will be the places that were struggling the most already. So, for those willing to help address this crisis and the pandemic around the world, I think this is a good alley."

Ramirez relayed that the end goal for Yakera "is for our platform to gain traction to the point that it is just like GoFundMe... so people can just come onto our website and use it."

Counseling and Wellness Center Continues to Help Students with Remote Consultations and Support

KAT NAMON '22
MANAGING EDITOR

According to an email sent to students on Thursday, Sept. 24, the College's Counseling and Wellness Center will continue to provide remote help for students on a full-time basis throughout the fall 2020 semester. The operational guidelines of the Counseling and Wellness Center are available on Trinity's website.

The email that was sent to the community was signed by all of the Center's counselors, including Randy Lee, Kristine Kennen, Sarah Kopencey, Maryam Parvez, Erica Ronald, T'Kai Howard, Saleha Chaudhry, Tami Tiburtino, Allie Riege, and Kate Morrell. The members of the center urged students to consider going to these figures for support, as the center stated that they "recognize the levels of anxiety and stress you may be experiencing as a result of the pandemic and other events occurring across our nation and

in the world." Members of the counseling center also clarified that those who offer consultations are available as "the needs of our campus community continue to evolve," and that the office is "committed to remaining present and prepared to offer consultation, support, or just an ear to listen and a voice to share your distress, your anger, your fear, or your confusion about events in our world, our country, or our community."

Morrell, the office manager, still utilizes her office space in the building at this time and is available during regular business hours at the office's main number (860-297-2415). Despite Morrell's availability on campus, students are encouraged to make appointments over the phone. Although Morrell's office will be equipped with Plexiglas protection, students will not be permitted to wait in the waiting area. For all students seeking consultation at the center, appointments will be execut-

ed in a virtual format, as they were last spring upon students being sent home. Students who live on campus are also given the option of physically going to the Counseling and Wellness Center to have these virtual meetings, in the event that they feel "there is not sufficient privacy in their room or other location to have their session." This room has been given the name of the "Zoom Room," and is sanitized and cleaned after every appointment.

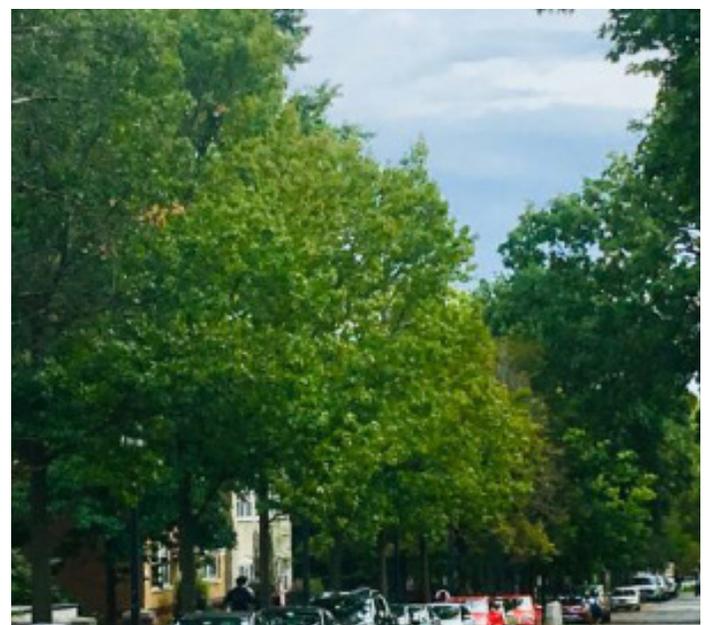
Students who do not live on campus, but reside in the State of Connecticut, will be able to have access to the same services as those who live on campus, minus unhindered access to the "Zoom Room." However, patients or students who live out of state will not be able to access the same sources because of licensing laws. The Counseling and Wellness Center will however "continue to monitor the circumstances that permit out-of-state professional services on a temporary basis" and that

these regulations "change frequently, and it is virtually impossible for us to get temporarily licensed all states in which Trinity students may be located."

Despite these obstacles in connecting off-campus Trinity students with helpful resources, the Counseling and Wellness Center assures students that the center will "work to locate a provider near their home."

The Center concluded the campus-wide email with a call for students to never feel any hesitation in reaching out for help, stating that, "right now, we need each other. We continue to be a strong and supportive community. We are all here for you."

You can make an appointment at the Counseling and Wellness Center by contacting the office at (860)-297-2415.



TRINITY TRIPOD

The Counseling and Wellness Center is on Vernon Street.

Dining Staff at Mather Works Tirelessly to Ensure Safety

OLIVIA PAPP '23
FEATURES EDITOR

As the fall semester progresses, it is crucial for students to take a moment to reflect on the copious amount of work that has gone into ensuring the Trinity community stays safe. Each day, staff across campus put forth their best effort to instill some sense of normalcy amidst the unruly circumstances, and each day these people come to work and risk their wellbeing to carry out their jobs on a college campus.

Arranging a safe model that would feed nearly 2,000 people each day, while simultaneously following Center for Disease Control guidelines, was crucial to ensuring a safe return to campus. The Mather Dining Hall staff was thus faced with an

incredibly unique task: planning for a style of dining that has never been done before. The staff was presented with the challenge of creating a safe and healthy environment for anyone who walked into the Dining Hall.

To construct this new style of dining, Mather Dining Hall employees met many times over the summer, brainstorming ways in which students could dine in a way that followed CDC guidelines. When asked about the process Mather underwent to arrive at the current form of dining, Mather Dining Hall Director Todd Alden relayed that they adhered to “guidance from the CDC and local government along with Chartwells’ safety and operational guide, “Path to Open,” we crafted a plan that would best

serve our guests in the safest manner possible while continuing to offer flexibility and convenience. Our plan was reviewed with Trinity’s administration to ensure it aligned with the campus community plans. Currently all foods are packaged for students to take food to go and seating is currently unavailable in all dining venues.”

Alden and his staff have tried to implement some flexibility for students in accordance with their dining experience, “our approach is three tiered and the options we developed and built on three pillars. First, to ensure the safety of the campus community and the dining team. Second, to provide a great dining experience, and third, to ensure speed of service to maintain social distancing while dining.”

Although the Dining Hall is working smoothly and efficiently now, there have been several challenges which the staff has had to work through, “our biggest challenge was communication – how and what was the best way to inform the community of changes while ensuring they felt safe to dine with us and that we are providing a dining experience that students will enjoy,” said Alden, who plans on re-opening dining hall locations once it is safe to do so. Staff is currently working with the Trinity Administration to re-evaluate the services offered, and how those services are delivered.

Despite these strides, there has unfortunately been a substantial amount of waste produced, and it has been difficult to find an

alternative method that still protects the community. Alden’s also spoke on sustainability efforts, indicating that while Mather has shifted to disposable containers, “we remain committed to our sustainability efforts. We recognize the environmental impact these containers have and are working closely with our partners to find alternative solutions that better serve the environment while keeping our guests safe.” Alden encouraged students to visit the DineOnCampus website for more information on sustainability efforts.

Alden noted that Chartwells “encourages Trinity students to visit our dining website to view daily menus, hours of operations, provide feedback, and obtain meal plan information.”

Trinity Faces History: 2020 Race Relations on Campus

KATIE CERULLE '22
FEATURES EDITOR

This weekend, 60 members of the Trinity community attended an online summit entitled: “Exploring the Historical Roots of Racial Inequity: Towards an Antiracist Community.”

The summit was orchestrated by members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office who partnered with the organization Facing History and Ourselves. Before the summit, members were asked to complete activities designed to begin the process of introspection and create a community between participants. This created a foundation for members to feel comfortable participating in intricate conversations about our constructed understanding of race.

The summit was split into large group style lectures to introduce topics, then students were placed into community groups of about ten to 15 members. These were designed to induce more intimate conversations about the topics that were discussed in the larger Zoom room. In addition to the smaller community Zoom group, each participant also had access to a group webpage called a Padlet, interactive discussion forums that were also used to debrief tough top-

ics. Journaling in order to individually respond was encouraged by mediators.

The large lectures covered a range of topics, ranging from historic information to how to be better community members at Trinity. The topic of whiteness was addressed during the first day. The programming addressed the topic of whiteness head on, clarifying that the concept does not necessarily refer to white people. Instead, it addresses the malleable idea of whiteness over time, something that has changed throughout time and in different societies.

Participants learned that whiteness has its own narrative of privilege, norms, culture and values. These values and ideals determine who is white. Whiteness manifests itself into the dominant culture that is justified by the meritocracy. This idea of whiteness and white privilege was explained as a moving sidewalk. Even if you stop walking, your privilege will continuously be bringing you forward. In defense of the statement that white people also deal with hardship, which was addressed as an obviously valid claim, these hardships cannot be attributed to their race.

Another facet of the discussion that many participants latched onto was

the debunking of this colorblind ideology. Many people say they simply do not see color, in order to prove their alliance with the movement. However, while this statement was said to be going in the right direction of acceptance, it does not mitigate white privilege. In other words, not seeing color fails to address the structural changes that need to be addressed within our society. It also detaches the personal culture and values of the person you are addressing if you strip them of their racial background.

The summit ended with discussing the difference between being nonracist and antiracist. Being anti-racist is described as being an avid activist for changing policy or supporting members of the BIPOC community. As the program explained, anti-racist sentiment can take the form of protesting, educating family or friends and taking your own privilege into account.

Facing History and Ourselves challenged members of the Trinity community to consider their own backgrounds and identities that greatly shape their experiences on campus. The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plans to continually offer programming on these issues.

Learning Remotely 'Neath the Elms

ALEX CHAMBERS '22
STAFF WRITER

Meaningful discussions, body language, non-verbal cues, and eye contact are all facets of the in-person classroom that seem to be lost in the new realm of virtual classes. Micah Fernald '23 knows this better than anyone. While most students are on campus this semester and taking a combination of online and in-person courses, Micah decided to stay home and take her courses online. She credited this choice to her “safety, saving money, being able to work at a job, helping out [her] family, [and] not having to eat packaged meals.”

Micah explains that the biggest problem “with learning from home is that [she has] an increased loss of focus while in Zoom classes.”

Even with the difficulties of a virtual classroom, Micah believes that “this semester is exceedingly better than the spring... because the switch from in-person classes to remote in the spring was entirely unprecedented for both the teachers and students, leaving us all a bit perplexed as to what to do.” Micah pointed out multiple benefits to learning from home,

including: more eating options, avoiding the move-in process, and fewer distractions from her schoolwork, “I do feel that I am more focused and get more work done... mainly because I do not have as many activities to time-manage.”

While Micah does not regret her decision, she expressed that she misses her “friends at school. I see everyone together and know that I would have a blast if I were with them.” Despite being completely remote, Micah is still able to participate in extracurriculars. She is co-music director of the Quirks acapella group, alongside Clare Donahoe '22, for which she has helped to set up Zoom calls about once a week. Since the group is not allowed to gather on campus, Micah explained that they are “planning to spend time arranging music, having virtual choirs, participating in the virtual involvement fair, and more.”

Micah hopes to return for the spring semester: “I wanted to see how this semester would go first, and hopefully COVID will be at least a little better in March... I can’t survive without my Trinity friends until next August though.”

Arts & Entertainment

How Tik Tok Maintains an Impressive Impact on Music: Overnight Success, Dancing, and Memes

CAROLINE RICHARDS '22
A&E EDITOR

As Tik Tok slowly takes over the world, one thing is abundantly clear: its addictive, seemingly endless stream of sound and video has made the perfect platform for new artists, and millions for the music industry. Not only is it the app's software that allows users to use or "borrow" sounds from other users (effectively making songs that may not have been traditional pop-hits to suddenly become popular), it is also the ironic humor rampant on Tik Tok that makes using the same sounds over and over

to an EDM/House crowd, was suddenly being used by the masses on Tik Tok as a hype sound. Songs like "Backyard Boy" by Clare Rosinkranz, "Gimme Love" by Joji, "Heather" by Conan Grey and "Still Don't Know My Name" by Labrinth aren't traditional hits either, but many have suddenly skyrocketed into the Top 40. The ability of music to spread like wildfire across the app can be attributed to the different "trends" Tik Tok users create and recreate on a daily endless cycle. Whether this be twisting the lyrics of the songs to take on a new meaning, be it with humour or something

Stallion, Jack Harlow, and Princess Nokia were practically thrust into fame overnight. Though these artists capitalized on their sudden popularity by releasing more music specifically branded for Tik Tok, other artists seem to only have one-hit-wonders. "Let's Link" by WhoHeem, "M to the B" by Millie B, "Hood Baby" by KBFR, and "Stunnin'" by Curtis Waters feat. Harm Franklin are examples of these such artists; but again, the music industry has demonstrated it can move quickly to snatch-up new artists and capitalize on their popularity. Perhaps their fame is on the way.

Other songs were seemingly rediscovered and rekindled by Tik Tok. "The Less I Know The Better" by Tame Impala became a way for users to make fun of cliché-white boys' music taste; "Electric Love" by BORNES became the tune put beside the bizarre trend where users video themselves trying to kiss their best friend; and "Bulletproof" by La Roux resurged as the background for users to respond to the prompt "You Think You Can

Hurt My Feelings?", and then inputting a reason why, in fact, "you" couldn't.

And then, of course, there's the dances. I save this point for last because

alleled power to popularize songs in less than an hour. "Chinese New Year" by SALES isn't a traditional hit, but when it became a popular dance trend on Tik

"Tik Tok dances...are also somewhat endearing... They bring people together in a way that's both enterprising and competitive."

"The ability of music to spread like wildfire across the app can be attributed to the different 'trends' Tik Tok users create and recreate on a daily endless cycle."

again in different contexts so hilariously appealing. Songs like "Roses (Imanbeck Remix)" by SAINT JHN and Imanbeck, which would likely appeal more

else, or using the song to backpack on top of another user's use of the song, it makes popularity come sudden and swift. Artists like Lil Nas X, Megan the

it's obvious, and I wanted to demonstrate that the closely intertwined relationship between the music industry and Tik Tok is multi-faceted, and not all Tik Tok songs are dance songs (I'm not defending the app... I swear). Tik Tok dances, strange in and of themselves because they require the dancer to stay within the iPhone frame screen, limiting movement altogether, are also somewhat enduring. They bring people together in a way that's both entertaining and competitive: someone makes the dance, and others replicate with their own personal twists. And, of course, they have demonstrated their unpar-

Tok everyone knew its lyrics "I see you at the movies"; people had it stuck in their heads for months in quarantine. "Tootsie Slide" by Drake and "Savage Love (Laxed - Siren Beat)" by Jawsh 685 and Jason Derulo are other obvious ones as the dances are easy to learn and thus, easily accessible for users to recreate on their own accounts. While it isn't yet clear the exact impact the app has had in terms of monetary compensation, Megan The Stallion's "Savage" alone sold 2.1 million units in the US alone as of July 2020. If that doesn't make clear the sheer force of this app, I really don't know what will.

Review: *The Lighthouse* Beats Quarantine Blues

LIZ FOSTER '22
MANAGING EDITOR

Since my eyes fell upon a black and white poster featuring a fully mustachioed Robert Pattinson and an equally disheveled Willem Dafoe, I knew *The Lighthouse* was a must-watch feature.

The film was distributed by A24, an independent film production company with a devout following whose releases are often met with praise by younger audiences such as the self-described area of the internet known as "film Twitter." The company, founded in 2012, has racked up awards with releases such as *Ex Machina* and *Room*. More recently, A24 has ventured into television, notably producing the recent HBO hit *Euphoria* among other well-known and critically acclaimed titles..

As a fan of previous A24 backed films such as Ari Aster's widely praised horror works *Midsommar* and *Hereditary*, I had

sky high expectations as a fan when heading into my viewing of *The Lighthouse*. I also assumed that I would undoubtedly like the film after reading countless vague analyses crafted by 17-year-olds on reddit.com/r/movies.

After putting off this viewing for far too many months—and with absolutely zero acceptable excuses—I finally settled down whilst in my own lighthouse-isolation to relish in a quarantine experience more devastating than my own. I'd like to advise readers that heavy, heavy spoilers are to follow, so please read on at your own discretion.

Though the film was originally intended to be a modernized take on Edgar Allen Poe's maybe-unfinished short fiction piece "The Lighthouse," director Robert Eggers ended up with a notably different story.

On an unnamed island off the New England coast, Pattinson's young and spry Ephraim Winslow

works under Dafoe's crotchety Thomas Wake as a lighthouse keeper whose tasks grow increasingly more tedious and whose sanity shrinks by the day.

Throughout the film's first act, Ephraim continuously spars with a gull with Thomas warning him to never kill a seabird as the souls of dead sailors are trapped inside their little flying-rat bodies. Oh, and Ephraim continues to hallucinate a terrifying image of a pseudo-sexy mermaid.

Also, his name isn't even really Ephraim, but come on, were we really going to believe someone was named Ephraim?

The chaos continues as the two become undoubtedly more estranged and insane. A box of presumed supplies turns out to be merely alcohol—something that does not disappoint the two men. They binge drink for days, fighting and laughing with each other intermittently. Ephraim wonders about the mysterious light at

the apex of the lighthouse as Thomas maintains his secrecy. The eventual reveal proves more *Pulp Fiction* than anticipated, or quite frankly desired.

This movie is honestly absurd and that's what makes it so damn compelling. Pattinson's character beats the ever-loving fuck out of the seagull, Wake chases after his wickie yelling about spilled beans and feverishly waving an axe, and the two drink paint thinner just to maintain their intoxication.

There's shots of mermaid vaginas, decapitated heads, and tentacles a plenty. An NSFW scene involving Robert Pattinson and a mermaid shell was a thoroughly unanticipated moment in the film. Despite its absurdities, *The Lighthouse* maintains its integrity in Pattinson and Dafoe's stellar performances as the actors fully embody the insanity of abandonment and isolation. Similarly, the film's cinematography stuns in dramatic black

and white shots that emphasize the empty melancholy of Wake's island.

The Lighthouse is a dramatic, engaging viewing experience. Its shocking moments and sweeping cinematography combine with the narrative to create an adventure that immerses the viewer in Egger's twisted world. Quell your anxieties about the real world and instead worry about two isolated, unhinged characters suffering under extreme mental duress simply by watching *The Lighthouse*. Robert Pattinson may be our last hope.

Though *The Lighthouse* was only able to obtain one award at the Cannes Film Festival and garnered just one nomination for Best Cinematography at the Academy Awards, the film has largely been met with critical acclaim.

For those interested in catching the movie, *The Lighthouse* is available for streaming now on Amazon Prime.

Weekly Skylights: The *Tripod* Looks to the Clouds

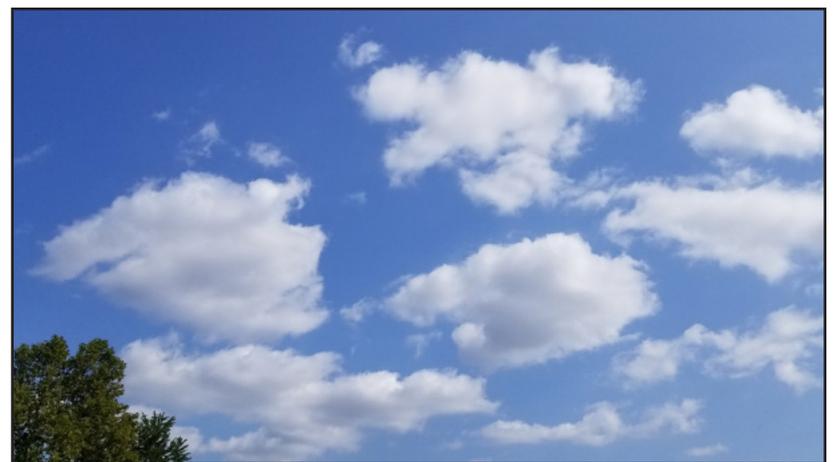
JOEY CIFELLI '23
A&E EDITOR



September 22, 2020

(Left) The surf is blue and foamy and cold, like otherworldly beer fresh from the tap. There is no sand, only a smooth plane of frosted glass that meets the horizon no matter where you look. The sun is mild, and the breeze lifts up your hair in lazy spirals. Scaled creatures float through the water in the distance, big as houses. It smells like wet ash and soap. You've been sitting on the glass pane for about an hour when a glass bottle rolls in from the waters, clinking against the beach. Inside is a rolled up piece of paper wrapped with string. You uncork the bottle and take a look. *Be seeing you*, it says, and you remember all the times you've been here before. You wake up in bed with a startled breath. **8.4/10**

(Right) You've returned. This time the feeling is different. What's that on your arm? *Remember*, it says. And you do, you wrote it there last week. Wasting no time you crash into the ocean and feel the crystal coldness electrify your veins. You swim past the right of monsters, taking care not to be caught in the whirlpools that surround them like dogs on a leash. A chain of islands waits for you beyond. You crawl onto the shore of the nearest one and collapse, exhausted. "Hello," says a voice, "boy, don't you look far from home." The speaker is a young boy with pointed ears. You look up at him weakly. He smiles back. "Well then, let's get you fixed up. You have a long way to go yet." **8.6/10**



September 23, 2020

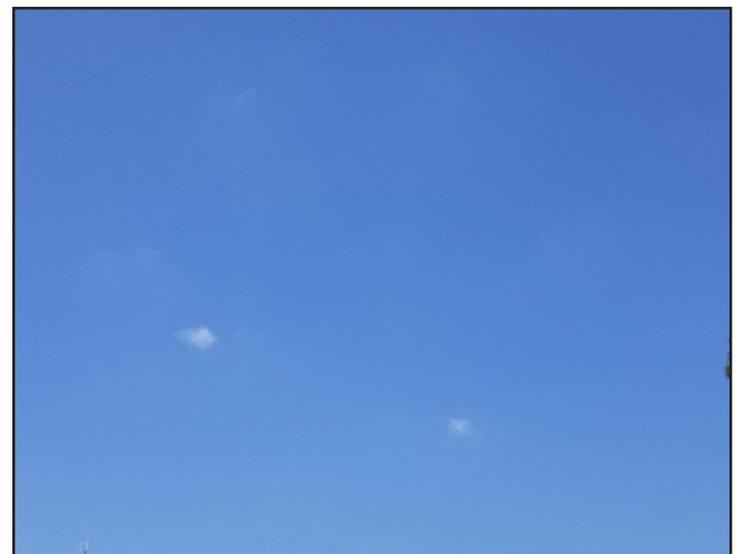


September 24, 2020

(Left) The boy uses some sort of spell – "it's a punch to the gut made of vitamins!" – and energy pulses through you like the waves. You thank him and carry on your way, diving back to the foamy depths. In time a thick fog surrounds you, obscuring your path. Whispers pierce through the fog. Your mother, telling you to wake up. You feel your presence in the ocean growing faint, another reality tugging you back. Taking a deep breath, you swim down, away from the mist and the voices. Further into the abyss you fall until there is not a sound to be heard. It is only you, alone and afraid in the ocean black as pitch. What to do? Where to go? You came so close, close to something....

What? A speck of light shines in the dark. A single star, and it grows larger. A fish. A long, sloping fish with radiant scales. It pauses in front of you, waiting, and you grab hold. **8.2/10**

(Right) You don't know how long you've been travelling, but you can feel the time in your aching bones and windburned skin. The fish does not stop for anything, and it skims through the water like a writhing bullet. It takes everything you have to hold on, and when there's nothing left to give, at the moment your fingers loosen, it stops. An island lies in front of you. You walk onto the shore. Someone sits against a tree with a sheaf of paper on one side and a pile of bottles on the other. They look up as you approach, and smile. "You made it," they say. You nod. They laugh, "I was starting to think these messages were useless. Come on, there's so much to see!" They grab your hand and lead you into the island, speaking of the adventures to be had in the coming nights. **10/10**



September 25, 2020

SPORTS

Football for Rookies: The NFL is Back and the *Tripod* Provides You with a Guide on How to Play

ANNA BAUER '23
SPORTS EDITOR

With the National Football League just finishing week three of a 17-week season, excluding playoffs, the *Tripod* sports editors thought football would be the perfect choice for the second "Sports for Rookies" segment.

For starters, at least in New England, there are two types of football fans: the ones who love Tom Brady or the ones who hate him and his, now former, coach Bill Belichick – but the *Tripod* has no bias towards either side of course.

Just like in ice hockey, the point of the game is to simply outscore the other team. Teams are made up of 53 players, but only 11 can be on the field at once. Within a football team, such as the Patriots, there are offensive teams, defensive teams, and special teams which are usually only on the field during kicking plays. The job of the defense is to stop the ball from advancing down the field. The offense must advance at least 10 yards within four plays, also known as downs; otherwise, the ball turns over to the opposing team. However, if the of-

fense is successful in doing this, they have a new set of downs to try to move the ball another 10 yards to maintain possession.

The game is divided into four 15-minute quarters. Theoretically, this would make the game only one hour, however, excluding the usual 12-minute halftime period, the games have a tendency to be closer to three hours long as the whistle is blown quite frequently because of penalties. So, if anyone, possibly an annoying younger brother, ever says "there's just five minutes left of the football game, then the TV's yours," you had better get comfortable.

In both pre-season and regular season, if the game is tied at the end of the four quarters, a 10-minute overtime period will occur. During this time, if the first team to possess the ball scores a touchdown, the game is over, but if they score a field goal, the other team gets a chance to possess the ball. If this overtime period ends and the game is still tied, the game will be recorded as a tie – a rather rare thing! Post-season, however, is a different story because the games cannot end in a tie, so multiple overtime

periods will continue until a winner is determined.

Each game begins with the kickoff and the winner of the coin toss chooses whether they want to receive the kick-off or kick the ball. Alternatively, they can choose which endzone they will defend. Depending on the choice made, the kicking team will kick the ball from their 35-yard line and, hopefully, one of the opposing players will catch the ball and begin running it up the field.

As referenced earlier, in order to be the winner you have to score the most points, so to do this, teams usually strive for touchdowns as that is what is worth the most points – six. From a touchdown, teams can either gain one or two extra points depending on if they decide to kick the ball into the field goal (worth one-point) or attempt a two-point conversion where they run or pass the ball into the end zone. However, given that a team only has four downs to get 10 yards and there is a lot of tackling, it can be quite difficult to score a touchdown. So, on the fourth down, usually when players are already inside the 35 yard line, a team can decide to either kick the field goal – worth three points –

and hopefully their kicker can accurately kick the ball through the uprights, or they can "go for it" and if they fail, it is a turnover. The last way to score is through a safety. A safety, worth two points, is when a player who has the ball is tackled in their own endzone; the team who does the tackling will receive the two points and get the ball back.

Once the game starts, there are quite a few penalties that a referee can call, however, what you need to know is that the consequence of most penalties is yardage which moves the teams further away from the endzone they are trying to reach; in other words, try not to get a penalty.

While football is definitely known for its tackling, it is important to note that a player cannot tackle someone who does not have the ball. Because of this, penalties like pass interference (when a defensive player comes into contact with the intended receiver prior to him catching the ball) or defensive holding (when a defensive player holds/tackles an offensive player who does not have the ball) can be called.

The last aspect of the game that is more than worth noting would have to be the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl is the end-game for all NFL players and teams. The NFL is divided into two conferences: the American Football Conference (AFC) and the National Football Conference (NFC). Each conference has 16 teams with four in each division (North, South, East, and West). The top six teams from each conference advance into the playoffs and the last undefeated team from each conference plays in the Super Bowl. Even people who do not love football can love the Super Bowl for a couple of reasons: 1) the snacks, 2) the commercials, and 3) the extravagant half-time show.

There is so much more to football than just what is written above, so if you have a sudden urge to learn about the many penalties that can be called or you want to put your knowledge to the test, make NFL Sunday night football a fun activity after a long day of studying in the library. With any luck, our very own Bantam football team will be able to play in the spring and you can come out and support!

National Basketball Association: Playoffs Commence

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21
SPORTS EDITOR

As so many overlapping sports seasons are nearing a close, the most electric league thus far has definitely been the National Basketball Association. This past weekend saw some of the most intense games on the court. In the East finals, the Miami Heat took on the Boston Celtics, and after Friday night's game, it seemed that the Celtics, who were down by two games, had a chance to tie up the series on Sunday night. However, the Miami Heat closed any odds of that happening as they dominated every quarter. The Heat made a strong push early in the first quarter and then again late in the fourth quarter.

An aspect of their performance that helped their win was that they were constant movement towards Bam Adebayo, who acted as a kind-of

"human highway" in that he was able to rapidly distribute the ball around the court and managed to put up 32 points throughout the game. Adebayo's partner, Jimmy Butler, was also able to penetrate the Celtics defense with quick and direct attacks on net and secured 22 points. For a second in the second quarter there was a glimpse of hope for Celtics fans that they were pulling it together and had ironed out the issues on defense that they were having in the first quarter. However, they failed to carry that throughout the rest of the game and once again slowly fell behind until they were just scrambling to recover in the fourth quarter without ever being able to hold any kind of lead.

While Miami and Boston were battling it out on the East Coast, the West saw an extremely high intensity game with the Denver Nuggets and the

Los Angeles Lakers. While it was quite clear on Saturday night that the Nuggets were not going to be attending to the finals, there was a valiant effort on their part to bring the same intensity to their last game and almost come away with a victory. The first two quarters especially, LeBron put a lot of pressure on the defense and quite frankly, walked into the Nuggets court without much difficulty. While the Nuggets responded to almost every shot that they gave up they were nonetheless, still trailing the Lakers. That gap slowly began to grow and as fans had seen in the previous games, it looked as if the Lakers were going to slowly walk away with another victory. However, the Nuggets took to the court strong in the third quarter and made a valiant effort to relapse back and secure a lead. They were able to outscore the Lakers 33-26 in the third quarter and narrow the score gap.

Unfortunately, they went all out too soon, because in the fourth quarter the Lakers absolutely buried any remaining hope that Denver would have had for winning. Even in the last few minutes of gameplay, the Lakers started raining down the shots on the Denver defense, overwhelming them with the sheer amount of incoming fire on the net.

The final score was 117-107, with another win for the Lakers.

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, the Lakers will face-off in the finals against the Heat. The Lakers, who are the favored to win, have not won a championship in a decade, and no doubt they will have a great opportunity to do so with the assistance of LeBron James for this upcoming championship.



MIRROR.CO.UK

LeBron James, forward for the Los Angeles Lakers, prepares to throw a pass.

This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

Tripod Senior Spotlight: Claire Grigglesstone '21

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21
SPORTS EDITOR

This week's Senior Spotlight is Claire Grigglesstone, a four-year varsity athlete for the Trinity College Women's Rowing team. Claire is from Groton, MA, a small rural town about five miles away from the New Hampshire border. Throughout her time at Trinity, Grigglesstone has without a doubt made incredible accomplishments on and off the water.

On the academic side of things, Grigglesstone has gone above and beyond and demonstrated her skill in the classroom. She is a chemistry major with a particular focus in organic chemistry and plans to pursue a PhD in organic chemistry upon graduating from Trinity. During her freshman year she was a Deans' Scholar (top 25 in first-year class), and has received the Presidential Scholar Award, a Trinity merit award that grants recipients full tuition. However, the list does not stop there as Grigglesstone has also gone on to be named the 2020 Goldwater Scholar, receive Chemical Rubber Company-Lisa Nestor Award for Chemistry, a Physics Department Award, the Phi Gamma Delta Prize in Mathematics, and has made the NES-CAC All-Academic team three times, as well as the CRCA National Scholar Athlete twice. Additionally, she was named to the NERC All-Scholar Team. Grigglesstone also participated in rigorous summer internships, she recounted that "during the summer of 2019, I conducted research at NYU in Dirk Trauner's lab working on the biomimetic synthesis of preisolactone A." This work was published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, a high profile chemistry journal. Grigglesstone has also been a member of Professor of Chemistry Cheyenne Brindle's research group here since her sophomore year, adding that her "research here has focused

on expanding the kinetic window of extraction." This past summer, Grigglesstone had the opportunity to participate in a 10-week internship with Bristol Myers Squibb, a pharmaceuticals company that is working to conduct research for cancer therapeutics. However, because this internship was online, Grigglesstone had the chance to spend a lot of time working on different fitness goals. She swam the length of her hometown lake twice, biked the Kancamagus highway through the white mountains in New Hampshire, ran three half marathons, hiked 18 out of 48 of the 4,000 foot-tall White Mountains in New Hampshire, and also started an art business, which can be found at @grigglesstone_art on Instagram.

With all of these accomplishments off the water, it is no surprise that Grigglesstone goes above and beyond during training on the water. She has been rowing for 11 years, as she learned to scull around the age of 10. Rowing runs in her family as both of her parents have been rowing for over 25 years, and own a few sculling boats them-

selves. Her parents were the first coaches she had, so you could say that rowing has always been a part of her life. However, it was not until her sophomore year of high school that she approached the idea of rowing competitively for Greater Lawrence Rowing. One of Grigglesstone's favorite things about the sport since starting has always been the camaraderie that is present in a boat or on the team. = enjoys the fact that rowers can compete against each other for a seat or in an erg, workout one minute, and then be cheering each other on and encouraging people to improve or beat you the next. This aspect of rowing, to Grigglesstone, is unlike any other sport. As a highly competitive person by nature, she enjoys this environment and feels that it is constantly pushing her to improve as a rower and as a person.

Since coming to Trinity that is exactly what she has done with her career. She has been seated in the 1V for every season since fall of her freshman year. She has also been in the top Head of the Charles for the past three years, bow seat her sophomore year and a stroke seat during her first-year and junior year. In the spring, she

is a member of the 1V8+. Grigglesstone commented on the fact that each spring, the team has been improving and gaining better results. In the spring, Grigglesstone has been a member of the 1V8+, freshman year in four seat, sophomore in five seat, and junior would've been six seat. Each spring we have had successively better results than the previous year and truly building the program to incredible heights.

When asked about her favorite memory, Grigglesstone was taken back to her sophomore year Head of the Charles race. That particular year, there was a massive head wind and it was freezing cold in some of the worst conditions to date. She stated "I was the bow seat and I remember every bridge we went under was a huge wind tunnel and I had to have a death grip on my oar so I didn't lose it." She continued to expand on the memory in saying this situation "was a little tough though when I lost feeling in my hands 1k into the race. I know it sounds a bit unpleasant, but that was one of my favorite rows. It took us over 21 minutes to cover the 5k course, but it felt like it

passed by in a second because we were just locked in. There was this sheer determination in all of us to put all the pieces together and lay down a quality piece." They managed to do well as a team in securing third place that year.

Grigglesstone's journey has also seen some challenges along the way. Particularly this year, "COVID-19 has had an interesting impact on all our lives and for me it has definitely created a challenge within rowing." Activity has also been a major part of her life and helps with time management and mental wellbeing. With the sudden end of last spring, it was difficult for Grigglesstone to adjust, particularly as a senior. A looming challenge for her was rationalizing she was still training at such a high level when nothing was guaranteed, "I really struggled with this at times during the summer, but always circled back to the same thing: I don't want to look back and wonder what could have been, I want to look back and know I gave it everything. If given the opportunity to race, I want to be prepared."

Grigglesstone continues to train rigorously daily and is anxiously awaiting a potential spring season. The never-ending drive and intensity that Grigglesstone has brought to the Trinity Women's Rowing Program is unique, and has contributed immensely to the success of the team and those around her. Grigglesstone's goals before she departs from the Trinity Rowing program are "to leave the team in a better place than when I came to school, maybe one day watch them go to NCAA."

As a senior leader, Grigglesstone also hopes to motivate her team members "to strive to succeed in whatever they do, whether it's on the water or not." She has no doubt done this, and gone above and beyond to put them in this position, and we are very excited to see what the spring season has to hold for her and the team.



TRINITY COLLEGE

The 2018-2019 Trinity College Women's rowing team training for spring racing.