

## Fallen Alumni

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### To Our Readers:

Keep your eye out for the *Tripod's* new humor section: *Bits & Pieces*, which will be featured in every other edition of the paper. The next *Bits & Pieces* edition will run Sept. 21.

Next week's *Bits & Pieces* section will also debut the *Tripod's* very first Crossword puzzle! If you'd like to submit a puzzle for publication, send your submission to [tripod@trincoll.edu](mailto:tripod@trincoll.edu).

## Trinity Adds Five New College Administrators Over Summer Following Numerous Departures

JACK P. CARROLL '24  
MANAGING EDITOR

Trinity College appointed five new administrators over the course of the past summer. These appointments were made as previous members of the administration retired or left to pursue other career opportunities.

The recent round of appointments include Kristen Eshleman, Vice President for Library and Information Technology Services; the Rev. Marcus Halley, Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life; the Rev. Trevor Beauford, Assistant Dean of Community Life and Restorative Justice and Director of Greek Life; Terry Crowdry, Interim Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid; and Sonia Cardenas, Dean of the Faculty, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer.

Kristen Eshleman's appointment was announced by the President of the College Joanne Berger-Swee-

ney on Wednesday, May 26. Eshleman, who started her new position on July 12, was previously the Director of Innovation Initiatives at Davidson College in North Carolina where she served in various roles for 20 years. At Davidson, Eshleman chaired the College's Innovation Council; she also served as a member of various liberal arts committees, and was a member of a team that was awarded an \$800,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish a curricular model for digital studies.

The Rev. Marcus Halley joined the Trinity community after a contentious search for a new College Chaplain and Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life. Halley, who was selected from three finalist candidates, was the only Episcopalian candidate after the College conducted a one-month search in Mar. 2021. In interviews with the *Tripod*, alumni expressed concerns about



Top L: Kristen Eshleman, VP for Library and IT Services  
Top R: Rev. Marcus Halley, Dean of Relig. and Spiritual Life  
Bot. L: Rev. Trevor Beauford, Asst. Dean of Community Life, Director of Greek Life

Bot. R: Dr. Sonia Cardenas, Dean of Faculty, VP Acad. Affairs

the short timeframe of the search and the absence of any ordination requirement in the job description. A *Tripod* investigation

found that documents from the College archives indicated that any candidate selected by the President see APPOINTMENTS on page 4

## Trinity Drops to 46th in US News Rankings

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Trinity College has fallen two spots to 46th among National Liberal Arts Colleges in the 2022 *US News & World Report* Rankings, which were released on Monday Sept. 13. Consistent with the 2021 rankings, Trinity ranked second-to-last in the NESCAC, only ahead of Connecticut College which was ranked 50th. Four NESCAC schools – Williams, Amherst, Bowdoin, and Middlebury – were ranked in the top ten National Liberal Arts Colleges. In addition, Hamilton, Colby, Wesleyan, and Bates were ranked in the top 25 among National Liberal Arts Colleges. Tufts University is the only NESCAC school that is not classified as a "National Liberal Arts College" by US News & World Report.

When asked about the

College's drop in rankings, Chief of Staff Jason Rojas assured the *Tripod* that the Administration "understand[s] that rankings are important to some members of our community, including prospective students and their families who rely to some degree on them to make decisions on what school to attend."

Rojas further indicated that the College "remain[s] focused on continually improving in the areas that align with our strategic goals," outlined in the Summit Strategic Plan, "and measures of the quality and value of a Trinity education.

Trinity's ranking has remained relatively stagnant in recent years. Trinity was ranked 46th among National Liberal Arts Colleges in both 2019 and 2020. There was a slight improvement to 44th in 2021, however this year's ranking has seen the College fall to 46th again.

## Class of 2021 Finally Has Diplomas Shipped

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After months of waiting, as well as additional unforeseen delays, the diplomas for the Class of 2021 have finally been shipped to the members of the graduating class. Following their graduation ceremonies, which were held on May 21, 2021, the Class of 2021 were told they would receive their di-

plomas by mail in Mid-August.

When asked about the cause of the delays, Chief of Staff Jason Rojas explained that there were "a couple of factors" that resulted in the delay. He cited the College's goal "to produce a program book that included recognition of academic honors" as one contributing factor

see DIPLOMAS on page 4



SGA President Giovanni Jones '21 speaking at Commencement with empty booklets in place of the delayed diplomas.

# The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904  
"Now then-*Trinity!*"

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*The Trinity Tripod* has been published by the students of Trinity College since 1904. Its staff members are committed to the reporting and distribution of news and ideas that are relevant to the College community. The *Tripod* is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year. Student subscription is included in the Student Activities Fee (SAF). For non-students looking to subscribe, a one-semester subscription costs \$10.00 and a one-year subscription costs \$20.00. Please address all correspondence to:

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# Trinity College

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## CORRECTIONS

## Tripod Editorial

# Returning to Campus with Caution and Care

Happy first issue! We at the *Tripod* are, once again, cautiously optimistic about this in-person semester. Walking around campus has felt shockingly normal to us, with each gathering of over ten people reminiscent of Fall 2018 and Fall 2019, or the pre-Covid era. We are in a very different position as a school than we were a year ago, but even still, the return to normalcy is a ways away.

In looking at our peer institutions, it seems as if the College is handling things a degree above others. As of Sept. 10, Connecticut College has shifted completely online after more than 50 students tested positive for COVID-19. Vaccinations at Conn are also required unless an individual has a medical or religious exemption, as is the case at Trinity. While this is certainly a testament to how well Trinity and Trinity students have been handling things, it is also a reminder that we must continue to adhere to relevant public health as well as mandated College practices to ensure that we do not meet the same fate as Conn.

Regardless of how separated we may feel that we, as a College community, are from the real world as we fall back into the daily doings of Trinity life, we cannot forget that we still have a responsibility to the greater Hartford community. We are not confined to this campus anymore, and once one ventures past Summit Street, there are still many people out there who are unvaccinated and in danger of contracting COVID-19. The pandemic is not over, although many, perhaps even all of us, wish this were the case. Even within our own community there are students and faculty members who are exempted from the vaccine mandate. If you intentionally refuse to comply with the College policies or intentionally act in a manner completely contrary to

public health regulations, you are only doing yourself and others a disservice. No point is proven in refusing to protect the health of others or even your own: Whether you intend to or not, you are projecting the impression that you do not care about the consequences of your actions.

Weekly surveillance testing began when members of the Junior and Senior class moved in on Sept. 6, and as so detailed on page 4, has resulted in an alarmingly low number of active cases on our campus. According to the FAQ's of the COVID-19 Information section on the College's website, approximately 10 to 15 percent of the vaccinated student population will be tested each week, based on the last digit of their Trinity ID number and the first letter of their last name in order to "test a cross section of students." Students are notified a week prior to their scheduled surveillance test, and are told that if they do not receive a call from the Health Center, then their results are "normal and healthy." Quarantine guidelines if a student is infected with COVID-19 have also been relaxed this year. According to the Trinity website and the information we were sent prior to our arrival to campus, fully vaccinated students who test positive for the virus may not even remain in quarantine. These students are required to wear a mask for 10 days (which we are already required to do) and obtain additional medical evaluation in the Health Center in order to determine the course of action and if additional quarantine or isolation will be required. For unvaccinated students that have an approved medical exemption, they are required to quarantine for 10 days regardless if they test positive for the virus. Additionally, students who are exposed to someone who contracted the virus, but

are vaccinated, do not need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic and have no immunocompromising medical issues. They will, however, be required to wear a mask for two weeks (which, again, is already required of us) and will have to test for the virus five days after exposure. The case is, of course, different for unvaccinated individuals who are exposed, and thus they will be required to quarantine. The website indicated that there is still on-campus quarantine housing, although Doonesbury is no longer that designated housing as it was last year. Even though it may feel like we no longer have to pay attention to these guidelines and protocols, since the majority of the student body is vaccinated, it would be irresponsible to remain blissfully unaware of those that this virus is still affecting on a daily basis.

This system of continued, yet irregular testing, and isolation protocol, seems to keep students aware that we are not completely in the clear, and that it is, in fact, still possible to contract the virus regardless of one's vaccination status. It can be easy for college students to fall into the cycle of believing we are invincible, but this is not the time nor the place to adopt that mindset, especially when we have come so far. Connecticut College serves as an example of how quickly we can regress to a point that is reminiscent of this time last year, and the nationwide case numbers also remind us of that fact. It is a sobering note to start the semester on, but it is crucial for us to keep our heads out of the clouds and feet on the ground when human lives are at stake and we have a duty to a community that is larger than just ourselves.

-KJN & DJN

Interested in Writing for *The Tripod*?  
Let Us Know at [tripod@trincoll.edu](mailto:tripod@trincoll.edu)

# NEWS

## Trinity Remembers 9/11 Victims, Including Six Alumni

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Saturday, Sept. 11, Trinity held a special ceremony in the chapel to commemorate the lives lost in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, including six Trinity alumni. According to the College's website, the ceremony included an "organ meditation" by College Organist Christopher Houlihan '09, "prayers and reflection" by Trinity Chaplain Marcus Halley, as well as "remarks and a reading of the necrology" by President Berger-Sweeney. In addition, members of the Student Government Association leadership provided comments and a reading of the Dalai Lama's "Reflection on September 11."

Additionally, the carillon rang at 8:46 A.M., 9:03 A.M., 9:37 A.M., and 10:03 A.M. to commemorate the attacks on the North Tower, South Tower, Pentagon, and Flight 93, respectively.

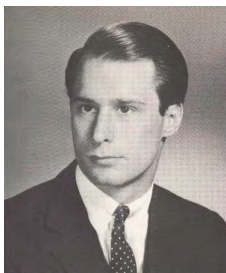
The six Trinity alumni who perished in the 9/11 attacks were these six individuals: John C. Hartz '59, Lindsay C. Herkness III '65, George E. Spencer III '73, Richard B. Hall '74, Stuart Todd Meltzer '90, and Scott Michael Johnson '97.

**John C. Hartz '59**  
Hartz was an English major from Bernardsville, New Jersey. While at Trinity, he was a member of both the Tennis team and St. Anthony Hall. At the time of the attacks, according to his obituary, Hartz was 64, working on the 94th floor of the South Tower as the senior vice president at Fiduciary Trust International.



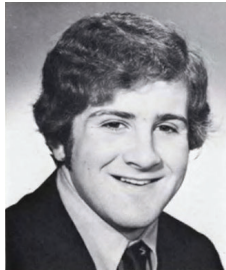
THE TRINITY IVY  
John C. Hartz '59

**Lindsay C. Herkness III '65**  
Herkness was a Government major from New York City. While at Trinity, he took part in a number of student organizations including Crown Investment League, Economics Club, Young Republicans, and Psi Upsilon. At the time of the attacks, Herkness was a senior vice president at Morgan Stanley, according to his obituary, working near the 70th floor of the South Tower.



THE TRINITY IVY  
Lindsay C. Herkness III '65

**George E. Spencer III '73**  
Spencer was a Psychology major from Shaker Heights, Ohio. While at Trinity, he played on the soccer team and was a member of Alpha Delta Phi. At the time of the attacks, per his obituary, was on the 84th floor of the South Tower, working for Euro Brokers in the Credit Derivatives Division.



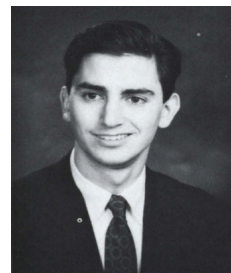
THE TRINITY IVY  
George E. Spencer III '73

**Richard B. Hall '74**  
Hall was an Economics major from Pleasantville, New York. While at Trinity, he played for the baseball team from his sophomore year onwards. He wrote for the *Tripod* his senior year. Per his obituary, he was a senior vice president at the Aon Corporation, working in the South Tower at the time of the attacks.



THE TRINITY IVY  
Richard B. Hall '74

**Stuart Todd Meltzer '90**  
Meltzer studied History at Trinity, hailing from Newton, Massachusetts. He had played baseball at the University of Michigan before coming to Trinity. Meltzer worked for Cantor Fitzgerald, a bond-trading firm, and had recently been promoted to head of West Coast Power Management, per his obituary. At the time of the attacks, he was working in the North Tower.



THE TRINITY IVY  
Stuart Todd Meltzer '90

**Scott Michael Johnson '97**  
Johnson was a History major with a minor in Jewish Studies, hailing from Montclair, New Jersey. He was working as an analyst for Keefe, Bruyette & Woods in the South Tower at the time of the attacks, according to his obituary. His remains were unidentified until 2018.



THE TRINITY IVY  
Scott Michael Johnson '97

## Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

Connecticut College	Hamilton College	Amherst College
<p>Connecticut College is operating at Alert Level 3-Orange after more than 50 students tested positive for COVID-19. In an email addressed to the campus community, Dean of Students Victor Arcelus announced that a group of 20 students experiencing COVID-19 symptoms tested positive on Monday, Sept. 6. Through contact tracing, the College discovered these students had been socializing in cars, dorm rooms, apartments, parties, and bars without wearing masks. On Tuesday morning, 34 additional students tested positive. As part of the Alert Level 3-Orange status, students are prohibited from visiting friends' dorm rooms and can only be on their dorm-room floor. Additionally, students can only socialize with a maximum of 3 students outside, with masks and socially distanced. Various buildings and spaces on-campus have been closed including coffee shops, athletic facilities, Shain library, and residence hall common rooms. All club and organization meetings must be shifted to a virtual format; athletic practices for varsity and club sports have been closed.</p>	<p>Several student employees in the Admissions Office have developed a campaign to unionize amid complaints about working conditions, according to a Sept. 8 article in the College's student newspaper <i>The Spectator</i>. Eric Kopp '22, a student employee at the Admissions Office and campaign leader, told <i>The Spectator</i> that complaints were motivated by a lack of communication, limited opportunities for student input, and a lack of flexibility in scheduling. The campaign began after students successfully appealed to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB): at least 30 percent of the workers had to demonstrate interest in an election by signing an authorization card. With 50 percent of the workforce's signatures, these student employees can form a bargaining unit that will vote on whether or not they want to become unionized. The bargaining unit needs 51 percent of the votes in favor in order for a union to pass. If the vote passes, students will negotiate with the school to develop a contract that addresses their demands.</p>	<p>Staff members and department directors report worsening workplace conditions, according to a Sept. 8 news article in <i>The Amherst Student</i>. Frequent department transfers and increased workload intensity were reported among the eight college staff members <i>The Student</i> interviewed. These conditions have developed amid a nationwide hiring slump which has left Amherst struggling to fill positions in a number of departments including dining, custodial services, and COVID safety. "People will work if you pay them enough. That is not the situation here. We are not being paid enough," said one staff member. Several staff members agreed that the increased pay they received at the start of the pandemic should have continued into the school year. Another staff member, who has been at Amherst for ten years, expressed frustration over the increased workload: "There's more overtime than there was before, and now there are more instances of mandatory overtime." Amherst is currently working to find "creative solutions" to keep operations afloat and increase job retention.</p>

## College Campus Safety Report: Sept. 6 - Sept. 13

Tuesday, Sept. 7  
Trinity Hall

Vandalism - Property.  
This case remains open.

Tuesday, Sept. 7  
Summit Street

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

Friday, Sept. 10  
81 Vernon Street

Motor Vehicle Theft.  
This case remains open.

Saturday, Sept. 11  
High Rise Hall

Vandalism - Property.  
This case remains open.

Sunday, Sept. 12  
North Campus Hall

Vandalism - Property.  
This case remains open.

## Trinity Reports Zero Covid Cases Following First Week of Classes; Positive Cases Across NESCAC

JACK P. CARROLL '24  
MANAGING EDITOR  
and  
FAITH MONAHAN '24  
NEWS EDITOR

Trinity College's COVID-19 Dashboard reported zero cases of COVID-19 among students, employees and affiliates after the first week of classes. 241 of the 250 PCR tests administered the week of Sept. 6 were negative, according to the Dashboard as of Monday morning, Sept. 13. Among the remaining test results, eight were invalid and one was inconclusive.

These results mirror the low-transmission trends the College experienced during the summer-weeks before the community's return to campus. From July 5-26, one positive test was recorded from a total of 159 tests. In August, there were zero cases of COVID-19 after a total of 60 tests were administered.

Trinity's low numbers follow the College's Aug. announcement that 94 percent of students, faculty and staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The College also

made efforts to stave off the spread of the virus by mandating masks in all indoor activities and common areas including classrooms, event spaces and hallways. In addition, masks must be worn by all attendees at outdoor college- and student-sponsored events and gatherings. Other protocols include physical distancing requirements and capacity limits—depending on whether an event takes place indoors or outdoors. Further, the College has implemented an altered surveillance testing program to help monitor the situation on campus. Approximately 10 to 15 percent of the student population will be randomly selected for PCR testing each week. In addition, all individuals with vaccine exemptions will be tested once per week.

Nationally, COVID-19 infections and deaths continue to surge with the spread of the highly infectious Delta variant. The U.S. is currently averaging over 150,000 new cases per day and close to 1,500 daily deaths. Last month, the

country recorded 26,800 deaths and more than 4.2 million infections. America's death toll recently surpassed 650,000 with one forecast model projecting over 750,000 deaths by Dec. 1.

Trinity's peer NESCAC institutions have reported significantly higher numbers of positive cases.

For example, Connecticut College recently changed its operating status to Alert Level 3-Orange after more than 50 students tested positive the week of Sept. 8. In an address to the campus community, Dean of Students Victor Arcelus announced that the students who contracted the virus had been socializing in cars, apartments, parties and bars without wearing masks.

Other NESCAC schools with higher numbers include Tufts which recorded 22 positive tests earlier this month. Colby's COVID-19 dashboard recorded seven positive cases in isolation as of Sept. 11; Williams and Amherst recently experienced two and five positive cases respectively.

## SGA Elections: Tues. Sept. 21

FAITH MONAHAN '24  
NEWS EDITOR

With the start of the 2021 fall semester and student involvement on campus, Trinity College's student body will soon elect their SGA class senators. Elected students will represent their peers in governance and will commit to amplifying student voices. The upcoming election cycle was announced via email by current SGA president Jederick Estrella '22, along with instructions on how to run for office.

Each graduating class will elect four senators, and the class of 2025 will elect their class president for the current academic year. As the class of 2025 begins their college careers at Trinity, running for office can provide students with an opportunity to get involved, network with other students, and explore leadership positions as they acclimate to college. The class presidents for the classes of 2024, 2023, and 2022 were elected as a part of the executive elections during the 2021 Spring Term.

In order to submit a bid for candidacy, students interested in running for senator positions must collect 50 signatures from their class while students interested in running for class president must collect 100 signatures. Following Estrella's email announcement, prospective candidates have begun posting on social media and hanging up campaign flyers around campus asking their peers to sign off on their candidacy via google forms. To submit a bid for candidacy, these signatures must be completed by this Wednesday, Sept. 15. Prospective candidates must be in favorable academic standing in order to run for office.

In comparison to last year, the SGA senatorial elections are occurring earlier in the term than they were previously. Although this change may give students less time to campaign or consider a bid for office, earlier elections will allow SGA to begin meetings and to participate in committees as soon as possible.

"You have an opportunity

to form a shared governance with administrators of the college and build the Trinity you want to see," wrote SGA President Estrella in his Sept. 9 email to students. The "Meet the Candidates" debate is currently scheduled for Friday, Sept. 17. The Meet the Candidate event serves as a chance for students to consider candidates they may not be aware of and to learn more about their platforms and goals for Trinity's future.

Ballots will be cast on Tuesday, Sept. 21. Election results will be announced the following day on Wednesday, Sept. 22. Weekly SGA meetings will begin after the Fall Term election cycle. These meetings are open to the Trinity College community at large, and they are a fantastic opportunity to learn about the issues on Trinity's campus, voice student opinions, and to ask questions.

Whether a student decides to run for candidacy, or simply participates in the election through voting, this election process provides an important opportunity for student voices to be heard.

## Five Appointments in JBS Administration Over Recent Months

**continued from page one**  
of the College "had to be approved by the Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut."

Dean of Community Life and Standards Robert Lukaskiewicz announced via email that the Rev. Trevor Beauford accepted the position of Assistant Dean of Community Life, Restorative Justice and Director of Greek Life. Beauford's appointment received mixed reactions from the community. A member of the Stella Society shared complaints with the *Tripod* after students were excluded from the search process for this position. The student was previously informed by the College about plans for a search committee involving students; however, these plans never came to fruition. Beauford was appointed just months after his candidacy for Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life. The College made no announcements about the search for Beauford's position nor were the details of the search shared with the *Tripod* after multiple requests.

Sonia Cardenas was named Dean of the Faculty, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic officer earlier this month. Her appointment dates back to Mar. 2019 when she was named Interim Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs following Tim Creswell and Melanie Stein's departure. In Nov. 2019, seven months after Cardenas' interim appointment, Berger-Sweeney announced a search committee for the position. The search was later suspended in Apr. 2020 amid the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cardenas was subsequently named Acting Dean of the Faculty and was "fully empowered with the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of the DOF/VPAA."

Additionally, Terry Cowdrey was named Interim Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid after Adrienne Oddi left Trinity in July to serve as Vice President of Strategic Enrollment and Communications at Queen's University of Charlotte in North Carolina.

## Diplomas for Class of 2021 Shipped Late

**continued from page one**

because, due to COVID-related issues, "a number of students were given extensions into the summer to complete their requirements." These extensions, Rojas told the *Tripod*, meant that the program book was not finalized "until July." This final program design then allowed the College "to order custom boxes that would fit the diploma and two programs."

To manage the distribution of the diplomas, the College turned to Slate Group, a Texas-based custom design, printing, and mailing company with whom the College has not partnered with in years prior. Per Rojas, Slate Group was "hired to create a custom mailing box for the diplomas and two commencement programs."

"Diplomas were mailed to domestic addresses," Rojas clarified, "on September 2 and 3" via USPS ground "which has a delivery time range of 2-8 days." Rojas fur-

ther indicated that diplomas for international students would be sent out later this week. This "later delivery schedule is the result of a delay in receiving boxes to ship the diplomas and programs via FedEx," Rojas continued.

The *Tripod* spoke to a member of the Class of 2021 to get a graduate's perspective on the issue. The student indicated that "the delay in the receipt of our diplomas into early September following graduation in May was disappointing," given the "considerable time and effort" invested over four years towards attaining his degree from Trinity. "My class had not heard on the status of our diplomas via an all-class message since the end of June. While it may sound trivial," he explained, "it is the physical capstone of our significant milestone, and the unexplained delay is unfortunate, particularly when my peers at many other institutions received their diplomas in June and July."

# OPINION

## Trinity Has No Need For A “Deputy Chief of Staff”

BRENDAN W. CLARK '21  
ALUMNUS CONTRIBUTOR

Having graduated from Trinity this past year, I jumped at the opportunity to engage actively as an alumnus in the meaningful work that graduates of Trinity relish—shepherding the organization and safeguarding its resources for the benefit of future generations of Bantams. I have given what I can in time and money—and intend to continue to do so—because alumni engagement matters.

It is for precisely this reason—because the alumni voice is key to our institution's success—that I felt compelled to write of my dismay at the recent decision to add to the ever-present and derisive administrative bloat that can plague an institution. This issue is not new: the *Chronicle of Higher Education* has reported on the issue for years, and Forbes quite aptly observed why College costs so much these days (hint: it is not the professors salaries—much less adjunct salaries—that are the prime driver of salary obligations). At Trinity, the *Tripod* has covered the matter at length.

Thus, one must ask, with the issue of administrative bloat readily apparent to *Chronicle* subscribers (which include, as I understand, many administrators at Trinity), do we really need a full-time, forty hour-a-week “Deputy Chief of Staff” position *right now*? Do we really need another administrator

paid a hefty salary from the tuition, alumni donations, or the coffers of the Endowment? The answer should be resoundingly clear: “no.”

My real gripe with this position is the fact that anyone with the time to look would find that there are a half a dozen employees in the President's Office who already perform the very responsibilities of this role. If you advertise a role, it would be appreciated if the language is differentiated from those that already exist, or if—at least—someone made an attempt to differentiate it.

The job description states the Deputy will “serve as a liaison from the president's office to Trustees, individuals in higher education, government, civic and community affairs and business, as well as members of the Hartford and regional community.”

Does that sound familiar to you? It should. Is it not the job of Dickens Mathieu, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, to act as a liaison to the President's Office with the Board? And is community relations not the job of Carlos Espinosa, Director of the Office of Community Relations, who serves “as a liaison between the College and the surrounding community.” Don't we also have the Center for Hartford Engagement and Research with numerous professionals working to engage with Hartford? Are their efforts not enough?

Why do we need a liaison to the “government and civic community” when the very

man to whom this deputy would report—the current Chief of Staff Jason Rojas—serves as the House Majority Leader of the General Assembly? Pray tell what better civic and government liaison could one have than a man in the second highest office in the legislature? I stand in stupefaction, awaiting someone who can name a better liaison to the government other than, perhaps, the installation of Ned Lamont himself as our Deputy.

Mind you, the President also has a “Special Assistant,” Karolina Kwiecinska '16, whose responsibilities—admittedly—are not well-outlined on the College's website. Are we to believe that she cannot assist with any of these tasks? Or, for instance, can the President's Executive Assistant not support reviewing “her mail”? Are we really to believe that the five full-time, well-educated employees in the Office of the President cannot solve among themselves the management of the President's “exceedingly complex schedule”? This is not the White House or a federal government which oversees a workforce of 2.1 million employees. This is a College with less than three thousand people on campus on any given day.

This position simply mirrors the responsibilities of other employees and, mainly, Mr. Rojas' job. The responsibilities include “assist[ing] the [Chief of Staff] in monitoring and coordinating

critical tasks” and partnering “with Chief of Staff...for planning and implementation of new projects.” So, this is a full-time, with benefits, assistant for Jason Rojas?

Mr. Rojas, to his credit, recently attained to a significant position in the state legislature: if the issue is that his work as Majority Leader adds to his work at Trinity, and consequently he requires additional support, then the College should draw from existing talent—and its denizens of full-time employees—to make up the difference.

A quick survey of other NESCAC schools and, in fact, most other institutions, fails to find a similar role. There is no “Deputy Chief of Staff” at Yale, or at Harvard, institutions twice our size and of far greater complexity. This current search reminds me of another position clearly essential to the success of the College that was advertised (and later withdrawn) around the time the COVID crisis arose: “Senior Speechwriter.” As to that one, I will only say there is no president of any college I can find who has someone whose sole responsibility is preparing remarks for the institution's leader.

I want to be clear. I am not questioning the responsibilities many in this office presently hold and undertake. From my time as *Tripod* editor and as a student, I would aver that they often did a fine job in those responsibilities. I would say they have the capacity to do more—and to see the positions as

signed to this “Deputy” completed help themselves.

What helps Trinity advance is the participation and charity of our alumni base, the rigorous education our faculty provide, and the students we bring to the institution. Who sits in the President's Office—or how many employees work there—is not what matters. Our resources should be allocated to alumni outreach and investment in our students. I note, with sorrow, that engagement with “students” and “alumni” appears *not once* in this individual's job responsibilities.

It seems even more in poor taste when we consider context. Trinity eliminated positions recently, some permanently, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Some individuals who had worked at this College for decades were terminated and had little time to adjust. I may be young, but even I can tell that it takes a fair amount of gall to turn around a year later—when some of those employees may still be struggling—and suggest that we have the money for a duplicative job. a

I would urge the College to reconsider—for the sake of students and alumni who care so deeply for this institution—and for the sake of its own integrity, to seriously evaluate the need for this role.

**Brendan W. Clark '21 is a recent alumnus of Trinity, the former Editor-in-Chief of the *Tripod*, and a J.D. Candidate at William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia.**

## The Contradictions of the New Texas Abortion Law

KATIE CERULLE '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

As many of you have surely seen in the news recently, Texas just instated one of the most restrictive bans on abortion in history. The new law went into effect on Sept. 1, stating that after just six weeks of pregnancy, women will not be allowed to get an abortion. Despite the fact that this clearly defies the core holding of *Roe v. Wade*, which allowed women to get an abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy, the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 conservative majority, did not respond to the emergency request filed by abortion providers to block the law (as of Wednesday, Sept. 2). Not only does this law restrict the timeframe that a woman can get an abortion, but it also allows private citizens, anywhere in the country, to bring civil lawsuits against a

pregnant person who violates this law. This can include someone transporting a woman to a clinic or even someone paying for the treatment.

Over the past week that these laws went into effect, the rise in coronavirus deaths in Texas went up by 38%, one of the highest increases in the country. The rolling average of daily new deaths per 100,000 is .86, also one of the highest in the country. Despite their high death rate, more than half of the Texas population remains unvaccinated, as there are no mandates currently required by the Texas legislature for vaccines or masks.

Texas legislation has made it abundantly evident throughout the pandemic that they do not want to be controlled or dictated by government enforced regulations. For example, as many children return to school, the state government is con-

sumed over whether or not to mandate masks for students. Governor Greg Abbott placed an executive order prohibiting district leaders to require face coverings, stating, “Kids will not be forced by government or by schools to wear masks in school.” Many lawmakers have posed bills that refute this, requesting that local trustees set their own policies on mask usage. Because the legislation is still in limbo, these students will return to school unmasked, and with the more infectious Delta variant, they are significantly more likely to contract the virus. This puts them and their families at risk of lifelong side effects and even death.

Lawmakers and many members of the population continue to highlight their disdain for being told what to do with their bodies by the government. I, too, see the contradiction

here. These people refuse to mandate masks, even though many people continue to die from the virus. Yet, these same people are not allowing women to have a choice over their bodies.

In my opinion, if these people really cared about the lives of children, they could make laws surrounding the improvement of the foster care system. Alternatively, they could give money to the education system, which continues to exacerbate poverty and generational wealth among children. Working to equate the levels of education surely would improve millions of lives daily. But they don't do that, which makes it hard to believe that they really are considering the lives of children in this circumstance.

While I do find these things to be extremely problematic with the new Texas law, what I really find troubling is how dehumanizing

this type of legislation makes this situation. Even though millions of women make the decision to get an abortion, that doesn't mean it was painless. Even in the best of circumstances, there are obstacles. Logistically: how to physically arrive at the clinic. Economically: this procedure can range between \$700 and \$1600 or more depending on healthcare, clinic, or the stage of pregnancy. Emotionally: there is still lasting trauma and grief that comes with this procedure. Socially: who to tell, who will accept the decision, who won't. These are just the beginning, and these lawmakers, mostly male, might I add, think they have the right to make this decision harder, to limit the options and take away this choice from a woman. They are not protecting lives. Instead, they are creating hardship for millions of women.

# The Issue with Punishment in Primary Education: What Needs to Change for Children to Be Successful

SKYLER SIMPKINS '23  
OPINION EDITOR

Let's talk about punishment. No, not the kind that we might identify with physical exercise, nor the kind our inmates face. Instead, I want to focus on the punishment that I believe all of us experienced in different forms: punishment in primary education. Whether it rings close to the memorable scene in *Matilda* when a totalitarian, pained headmaster punished the schoolchildren by locking them in a sarcophagus full of needles or just resembles stereotypical detention, punishment of young and impressionable children is something done too precariously. Simple mistakes can result in a student's being kicked out of the school or other equally ruinous consequences. This physical and exclusionary reprimand for students should be ended, and I would like to share my personal experiences observing grave punishment dealt towards young school kids in Arkansas.

Beginning with the side of the equation that boasts a more unanimous opinion: the abandonment of physical punishment to school-

*"I pose this food-for-thought: Is it possible to learn in an environment you are constantly fearful of? Is it effective, or even possible, to learn correctly from someone who is abusive?"*

children. I know many of you may have stories of this physical torment whether it happened to you or someone you knew. In my elementary school, a teacher with some emotional stability issues would resort to throwing books at students who made jokes or disrupted the class. While indeed these actions would effectively quiet the class, all the students became terrified of her. I pose this food-for-thought: Is it possible to learn in an environment you are constantly fearful of? Is it effective, or even possible, to learn correctly from someone who is abusive? Students quickly felt this education shift from a fulfilling experience to an obligation that, if not done correctly, would result in a new bruise to hide from your parents. No one can learn, nor should be expected to learn, in an abusive environ-

ment. If we allow this behavior to persist, these students will incorrectly acknowledge this abusive behavior as not only appropriate but productive in a learning setting, befitting the inheritance of abuse commonly seen passed from a parent to their child.

Physical punishment does not have to be directly from the teacher; instead, this negative physical interference could come in the form of singling out the student. Students are no better suited to learn from the teacher who, for instance, allows an environment of maltreatment and exploitation to thrive in their petri dish of ambivalence resembling a classroom, than from the teacher who pelts their students with books. Whether physical, sexual, or verbal harassment, all of these heralds make a student fear the classroom and focus instead on their dwindling wall of safety. It does not feel good to have five sets of eyes fixated upon all your imperfections and continually pointing them out, and what's worse: a teacher who placates a blind eye on the back of the classroom, following the increased attention with equal neglect. Resentment

is thereby bred and incubated for an entire semester. What follows this? Hatred for learning and hatred for the subject the student had blasted into their ears, invalidating their personal experience of abuse and loneliness.

Now, let me return to the theatrical example I provided above with the infamous scene from *Matilda*. What if I told you that this is not a shocking occurrence? In fact, students at my middle school were locked in closets in front of their entire class of peers for speaking out of turn. In this scenario, instead of reforming the actions of the students with a polite warning or a mere redirecting of attention, misbehaving students were made the dunce of the classroom and paraded to a closet where they had to stand in the dark, unable to hear the teacher but able to hear the

laughs of their peers. These students could no longer take notes. This punishment resembles the barbaric tar and feathering of the Revolutionary War era and effectively removes the student's ability to learn. While this punishment might not leave lasting physical damage, it bastardizes a healthy classroom environment into a medieval court where students play the unwilling jester. Even without physical abuse, this parade of embar-

*"Resentment is thereby bred and incubated for an entire semester. What follows this? Hatred for learning and hatred for the subject the student had blasted into their ears, invalidating their personal experience of abuse and loneliness."*

assment removes a student from what should be their safe place: the classroom.

I share this opinion in order to dissuade educators and students from normalizing this behavior. Unfortunately, most students would find that punishment, whether indirectly or directly physical, is draped in amusement; nevertheless, the possibility of behavioral ramifications still stands. Something does have to be done to discourage bad behavior in the classroom and these forms of punishment have, unfortunately, been deemed the most effective. However, there are better forms of creating consequence in the classroom. Some options that are not given enough chances in the classroom include pointing out when the students are doing something good or employing the same behavior the students should follow. Where I think public school systems in America especially fall short is with listening to the students. We

*"Where I think public school systems in America especially fall short is with listening to the students. We never know what the person next to us is going through, and while our school system preaches this widely acknowledged standard, they fail to employ it in their disciplinary system."*

never know what the person next to us is going through, and while our school system preaches this widely ac-

knowledged standard, they fail to employ it in their disciplinary system. This misstep in behavioral correction is something that typically leads to the other form of precarious punishment the American school system loves to hang over our students' heads: expulsion.

There was a girl who was waiting for the school nurse. She had a horrible headache. A student walked by and noticed the pain she was in and offered her a Tylenol he hap-

pened to have. The girl proceeded to take a Tylenol from the bottle and swallow the pill. The school secretary saw this exchange and, instead of asking the students to refrain from passing our pills, reported this occurrence to the principal. Now, instead of seeing the school nurse, the girl had to go to the principal's office to hear that she was going to be expelled for illicit drug use on campus. Through tears, the girl pleaded that the medicine was Tylenol but it was too late. She was transported to the reformatory school in my town where she remained for that year. This case is an unfortunate move illustrating overpowered school authority, but even more alarming is the practice of moving the students to the reformatory school, which is comprised of continuous rule-breakers and a few more misplaced cases like the one described above. While the educational system would describe these rule-breakers as virulent,

conquistadors, invading the student population and displacing those deemed "troubled," those students are labeled hopeless and carted away to a new school where they will be continuously neglected and destined for service in industries requiring no high school degree. The school board might boast that by removing those "troubled" few, the community is saving those remainder children who will now never come in contact with those they treat as mutants. This is not saving our children; this is destining the "normal" children to a state of blissful ignorance while denigrating those who misbehave by dropping them in an abyss that only gets deeper. This is a quick and efficient way of ending misbehavior (at least in the non-reformatory schools), but this is no way to treat human beings, nonetheless children.

Returning again to a statement I made earlier requesting that public schools merely listen to their children, this is the solution to behavioral management. When school systems take the time to listen to these students that continually misbehave, they could determine the source of the student's explosive behavioral decisions. Once the source is identified, whether it be family, the environment they live around, or a teacher at the school, the bad behavior can be managed by eliminating this taut interconnection.

Children should never be considered hopeless, but unfortunately our school systems today believe so to a staggering degree. Children's lives are complex and full of traumatizing experiences that cause significant explosions in temperament and encourage inflections penetrating behavioral norms. Reaching the core of the traumatizing experiences removes the pacemaker from the life of misbehavior and restores a divine peace that that child may never have had the chance to experience before. I write this today to call all of you when you become eventual parents to stand firm before the school board and request psychologists to be made available to all students regardless of their socioeconomic class. It is only then that misbehavior can be perfected whilst ensuring the most successful school career for all children.

it is actually the process itself that is the real virtue of public education. When public school systems act as

# FEATURES

## Students Weigh-In on Trinity's Gradual Transition to Normalcy with the Return to Campus this Fall

OLIVIA PAPP '23  
FEATURES EDITOR

Over the past year and a half, communities scattered around the world have faced stress, sadness, and much loss while COVID has ripped across the globe. People all around the world patiently waited for vaccines to come out that would combat the virus, all while dreaming of going back to school in-person, reconnecting with grandparents, and gathering once more. As we embark on the looming semester during this fall of 2021, for the first time in less than a year and a half, students, teachers, and families alike are mostly happy by the slight return to normalcy. As students arrived back at Trinity to start their academic year, it soon became apparent that a few COVID-19 related restrictions had been lifted. Some are pleased by the new changes, but some are anxious about the remaining restrictions and are impatient to return to how things always were.

Alyce Segal '23, shared her thoughts on the new COVID-19-related changes: "It was difficult in more ways than one to lose a full year of my Trinity experience to COVID restrictions on campus. Since

almost everyone is vaccinated now, I'm willing to take the risk with the lesser COVID restrictions if it means things can be more normal. Now, there is more opportunity for larger social gatherings. The biggest example of social gatherings is being able to eat with my friends in the Mather Dining Hall." Segal recounted that she has "loved being able to see other people and chat with them as well in Mather."

It was certainly more difficult to socialize on campus given the COVID-19 restrictions in place last year, however, the student body recognizes how necessary the restrictions were to keep us all safe and healthy amidst the pandemic.

Sophia Malenfant '23 shared, "The other day I was walking to one of my classes on the long walk and happened upon a professor I had not seen in-person since 2019. It was great and surreal to chat with her for a few minutes. I realized later that this encounter was not something I would have been able to do last year. I am beyond grateful that the atmosphere at Trinity feels like it is returning to some pre-COVID normalcy."

Of course, while the majority of Americans have

been vaccinated, it is still important to be wearing masks and doing the best job possible to respect social distance rules inside. It is important to be aware that the virus still exists and to follow school implemented procedures, like the random selection COVID-19 surveillance testing the college has put in place.

Another substantial change has been the transition from Zoom classes to in-person classes. Some students on campus are elated by the new change while others sometimes long for the leisurely atmosphere that Zoom classes may have provided before.

"Everyone has been on Zoom for the past year and it seems most people are very used to Zoom. Honestly, it has been a bit difficult to transition back to in-person classes. Having tried both, it seems in-person classes are a bit more intimidating, but I am grateful to start to get back into the swing of things," said Malenfant.

Segal noted that the shift back to in-person learning has been an adjustment, relaying that "in-person classes are much more exhausting than remote classes because you can't just turn your camera off. Rather, in in-person classes, you

must be engaged at all times and interactive at all times with your classmates and the professor."

In the frigid New England cold weather, it is difficult at times to get ready for class and make the trek across campus to attend class as opposed to rolling out of bed and opening your laptop for remote class, but the new return to normalcy has been something all students have been looking forward to for the past year. Segal added that she enjoys in-person classes more than remote ones because "you get to meet more of your classmates and can obtain a greater understanding of the materials presented to you in class. It is also much easier to track down your professors in person, as you can ask brief clarifying questions rather than having to go to their specific in-person office hours."

Another change that the Trinity Administration has decided as we start to move towards more familiar modes of living is the phasing out J-term with no additional tuition cost.

"I think what Trinity did was very considerate for Trinity to offer students J-term classes for free during such a stressful time. I think while this January is the last term

the administration is offering the classes for free, the J-term and Summer Sessions should have no additional cost since technically we are still not out of the pandemic," said Malenfant.

Having these sessions outside of the regular fall and spring academic semesters allows students to take more classes that are of interest to students, both within and outside of their major, without a significant added financial burden.

The last, and arguably the most noticeable, change the Trinity Administration has made to COVID-19 related regulations is relaxing the COVID-19 testing schedule. As opposed to last year, students now do not need to stress about missing a twice-a-week scheduled test.

"This new COVID-19 testing system allows students to [adhere to the] honor code [in order to determine] whether they feel sick or not. It is nerve-wrecking being tested twice a week, because even if you are not subjecting yourself to places where you could contract COVID-19, it still is possible [to contract the virus] and additionally, it is a very stressful process to be tested twice a week," said Segal.

## Tripod Summer Research Spotlight: Ayanna Platt '22

BAILEY MCKEON '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

Last week, the *Tripod* sat down with Ayanna Platt '22, an English and Educational Studies double-major, to learn about her research this past summer. Platt's research was in collaboration with two other Trinity students, who as a group were influenced by Professor of American Studies Davarian Baldwin's prior work in considering the relationships between communities and universities.

**TRIPOD:** What did your research focus on this summer?

**PLATT:** My research looked at the relationship between Hartford and Trinity because there's some tension between the two groups. There's a lot of misunderstanding that

I think arises from Trinity and what we've done as far as communicating and engaging with Hartford. I, along with Joe Barber and Erica Crowley, took a deeper dive into community engagement in terms of how we've done outreach with the community. Our research was inspired by Professor Davarian Baldwin's investigation of Town Gown relationships and consideration of what universities and colleges owe the cities and communities they reside in.

**TRIPOD:** What were your main takeaways from the research?

**PLATT:** This project is an ongoing one that'll probably live on after I graduate. This summer was dedicated to creating a process of how to do this research, specifically how to identify those with the knowledge

of how the community engagement office started back in the 80's and 90's. We started doing interviews to begin identifying what was actually going on then and what people then were involved in. I'm actually still doing this research throughout the semester: we have an interview coming up in a week!

**TRIPOD:** What inspired you to contribute to this research?

**PLATT:** For me, I was interested in this research because my freshman year I did a project on the relationship between Trinity and Hartford in one of my educational studies classes. I knew I wanted to look into it more for a summer project.

**TRIPOD:** What was your favorite part of researching this summer?

**PLATT:** One part of the research involved going into Hartford. Kamora Herrington has a community space, called Kamora's Cultural Corner, that is devoted to Hartford and intends to build up the community by giving back to it. She hosts community conversations that are dedicated to having the hard conversations that people don't want to have. She would talk about topics like Trans Rights, Black Lives Matter, and Healthcare. I really enjoyed those conversations because they need to be happening and they really aren't. I am grateful she provided the space for them to begin.

**TRIPOD:** What value do you think your research brings to the Trinity campus?

**PLATT:** Trinity students are given this mes-

sage about how Hartford is this really bad and dangerous place. As a result, they don't actually engage with Hartford, despite us living right here. I think students' perception of Hartford is really affected by these misjudgments. This research is important because we have another look at Hartford and communicate the importance of actually engaging with our neighbors, looking outside of ourselves and outside of our communities for once. I hope this will help change the way us Trinity students go about things living in Hartford.

If you are looking for more ways to engage with the Hartford community, attend the Student Involvement Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. on the main quad and look for clubs that focus on strengthening Trinity's relationship with Hartford.

## Dining Destinations in CT: Trinity Student Favorites

MAURA KEARY '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

As many Trinity College students have discovered, Hartford and its neighboring towns are brimming with a plethora of different options for food and drinks. Although the school provides us with convenient choices right outside of our doors with Mather, the Cave, and the Bistro to dine at, expanding our palates while exploring the surrounding area is always something fun to do when the dining hall lines get a little too long or you are underwhelmed by the menus at any one of the on-campus options.

Whether you are looking for breakfast, lunch, dinner, brunch, or just a place to grab drinks with friends, you do not have to search long for an exciting dining option close to campus. To make your decisions easier, the *Tripod* has provided you with a list of some new, old, and widely popular spots that can be found close by so that you don't have to travel far to experience a different cuisine than you are used to! Since these options are so close to Trinity, and vary in their prices, there is little reason not to give them a try!

### Parkville Market

Parkville opened in 2020 as Connecticut's first food hall and hosts over 20 vendors serving up a range of dishes and cuisines. Located less than five minutes from campus, Parkville is the place to be on any day of the week, for lunch or dinner. There is indoor and outdoor seating and even another dining space with games like darts and cornhole.

You will always find something you enjoy at Parkville. Some possible options including fried chicken, tacos, poke bowls, fries and more. In addition to the food vendors there are also two bars, in addition to The Local, located inside the market, which is a bar serving craft cocktails and local beers!

### Patty's at New Park Brewing

New Park Brewing recently introduced Patty's, a wood-fired pizza kitchen that also serves small plates and salads. This addition to the brewery pairs perfectly with New Park Brewing's craft beers and brand-new selection of wine. The brewery has indoor and outdoor seating, a perfect spot for every season and is close to campus, too!

### The Place 2 Be

Place 2 Be — One of the most popular brunch spots for Trinity students. Now with three different locations in the Hartford area, there will always be room for you and a group of friends to sit down for breakfast, lunch or dinner, not to mention bottomless mimosas. There are two locations in Hartford, one on Franklin Avenue and one right in downtown. The other location is brand new and sits in Blue Back Square in West Hartford.

### The GastroPark

The GastroPark is a unique, outdoor venue which hosts a rotating selection of local food trucks as well as craft beers and wine. Some of the recent food truck options have been Hot Taco Street Kitchen, Craftbird, East West Grille, and Iron & Grain Co. This fun spot is perfect for the end of summer and the upcoming fall nights coming up. The place is full of picnic tables and creates the perfect atmosphere for a night out with friends.

### Lobstercraft

Lobster-roll restaurant Lobstercraft just recently opened its fourth location in West Hartford on Farmington Ave. The Connecticut-based chain serves up a wide variety of lobster rolls, ranging from a hot and buttered roll to a "California"-style roll. This spot is something new and different for the area and will for sure be a popular spot when travelling to the center of West Hartford.

## Special Series of Female Revolutionaries: Coco Chanel

KATIE CERULLE '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

When you enter a college formal, a restaurant, a cocktail party, or any event where a dress is appropriate, the most common choice would be some form of little black dress. Dress it up or dress it down, the little black dress, abbreviated "LBD", is iconic for its simplicity and versatility. While so classic now, at one time, the LBD was a revolutionary idea, brought to life by Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel in the 1920s. Her new design not only changed the fashion industry, but also allowed women to examine the standards set for them in their clothing and alter their own narratives.

Debuted in 1926, American Vogue magazine published a drawing of Chanel's little black dress, officially crediting her with the creation of the garment. Before Chanel, the color black was a color of mourning, as wom-

en could be wearing black for up to four years after their husband. Outside of mourning, women were expected to dress in conservative, bright clothing. Chanel's greatest rival of the early 1920s, Paul Poiret, brought vivid reds, greens and blues to his line. Gabrielle did not approve of these flashy colors, she preferred black, beige, and navy blue. "These colors are impossible. These women, I'm bloody well going to dress them in black ... I imposed black; it's still going strong today, for black wipes out everything else around," said Chanel.

As the dress was released, it was known to be a fashion staple among all classes of women. Especially as the Great Depression hit in 1929, pieces that were functional, comfortable, stylish, and affordable were essential. Additionally, Chanel used black as a focal point of a fashion revolution. She changed the narrative of

womens fashion from restrictive corsets, big hats and bright colors to a simple, easy-to-accessorize piece where women had the choice of how to wear it.

As the years went on, Christian Dior released another set of LBD's for his line, altering the original long narrow sleeves and pearls to a cinched waist and full skirt to give the dress a sexier look. It wasn't long until many other designers continued off of their success and created alternate designs.

Celebrities began to wear this dress on and off the screen, furthering the popularity of the design. One of the most famous LBDs in cinematic history is, of course, Audrey Hepburn's LBD from the introductory scene of 1961's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. This dress was designed by Hubert de Givenchy, which many wrongly claim to be the creator of this style. The iconic moment brought the dress further into main-

stream culture, ensuring the permanence of the piece in every woman's closet.

Some might question the significance of Chanel's work, but clothing is more than just fabric you wear every day. Clothing designed for men and women was, and still is, gendered. Big fashion companies decide who should wear what, creating social constructs that are developed purely out of a created conception of what's appropriate for who. Chanel saw this and decided to take a leap. Her courage to change an as-

pect of American life that was so deeply rooted in cultural stereotypes drew me to Chanel. Despite the challenges of changing an industry that seemed so stagnant in their representation of women, Chanel made the choice anyway. Her bravery allowed women to more freely represent themselves in the clothing they wore. While there is still more work to be done in creating a more equitable world of fashion, Chanel was a catalyst in creating change for women.





# Arts & Entertainment

## Vampire Nostalgia and the *Twilight* Renaissance of 2021

LIZ FOSTER '22  
BITS&PIECES EDITOR

Nostalgia holds a suffocating grasp around the neck of Gen-Z and millennials. Most recently, this year for the past has taken the shape of a newfound, or re-found, obsession with the *Twilight* saga. The book series, which expanded into five films and a massive, world-dominating franchise, was originally consumed during the late 2000's and early 2010's. Something within the Obama era alit a collective burning fire for vampires, and later the ensuing, and inevitable conflict, the creatures would have with their mortal enemy: the werewolf. Most OG *Twilighters* now hover somewhere in their early 20's to 30's, a significant number of years away from their initial, youthful exposure to the beloved series. As a self-admitted *Twilight* obsessed preteen, this cultural revival is near and dear to my heart. I once sobbed violently because my parents wouldn't allow me, at the mere age of ten, to attend the midnight premiere of *Eclipse*. The previous year, my fourth grade Christmas list filled top to bottom with *Twilight* and *Twilight* related merchandise. My Twitter timeline flooding with memes of Robert Pattinson and clever quips about the sheer

campiness of it all spoon fed me the bursts of childish joy that I so desperately needed.

Stephanie Meyer's glorified self-insert fanfiction—inspired by the band My Chemical Romance no less—also serves as complete romantic escapism. Come on, who wants someone with dull human skin when shiny, blood-sucking predators inhabit the rainy, melancholic town of Forks, Washington. A normal guy who lives in the middle-of-nowhere? Hard pass. A vampire who relocates to relive high school every four years in a new middle-of-nowhere town? Sign me up.

The new era of *Twilight* has reemerged from a primal instinct within us. We live in chronically uncertain times, and our coping mechanisms have grown into uncertain measures. The nostalgia resurgence has thrived in the COVID-19 era. Streaming services have also successfully timed several throwback releases in the past two years: *iCarly*, *Victorious*, and other Nickelodeon properties made the leap onto Netflix, something that allowed users born between 1998 and 2002 to indulge in the shows that raised them. Some aged well, others not so much. Weeks spent inside throughout 2020's various quarantines let the collective become all too familiar with video streaming, lead-

ing Netflix to garner 36 million new subscribers by the end of the year. The *Twilight* Saga grossed hundreds of millions of dollars and recently surged to dominate the top five spots of Netflix's "Most Watched" immediately after its July arrival.

One Twitter user "predicted" the rise of the Delta variant in writing that, because Netflix was debuting the *Twilight* Saga, mankind would soon be returning to the indoors. This resurgence is not to be neglected, but we can also hope that the addition of the vampire saga was also simply arriving ahead of sweater weather. *Twilight* is appropriate for any season, but Halloween will no doubt show the influence of the series on fans both old and new. Keep your eyes peeled for couples clad in the frumpy wardrobes of Bella and Edward or groups costumed as the red-eyed members of the Volturi.

With age and re-watching also comes the realization that childhood, teen-hood, and even young-adulthood favorites aren't necessarily the fantastic films our brains prefer to remember. The first *Twilight* film is not conventionally good, but it's by no means what one would call a bad film given that the audience member is entertained from front to back. A painfully cool blue tint covers the screen for

the entirety of *Twilight's* two hours and sixteen minutes, but imagining Kristen Stewart or Robert Pattinson in any warmer hue feels wrong. The tension between the duo is sometimes palpable, but often forced and awkward. In 2021, Edward Cullen's obsessive behavior and Bella Swan's pure desperation tastes a bit less sweet. Yet, a more important question lingers: what did these two see in each other?

Bella is awkward, bumbling, and speaks rarely. She cracks a few attempts at one-liners—one of the most iconic being in *Eclipse* where she declares neutrality: "I'm Switzerland" in her love triangle with Edward Cullen and Jacob Black—but is otherwise flat and boring. Her mumbling, falling, and stumbling is a consistent annoyance rather than a charming quirk. Nonetheless, everyone in Forks High School is captivated, either crushing on her or trying to be her best friend. Notably, Anna Kendrick's appearance as Jessica stands out as a legitimately charismatic among the other side characters in Bella's circle. Edward is heinous. Upon their first meeting sitting next to each other in science class, Edward holds his nose as though Bella smells like a walking garbage can. His reaction is actually a product of the overwhelmingly

sweet, unbearably delicious scent of Bella's blood, but Edward looks more like a bully than a future boyfriend as he storms out of the class and demands to be switched into another. He watches her sleep and tracks her every move. She ruminates obsessively after every interaction between the two. Bella and Edward's relationship is completely barren of classic cutesy romanticism.

Yet, watching these two fall in stupid, stupid love gripped audiences for years and continues to do so over a decade after the original movie's premiere. The escapism provided but such a dumb yet darling relationship between a human and the vampire she's willing to die for is incomparable. Most of us won't get married at eighteen to a vampire, leave behind our families and chance at a real future, or birth a half human-vampire child that is "imprinted" upon by our male best friend that we've rejected. But imagining a world where these things truly happen is lightyears away from the depressing, dejected timeline we currently inhabit. The tragedies are inescapable, but as is our most recent attempt to continue forward: the *Twilight* Saga. Let yourself let loose and ask, "Bella, where have you been, loca?" in a staycation to a little town called Forks.

## Halsey is Reborn on *If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power*

LIZ FOSTER '22  
BITS&PIECES EDITOR

*If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power* shows Halsey, née Ashley Frangipane, reaching her full potential in a tight thirteen track nod to love, sexuality, and the "joys and horrors of pregnancy and childbirth." The album follows the birth of the artist's first-born child Ender, an impressive effort given that both IICHLIWP and its accompanying movie of the same title were all filmed in the past year. Sans features, Halsey's fourth studio earns her an appropriate addition to the pop-rock genre with a helping hand from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross of *Nine Inch Nails*. *If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power* follows a minimalist promotional release with no radio singles or any major hits besides trailers for its homonymous film.

Describing the album as the one they "have always wanted to make, but never believed I was cool enough,"

Halsey embraces the alternative tri-state area pop punk and alt-rock that raised her. With "Brand New" and "Taking Back Sunday" as consistent references among Halsey's inspirations, an edgier release in her discography was imminent. "Bells in Sante Fe," one of the strongest tracks on IICHLIWP, directly nods its head to Brand New's song "Jesus Christ" with its second verse: "Jesus needed a three-day weekend to sort out all of his bullshit." In the same melancholic style as "Ashley" off of 2020's *Manic*, "Bells" favors haunting melodies and introspection with an added electro-industrial twist.

After releasing "Nightmare" in 2019, a particularly timely song when contextualized among the tangible threats against *Roe v. Wade* that grew throughout that summer, Halsey was showed her prowess as an off-the-cuff performer. The track marked Halsey's first step away from the more tradi-

tional indie-pop genre. Their debut *Badlands*, released six years prior, was catalogued under the "alternative" genre and subsequently faced criticism for such; on IICHLIWP, there's no such ambiguity. Tracks like "You asked for this," a grimy ballad about the feminine plight, and "Easier than Lying," a distinct and quick-favorite of the albums, are filled with heavy guitars and vocals more fit for Warped Tour than Coachella—and this package works perfectly.

"Girl is a Gun" similarly grinds its gears in a deliciously horrifying threat: "This girl is a gun, before you know it, it's done." Halsey has consistently showcased a struggle to balance self-obsession, self-sacrifice, and selfishness, particularly in the landscape of relationships. "I just fuck things up if you noticed/Have you noticed? Tell me, have you noticed?" she drones on the minimalist, jammy "Lilith." Since 2014, Halsey has sung that she is "Bad at Love"—

bluntly saying so in 2016's hopeless fountain kingdom. More than ever, this duality is apparent on IICHLIWP.

In 2015, Halsey's Instagram bio read "i sing about sex and being sad. i will never be anything but honest." Ever since, she has promised raw authenticity. Sometimes this honesty dawdled in the medium of more mainstream pop sounds, like "Now or Never" or the wildly successful "Without Me," lack the sparklier qualities of the singer's earliest works. However, Halsey's songwriting skills have consistently earned her praise, at a mere twenty-two years old, she became a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

From the persona seventeenblack to the popstar Halsey, IICHLIWP gifts us the rawest version of Ashley Frangipane that we've seen yet. No longer coding her words in wide-reaching metaphors, Halsey conjures vivid images, painting vocal landscapes while weaving in the

exceptional work by Reznor and Ross. "The Lighthouse" is a masterful tale of a girl turned siren leading men to their deaths with her prowess; "honey" is an homage to a girl that Halsey gleefully sings is "mean and she's mine." With lyrics describing the relationship as "she was sweet like honey/But all I can taste is the blood in my mouth and the bitterness in goodbye," we know it's doomed from the start. The song is equal parts charming and sad but carries fanatic energy over its traditionalist pop punk instrumentals.

Halsey's always been a star; whether as a Tumblr micro celebrity with a first LP that debuted at #2 on the Billboard Hot 100, a multi-platinum artist, or the deeply complex person she's put on display to the public. *If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power* is a perfectly performed exercise in the synthesis of technicality and personality that earns Halsey the proper title of rockstar.

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

JOEY CIFELLI '23  
A&E EDITOR



September 6, 2021. 8.6/10.

(Right) Terrible things clawed at the door. Nasty things, with red eyes that glowed. And teeth that dripped. The child gripped his blankets in the corner of the room. His knuckles shook. A drop of sweat slipped from his brow to his eye and landed beneath in the bruised creases of sleep deprivation. One of those small round clocks ticked on the other side of the room, close to the door. He hoped that at any moment the dream would end. He still hoped, perhaps foolishly, even though this was the second full day of the dream. He knew by the clock. And he knew it was a dream because, in real life, his room could not possibly cause such sharp spasms of fear to pulse through his stomach. It simply wasn't big enough. But here the floorboards stretched and stretched and all the empty air felt foul.

(Left) Hello, again. It's good to see you. How have you been? Mhm. I see. I'm doing well, thanks. Over our break I've done some thinking about art. The subject of which you can likely guess. So, do you think this is art, the sky above us? I'll admit right now I do not know. I do not even know what we mean when we say that word: art. When you look for a definition the Oxford English Dictionary will happily be your supplier. It'll say (as far as I gather) that art is "the expression of human creative skill and imagination." Merriam-Webster says the same thing except the human qualifier is removed, a difference which to me feels massively underreported/discussed. Do these definitions feel right to you? Either one? Or maybe you prefer some combination of human and non-human expression, with stipulations and exceptions? I can tell you something is being expressed when I look above, but how much of that expression is me and how much is the natural flow of energy I could not say. And does the question even matter, when the thing itself already exists and is beautiful regardless of what we say about it? This line of thinking always reveals itself to be a circle. In any case, I'm glad that while we think, we can observe. Welcome back.



September 8, 2021. 6.8/10.



September 10, 2021. 7.0/10.

(Left) And the clock was a dead giveaway. As much as he could he kept them out of his room. Their ticking always felt like mocking laughter, in two parts, like Ha-ha, Ha-ha. The terrible things somehow felt normal. At least they were on the outside. He knew that an awful thing would happen to him when he fell asleep. Sleeping was how he got here, after all, and he could just feel palpably in the air that sleeping further would take him deeper into the dream, somewhere where the terror wore fewer masks. This was how he had been for two days, growing sleepier and sleepier. Waiting for the moment when the door would inevitably give in and glowing eyes and dripping teeth would come crashing in and snap him up. But in the present the clock had suddenly ceased its ticking.

(Right) The child woke up in his room, exhausted. The sheets were damp with sweat. He wiped his forehead with a pajama sleeve. Sighing, he pushed himself out of bed and went over to his dresser and started rooting around a drawer full of bits of junk and odds and ends. He pulled out tools, a hammer and nails, a spool of thread, some clay, a tiny saw made for tiny hands. And a candle. Matches, green-tipped, two of them. He hadn't escaped, he knew. The terror still brushed against the edges of his mind. But it had caught him off guard once already, and that was enough. Tonight, when he went back in, he would be prepared. And something would have a lot of explaining to do.



September 11, 2021. 7.2/10.

# SPORTS

## Men's Soccer Takes the Field for the Season Opener

PATRICK GRIMES '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

Trinity men's soccer opened their 2021 season against cross-town opponent University of St. Joseph on Wednesday night. Prior to Wednesday, the Bantams had not taken the field for competition since fall 2019. Both the men's and women's program unveiled their teams for starved crowds at Trinity Soccer Field, which was consistently occupied by a training USWNT only a few months before. Senior captain Alistair Matule '22 elaborated on his team's

excitement, saying "It feels so good to be back in action after two long years off the pitch. You don't fully appreciate something as simple as being in the locker room with your teammates every day until it is suddenly taken away from you. I think I speak for the whole team in saying that it's been great to return to at least some semblance of normalcy." In the wake of their excitement, the Bantams went to battle. Josh Morency '23 welcomed back Trinity soccer fans with a goal just 15 minutes into the contest. Just a few minutes later, St. Joseph's

DeAnte Anderson began his campaign with his first of many goals. Then, Matule netted two in his stunning reintroduction. However, DeAnte Anderson proved to be the Trinity defense's kryptonite: he ended the night with an unbelievable five goal performance. This was enough to edge out the Bantams 5-3. When asked about the loss, Matule harped that their play "showed a lot of promise" and that "there are still a few kinks that need to be ironed out."

The team is eager to continue building their chemistry as they ap-

proach league play for the first time in about two years. Saturday, Sept. 18, NESCAC men's soccer returns to campus when a hungry Colby team visits. The Mules are coming off a 2-1 overtime loss, so both teams will have sights on solidifying their first win. The NESCAC's unfortunately long pause for fall sports has shaken up rosters all over the league, especially at Trinity. A big aspect of the 2021 team's identity is their youth. Returning only six seniors and four juniors, underclassmen dominate the roster. This leaves the

Bantams with a reliable veteran core to lead their promising young teammates. Matule was quick to give his underclassmen teammates credit, saying "The younger guys on our squad have showed a level of commitment and love for the game to the likes of which I have never before seen in this program." He believes that the younger team members' excitement, combined with the leadership of their juniors and seniors makes a squad with all the potential to succeed this fall. With league play ahead and the semester beginning to rev up, campus

## College Football Stadiums Across the Country Pack the Stands Despite Delta Variant Concerns this Fall Season

PATRICK GRIMES '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Saturday, Sept. 11, students in Madison, Wisconsin returned to Camp Randall Stadium in the tens of thousands. The university's trademark rally tune "Jump Around" blared and close to 80,000 took House of Pain's advice. The normalcy that college students and sports fans alike have been yearning for is returning to stadiums all over the country this fall. The 2020 CFB season was played with empty seats, and fans watched from their couches. In 2021, however, tailgate lots, college towns, and stadiums are

buzzing with excited fans and students once again.

These scintillating sporting environments are coming back to life in the face of the increasingly worrying Delta Variant of the COVID-19 virus. Many of the country's largest football programs, such as the University of Georgia, University of Alabama, and The Ohio State University, are not requiring negative test results nor vaccinations for entry into their mask-less stadiums.

Some have expressed concern about college as well as professional football stadiums being a catalyst for Delta Variant transmission this fall. Ep-

idemiologist Ryan Demmer of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health commented that "any sort of large event like at a football stadium, without question there will be many infected people there." The open-air construction of most college football stadiums helps curb some anxieties. Nevertheless, the virus could easily be spread between mask-less fans sitting next to each other for hours. Regardless, schools around the United States are carrying on their college football traditions that unite students on campus and communities of alumni and fans state and nationwide.

College football is as close to essential as a live sport can get in America. In 2021, fans return to stadiums to support their favorite teams but also to support so much more. College towns such as Tuscaloosa, Alabama are almost entirely dependent on the university's football team for their economic health. In 2020, students and fans were not making their weekly pilgrimage to the tailgate lots and stadiums. What many fail to realize is the effect on the businesses outside the university gates when their team's fans stay home. Bars, restaurants, and shops were not receiving

their usual traffic nor hiring their usual crews. As stadiums were left empty, business owners were left to struggle, and employees left underpaid or unemployed. Not only were these college communities affected financially, but culturally. Students were not enrolling, campuses were quiet, and many found it difficult to make meaningful connections in a usually budding social scene. The FDA's recent full approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is an encouraging sign that college communities nationwide may start to be safer places to enjoy the wild ride that is college football.

### This Week in Sports at Trincoll...

<i>Women's Soccer</i> v. Wheaton College	<b>W, 5-0</b>	<i>Women's Volleyball</i> v. University of Saint Joseph	<b>W, 3-1</b>
<i>Women's Soccer</i> v. Worcester Polytechnic Institute	<b>W, 2-1</b>	<i>Women's Volleyball</i> v. Eastern Connecticut State	<b>L, 0-3</b>
<i>Men's Soccer</i> v. University of Saint Joseph	<b>L, 3-5</b>	<i>Women's Volleyball</i> v. Westfield State University	<b>W, 3-0</b>
<i>Women's Golf</i> v. Bowdoin College	<b>4th of 5 teams</b>	<i>Women's Volleyball</i> v. Simmons University	<b>L, 2-3</b>
<i>Women's Cross Country</i> v. Trinity Invitational Manchester, CT	<b>5th Place</b>	<i>Men's Soccer</i> v. Clark University	<b>L, 2-3</b>

## This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

### Women's Soccer Holds Their Own in Opening Games

**BLYTHE HASTINGS '23**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Even after a loss on Sunday to MIT, the Trinity Women's Soccer team is optimistic about the season ahead. MIT is ranked 7th in the country and ranked 1st regionally, but the Bantam women held their own, only losing by a score of 2-3. After the game, defender Mia Fusco '23 commented that the team "played well against a tough opponent. It's a good step forward as we head into making a statement in the NESCAC." The team comes off a great start to the season, beating both Worcester Polytechnic In-

stitute (WPI) and Wheaton College. The season opener left both fans and Bantams overjoyed, with the women crushing Wheaton 5-0. With a total of 17 shots on goal, five of those found the back of the net. Captain Caroline Sullivan '22 had an outstanding game, leading the Bantams with the first two goals. After that, the Bantams took the lead and ran, with three different players scoring goals, two for their first time. Although the Wheaton College goalie made five saves, the Bantams took advantage during the second half and ended the game victorious. The Bantams followed their first win with another

positive showing against WPI, coming out on top 2-1. Captains Whitney Hoban '22 and Colleen Lux '22 both scored goals early in the match, with WPI making a valiant effort to tie the game in the 73rd minute. Much to the Bantam's delight, the score stayed 2-1 until the end. This season is the first time since 2013 that the Women's Soccer team has won the two first games, leaving fans hopeful for the season ahead. The most recent game against MIT comes as the Bantam's first loss of the season, but players and fans are keeping their heads held high. MIT was dominant, racking up 12 total shots, and

giving the Bantam goals a tough time, forcing them to make four saves throughout the game. With only seven shots, the women were unsuccessful in their attempt to dethrone the regional leaders. However, the Bantams did keep the score within a one-goal margin, proving that they could be a potential threat to other NESCAC teams. With a total of nine goals so far this season, the Bantams are already blowing their 2019 stats out of the water. After a losing season two years ago, with six overall wins (only four of those against NESCAC teams), the players are ecstatic about the winning

start to their season. Forward Hannah Storozuk '23 gave her insight, saying "We're off to an excellent start ending the first week with a winning 2-1 record. Our team has an undeniable chemistry and I'm confident we will come out of this season making a big statement. The rest of the NESCAC better watch out." The team dynamic seems to be positive, as players continuously grow closer after a grueling pre-season. Storozuk's warning to the rest of the NESCAC was echoed by other players, as the women try to squash their losing record in 2019, with, hopefully, a winning record in 2021.

### A Tale of Two Stadiums: What Implications Could the New Stadium Constructions Have on Gender Division?

**BLYTHE HASTINGS '23**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Trinity Stadium Project, announced in 2019, is nearing the end of construction. The project, with an end date set for the fall of 2021, has been a popular topic of conversation for the athletes and sports fans at Trinity College. The new stadium will serve field hockey, football, men's and women's lacrosse, and track and field. The project was funded entirely by philanthropy from Trinity's alumni and families and will act as an attraction for alumni and sports fans alike, as the latest of Trinity's athletes get back to work after a long standstill perpetrated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the additions to the stadium include new

spectator stands on Jessee Miller Field and Sheppard Field, a press box for media and coaches, two private suites for spectators and private events, warming rooms for Trinity, and visiting athletes for use during games and restroom facilities. As summer comes to a close, athletes are using the new stadium and field for pre-season, in preparation for the fall season ahead. Football is set to play a full regular season of games against all other NESCAC teams, starting Saturday, Sept. 18. Member of the football team Matthew Almansi '23 weighed in, relaying that he feels "very grateful for the funding we have received to have this new stadium built for the school and we are so excited to be able to play on it." The men's teams are ecstatic to have the new sta-

dium. Why shouldn't they be? However, it left women athletes feeling forgotten, as they must walk through the construction zone behind the stadium to get to their practice and playing field. Sheppard Field, the field behind the new stadium, was barely touched, even though construction for the new stadium was taking place just a few feet away. In the published plans, the stadium for the women's field pales in comparison to the new stadium seating and press boxes on the Jessee Miller side, the side where most of the men's teams play. And it was executed as such. The stadium built for the women's side is no more attractive than seating one could find at a high school. The stadium does not live up to the women athletes' expectations. Women's lacrosse

player Lily Ives '23 added that the team as a whole was "under the impression that the stadium would continue onto the backside. It should be two-sided." The new stadium stands so tall that it blocks the view of the Chapel, the tallest building for miles around the Trinity area, from the women's field. This development shocked a majori-

ty of the field hockey fans, as Trinity College will host the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Final Four at Sheppard field in November. With such a large national audience, avid fans, alumni, and students will be squeezing into skinny, linoleum bleachers, while the new stadium seating and press boxes face the opposite way.



BANTAM SPORTS FLICKR

### Coming Up for Bantam Sports:



**Fri.**

Volleyball v. Williams College @ 8 p.m.

**Sat.**

Men's Soccer v. Colby College @ 11 a.m.

Field Hockey v. Colby College @ 11:30 a.m.

