

# The Trinity Tripod

ESTABLISHED 1904

Now then-*Trinity!*

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Volume CXX  
Number IX

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NEWS EDITOR

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## Snow Day Special

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FEATURES EDITOR

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page 9 A&E Editor Caroline Richards '22 gives you songs to live out your much-needed villain era to.

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### To Our Readers:

Keep your eye out for the *Tripod's* humor section: *Bits&Pieces*. You'll find *Bits & Pieces* in next week's issue!

If you'd like to submit work for publication, either in *Bits&Pieces* or the regular paper, send your submission to [tripod@trincoll.edu](mailto:tripod@trincoll.edu).

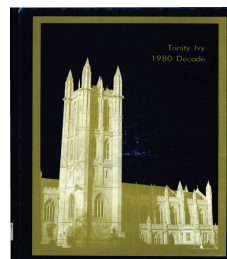
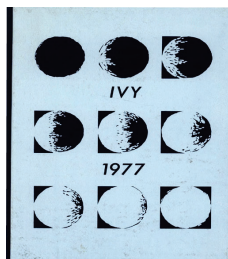
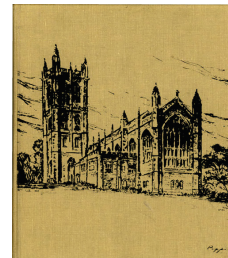
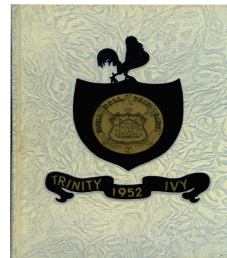
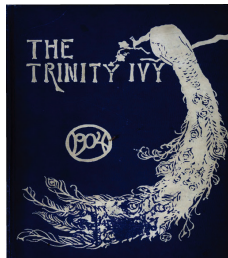
## "Alumni for a Better Trinity College" Facebook Group Announces Bicentennial Edition of *The Ivy*, Open for Submissions

OLIVIA SILVEY '23  
NEWS EDITOR

Moderators of the Facebook group "Alumni for a Better Trinity College" announced in late January the production of a Bicentennial edition of *The Ivy*, Trinity's yearbook. This project aims to show the small, personal moments of students' time at Trinity by allowing photo submissions from alumni or even current students, just in time for the College to celebrate its Bicentennial next year.

The Bicentennial edition of *The Ivy* will come in both a print and digital format, and alumni can submit photos both ways as well. The goal is to print in the spring of 2023 in time for Trinity's Charter Day in May.

As the project leadership notes, this is an in-



TRINITY COLLEGE DIGITAL REPOSITORY

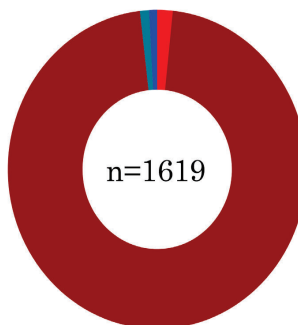
Six different front covers of *The Ivy*. Top (L-R): 1904, 1952, 1972; Bottom (L-R) 1977, 1980, 2013

## Trinity Sees 14 Active Student Cases as of Feb. 7; 38 Total Positive Tests over Two Weeks

ALEXANDRA BOURSICAN '23  
NEWS EDITOR

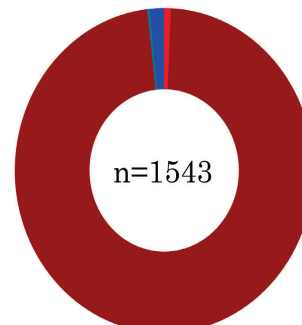
With the return to campus, Trinity College has continued to keep track of community testing data and COVID cases on campus through the COVID-19 Dashboard. Currently, community members are required to receive a PCR test once a week, regardless of vaccination status. In the first week back for many students, the week of Jan. 24, there were 27 positive tests, however there were only 11 positive tests for the week of Jan. 31. Per the COVID dashboard, as of Feb. 7, there were 14 active student cases — down from 19 cases as of Feb. 4 — and two active employee cases. For the week of Jan. 24, the positive test rate was 1.67%, decreasing to 0.71% for the week of Jan. 31, though with slightly fewer tests conducted.

Week of Jan. 24



- 1.67% Positive
- 96.48% Negative
- 0.99% Inconclusive
- 0.86% Invalid

Week of Jan. 31



- 0.71% Positive
- 97.47% Negative
- 0.26% Inconclusive
- 1.56% Invalid

The 1.67% positive test rate for the week of Jan. 24 decreased approximately two-fold to a positive test rate of 0.71% for the week of Jan. 31. As of Feb. 7 there were 14 active student cases.

# The Trinity Tripod

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

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**CORRECTIONS**

## Tripod Editorial

### Commentary on Censorship and Free Speech

This January, renowned Rock artist Neil Young removed his music from Spotify in protest of what was deemed false information about Covid-19 vaccines as so spread by Joe Rogan's podcast, *The Joe Rogan Experience*. The show has been ranked at number one on the streaming platform since it was brought on in September of 2020. The show has also faced controversy in the past, with listeners expressing concern over perceived anti-transgender attitudes.

Young published an open letter, citing a Rogan podcast episode featuring Dr. Robert Malone, a virologist who worked on research for multiple mRNA Covid-19 vaccines. During this episode, Dr. Malone suggested that "hospitals have been financially motivated to falsely diagnose deaths as having been caused by Covid-19." Young started a movement, inspiring other artists to follow his lead. As of Jan. 28, singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell also quit Spotify, voicing that she felt it was "irresponsible" of the streaming platform to "spread lies that are costing people lives." Young's former bandmates, David Crosby, Stephen Stills, and Graham Nash also echoed similar sentiments. Additionally, just a day later, Neo-soul singer India Arie spoke out and declared she wanted to pull music from the platform. Arie's qualms were based in part on Rogan's discussions about race on his podcast.

Despite the obvious dangers posed by misinformation and the closed-minded sentiments that can come from podcasters on apps like Spotify, iTunes, Amazon Music, and many more, it is important to keep in

mind there is only a certain degree of action these streaming platforms can take without stepping into the territory of censorship. Spotify is not necessarily promoting the ideas of Rogan as the Open Letter to Spotify accused the company of doing. It is necessary to ask what role Spotify, and other streaming platforms, should play in "mitigating damage" caused by the shows they take on as those that are available for the platform. It seems as if perhaps a more forefront misinformation disclaimer is warranted, but the call for taking down shows that listeners can choose to pay attention to, or choose to ignore, seems to defeat the purpose of, frankly, any streaming platform.

Some say Spotify is required to take on a new responsibility as it has become more of a media company that distributes a wide host of information. Thus, because of this shift, many are arguing that the platform must face difficult decisions in considering the content it chooses to make available to listeners. According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, in a written statement issued by Spotify the day Young took his music down, the platform stated that "We want all the world's music and audio content to be available to Spotify users. With that comes great responsibility in balancing both safety for listeners and freedom for creators." The platform had previously removed over 20,000 Covid-19 related podcast episodes during the pandemic in accordance with the current content policies in place. It is also known that the company encourages and hopes to foster an "egalitarian culture" through open debate

amongst employees. This value is one which should be encouraged, especially in a democratic society. If we are not exposed to opinions contrary to our own, or cannot learn to listen and respond to these opinions in a civilized manner, then how will we communicate with each other throughout our daily lives? Yes, misinformation is dangerous, but as is the concept and act of censoring the content of any creator.

However, another aspect of the conversation that is important to consider, is that Spotify pays Rogan \$100,000,000 for his podcast. This is no small sum of money to pay, and thus the platform has a financial interest in his success.

Newspapers are responsible for the content they publish, so how are online platforms different? Spotify is also a private company, not the government. The platform has the right and the ability to police what is on their site, and many would argue, and are currently arguing, that they have the responsibility to do so.

We implore the reader to consider both sides of this conversation, and entertain all opinions when it comes to spreading any kind of information.

-KJN

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# NEWS

## Longtime Trinity Post Office Manager Charles “Charlie” A. Tartt, Sr. Passed Away, Aged 71

FAITH MONAHAN '24  
NEWS EDITOR

Charles “Charlie” A. Tartt, Sr., longtime manager of the Trinity College post office, passed away on Jan. 28 at the age of 71, according to an email sent to the campus community by Vice President for Library and Information Technology Services Kristen Eshleman on Monday, Jan. 31. Charlie worked at Trinity for a total of 23 years. The email included remarks on Charlie's character as a valued member of the community from several colleagues such as Human Resources Specialist Patricia Dinkins, Sustainability Coordinator Rose Rodriguez '15 M'18, and Director of Print and Media Services Philip Duffy.

Born in Epes, Alabama, Charlie moved to Hartford, Connecticut in 1968. Prior to managing the Trinity College Post Office in 1999, he had worked at Colt's Manufacturing. Those who knew Charlie characterized him as kind, uplifting, and caring in his role as manager of the Trinity College post-office. For the students who worked in the post office under Charlie's management, such as Rodriguez who now works as a Sustainability Coordinator at Trinity, “it felt great to work in a space on campus where it felt like family and where you knew the people there would always remember you.” Ac-

cording to Dinkins, Charlie made a lasting impact on the students who worked under him, many of whom would stay in contact with Charlie after graduation. As Rodriguez shared, “even after graduating, I would swing by and chat once in a while... Now thinking back, I wish I took the time to visit more often. He will be terribly missed.”

Amongst his colleagues, Charlie's uplifting presence will be dearly remembered. Duffy shared that Charlie was, “a kind and caring man, and he always had a positive attitude. People who worked with and for Charlie have been sharing stories of how ‘he helped me out once.’” Dinkins commented that to Charlie, “No one was a stranger, and his kindness was enormous. [He was]

always helpful, humorous, and spiritually uplifting.”

During his time at Trinity College, Charlie A. Tartt had not only been a member of the staff, but also a member of the College's community amongst colleagues and students who worked with him. Charlie had promoted a culture of kindness, friendliness, and assistance through his words and actions. As the longtime manager of the Trinity College post office, Charlie had given fond memories to the colleagues and students around him for the past 23 years. There is no doubt that Charlie's character will continue to live on with those who knew him.

In response to this news, the *Tripod* as well as the broader Trinity community sends its condolences to Charlie's family.



THE HARTFORD COURANT

Charles “Charlie” A. Tartt, Sr., manager of the Trinity Post Office for 23 years, has passed away at the age of 71. He will be missed dearly by the Trinity community.

## Five Alumni Planning Bicentennial Special Edition of *The Ivy*

continued from page one

of the project. Nonetheless, a group of alumni including Clark decided to carry it out on their own.

“Even though it might not have the endorsement of the Committee, our hope with the project is that all members of the alumni community will participate,” said Clark. “I hope that the members of the Committee will share photographs and send them in, because this is a project that’s by alums, for alums, and it shouldn’t be viewed as some sort of separate project only by a few people.”

The goal of the book is to give an inside look to life at Trinity, and Clark encourages alumni, faculty, and even current students to submit photos. He noted that, as far as the leaders of the project are aware, Trinity is the only institution within its peer group to undertake a project of this scale and type. The possibility of the project being a video was discussed but cast aside. The group wanted to go bigger, with a more tangible product.

“We believe the bicentennial is an opportunity to do something unique that will make us stand out from the peer group in a favorable way,” said Douglas Kim ’87, another one of the Facebook group admins, in an email to the *Tripod* about the project. “We tend to be seen as others choose to see us. It can

be almost oppressive. College rankings are a good example of this. In the advertising industry though, we are trained to show people how we want to be seen. It’s not a passive exercise.”

The logistics of production and publishing are not completely fleshed out, although Clark said he sees this process being completed through the collective help of alums and their resources for a cause. This project is not-for-profit, and while payment has not been specifically outlined, Clark predicts a “pay as you go” type structure for the print version of the book.

The group aims to close photo submissions by November 2022, and asks that when submitting photos, please include the names of the people in the image and the approximate time the photo was taken. More information on submission guidelines can be found on the project's website.

“The objective is to be inclusive,” said Clark. “The objective is for everyone, of any alumni stature, to show their experience through images, so we can look at this and say ‘wow, what a great time we had at the institution, and what a unique place it was for us to spend four formative years.’”

Joining Clark and Kim on the project are Robert Bibow ’89, Supriyo M. Chatterjee M’92, and Kevin Derby ’96, per the project's website.

## Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

### Tufts University

Tufts Children's Hospital (TCH) closed its facilities to increase adult patient capacity, announcing the decision at a Jan. 20 press conference, according to the *Tufts Daily*. TCH converted 41 pediatric inpatient beds to adult ICU and surgery beds “in hopes of increasing adult critical care by 20%.” Per the *Daily*, Tufts Medical Center had seen recent trends towards more adults requiring specialized care with fewer pediatric hospitalizations, and this trend continued, necessitating the change. As a result of this change, “physicians, nurses and other TCH employees are likely to lose their jobs,” however TCH assured pediatric patients and their families that they “would continue to receive care from TCH,” according to the *Daily*. There was also considerable backlash following the announcement, particularly related to “continuity of care for pediatric patients.” In addition, the *Daily* reported that there were concerns over healthcare access due to insurance concerns. There were further concerns from nurses: co-chair of the Massachusetts Nurses Association bargaining committee at TMC Havlicek Cornacchia remarked, “My concern is that we’re not going to find a place for those 100 nurses for a lot of reasons,” according to the *Daily*. Additionally, over 62,000 signatures were gathered on a Change.org petition to save the hospital.

### Harvard University

Priscila E. Coronado, a second-year Harvard Law student has been elected president of the Harvard Law Review, “the first Latina to hold the role in the journal's 136-year history,” according to the *Harvard Crimson*. Coronado received a bachelor's degree in English at the University of California, Los Angeles, working at the Disability Rights Legal Center in L.A. prior to attending Harvard for law school. She told the *Crimson* that she “plans to pursue litigation, focused on education law and disability rights, after finishing her law degree.” Apart from the Law Review, Coronado serves as a board member for two organizations: one geared toward first-generation law students and the other towards Latinx students. In addition, the *Crimson* reported, “She previously worked at the Law School's Education Law Clinic and currently works with the Child Advocacy Program Clinic.”

Coronado's historic election comes just a year after the Law Review's first Muslim president, Hasaan Shahawy, her predecessor, was elected. As the *Crimson* notes, the first Black female president of the Law Review, Imelme A. Umana, was elected four years earlier in 2017. Coronado also told the *Crimson* that although the Law Review has made “important progress” to diversity its ranks, it “still has work to do.”

# Trinity Discontinues Color-Coded Alert System, Opens Home Athletic Events to Off-Campus Guests

JACK P. CARROLL '24  
MANAGING EDITOR

Trinity College has discontinued the color-coded alert system, according to an email from Chief of Staff Jason Rojas and Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management Joe DiChristina sent Tuesday, Feb. 1. The College has also revised its spectator policy so that off-campus guests are now allowed to attend home athletic events.

"Starting this semester, we will discontinue the color-coded alert system and instead will communicate specific and temporary modifications to campus operations as they're needed to address changing conditions related to the virus," wrote Rojas and DiChristina. They indicated that these modifications could include learning modalities, dining protocols, in-person campus gatherings for events and programs, off-campus travel, use of facilities such as the library and Ferris Athletics Center, and visitor and COVID testing protocols.

The color-coded alert system was announced in the summer of 2020 as the College prepared for a return to campus after shifting to a remote format in March amidst the onset of the pandemic. There were four campus alert levels: green (least restrictive), yellow, orange, and red (most restrictive). Last semester, a green alert level indicated that in-person learning was allowed and events could be held at reduced capacity with social distancing. Off-campus travel was permitted and visitors were allowed as long as they were vaccinated and wore masks. The same conditions applied under a yellow alert level albeit with more stringent attendance and social distancing safeguards. An orange alert level signified a greater reliance on remote options, potential event cancellations, and a restrictive visitor policy. A red alert level meant all courses were taught remotely, all events were canceled, off-campus travel was prohibited, and guest visitors

were actively discouraged.

Trinity moved to a yellow alert level in late December as the number of positive tests reported by students both at home and on campus rose throughout the month. However, the College did not update the alert level from green to yellow until days after the dashboard reported a total of 21 active cases. Rojas told the *Tripod* at the time that there was no threshold of cases when it came to changing the alert level. He defended the College's decision to remain at a green alert level throughout the month as the case count increased: "most of the cases were for individuals who are not on campus (therefore not isolating), [sic] many students have left campus for the end of the semester, and there are very few events and activities happening." DiChristina told the *Tripod* in December that there were 375 students on campus at the time, which included J-term students, student athletes, and international students.

The College did not up-

date the alert level amidst COVID spikes during the fall 2020 semester. That October, the *Tripod* reported that Trinity did not raise the alert level to red as it reported a total of 45 active cases. The administration declined to specify a case threshold requirement for alert level change. The *Tripod* had been told that any decision would take into account "a number of considerations with a focus on the prevalence of the virus on campus." Trinity did not update its alert level from orange later that month when Trinity's case count surged to 56 after some infected students visited Parkville Market, an off-campus food hall in the Parkville region of Hartford.

Per Rojas and DiChristina's email, Trinity will monitor several factors when deciding whether to adjust campus operations going forward: (1) the number of active cases as indicated by on-campus and self-reported testing, (2) the severity of COVID symptoms, (3) isolation capacity,

(4) staffing and operational capacity, and (5) data on where and how the virus is being transmitted on campus. Rojas and DiChristina indicated that a significant increase in cases will not necessarily result in a more restrictive set of public health modifications.

The email also announced that Trinity's home athletic events will be open to vaccinated and masked individuals which includes off-campus guests. In addition, attendance will be limited to 50 percent capacity of the venue. The announcement comes after DiChristina revealed at a virtual town hall in late January that the NESCAC Presidents would soon meet to consider expanding audiences to include family members and other spectators. NESCAC guidance for spectator policies currently allows for institutional discretion.

Rojas did not immediately respond to the *Tripod*'s request for comment. The *Tripod* will update the online version of this article if comment is received.

## Trinity Names Hellen Hom-Diamond as New Vice President for Strategic Marketing and Communications Following Angela Schaeffer's Departure in June 2021

MELINA KORFONTA '25  
NEWS EDITOR

On Dec. 9, 2021 President Joanne Berger-Sweeney announced the appointment of Hellen Hom-Diamond as Trinity College's Vice President for Strategic Marketing and Communications. Hom-Diamond's position officially began on Jan. 24, 2022. According to Berger-Sweeney's announcement, Hom-Diamond will "lead the development, articulation, and dissemination of Trinity's mission, brand, and messaging to further the college's strategic priorities."

Hom-Diamond joins Trinity from Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., where she had been the school's chief communications officer since 2018. A majority of her career was spent at Yale University and the

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), for a total of more than two decades of experience in education. Hom-Diamond completed her bachelor's degree in architecture at Columbia University.

Hom-Diamond has also worked at The Hotchkiss School, spending five years as the chief communications officer, leading a "comprehensive effort to revitalize the communications office and to develop the school's strategic communications plan." Prior to Hotchkiss, Hom-Diamond was director of campus communications in Yale's Office of Public Affairs and Communications, and was the director of online communications at UCLA's Alumni Association, the third largest alumni association in the country according to Berger-Sweeney's announcement, directing strategies for

campus communications and alumni outreach. At Sidwell Friends, Hom-Diamond was in charge of the school's brand and reputation, leading advancement, campaign, and strategic plan communications.

The announcement of Hom-Diamond's appointment comes ten months after Angela Schaeffer, Trinity's former Vice President for Communications and Marketing, moved on from her position at Trinity to launch a strategic consultancy. Schaeffer remained at Trinity until the end of June allowing for "a smooth transition and to provide me with time to determine next steps regarding this important role", according to an email from Berger-Sweeney sent on Apr. 14, 2021.

Following Schaeffer's departure was Adrienne Oddi, former Dean of Admissions and Financial

Aid who left Trinity College at the end of July along with many others including: Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management Angel Perez, Dean of Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tim Cresswell, Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Mathematics Melanie Stein, and many more.

With the continuous faculty departures at Trinity, comes questions on the high administrative turnover in recent years. When queried on the topic by the *Tripod* in July 2021, Jason Rojas, the Chief of Staff and Vice President for External Affairs, claimed that "We [Trinity's administration] don't see the recent transitions as being high turnover and when individuals do leave, it presents an opportunity to bring on new leaders and perspectives".

The opinion amongst Trinity's alumni, however, heavily differs from the administration's. Some claim that the recent high turnover rate is to blame for Trinity's plagued leadership over the years. Others claim that Trinity has merely become a way for some administrators to get ahead in their careers. Many Trinity alumni are a part of the Facebook group "Alumni For a Better Trinity College" where they discuss not only what is right and wrong at Trinity today, but more specifically how they feel Trinity could be improved, from an alum's perspective. Regarding the high turnover rate in "Alumni For a Better Trinity College", many argue that there are few administrators who can truly appreciate the history of the College and are dedicated to improving its national rankings and reputation.

# OPINION

## Featured Opinion: With Vladimir Putin Looming Over the Ukraine, the Western World Must Tread Carefully

KASH JAIN '24  
OPINION EDITOR

Amid a Russian military buildup along its border with Ukraine and inflamed tensions between Russia and the West, many have begun to fear that war is on the horizon.

Despite Putin's claims that Russia has no such plans, Ukraine and its allies have expressed concern about an invasion — a Russian incursion even more dramatic than its annexation of Crimea. Undoubtedly, this is a tense moment on the international stage, one that may have larger implications for all parties involved, with a considerable risk of war.

While the U.S. and Europe have pursued diplomatic measures to avert armed conflict, they and Russia have continued to send troops to nations bordering Ukraine, and no simple, conflict-free resolution is in sight. Despite this, the West must do everything possible to avoid armed conflict in the region while also pushing back against Putin.

*“Undoubtedly, this is a tense moment on the international stage, one that may have implications for all parties involved, with a considerable risk for war.”*

For the West to effectively thwart Putin, it must understand a crucial element of this conflict: it isn't about Ukraine; it's about the European security order. Putin perceives, and rationally so, an eastward expansion of NATO as an encroachment on Russia's sphere of influence. Russia has attempted to maintain this sphere of influence by backing autocrats in the region, and used it to push smaller states to bend to its will. Belarus is the clearest case of this. The country and President Alexander Lukashenko are reliant on Russian economic support. Russia provides Belarus with favorable energy prices and loans, expecting cooperation and open space for Russia's military buildup in return.

Putin stated that he believes Ukrainians and Russians to be “one people — a single whole.” In the days of the USSR, this

was true, if only in a political sense. However, Russia's status has fallen since the union's dissolution, and it's lost control over

ly subsuming other states — is unclear. However, given Russia's military buildup, prior invasion of Ukraine, policies with

*“For the West to effectively thwart Putin, it must understand a crucial element of this conflict: it isn't about the Ukraine; it's about the European Security Order. Putin perceives, and rationally so, an eastward expansion of NATO as an encroachment on Russia's sphere of influence.”*

Ukraine — control that it has failed to regain fully. Now, it looks as though Putin is attempting to regain control over Ukraine and rebuild Russia's power — and by conflating Ukraine and Russia, he's laying out the rhetoric to justify this.

However, the full might of the USSR and its sphere of influence extended beyond Ukraine and the countries currently in Russia's orbit. For Russia, Ukraine would not be the

countries with which it has significant leverage, and Putin's rhetoric, this chief conclusion is clearly true.

The West has several steps in attempting to de-escalate the situation and turn Putin away from further incursions into Ukraine.

Firstly, they could fully bring Ukraine into the West's fold by fast tracking its membership in NATO. This, naturally, is the exact opposite of what Putin wants, with Russia arguing that the prospect of Ukraine and Georgia joining NATO and the alliance deploying arms in states bordering Russia would threaten Russia's security. However, this is a weak argument given that Russia has not been invaded by states in the

EU may be a reasonable economic decision for many European states, including former Soviet ones, NATO membership is different — it's necessary in ensuring the basic sovereignty of states that Russia may be inclined to attempt to absorb. NATO's expansion is predicated on Russian expansion. After all, Ukrainians were opposed to joining NATO before 2014, but 54% are in favor of joining today.

However, even though Ukraine has a reasonable argument as to why it should join NATO against Russia's wishes, Russia would still construct

venting an enlargement of Russia's sphere of influence and the destructive impacts that come with it; Ukraine simply cannot have full sovereignty with Russia looming over it against the will of Ukraine's people. Giving in to Russia's demands risks completely forfeiting Ukraine's sovereignty.

The West could also attempt to counter Russia in another way: using arguments similar to Russia's anti-NATO argument against it. The Baltics could make a compelling argument that the membership of Belarus and

*“Ensuring that Russia does not take over Ukraine isn't just a matter of preventing an enlargement of Russia's sphere of influence and the destructive impacts that come with it; Ukraine simply cannot have full sovereignty with Russia looming over it against the will of Ukraine's people.”*

Ukraine's ascension to NATO as a threat to Russia, one that it could seek to counter through continued pressure on Ukraine and armed conflict. That being said, Ukraine joining NATO would place it in a stronger position to defend itself.

Alternatively, the West could simply give in to

Russia in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), functionally akin to NATO, and the buildup of troops in Belarus poses a threat to the Baltic states and Poland. The West could essentially tell Putin that if it pulls its security pact and forces away from the region, Europe will do the same. Even if this wouldn't entirely get rid of the threat of Russian expansion, troops being pulled out of Belarus and Russia's border with Ukraine would ease some of the direct pressure on the region and place Putin at a disadvantage for further expansion, making any unprompted move to rebuild military power a very obvious attempt to encroach on the region.

Regardless of the path that the West chooses, it must act together. Disagreements between states on how to proceed can be expected, but prolonged disputes and a lack of consensus give Putin a strategic advantage. It must do everything possible to avoid armed conflict while also protecting the sovereignty of Ukraine and other states in the region, stopping Russia's expansion in its tracks.

*“It can be safely concluded that Putin's chief goal is an expansion of Russia's power and influence, particularly in Europe and the states that it had control of in the USSR. Beyond this, the specifics blur. Whether Russia seeks to form ‘partnerships’ with Eastern European states...is unclear.”*

region — having itself invaded both Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014. Additionally, even with the backing of the West, these are small states that simply lack the power to pose a significant threat to Russia. Russia also ignores that its own actions have a fundamental role in the desire of Ukraine and Georgia to join NATO. While integration into the

Russia's demands, hoping that doing so would lead to them backing off. However, withdrawing NATO-aligned troops from the region and forfeiting Ukraine's ascension risks opening the door to a large-scale Russian invasion that would leave the West scrambling to respond.

Ensuring that Russia does not take over Ukraine isn't just a matter of pre-

# The Joe Rogan-Spotify Saga Demonstrates the Power of Consumers and Raises Questions about Business Ethics

SAMMI BRAY '25  
OPINION EDITOR

On Jan. 24, Canadian-American singer and songwriter Neil Young requested that the music platform Spotify remove his discography.

Young released a statement saying, "I am doing this because Spotify is spreading fake information about vaccines — potentially causing death to those who believe the disinformation being spread by them." Young joins a collection of individuals upset over commentator Joe Rogan's podcast, *The Joe Rogan Experience*, which is Spotify exclusive as of September 2020.

Known for his controversial opinions and interviews, Rogan recently interviewed Dr. Robert Malone. Discussing the pandemic and vaccinations, the episode was banned from social media platforms. An

open letter signed by almost 300 medical professionals called for Spotify to address the false information.

While Young's move can be seen as powerful and important, he instantly

harmful, is removing music from Spotify the appropriate move? Ultimately, these controversial opinions exist outside of Spotify, and no one is forced to listen to — or believe — Rogan.

Freedom of speech must also be considered. Spotify would certainly come under fire for silencing Rogan. But does Spotify's contract signal an endorsement of such

turned to promote another platform, Amazon Music. Amazon's treatment of employees and the ethics of founder Jeff Bezos certainly do not make Amazon feel like a better choice.

Focusing specifically on the Rogan issue, searching "Joe Rogan" on Amazon results in over seven thousand hits. Amazon certainly is not a Rogan-free zone, with books, merchandise, and other podcasts praising the podcaster.

The protest of Spotify has shown the power of consumers in our society. The platform has reportedly lost billions of dollars since Young's announcement. Perhaps we should take this as a lesson and continue to use the power of our dollar to send a message to major corporations.

For those truly concerned, perhaps a reconsideration of what organizations they support is the best move. A lack of financial support can certainly send a message, but is it enough? Is there any company that is completely harm-free? Such companies

that supposedly provide ethical products often come with such a hefty price tag, with most individuals feeling unable to participate.

Other musicians have taken to pandemic-related activism, protesting mandates about masks and vaccines.

Singer Kid Rock has threatened that any stops on his tour with mandates will be canceled.

On Facebook, the artist shared, "There's been a lot of talk about vaccine mandates and venues. People saying, 'I'm not going to that venue because of the vaccine mandate' and this, that and the other. Trust me, we've done all our research on this and the consensus says that all this is going to be done, if

he has decided against a stop in Buffalo, New York and Toronto, Canada.

The singer claims to have been in conversation with former President Donald Trump, who is reportedly very proud of the artist's decision to stand up against mandates. While the former president certainly opposed mandates, he also authorized an accelerated the vaccine production process.

In another move to speak out against what Kid Rock feels is misinformation, a new song was released, titled *We the People*. Several lyrics bash current president Joe Biden, vaccines, and Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Like Rogan, Kid Rock is exercising his right to free

*"Young released a statement saying, 'I am doing this because Spotify is spreading fake information about vaccines — potentially causing death to those who believe the disinformation...'"*

*"The protest of Spotify has shown the power of consumers in our society. The platform has reportedly lost billions of dollars since Young's announcement. Perhaps we should take this as a lesson and continue to use the power of our dollar..."*

there are any at these venues, I'm not aware of any, but if there are any, they're going to be gone by the time we get to your city. If they're not, trust me, you don't have to worry. You'll be getting your money back because I won't be showing up either."

So far, Kid Rock says

speech and has the right to choose where to perform. However, with the pandemic continuing to claim lives and cause division, Kid Rock certainly is not creating the unity he claims to promote. It remains up to consumers to decide what narrative they want to support.

## Dining at Mather Should Stay Grab-and-Go for Now

SAMMI BRAY '25  
OPINION EDITOR

After announcing the decision to push back the move-in dates for the 2022 spring semester in December, Trinity College shared several other policies to keep campus COVID-safe.

Following through on their promise to keep classes online for the first week, the College has chosen to rescind the decision to keep the dining hall closed for seating during the first month of the semester.

While the dining hall has been technically closed and seating not permitted, students have been crowding into dorm rooms, the Cave, and squeezing into a few seats in Mather Hall.

Booths were labeled, "Two per table," a rather ineffective message. On Thursday, Feb. 3, dining hall staff

attempted to enforce the rule and were ultimately ignored.

As a first-year student new to the school's COVID dining plan, I joined my peers in a feeling of discomfort. Instantly, I felt like I had never been to the dining hall. Lines were longer than normal, and most stations were closed. I appreciated the efforts to make transitioning back to campus safe, but being thrown into a completely new dining system was slightly overwhelming.

My friends and I with allergies and dietary restrictions were disappointed to see the limited make-your-own options. Many of us relied on the sandwich station to always have something to eat. Now more than ever, students are racking up a food delivery bill to get by.

The dining hall app, as well as some of the signs, have also been inaccurate.

Promises of items like veggie burgers and french fries often are not fulfilled. While the supply chain issues had certainly impacted the accuracy of the menu last semester, the stress of maintaining the new dining hall set-up seemed to be too much.

The excessive waste resulting from to-go dining is also unsettling. Each time you walk into Mather, you are handed a foam container, a paper bag, and plastic utensils (which the absence of real silverware

own bags, while others now have a collection of brown bags stocked in their rooms.

Most stations also have their own containers, leaving students with a large, typically empty container and a variety of plastic and foam packages from each station. Extra plastic is now also used for items like cereal, bagels, and muffins. Desserts, which previously were placed on a tiered stand now also live in plastic domes.

The responsibility of Mather employees is

*"The excessive waste resulting from to-go dining is also unsettling...you are handed a foam container, a paper bag, and plastic utensils."*

last semester prepared us for). Some students have been spotted bringing their

also increased, with the need to constantly be stationed to serve students.

"This won't last long,"

I told my friends regularly during last week's to-go dining, curling up on the floor of an Elton dorm and piling into the Cave.

In an email on Friday, Feb. 3, my prediction came true. Beginning the week of Feb. 13, Mather will return to normal — whatever that is anymore.

While I support the College's attempts to keep us safe, unless we all stay home, the risk remains. In shared bathrooms, classrooms, and beyond, we are interacting with each other regardless. It is unrealistic to expect that most students are following the given guidelines. Opening the dining hall early makes things easier for everyone, but I believe the College should keep to-go dining an option for all students who want to take certain measures to be safe.

# FEATURES

## Special Snow Day Feature: Students Take Advantage of Inclement Weather Upon Returning to Campus

KATIE CERULLE '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

Snow days at Trinity are always particularly special. The trees on the quad collect snow on their many branches, the lights that illuminate the Long Walk glint as flurries pass by. Students always seem more relaxed, their worries and fears fall with the snow. There are a lot of fun activities to do on Trinity's campus during a snow day, but this February blizzard was more joyous than usual.

This storm had a perfect combination of elements: six to eight inches of consistent snowfall, moderately cold temperatures, and a gentle breeze. This allowed for students to be outside without being buried, freezing, and blinded by snow. Another highly important point is that school was not in session yet, meaning students had no classes, no work, so responsibilities. This lovely combination led to some very fun activities, and even better photos.

A few Trinity seniors took this opportunity to practice their skiing and snowboarding skills right

on Trinity's campus. The group creatively tied a rope to the back of one member's flatbed truck and pulled two people up and down the street. The rope had two handles on the end, so it was perfect for duo ticks and choreographed routines.

Another group of students took their skates to a local pond and played a little pick up hockey. Trinity's hockey rink is fun and all, but nothing can beat getting outside and skating on some real ice. This seems pretty scary to me, but these girls seemed to really enjoy it.

We are blessed on this campus to have some killer sledding hills. A few Trinity students, including Summer Dow '22, took to the hills. Using dining trays, cardboard, or anything they could find, they did their best to get the most speed.

"The dining trays ended up being the best for speed because they are flat and sturdy," Dow added.

They even added a few jumps to really get the most bang for their buck.

"Building the jumps took a very long time,

and usually collapsed on the first run, but they were still really fun to create," Dow concluded.

If outdoor activities aren't your thing, a lot of students stayed indoors and watched through the window and enjoyed the relaxing views. Maddie Shapiro '22 and Kendall Alexander '22, Trinity seniors, spent their snow day baking and

reading some great books.

"We really love to relax and enjoy the day," Shapiro mentioned.

Alexander added, "It was so relaxing and it's such a change of pace coming from California where it was 60 degrees every day. I could light a candle, lie in bed, and just relax. It was just, cozy"

Even though this storm

was quite fun for students on campus, some students had to stay home for an extra day, myself included. My home got buried with just under two feet of snow, and with the help of some nice neighbors, we got my car out and ready to hit the road early on Sunday morning, just in time for classes.



Photo courtesy of Brenna Hoar '22. A group of friends plays pick up hockey, also on the snow day. from left to right: Kenzie Rosenberg '22, Sofie Vogel '24, Demi Janis '24, Brenna Hoar '22, Sophie Falcone '24

Photo courtesy of Brenna Hoar '22. Senior Brenna Hoar '22 (left) was seen enjoying a snowy ride around campus on the snow day!

## Abroad Special Feature: Is the Loch Ness Monster Real?

OLIVIA PAPP '23  
FEATURES EDITOR

The Loch Ness monster, known as 'Nessie,' was supposedly first spotted in 565 A.D. An Irish monk named St. Columba found the Picts burying a man next to Loch Ness. Columba discovered that the deceased man had been attacked by a monster residing in Loch Ness. Columba sent one of his men to go investigate but unfortunately encountered the monster.

This lake is located in the Scottish Highlands and contains the largest volume of fresh water in all of Great Britain. The lake is 800 feet deep and stretches 23 miles. Many scholars have dismissed the Loch Ness monster as a myth originated by the Picts. The Picts were a Scottish tribe that settled in the Scottish Highlands during the Early Middle Ages. The majority of the tribe's history was documented on Pictish stone carvings and medieval texts. The Loch Ness monster was first depicted on a Pictish stone, as the Picts carved an aquatic monster onto the standing stones near Loch Ness.

This monster gained traction in the 1930s. During this period, sightings greatly increased. On May 2, 1933, in Inverness, a small Scottish town surrounding Loch Ness, a couple recounted

their findings. The couple reported they had seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." The news spread across the United Kingdom, inevitably prompting a 20,000-pound reward for whoever found and captured the monster first. Following this initial sighting, another couple claimed to see this monster. For decades following 1933, investigators took their shot in trying to find this serpent. By the 1960s, British universities had assembled teams to venture out toward the small town of Inverness to capture the beast. While nothing tangible was found during these endeavors, sonar operators detected large objects moving underwater. In 1975, another team was assembled to find out more about this aquatic animal. After photo enhancements, it was found that there was a huge flipper, surely belonging to an aquatic animal. The findings from the 1980s and 1990s proved to be inconclusive. In 1934, a famous picture of the beast was taken. This picture showed the long neck of an aquatic animal poking up through the surface of Loch Ness. This picture motivated many teams to go out searching for this beast. However, in 1994, it was found that this photo was a complete hoax. After this finding, tourism of the

monster has died down and the belief in this aquatic monster has diminished.

On Jan. 29, I visited Loch Ness and went on a cruise around the lake. The lake, in my opinion, is not much of a lake. Rather, it appears to be a narrow river that stretches for miles through the Scottish Highlands. The banks of the lake were teeming with wildlife, as several sheep, goats, and birds were spotted roaming around. At all times, the captain and cruise guide kept explaining the history of the Loch Ness monster, warning us to keep our eyes peeled as the tour across the lake went on. Although I am skeptical of the legitimacy of this monster, many tourists crowded the edge of the boat with binoculars. These tourists were constantly peering into the water, hoping to catch a glimpse of the famous serpent that has become a worldwide attraction.

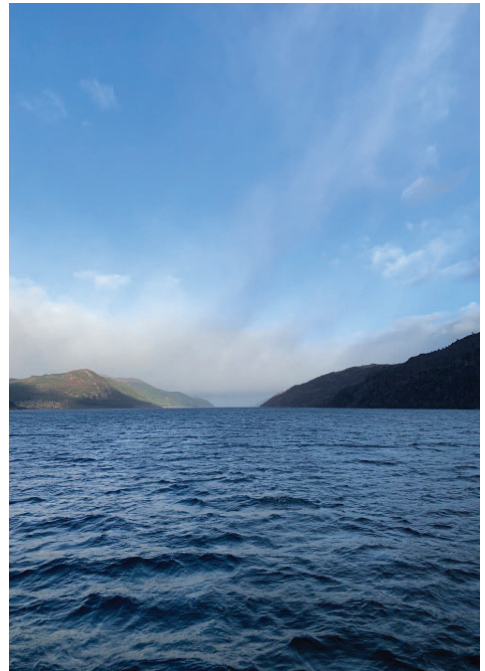
According to Catherine Doyle '23, who also went to visit Loch Ness on Jan. 29, "I have always been a believer in Nessie. Loch Ness contains the largest volume of freshwater in Great Britain so there's bound to be some weird and amazing wildlife down there. Also, it's just fun to think that there's creatures like Nessie chilling in Scotland."

On the tour, I learned of a man who has ded-

icated his entire life to finding Loch Ness... or at least getting to the bottom of the mystery of the monster. The name of the man is Steve Feltham. He gave up his job to move to Dorset, near Inverness, and investigate the truth. From his years of searching, Feltham has claimed he once had a sighting of something unexplainable. Since 2016, there have supposedly been more than one thousand sightings of this monster ac-

cording to the Official Loch Ness Sightings Register. Feltham began his career in hunting down the monster in 1991 and continues to do so with hope.

Other people have deemed the Loch Ness monster a huge eel. Scottish folklore and storytelling have been a substantial aspect of Scottish culture over time. Perhaps the tale of Nessie is merely another one of these fictitious Scottish stories. Or maybe it is not. Only time will tell.



Loch Ness: Home of the Fabled Loch Ness Monster.

## TV Show Review: Sunday's are for HBO's *Euphoria*

BAILEY MCKEON '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

Sunday means sleeping in, brunch, homework, naps, relaxation, football, AND a new release of HBO's hit show *Euphoria*. This past Sunday, HBO broadcasted season two's fifth episode [Spoilers Ahead]. After watching episode four, viewers were left anxiously awaiting to find out what happens to distressed Cassie on the brink of explosion with guilt, Cal after his shattering, but perhaps comedic, eruption in front of his family, and Rue, who's spiritual and emotional scene to Labrinth's "I'm Tired" at the end of the episode left us questioning whether or not she survived another overdose.

Episode five, however, did not answer all of our questions. The intense 55-minute episode focused primarily on Rue, who un-

ravels further and further as the show progresses. The episode opened with a heartbreaking scene at Rue's house depicting the violence and despair engulfing a family dealing with addiction. After Rue's mom finds out (from Jules) about Rue's pills (which she needed to sell) and flushed them down the toilet, Rue spirals. On the way to the hospital, Rue jumps out of the car and goes on the run. Spurring anxiety in viewers, the episode intends to display the distress addiction causes to loved ones and communicates the damage drugs can do to both the user and their relationships.

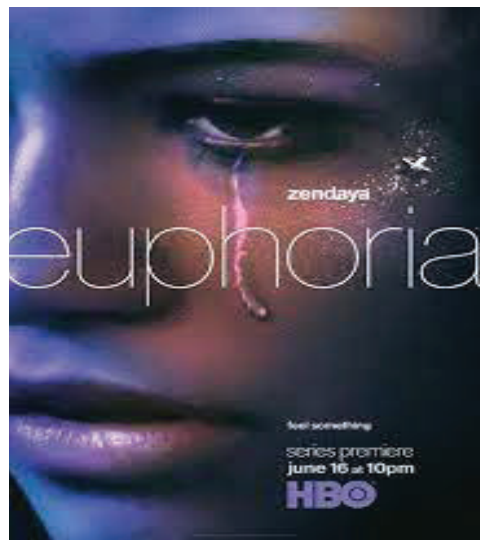
Perhaps the most remarkable scene from the episode was the intervention at Lexi and Cassie's house. Rue, on the run, ends up at Lexi and Cassie's house. Here, Rue breaks the silence on

Cassie's secret physical relationship with Nate in front of Maddy, Cassie's best friend and Nate's ex-girlfriend. Maddy's anger and the chaos that ensues leaves us anticipating what will happen next between Maddy, Cassie, and Nate. From the episode six preview, this drama seems to be a hot topic in next Sunday's viewing.

The episode closes with a clip of Rue's mom sitting in her house. She hears the door open and asks "Rue?" suggesting that Rue returns home after withdrawing on the streets, searching for drugs at Fezco's house, committing a robbery, running from the police, and conferring with Laurie about the drug money she has to make up. The emotionally intense episode leaves us hoping Rue is safely home while also anticipating the backlash of Rue's addic-

tion and experiences on the run. Further, viewers hope for more insight into the drama between Maddy, Cassie, and Nate and the whereabouts of Cal.

I'm certain episode six will provide answers while simultaneously fabricating further suspense. Catch episode six this Sunday night at 9 p.m. on HBO.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Songs for Your Unforseen (But Necessary!) Villain Era

CAROLINE RICHARDS '22  
A&E EDITOR

The traditional hero is boring. Saving the world. Doing the right thing. Making sacrifices willy-nilly. In my opinion this is wholly unrealistic. Our culture's fascination with heroes and chosen-one tropes is based on our desire to simplify life into black and white terms. We want our heroes to be inherently good and incapable of evil, and we want our villains to be inherently evil and incapable of good. Which is nonsense, no one is inherently good and no one is inherently evil. No one exists in a vacuum. That's why tragic villains are always the best characters. They're the most authentic. They have context for the character's actions. They've been driven to this point by some unseen force they're grappling with. Therefore: I am a firm believer that every "hero" (in this case you) needs a villain era. Because then when they overcome it their actions are authentic; you know they've chosen this direction towards goodness even after knowing they are capable of evil. So! Embrace your inner villain (for the character arc) if not to emerge into true goodness afterwards then at least because the villain music mood is so f\*cking good.

### **Babe I'm Gonna Leave You by Led Zeppelin (I recommend the 1990 Remaster)**

Abruptly abandon your lover in the summertime to pursue your own freedom and self-interests which are torturing you from a the past? Villain. Era.

### **On That Time by Playboi Carti**

This whole album is villainous. And angry. At one point in this song he goes: "B\*tch, I'm a king, but I'm tryna put on my crown". Tortured villain. Bad\*ss.

### **Hollywood by Car Seat Headrest**

Anyone who listens to Car Seat Headrest is their own villain. You tell me what that means.

### **Just by Radiohead**

From their album the bends. The first 17 seconds of this song will single-handedly set off your villain era. The lyrics deal with some deep sh\*t. Philosophical villain.

### **Nice Guys Finish Last by Green Day**

For when you've just been ghosted (again). Time to embrace the villain era. Green Day knew it, now so do you. I'll pray for whoever's next in your line...

### **50k Remix by Waka Flocka Flame**

Honestly I just love this song and I listen to it whenever I've been wronged. Makes me feel heartless and reckless for all of three minutes.

### **Hash Pipe by Weezer**

Weezer on the villain list? Yes. Rivers Cuomo wrote this song off a bunch of Ritalin and tequila shots. It is cutthroat. Talk about being kicked when you're down.

### **Cold Hard Bitch by Jet**

Weapon-izing romantic attraction and doing it so well. This'll have you becoming a heartless wench in no time. Ruin someone's life today why don't you.

### **Scope Set by \$uicideboy\$**

Contemporary rage rap. Abrasive. Harsh. Damaged villain?

### **Before You Forget by The Brian Jonestown Massacre**

As you may know, I love BJM. Consequently, I love this song. Anton Newcomb may be the most prolific tragic villain to ever do it.

### **Yonkers by Tyler, The Creator**

Goblin is Tyler's best album and you cannot change my mind. It's unrestrained in a way his later albums aren't. This has unlocked countless anger miles on the treadmill.

### **R.I.C.O (feat. Drake) by Meek Mill**

I tried to keep Drake off the list but alas. Meek Mill cancels him out? And this song had to be on the villain train. For obvious reasons.

### **Feel No Guilt (feat. Demastaz) by Nine**

90s rap was deep in a way rap might never be again. This is an incredible song.

## What's Up with Wordle? The Irresistible Letter Game

LIZ FOSTER '22  
BITS&PIECES EDITOR

Each day, a series of green, yellow, and black boxes flood Twitter timelines and group chats across the world. "I got the Wordle in four!" writes one friend; "Couldn't solve the Wordle, down horrendous" tweets another. The reminder comes at any hour, never failing to send the person on the receiving end scrambling to their web browser to search up the popular brain game. Peer pressure takes a new form with Wordle, forcing the user into playing today's game for the sake of discussing its difficulty. Bragging rights ensue for the friend whose synapses fired the hardest and solved the puzzle in the fewest number of guesses. The unplayed Wordle takes legs and crawls into your ear, whispering sweet nothings like: "Play me."

Hunched over a computer with hours upon hours of

other, more consequential work to complete, the average Joe slaves away to the Wordle. Cradled in an iPhone, the Wordle looks up at the player, laughing in all its gridded glory as his brow drips in sweat. He types "GREAT" and is rewarded with two yellow letters: an R and an E. "READS" follows as the Wordle-r shifts the yellow letters to the left and attempts to fill in the remaining gray blanks. The letter A, once again, remains gray and the Wordler realizes he's made a classic rookie mistake: typing an unused letter twice. Nonetheless, the D turns yellow. The next guess is "DREAM" and each letter spits back that damned yellow—the letter R has been placed in the wrong position again. In a Eureka, A-HA!, moment, the player guesses "ORDER" with immense confidence. The first two letters turn up gray and a frown begins to grow, but as the final three letters

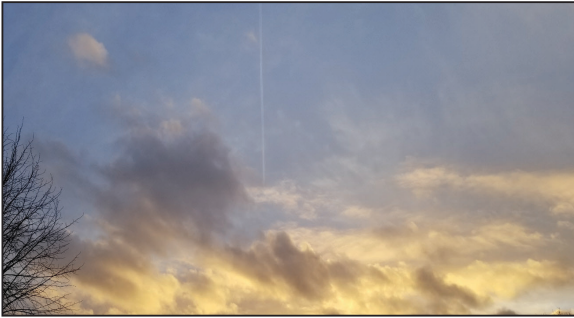
turn a glorious green, the Wordler's lips turn up in a smile. Two guesses to go. Two letters left. With a piece of paper and a pencil, the remaining letters on the keyboard are scrambled down in an attempt to put together the rest of the word. What could possibly be BLANK-BLANK-D-E-R? With only two guesses remaining, the Wordler reluctantly faces his fate and nervously presses the enter key. The letters flip over one by one; each tile reveals itself as green. The Wordler yells "YES" and lifts a triumphant fist in the air. The feeling ripples beyond the computer and into the air, filling the atmosphere with sheer joy. SKILL. MOIST. ELDER. All of these five letter words have haunted the daily puzzle player. The known risk of seeing "X/6" when copying and pasting your Wordle score to a friend is enough to trigger anxiety in even the most mellow of folks. Yet, over

two-million people choose to Wordle on any given day. The web-browser game has blown up, garnering an impressive user base over the past month and making a name in the headlines. In late January, the game was acquired by the New York Times for millions of dollars. Wordle was created by Josh Wardle as a gift to his partner Palak Shah as the latter was a fan of popular word games. The sweet gesture became a gift to the world after Wordle grids began to pop up on Twitter. Without a link to click through—an intentional choice by Wardle—those interested in playing had to actively seek out the game outside of their social media feed. Its ambiguous intrigue brought in users, but its simplicity kept them around. Wordle is unique in that it is a once daily activity. Like taking your prescriptions or a cup of coffee, Wordle is something that can fit into the everyday

routine seamlessly. There's never a bad time to face your battle with six rows of five letters, but that time will always be sacred by nature of being the Wordle time of the day. Other games like Candy Crush Saga are always sitting there, beginning to be played even when you run out of lives. Wordle offers a reprieve from the chaos of the day and the chaos of gaming. It demands nothing but your attention for as long as it takes you to figure out, or fail to figure out, today's five letter surprise. Any FOMO is not from the game itself, but rather the result of friends who eagerly seek your number of guesses. Wordle asks nothing but enables everything. The game is playable across all platforms, free for anyone with access to the internet without cost. The game is the great equalizer, a comfort in times when comfort is needed like no other. Maybe, just maybe, enough Wordle can save the World.

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

JOEY CIFELLI '23  
A&E EDITOR



February 5, 2022, #1. 7.1/10.

(Left) Though small in size, the mice of the Billenten Mansion never thought of themselves as such. To their miniature, glassy eyes, the man-or's old wooden floorboards and creaking ventilation shafts were built to exactly the right dimensions for their purposes. Purposes which included, but were not limited to: sneaking about in the dead of night without a sound, thieving bits of nuts and crackers from numerous well-stocked pantries, darting into cracks and hiding-holes when maids or butlers thundered by with their gleaming leather shoes smashing the floor, and transporting tufts of couch stuffing or cloudlike fabric with which to construct impossibly comfortable bed-nests. Life was exciting, peaceful, and decadent in equal amounts, which is about as much as a mouse can hope for. While the Billentens lived and died and loved and entertained in that old place for decades, generations of Billenten mice came and went at much greater speed, roaring underfoot like a white frothing river to the humans' oozing honey. It was a happy harmony, fine-tuned and ready to chug along indefinitely. And then, of course, came the rats.

(Right) No one knew where they came from. The rats appeared to rise out of the ground one day like monsters from a crypt. They were filthy, and violent, and each one ate enough every day to feed ten mice. The problem, the mice soon realized, was that a rat is much much bigger than a mouse. By great factors. Therefore, when mouse and rat alike desire the same wedge of cheese, or sleeping nook, or general right to walk around in good humor and fun, the rat can take what it pleases, and, meeting any resistance, simply attack the mouse until it is dead. Naturally, the reverse is not true. With that cruel and undeniable truth branded into their brains, the mice were forced to give up their precious pathways and warm nests. Blood was shed in those times, especially among the younglings. A dark age descended on the manor then. Fear and hunger reigned.



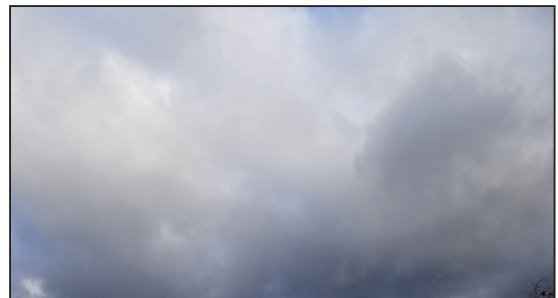
February 5, 2022, #2. 8.0/10.



February 5, 2022, #3. 8.4/10.

(Left) Many generations later, a mouse named Deschu wandered off from the network of plumbing where the mice had done their best to resettle. The metal pipes were damp and mottled with rust. Occasionally the system failed and water flowed the wrong way up the pipes, soaking any mice who happened to be huddling there. It was cold, terribly cold. They ate beetles and slugs, when they ate at all. Still, the pipes were better than the rats. Anything was better than them. So, time passed. And yet, had anyone actually seen a rat? Nobody Deschu spoke to had seen one. The old mice were vague and mysterious in their answers. Certainly, they were still there, said the old mice. It was only due to the mice's own strict vigilance that there hadn't been another disaster, a repeat of the cataclysm described in myth. Really, they were fortunate. Deschu listened and nodded and decided that no one knew what they were talking about. He would find out for himself. So, there we find him now, skittering up a pipe, just about to reach the manor's wood floor. A pink nose pokes out of a gap, which sniffs from side to side, and is followed by paws and fur. The eyes dart from shadow to shadow. There is not a rat to be seen.

(Right) Carefully, Deschu stepped over the wooden boards. No rats at all. None of the smell, which, he had been told, was worse than the scum that grows on sewer sludge. No wicked teeth, no gleaming eyes. Deschu stumbled upon the mice's ancient paths and nooks. They were covered in droppings and scrap, yes, but no sign of any murderous beasts. No sign of anything. The old mice really were full of dust. The place was fine. Deschu scrambled back down the pipes to tell everyone. A few days later, one by one, a stream of mice passed from the dark underground onto the surface. The younglings and old-timers gazed on their surrounding with the same expression. One born from wonder, the other, disbelief. The mice quickly followed Deschu into the walls and began to make themselves at home. Dust and garbage were removed with great efficiency. Nests were assembled. Paths to food were forged anew. Slowly, the Billenten mice found their own way to their ancestors' lives. They did not know from where this miraculous gift had come, but that did not matter, they embraced it wholeheartedly. They would flourish here. And then, again, all too soon, life changed for the mice in a fraction of a second. The rats' absence was revealed, along with their own doom, in a bone-chilling growl that made the blood turn thick. Its source was just outside, and as the mice clung together in a corner, its form appeared, blocking the exit with a single, predatory eye. A cat had come to play.



February 6, 2022. 7.3/10.

# SPORTS

## AFC Championship: Bengals Are Super-Bowl Bound

**BLYTHE HASTINGS '23**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Joe Burrow and the young and hungry Cincinnati Bengals are Super Bowl-bound as unexpected and tenacious AFC champions. Evan McPherson kicked a 31-yard field goal with 9:22 left in overtime after Burrow kept his cool while leading a furious second-half comeback. They got the Bengals to the NFL's big game for the first time in 33 years with a 27-24 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs for the AFC championship on Sunday. The Bengals erased an 18-point deficit, tying an AFC title game record for the largest comeback, to take a late 24-21 lead on McPherson's 52-yarder. The Chiefs opened overtime again with the ball, but Vonn Bell intercepted Mahomes on the third play,

and Burrow and the Bengals took over. The Bengals (13-7) will play the winner of the NFC championship, the Los Angeles Rams, in the Super Bowl in Los Angeles on Feb. 13. Cincinnati lost to the 49ers in both of its previous trips to the Super Bowl. Mahomes and the Chiefs (14-6) will be left to grieve after blowing the chance at a third straight Super Bowl appearance. The Chiefs had a chance at a winning touchdown in the closing seconds of regulation, but sacks by Sam Hubbard on consecutive plays forced Kansas City to settle for the tying field goal. The Chiefs got a touchdown on their first three possessions, with Mahomes finding Mecole Hardman for a 3-yard score that made it 21-3 and had this one looking very much like a rout. Mahomes joined Tom Brady (2014),

Joe Flacco (2012), and Aaron Rodgers (2010) as the only players with three games with three or more TD passes in a single postseason. But Burrow kept the Bengals in it, proving himself yet again in enemy territory. He tossed a short pass to Samaje Perine, who avoided a tackle attempt by Charvarius Ward and flew into the end zone for a 41-yard touchdown with 1:05 left in the opening half. The Chiefs appeared headed for their fourth straight touchdown drive to open the game, especially after Byron Pringle's 10-yard catch put Kansas City at the 15 with 13 seconds left setting off chants from the fired-up Arrowhead Stadium crowd of "13 seconds!" who were still ecstatic from the Chiefs' stunning comeback last week against Buffalo. Cincinnati got the ball back at

the Chiefs 27 moments later when B.J. Hill intercepted Mahomes' short pass intended for Demarcus Robinson. Two plays after Joe Mixon gained 2 yards on first-and-goal from the 5, Ja'Marr Chase went up over Rashad Fenton in the end zone to catch Burrow's toss for a touchdown. Burrow then found a wide-open Trent Tay-

lor for the 2-point conversion to tie it at 21 with 14 seconds left in the third quarter. The 18-point comeback by Cincinnati tied Indianapolis (vs. New England in 2006) for the largest in AFC championship history. And now they're heading to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1989 after winning their first playoff overtime game.



EVENTBRITE.COM

## NFC Championship Game: Rams Emerge Victorious

**BLYTHE HASTINGS '23**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Los Angeles Rams snapped their six-game losing streak to the San Francisco 49ers at the right time, earning their way to Super Bowl 56 with a 20-17 victory in the NFC Championship Game. These types of games are the reason Los Angeles traded for Matthew Stafford and it was clear in a tight, fourth-quarter contest that the Rams had the advantage at the game's most important position. The San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo put up an unimpressive

1-of-6 for -3 yards and an interception on the game's final two drives with San Francisco's season on the line, ending the 49ers' season with fans disappointed and disheartened. The 49ers held a 17-7 lead early in the fourth quarter but couldn't make the plays they needed down the stretch, allowing the Rams to score 13 unanswered points to take a 20-17 lead with less than two minutes to play. Jimmy Garoppolo tossed an interception on the 49ers' final possession of the game, sending the Rams to an NFC title and the Super Bowl, which will

be held in their home stadium. Matthew Stafford threw for 337 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception on 31-of-45 passing, completing 11 passes to wide receiver Cooper Kupp for 142 yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, in what might be his last game with the 49ers, completed 16-of-30 passes for 232 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception. The Rams defied the odds by making a daunting second-half comeback seem easy after trailing by 10 points heading into the half. The Rams shut the 49ers out in the

second half, scoring 13 unanswered points. A pick-off Jimmy Garoppolo sealed the deal for the Rams with just over a minute remaining in the game. Cooper Kupp (142) and Odell Beckham Jr. (113) both finished with over 100 receiving yards. This is the first time two Rams players have finished with at least 100 receiving yards this season. The last time the Rams did this in the playoffs was during the 2004 wildcard game when they were the St. Louis Rams. Kupp scored the Rams' only two touchdowns of the night. Deebo Samuel scored the

longest touchdown of the night, though, with a 44-yard scoring play in the second quarter. Samuel finishes his season with an average of 10 yards per catch, which leads wide receivers in the league this season. George Kittle scored the 49ers' other touchdown of the game. The Los Angeles Rams have the advantage, playing at their home field, in front of their home fans, but the Bengals are hungry for more. After beating one of the most challenging teams in the AFC to play at home, Bengals fans are looking for another upset, but this time, to win it all.

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

**Men's Basketball**  
v. Colby College

**L, 69-76**

**Women's Basketball**  
v. Middlebury College

**W, 62-59**

**Men's Squash**  
v. Tufts University

**W, 8-1**

**Women's Squash**  
v. Tufts University

**W, 9-0**

**Men's Hockey**  
v. Middlebury College

**T, 2-2**

**Women's Hockey**  
v. Middlebury College

**L, 0-3**

**Men's Basketball**  
v. Tufts University

**L, 38-61**

**Women's Basketball**  
v. Tufts University

**W, 60-42**

**Men's Squash**  
v. Hamilton College

**W, 8-1**

**Men's Hockey**  
v. Williams College

**W, 3-2**

# Trinity College

Inside Sports:  
NFC and AFC  
Championships Set  
Super-Bowl Match-  
Up

*This Week in Sports At Trincoll...*

## Trinity Women's Basketball Nets Two Huge Wins

LILY IVES '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Trinity women's basketball team is on a mission. In the wake of 11 straight days without playing a game, it seems nothing can slow down their furious momentum right now. Since finally being able to take to the court again, the Bantams have roared back with enormous wins over two rival New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) foes. Just two days apart, the Trinity women's basketball team conquered a hard-fought thriller over the Middlebury Panthers, and a stunning and definitive upset against the number seven nationally ranked Tufts Jumbos.

On Wednesday night, Feb. 2, the Bantams showcased their grit on the court by edging Middlebury in the fourth quarter and coming

through with a nail-biting 62-59 win. Sophomore Reilly Campbell '24 soared with an outstanding performance, netting a double-double with a season-high 25 points and 10 rebounds. Middlebury led the Bantams at halftime 32-31 and then built on their advantage by extending their lead to five at the end of the third quarter with a lead of 48-43. This momentum carried the Middlebury Panthers into the fourth quarter, where they tallied six straight points and claimed their largest lead of the game, leading the Bantams by 11 points. Little did Middlebury know at that time in the game, they were about to face a fierce Trinity surge that would flip the game. In just a matter of minutes, the Bantam's deficit was cut to five thanks to sophomore Reilly Campbell's three layups in a row. With the en-

ergy now on the side of the Bantams, Trinity senior Bailey Hyland '22 forced a turnover and scored two consecutive layups. With just over two minutes left in the fourth quarter, sophomore Tori Varsamis '24 sank a clutch three-pointer, tying the score up at 59. The Bantams were able to secure the win with a layup and free-throw by senior Elizabeth Althoff '22.

As if pulling out that fourth quarter win against Middlebury wasn't thrilling enough, the Bantams now had to face highly rated Tufts, two days later, as they hosted the Jumbos in their annual "Pride Game." The Trinity women came out on fire and secured an impressive 60-42 win over the talented Tufts squad, handing the Jumbos just their third loss of the season. Senior Bailey Hyland and junior Samantha Gallo led the Bantams with dom-

inant performances, combining for 29 of their team's points. Sophomores Reilly Campbell and Tori Varsamis also contributed strongly with nine points each. Unlike Trinity's close win against Middlebury, the Bantams were able to build a considerable lead versus Tufts with a strong first quarter. The Bantams soared to a 17-point lead in the game's first ten minutes. Though the Jumbos

put up quite the fight in the final quarter of the game by posting eight straight unanswered points, their efforts would simply not be enough. It was the perfect example of that timeless sports cliché, 'too little too late.' With these back-to-back wins, the Trinity Bantams are now an impressive 5-1 in the New England Small College Athletic Conference and improve to 13-4 in overall play.



BANTAMSPORTS.COM

## Three Thrilling Overtime Games in One Weekend

LILY IVES '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

The weekend of Jan. 28 proved to be filled with tight game rollercoaster-like thrillers for Trinity athletics. In the span of just three days, three different Trinity teams went to overtime in their games, and unfortunately all three Trinity teams faced defeat. These three exciting games were all in-conference, against fellow New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) schools.

The weekend kicked off with a nail-biting triple overtime performance, where the visiting Trinity men's basketball team faced off against the Middlebury Panthers. From the first whistle, the contest was neck-and-neck, with Middlebury leading by just one point at the half. The

Bantams returned the favor and outscored the Panthers by one in the second half, tying the score up at 57-57 at the end of regulation. First-year Will Dorian '25 showcased a strong performance for the Bantams, leading the team with 20 points and eight rebounds, while senior Donald Jorden Jr. '23 also contributed to the action, putting up 19 points and grabbing 11 big rebounds. With only 27 seconds left in the first overtime, Trinity was down by three points, but edged closer with Will Dorian sinking a key shot. Only 14 seconds left in the contest, and junior Dana Smith '23 tied the game up with a free throw, sending the Bantams into their second overtime. The Bantams held the lead throughout much of the second overtime, but the Panthers tied

things up at 73-73, with only seven seconds left after sinking four free throws. The Panthers came out strong in the game's final overtime by scoring four unanswered points, ultimately leading to the Bantam's tough defeat, and a final score of 82-77.

On Saturday, the Trinity men's ice hockey team also experienced a super exciting and tightly played game versus the Hamilton College Continentals. The Continentals scored the game's first goal only three minutes into the contest, but sophomore Ned Blanchard '24 answered with Trinity's first goal just five minutes later. With the momentum building in favor of Trinity, sophomore Jax Murray '24 gave the Bantams a 2-1 lead less than a minute after Blanchard's goal. The Continentals tied the game up 15 minutes into

the first period, with Fred Allaire's second goal of the game for Hamilton. After a scoreless second period, Hamilton's Nick Rutigliano gave the Continentals the lead in the third period, but it was short-lived. Just over a minute later, Trinity sophomore Devan Tongue '24 tied the score up at 3-3. The Bantams ultimately fell short, when just under a minute into overtime Hamilton scored, but an inspired strong team effort was clearly present throughout the whole game.

In the final thriller of the weekend, the Trinity women's ice hockey team faced off against the number 10 ranked Colby College Mules at home. Following a tough 7-0 loss to the Mules just two days prior, the Bantams came back to Koeppel Community Sports Center

ready to showcase their grit. The Bantams put up a tremendous fight against the Mules, leading 1-0 for the first 55 minutes of the contest, after junior Olive Scull '23 put the Bantams on the board just 47 seconds into the game. In the end, Colby would tie things up, sending it into overtime. The game progressed to three-on-three overtime rules, where the Mules would ultimately come out on top with a goal from Bri Michaud-Nolan. Trinity sophomore goaltender Hannah Leclair '24 had a tremendous game in net, stopping 46 shots from the Mules.

Three thrilling games, perhaps none with the outcome the Bantam faithful hoped for, but with incredible efforts and building the way for good things to come in the season ahead for all three Trinity teams.

### Coming Up for Bantam Sports:

Wed.

Men's Squash v. Yale University @  
6 p.m.

Women's Squash v. Yale University @  
6 p.m.

Fri.

Wrestling v. Rhode Island College @  
5 p.m.

Men's Hockey v. Bowdoin College @  
7 p.m.

