

The Trinity Tripod

ESTABLISHED 1904

Now then-Trinity!

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Volume CXXII
Number II

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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Dean of the Faculty, Associate Dean Violate Faculty Manual and Other College Proceedings

OLIVIA SILVEY '25 &
SAMMI BRAY '25
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sonia Cardenas and Associate Dean Takunari Miyazaki have been found by the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) to have committed multiple acts of maladministration and violations of the Faculty Manual regarding their conduct surrounding a 2021 engineering department climate assessment. These acts of maladministration include attempting to coerce a professor in said department to retire while withholding the supposedly incriminating contents of the climate assessment from said professor and breaking the previously promised confi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF INSIDE HIGHER ED

dentiality of the assessment.

The AFC, which consists of five faculty members and whose mission is to protect academic freedom at the College, issued a June 2023 report that centers around two primary meetings in January and February of 2022 between the three

parties (Cardenas, Miyazaki and the professor). These meetings are where the proposal of retirement was made by the deans to the engineering professor, who has been identified as professor John Mertens in an

August *Inside Higher Ed* article. Prior to these meetings, Cardenas and Miyazaki reached out to Mertens via email to discuss a "confidential personnel matter," which prompted the first meeting where Mertens

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Arunan Arulampalam Emerges Victorious in Hartford Democratic Mayoral Primary

IQRA ATHAR '26
NEWS EDITOR

In Connecticut's primary elections on Sept. 12, a closely watched mayoral race unfolded in Hartford, Connecticut's capital. Three Democratic contenders vied for the mayoral position as incumbent Mayor Luke Bronin chose not to seek re-election.

Arulan Arulampalam emerged as the winner of the Democratic primary, positioning himself as the front-runner for the November mayoral election. Arulampalam, the CEO of the Hartford Land Bank, a nonprofit focused on redeveloping vacant properties, secured a decisive victory with approximately 40% of the 5,155 votes cast, making him the Democratic mayoral nominee.

Arulampalam's primary rivals included state Senator John W. Fonfara, age 67, and former superior court judge and state lawmaker Senator Eric

D. Coleman, age 72. Despite their extensive political backgrounds, they were unable to outshine Arulampalam's campaign.

After his victory, in an address to his supporters at Dunkin Park, Arulampalam outlined his vision for Hartford, which includes affordable housing, community safety and increased neighborhood investments. His campaign also emphasizes funding for small businesses, homeownership in Hartford neighborhoods and enhancements to recreational programs, arts, music and academics in each neighborhood.

Outgoing Mayor Luke Bronin endorsed Arulampalam, further boosting his campaign.

Initial unofficial returns from Arulampalam's campaign indicated that he secured approximately 40% of the votes, with Coleman and Fonfara trailing behind. Neither of his opponents conceded defeat on the night of the primary.



ARUNAN ARULAMPALAM (PHOTO COURTESY OF CT MIRROR)

Subsequent city-released results confirmed Arulampalam's lead, with him securing exactly 39.59% of the vote, Coleman earning 30.53% and Fonfara receiving 29.87%. The primary witnessed a voter turnout of approximately 14%.

Arulampalam's campaign, devoid of specific racial, geographic or elec-

tive affiliations, was noteworthy in Hartford's diverse demographic setting. Hailing from Zimbabwe with Sri Lankan parents who had fled persecution, he earned the Democratic town committee's endorsement in July. Despite modest voter turnout, Arulampalam emphasized community engagement.

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This year, the *Tripod* is revamping our letter to the editor program. While we welcome contributions to our Opinion section, the letter to the editor program promotes continued conversation around ongoing topics published in the paper, and allows a direct response to a certain article. To submit, please email your 500-word signed letter to tripod@trincoll.edu. Typically these will be published on our website.

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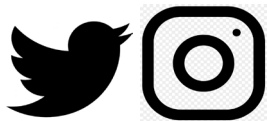
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CORRECTIONS

Clarification regarding the Sept. 12 piece titled "St. Anthony Hall Chapter Suspended for Three Years Following Hazing Investigation." The section stating, "All students who were associated with St. Anthony Hall during the 2022-2023 school year are banned from taking part in any Greek Life activities, whether official events or off-campus parties, for the duration of the suspension," does not include Greek Life activities involving other Greek organizations on campus. The ban is only limited to activities affiliated with St. Anthony's Hall, and previous Hall members are free to attend social events of other organizations on campus.

Letter From the Editor

Don't Be a Chicken, Leave the Coop

Beyond the walls of Trinity College, our campus is surrounded by a diverse ecosystem of people, cultures and attractions. September brings us the promise of many exciting things: back to school, the beginning of fall and the first cycle of elections. On Sept. 12, the Hartford primary resulted in a slate of Democratic candidates ready for the November elections that lie ahead of us.

But many students likely did not know about this election or many other exciting events that fill Hartford with vibrancy. What many students may also be unaware of is the impact they could, and do, have on the city. As college students, we have the ability to register to vote in the new places we call home for four years. This gives us the power to challenge systems and governments, to create a place we would like to see, and our homes on Summit, Allen and Broad make us neighbors with Hartford citizens. Our presence – good and bad – is known and felt.

It's not surprising that many students do not feel integrated into the city – take a look at the gates that line the edges of campus and the hill we sit on. Despite being surrounded by this urban environment, we are separated from it, lifted out of it to look down at our neighbors. We all remember what people said to us when we chose to come here, and what people may still frequently say to us today: "Oh, but it's in Hartford, right?" "Don't go off campus!" We are taught from the moment that we accept our place on this campus that we should stay on it.

Yes, we live in an urban area and like many other large and diverse cities, there is a need to be aware

of your surroundings. Think of the age we live in, though. In our own state of Connecticut, shootings happen in elementary schools in suburbs. Movie theaters and places of worship are not safe either. Regardless of where we are, we unfortunately must always be on guard. Here on campus, our safety is not guaranteed either. And with all the warnings to not go beyond the gates, "the outside" seems so much scarier. However, we also fail to recognize that our presence in the Frog Hollow neighborhood is equally scary and intimidating for our neighbors. Their homes and communities become taken over by college students who are not always quiet, respectful and... sober.

Only recently has Trinity embraced this city as a part of its identity – for a long time the fact that Trinity is in Hartford, and WE live in Hartford, was brushed over in the selling points of the College. But now, you see the slogan "liberal arts community meets real world connection" all over the website. So, the College embraces the Hartford location for their promotional materials, but once we get to campus, do WE embrace it?

Do we realize that we have the power to live outside the gates and impact the land we live on? We can register to vote. We can attend churches in the area. There are libraries, art galleries, museums and so many other public spaces to enjoy and even utilize for our learning. Even if you're just looking for a fun night out with your friends, there are restaurants, bars and social events that do not require an Uber to West Hartford or Piggy's formals.

It's our job to explore... but it's also our job to impact, to improve, to contribute – residency is not a one way street. Trinity is a non-profit institution, which means it does not pay taxes. The College does not contribute to the benefit of the surrounding community in the same way that a family living on Broad Street pays their property taxes. As Trinity students we have a stake in what happens to Hartford, even if we don't realize it.

A lot of students express frustration at the limitations of Trinity – social life is limited to fraternities and dorm parties, eating options are limited to Mather, Bistro and the Cave on campus – but there is a way to push yourself beyond these walls. Walk, Uber, take the bus (it is free as a student!) to one of the many restaurants that neighbor us with a diverse variety of options. Try something new! There are more than those in Blue Back Square and Parkville Market. Visit an art museum or a park, see a show at one of Hartford's several theaters. Take your hot girl walk in a surrounding neighborhood, and stop by a local bodega for a water on your way home.

We are incredibly lucky to go to school in this environment. If we are in college to become diverse, independent thinkers and to learn and grow, what better opportunity to do so than venturing beyond the perimeters of our campus?

-Sammi Bray &
Olivia Silvey

Want to Join the Tripod Staff?

We are always looking for new staff to join our team this year. If you are interested in writing or contributing, please contact either Sammi Bray or Olivia Silvey through email, which can be found on our website, or the general email, tripod@trincoll.edu!

NEWS

Deans Violate Faculty Manual, College Policies, Continued

continued from page one

was told that he was the “sole person responsible for the dysfunctional operations in the department,” per his complaint to the AFC, by the deans. Cardenas and Miyazaki did not share any specific allegations or findings about him supposedly held in the report. The deans then suggested that he choose a phased retirement plan, which would mean Mertens could teach for two more years. If he accepted this, the allegedly incriminating climate assessment would stay sealed and they would not report his alleged actions to the College’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office (DEI).

At the next meeting about two weeks later, Cardenas and Miyazaki revoked the option for phased retirement. Instead, they told Mertens that he had 24 hours to decide to retire at the end of the semester, and if he did not choose retirement in that timeframe, the report would be sent to DEI. They also stated his potential emeritus status — a distinguished professorial title — post-retirement would be threatened if he did not agree to retire at the end of the semester. The deans still declined to share the contents of the assessment with Mertens at this second meeting. When asked to comment on the story, Cardenas stated, “The *IHE* article refers to a confidential personnel matter. What I can say is that Professor Mertens was not pressured to retire. In fact, an independent external expert investigated Professor Mertens’ allegations and concluded that the deans’ actions were fully appropriate. These actions were consistent with college policies

and best practices regarding complaints of discrimination. As a reminder, at Trinity, every member of the community, including a dean, can and should report complaints of discrimination; this is a protected activity under the law. Contrary to what the article says, there is no constitutional crisis at Trinity.”

According to the AFC report, there were multiple actions made by the deans in these two meetings and related correspondences that are considered to be acts of maladministration. First was the deans’ decision to intervene in the “serious allegations” instead of immediately reporting them to DEI and/or Human Resources (both of which did eventually happen). The report reads, “it is simply not the Dean of Faculty’s place to suggest retirement as an option in response to un-investigated allegations, especially since the issue of retirement seems not to have been introduced by Professor X [Mertens].”

Second was the deans withholding details of Mertens’ supposed allegations while simultaneously using those allegations to coerce the professor into retirement. The report reads, “the conversation should have focused on process... discussing the possibility of retirement with a faculty member at a meeting whose purpose is to convey the existence of but not the content of serious allegations against them is coercive.”

Additionally, the deans broke the confidentiality promised to the engineering department at the beginning of the climate assessment, which was originally announced in August 2021. In their meetings with Mertens, they cited this confidentiality

as reasoning for not sharing the content of the allegations with him, yet in March 2022, Cardenas sent Pamela Whitley, Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Compliance, the supposed allegations; in June 2022, Michelle Cabral of the Human Resources Department (HR) filed a formal complaint against Mertens for the still-unknown allegations, meaning that they were also shared with HR. The report reads, “... these allegations, which arose from discussions had under the pretense of confidentiality, did not remain with the Dean’s office; they were sent to the Office of DEI and to HR.”

Mertens was notified of an investigation into his still-unknown allegations by DEI in early May 2022. This investigation would be conducted by outside lawyer Scott Roberts, just as the original climate assessment was conducted by an outside lawyer, Kevin Kinne. According to the Ombud report, the referral of the allegations by the Dean of Faculty’s office to DEI is a violation of the procedures in the Non-Discrimination Policy. The Faculty Ombud, identified by *Inside Higher Ed* as philosophy department professor Shane Ewegen, serves as an “impartial and confidential investigator,” according to the Faculty Manual. The Ombud report reads, “the [Non-Discrimination] policy states that if a person brings a complaint to one of the specified offices (such as the DOF office), that office can generate a report and refer the matter to the office of DEI. But this is not what has happened here. Rather, the DOF drew upon information gathered in the Climate Assessment, wrote a report, and

sent it to the office of DEI... the DOF office was not referring a complaint brought to them by an individual (or even a group of individuals), but rather referring a summary of an assessment that they themselves had conducted.” The Ombud qualifies this as maladministration. When asked to comment on the story, Ewegen stated that “Although nothing prevents me, as Faculty Ombud, from speaking about certain aspects of this case, for the time being I would rather not. I will only urge everyone to read the various documents that have been made public and to consider their implications carefully. The form — and even the very existence — of democratic governance at Trinity depends upon how the faculty, administration, trustees, and students respond to this situation. The future is in our hands.”

The DEI investigation into Mertens’ allegations lasted approximately 10 months. In March 2023, Mertens sent the AFC an excerpted copy of Roberts’ report, which found no supporting evidence that Mertens violated the Non-Discrimination Policy, therefore exonerating him from the climate assessment allegations. The report reads, “the only first-hand allegations of discriminatory conduct by Professor Mertens towards students came from XXXXXXXX... No other students nor any faculty members that spoke with the investigators stated that they had personally observed any discriminatory conduct by Professor Mertens.”

The singular first-hand allegations were from student XXXXXXXX ’18. These complaints had already been investigated and resolved

twice before Roberts’ investigation, and this was known by Cardenas, who was deeply involved with the 2020 investigation of these complaints. The only other findings from the report potentially negatively reflecting on Mertens involved his dealings with another professor’s teaching, with an alleged insinuation that Mertens felt comfortable doing so because of the professor’s national origin. The report reads, “The testimonial and documentary evidence demonstrate that Professor Mertens repeatedly raised concerns about Professor YYYYYY’s alleged use of teaching assistants and student labor while Professor Mertens was the department chair, and that Professor Mertens’ concerns continued even after his term as chair concluded. The evidence further reflects that Professor Mertens’s concerns were not imaginary or unjustified...” Ultimately, Roberts found nothing recent, substantial and un-investigated in his report about Mertens.

When asked to comment on the story, Mertens stated that “There have been two investigations of Dean Cardenas that each perfectly followed the written policies of the college. Each resulted in 16+ page reports detailing maladministration, abuse of power and retaliation against me. The administration is refusing to acknowledge the contents of the reports. Instead the administration is trying to rewrite college policy in such a way that they can claim the investigations shouldn’t have been performed. They have also impugned the motivations of the investigators, which is appalling.”

This is an ongoing story.

Hartford Primary, Continued

continued from page one

On election day, Arulampalam and his family, including three adopted children and twins, voted at the Learning Corridor, a neighborhood school complex located across the street from Trinity College. However, only 1,362 of 38,000 registered Democrats had voted citywide by noon, illustrating the challenge of mobilizing voters in the community.

Arulampalam and his rivals invested less in identifying and mobilizing supporters compared to Mayor Bronin’s previous campaigns.

Notably, the absence of a candidate with a Spanish name on the ballot marked a shift in Hartford’s political landscape, where the constituency is largely made up of Hispanic residents.

Arulampalam spent \$377,000 leading up to the election, while Fonfara and Coleman spent \$330,000 and \$149,000, respectively. Both Arulampalam and Fonfara turned to costly television advertising on major networks in the Hartford-New Haven television market to reach voters, given the difficulty in reaching them via phone or door-knocking.

Arulampalam’s victory heralds a new era for Hartford, addressing issues such as high poverty, low income and substantial tax-exempt properties. His focus on downtown investments, housing and education will be pivotal.

While the primary had a moderate turnout, Arulampalam’s victory marks a significant change in Hartford’s politics. It reflects a new leader committed to addressing the city’s challenges. As he prepares for the November mayoral election, Hartford residents anticipate a dynamic campaign.

Are you interested in registering to vote in Hartford?

Here is important info to know:

If you are already registered to vote in another state, you may choose to vote by casting an absentee ballot in that state. Visit myvote.ct.gov, for more info and links to other Secretary of States’ websites.

To register to vote in CT:

There are two different ways you can register to vote in CT. You are able to register online if you have a CT DMV ID, otherwise you are able to complete a paper registration card and deliver it to your local Registrar of Voters before the registration deadlines. CT also has Election Day Registration available.

ALL INFO COURTESY OF CT.GOV

Indian Prime Minister Modi Signals Name Change for Country in Recent G20 Summit Session

TUSHNA ELAVIA '26
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During the G20 summit held in Delhi on Sept. 9 and 10, Narendra Modi, the current Prime Minister, used the name Bharat instead of India in all official G20 Summit materials, sparking controversy across the country. While India is the more globally recognized name for the country, both Bharat and India are official names for the nation and are often used interchangeably. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was elected in 2014 and is a member of the Bharatiya

Janata Party, which represents more conservative and nationalist values.

Even though the terms India and Bharat have been extensively politicized, they are synonyms and are used interchangeably in English and several Indian languages. Bharat is an approximately two thousand year old Sanskrit term and undeniably has historic connections to the land; however, many citizens have questioned the intentions behind the sudden name change. The most probable explanation for the name change is the rising popularity of the opposition alli-

ance I.N.D.I.A (“The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance”), which currently comprises of approximately twenty-six participating parties. The Alliance is overseen by the Indian National Congress, the opposition to the Bharatiya Janata Party, which Prime Minister Modi belongs to. Referring to the country as Bharat instead of India, suggests that the Bharatiya Janata Party, upholds the “native” values of the country on a global forum. There are speculations Prime Minister Modi’s choice may signal an upcoming official name change

for the country during the special parliamentary session on Sept. 18. However,

the Modi administration is yet to comment on any plans for this session.



PRIME MINISTER MODI (PHOTO COURTESY OF FOREIGN POLICY)

In a Landmark Decision, Mexico’s Supreme Court Rules to Decriminalize Abortion

LUCY SHELDON '27
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Advocates for women’s reproductive rights enjoyed a win on Wednesday, Sept. 6, when Mexico’s Supreme Court decriminalized abortions. In a notably radical decision for a country with a vast Catholic population, the Supreme Court ultimately found any law that prohibited abortions to be unconstitutional. Citizens across the country celebrated this as a successful day for women in Mexico and a triumphant demonstration of the power of the people.

Abortion first became legal in some liberal Mexican states and Mexico City in the early 2000s. There was not a federal law or ruling that secured the right to abortion throughout the entire country until 2021, over two decades later, when the Supreme Court of Mexico repealed a law in the state of Coahuila that punished women who received an abortion with a prison sentence. Immediately following the ruling in Coahuila, the Supreme Court also dismissed a section of the Sinaloa State Constitution that protected the embryo’s life in the womb from the moment of conception.

Although the decisions released in 2021 may have only changed the statutes of two respective states, they expanded accessibility for safe, legal abortions throughout Mexico and set a precedent for future cases concerning

reproductive rights. Furthering these two decisions, Mexico’s Supreme Court ruled in favor of a nationwide decriminalization of abortions. While this is not an overt legalization of abortions across Mexico, this ruling prevents women from being imprisoned for terminating a pregnancy, which is a massive stride towards making abortions more accessible.

While this decision did not legalize abortions in Mexico, as Roe v. Wade did in the United States when it was released in 1973, women and abortion providers are now protected from having

legal action taken against them for receiving or administering abortions. The September 6th ruling’s other implications include a new requirement that all federal health institutions and public health services must offer abortion services. As twelve of thirty-two Mexican states already have legalized abortions, there is also an increased possibility for abortions to become ubiquitously legalized in the country.

The advancement of women’s reproductive rights in Mexico over the last twenty-three years has become a source of encouragement for

abortion advocates across the world, particularly after the overturning of Roe v. Wade in the United States. The United States Supreme Court’s decision to overturn the right to receive an abortion left many dismayed, as a ruling that federally legalized abortions for nearly half a century was suddenly eradicated.

Since the overturning of Roe v. Wade, there have been drastic changes in abortion accessibility throughout the United States. As of 2023, up to thirteen states have almost total abortion bans in place. Before the 2022 Supreme Court decision in

Dobbs v. Jackson’s Women’s Health Organization (2022), the only two states with bans limiting legal abortions to twenty weeks or less were Texas and Oklahoma. In line with the divisive nature of abortion in politics, the reactions to these respective Supreme Court decisions show the deep polarization that surrounds this issue, in both Mexico and the United States. However, for many women’s rights activists across the world, the recent rulings in Mexico have restored confidence in the fight for justice and the power of democracy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

OPINION

We've Made a Spectacle Out of Kanye West — That's Racist

IFUNAYA OBIDIKE '27
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kanye West's career in entertainment began with frequent advocacy for Black justice in his music, but has since evolved into a continuous series of anti-Black and anti-Semitic remarks. Without a doubt, West should be condemned for his bigoted comments.

Yet that is not the only thing happening; we've given a microphone to a man who's evidently struggling with his mental health and have made memes out of it. Why is it that the mental illnesses of Black individuals aren't taken seriously? The media's disregard for Black figures with mental illness is a phenomenon that should be studied in order to implement change.

In 2002, West and actor Mike Myers were invited by NBC News to deliver a scripted message on live television to the millions affected by Hurricane Katrina. Instead, West used his limited time on screen to condemn President George Bush's treatment of Black Americans who endured the hurricane.

Clearly shaken by Katrina and the response to it, West said, "I hate the way

they portray us in the media. If you see a Black family it says they're looting, if you see a white family it says that they're looking for food." After Myers' segment, West famously added, "George Bush doesn't care about Black people." West received a dubious look from Myers before the program quickly transitioned to the next presenter.

Kanye West was, without a doubt, a pioneer for Black Americans; initially, he used his platform as a renowned celebrity to emphasize the injustices Black people face. In doing so, he inspired an entire generation of Black individuals. However, this stature quickly dissipated when West made anti-Black statements in an infamous 2018 interview with the tabloid TMZ.

West said, "when you hear about slavery for four hundred years... for four hundred years? That sounds like a choice. You was there for four hundred years and it's all of y'all?" Unsurprisingly, this comment left many viewers extremely disgusted.

West did not stop there. For much of 2022, he appeared on various podcasts and live interviews attacking the Black and Jewish communities. He also

took to his personal social media accounts on Instagram and Twitter to continue this wave of bigotry.

As a Black person, reading and listening to West's hateful words feels oppressive. But what I find almost more oppressive is the media's decision to play into his antics, knowing that West—who has spoken openly about his continued struggles with bipolar disorder—

"The media's mistreatment of Black celebrities is a pattern, not just occurring in the case of West."

has a mental illness.

Broadcasters like Piers Morgan should understand that West is not going to provide anything of substance when he appears on the show. Yet West was still invited for an hour-and-a-half-long interview on *Piers Morgan Uncensored*. Morgan likely expected that West was going to deliver a prejudiced statement; the shock value, controversy, and resulting virality are exactly what Morgan wanted.

The media's mistreatment of Black celebrities is a pattern, not just occurring in the case of West. Britta-

ny Johnson, better known by her screen name Lovely Peaches, is another example of a Black celebrity whose mental illness has been exploited for entertainment purposes. Johnson gained notoriety on the social media platform TikTok after her unruly pictures and videos gained attention. Accusations against Johnson range from child endangerment to flashing minors on

Sarah Silverman, a Jewish comedian, shares a similar fate with Gibson. She has been open about her struggles with depression and is no stranger to the discussion of mental health. In a 2007 sketch of her Comedy Central show *The Sarah Silverman Program*, she donned blackface as a comedy act. She claimed that the goal of this sketch was to "see whether it is more difficult to be Black or Jewish." Did she effectively reach her objective through this sketch? Seemingly not. Still, despite these problematic actions, Silverman continues to secure major roles in Hollywood, clearly facing minimal backlash for her offenses.

In contrast to these cases, the media has decided to "point the finger and laugh" at Kanye West. His comments are undoubtedly worthy of condemnation, and mental health struggles are not justification for hateful rhetoric. However, TV shows and news platforms have profited by facilitating the further spiraling of West's mental health. While this may not have racist intent, it is undoubtedly yielding a racist result in this disparity.

her live streams. These are serious, troubling allegations, yet we've made memes out of the woman when she is clearly struggling.

White celebrities do not have their mental illnesses exploited to the degree that Black celebrities do. For example, actor Mel Gibson, who's spoken openly about his bipolar diagnosis, has made anti-Semitic, racist and homophobic statements similar to West's. While Gibson was also exposed and condemned for his repeated bigoted comments, he was not put on display in the same way that West has been.

"We Girls Can Do Anything," Like Passing Chinese Propaganda, But Not Make Choices for Ourselves

SARAH DAJANI '26
OPINION EDITOR

Cinestudio is showing "Barbie" on Friday, Sept. 22. This is a stronger stance than you might think.

From being banned in a number of countries for demoting the 'job of women,' i.e., founding a family and having children, to being accused of manipulating "the American public into consuming Chinese propaganda" via taking a "clear" stance on international conflicts. Why is "Barbie" scaring lawmakers and nation leaders?

The supposed propaganda claims that "Barbie" depicted a map that reinforces China's territorial claims in the South China Sea. The map in question depicts England as bordering Asia. With a crown on top. So what is people's real problem with "Barbie"?

Directed by a woman, "Barbie" explores the complexity of thought a woman goes through on an al-

most day to day basis. For example, the movement from looking down at the pregnant Barbie in the beginning of the movie to acknowledging the miraculous power - that is punished in our society - which enables women to maintain the existence of human life, is a symbolism for a 'choice' between having a career and founding a family many women are led to think through every day of their life. Full of imperfections, "Barbie" brilliantly highlights the beauty standards that are placed on women that even Margot Robbie (stereotypical Barbie) struggles to meet. Although, because it is a woman's mind, the narrator (actress Judi Dench) notes that Margot Robbie is not a perfect casting choice for this scene!

Barbie has more than 250 careers under her belt. One explanation of the Kens' parochialism could be that Kens are not ready to live on their own. We often talk about seeking independence

as a woman's interest, but "Barbie" highlights that "only the Kens of the world need their consciousness raised." Once released from radical patriarchy, women have proven excellent adaptability to their work outside and inside of their homes, while Kens still struggle to make it on their own... I can assure you this is still true, judging from college men's bathrooms.

Coincidentally, the war on "Barbie" comes alongside the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* and a decline in the world's population which economists predict will cause a severe shortage in labor supply. This theory is by no means unfounded or even recent. For years, the researcher Silvia Federici has been arguing that "for as long as reproductive work is devalued, as long it is considered a private matter and a women's responsibility, women will always confront capital and the state with less power than men." Yet, we see the incompati-

ble contradiction between the full responsibility that a woman has to take in terms of leaves from work and child related expenses and the increasing nation-scale restrictions that the state has been placing on women's rights. So although reproductive rights are selec-

tively treated as private or public matters to serve the economy's best probabilities.

So does "Barbie" have flaws? Definitely. Is this the reason behind the war on "Barbie"? Seems like it is not. Please come wearing pink to the screening. The picture below of Maria Galochkina '26 is the appropriate attitude to show up with!



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH DAJANI '26

Remember Clair Engle's Fight for What is Right: Congressman Fireball's Struggle for 'The Little Man'

KASH JAIN '24
OPINION EDITOR

In 1958, then-Congressman Clair Engle was elected to represent California in the United States Senate.

Engle, the son of a cattle rancher, built a reputation at a young age; he was known for picking fights with bullies and winning a race for school president by pulling together students from rural areas against candidates from the town. In 1934, at just 23 years old, he became the Tehama County District Attorney. He briefly served in the California State Senate before winning a special election to the House of Representatives, then running for the higher chamber fifteen years later.

He was a casual pilot, an avid fan of cigars, energetic, and outspoken, eventually given the nickname "Congressman Fireball" by his colleagues. Despite the bold moniker, Engle was a diligent man and an effective legislator who focused on issues that were anything but fiery: water conservation, mining, and irrigation.

Engle was a conservative, anti-bureaucracy Democrat who always fought for "the

little man." He represented a brand of politics that's faded with time, heavily-local and always remembering the rugged, snow-capped mountains and lush valleys of his home, not uncompromising, but never one to back down from fighting for what he believed in. He was charismatic and unimpeachable, a real-life version of Frank Capra's Mr. Smith.

In August 1963, Engle was left partially paralyzed after a surgery to remove a brain tumor. Following persistent health issues and a session where he tried to introduce a resolution but was unable to speak, Engle ceased his plans to run for re-election. It was soon apparent that he was unlikely to serve out the remainder of his term.

It was a trying time for the nation, but a moment with true potential. America found itself fearful of threats abroad, marching against freedom in a campaign of paranoia as the specter of war crept over the nation. The Civil Rights Movement had reached a crescendo as Washington finally began to pay attention to calls for the government to take a stand against racial discrimination.

As the economic boom of the post-war era faded and the 1960s began, many Americans were eager for change.

Engle, too, was ready for change. His conservative inclination was trumped by his continued fight for "the little man," and he became a proponent of civil rights legislation, changing with the times and the asks of his constituents.

The defining moment of Engle's career would come in the summer of 1964. Proponents of the Civil Rights Act had spent months trying to shepherd it through the Senate. It was a complex, bipartisan effort, with leaders in both chambers and President Lyndon B. Johnson lobbying for its passage. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield needed to win over the members of his party, and he had to ensure that Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen would not only support but actively fight to secure Republican votes on a key component of the Democratic President's agenda.

Even with the support of both parties' Senate leaders, proponents of the bill were faced with the uphill fight of securing 67 votes

for cloture to end debate on the bill and allow it to pass, something that had never successfully happened for civil rights legislation.

On the morning of June 10, 1964, Senator Robert Byrd ended his filibuster, and the Senate embarked on one of the most important votes of

ter what it takes to do so.

In today's politics, there are far too many who reject this notion, be they show-horses or those with ill intent. The airwaves are dominated by those with egos too large for the screens they speak through, elected officials who use their positions

"As interparty divisions seem to grow even sharper and people's lives become weapons for political gains, those who seek and wield political power would do well to remember what Engle stood for."

the century. Engle was transported by ambulance to the Senate, facing terminal illness and unable to speak, but still ready to fulfill his duty.

When the secretary called for the vote of "Mr. Engle," the Senator slowly raised a hand to his eye and pointed at it thrice, wordlessly casting his vote in favor of cloture on the Civil Rights Act. He would do the same days later when the bill was given a vote of passage.

It was not until the 96th vote, Delaware Senator John Williams, that cloture was reached: the remaining Senators all voted in favor of cloture, bringing the total vote to 71-29. The ferocity of that effort, the joining of forces between political foes, seems unimaginable today, especially for an issue as unfortunately contentious as civil rights. The fight to set aside politics and do good, at both the individual and institutional level, is not what it once was.

50 days after that vote, and 28 days after Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law, Senator Clair Engle passed away in his sleep. He was 52 years old.

In the nearly sixty years since Engle's death, his name has largely faded from public consciousness. He may have left behind a relatively tame legacy, the products of much of his work too niche for the average American to notice, but that single vote was enough to solidify his name as one that stood for something. Congressman Fireball, flashy in demeanor but sincere in effort, stands as an example of an old sentiment of American politics: that one must fight for those that they represent and for the people of the nation, that one must take a stand for what is right no mat-

to drive animus towards those who are already the target of it. They stall progress, and profit in doing so.

The likes of Senator Engle have all but vanished. There are few political officials willing to put in the time and energy to better their communities and country. There are even fewer that are willing to take a stand, to fight for what is right even if it means personal sacrifice.

This doesn't mean that fighters have vanished entirely. They can still be found on the ground, organizing and building movements for change — but even in a world that's more connected than ever before, their efforts are too often drowned out by the rancor of heartless suits more interested in performing than producing something of value.

Engle looked out for local interests, ensuring that he delivered for the people he represented. But, beyond that, he ensured that those who were at a disadvantage had someone to fight for them in Washington — even as he was dying.

As interparty divisions seem to grow even sharper and people's lives become weapons for political gains, those who seek and wield political power would do well to remember what Engle stood for. Political actors across the nation should take a step back and ensure that they are fulfilling the duties of their positions, and, if they can, going above and beyond in the fight for good. Perhaps, in a world with more officials like Engle, the changes that need to be made to secure a better tomorrow will have the fighters that they need to be realized.



SENATOR CLAIR ENGLE (COURTESY OF U.S. SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE)

FEATURES

Empowering Bonds Across Age Levels: Trinity College's Longstanding Big Sister Little Sister Program

JULIA PECORA '25
FEATURES EDITOR

Transitioning from high school to college can be an overwhelming experience, full of uncertainties and questions. However, at Trinity College, a supportive program known as the Big Sister Little Sister Program, facilitated by the Women and Gender Resource and Action Center (WGRAC), aims to ease this transition by fostering meaningful connections between students. This initiative not only provides invaluable guidance but also creates lasting bonds among Trinity's young women.

The Big Sister Little Sister Program pairs first-year students with volunteer students from higher grades, offering a friendly hand to navigate the uncharted waters of college life. The fun begins over the summer when these dynamic duos are connected, setting the stage for a supportive relationship that extends well be-

yond the first semester.

One of the program's core features is the opportunity for first-year students to ask their "big sisters" questions about move-in day and the college transition. This resource provides students with insider insights and tips to make their entry into Trinity as seamless as possible. From housing details to course registration advice, these conversations set the stage for a successful academic journey.

Throughout the academic year, WGRAC organizes a series of engaging events for these mentor-mentee pairs. Past activities have ranged from apple-picking excursions, where the bond between sisters deepens amidst the orchard's bounty, to creative cookie decorating nights that bring out the artistic flair in everyone. There are also meet-and-greet sessions held in the warm and welcoming WGRAC office, creating a safe and inclusive space for open dialogue

and friendship building.

This year, the excitement is palpable as big and little sisters eagerly prepare to venture into the apple orchards once again in early October. It's not just about plucking apples, it's about the laughter shared, the stories swapped and the connections strengthened during these outings. These events provide students with opportunities to bond outside the classroom, fostering a sense of community and belonging that is vital during the college years.

The Big Sister Little Sister Program is more than just a mentorship; it's an embodiment of Trinity's commitment to empowering its students, particularly its women. The bonds formed between big and little sisters extend beyond practical advice and into a supportive network that helps young women navigate the complexities of college life.

Laura Lockwood, the head of WGRAC, is enthusiastic about encour-



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aging more inspired Trinity women to become big sisters. By reaching out to Laura via email, laura.lockwood@trincoll.edu, interested individuals can receive more information about how to participate in this enriching experience and make a positive impact on the lives of their fellow students.

The Big Sister Little Sister Program at Trinity stands as a testament to the institution's dedication to fostering a close-knit and supportive com-

munity. It exemplifies the idea that the college experience isn't just about academics; it's also about forming meaningful connections and finding a network of support that lasts a lifetime. As Trinity continues to uphold its commitment to empowering its students, programs like these remind us that we are all part of a larger community, where mentorship, friendship and guidance go hand in hand to create an enriching and fulfilling college journey.

Exploring American Identity: "American Letters" FYS

JULIA PECORA '25
FEATURES EDITOR

In the heart of academia, there's a unique class offered at Trinity College, one that delves deep into the intricate fabric of American identity. Aptly named "American Letters," this First-Year Seminar, under the guidance of professor Hilary Wyss, is more than just another course—it is an opportunity for students to embark on a journey of self-discovery through exploring a deeper connection to America. As students step into the shoes of their fellow peers and explore their diverse stories of how they came to be part of this land, they uncover a richer understanding of our collective American identity.

"American Letters" is not your typical seminar. It is a celebration of the eclectic mix of backgrounds and narratives that converge within its classroom. The core essence of this course revolves around the exploration of individual students' relationships with their American identity. Whether it's an international student who has come to the United States

to pursue their education, or someone whose ancestors arrived on the shores of Ellis Island decades ago, this class is a buffet of stories, experiences and perspectives that illuminate the multifaceted nature of the American identity.

Professor Wyss, a distinguished scholar in American literature, guides her students through a carefully curated syllabus that traverses the annals of American history and literature. With her expertise and passion, she encourages students to critically engage with texts that reflect the various facets of American identity. Through the exploration of classic works by people like Frederick Douglass, and even Trinity's own Davarian Baldwin, professor of American studies, students gain insights into the complex tapestry of this nation's history and culture.

What sets "American Letters" apart from other courses is the sense of community it fosters. Each student's unique journey to the classroom adds depth and richness to the discussions. It's not just about studying American identity from a distance; it's

about living it, experiencing it and sharing it. The diversity of perspectives allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate threads that bind us together as Americans.

One of the distinctive features of this seminar is the complementary tutoring session offered at Peter B's. This mentorship not only enhances the students' academic experience but also reinforces the sense of community and support within the class. It's a weekly opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the course material and forge meaningful connections.

"American Letters" is not just a seminar—it's a journey. A journey of self-discovery, empathy and connection with our fellow students and the nation we call home. Through the exploration of our individual stories, we come to understand that our differences are what make us stronger as a community. Professor Wyss has crafted a remarkable educational experience that leaves a lasting impact on students, helping them navigate the complexities of American identity with grace and introspection.



"AMERICAN LETTERS" FRESHMAN YEAR SEMINAR 2023 (PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA PECORA '25)

A Vacation in Ireland: The Best Recommendations, Hidden Spots and Much More from an Irish Student

ASHLEY MCDERMOTT '26
STAFF WRITER

Rolling green fields, bustling pub life and grand fortresses. All sights that are rare throughout the U.S., but are scattered all over Ireland. This summer, I traveled to Ireland with my grandparents and brother. From Aug. 16 - 23, I was immersed in the culture and various destinations. Being a part of a tour group kept us busy, but it also ensured that we would discover the beauty Ireland has to offer.

We start in Dublin, an urban location that is home to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Stained glass windows line the walls, complementing the dark gray stones and Gothic architecture. We then loaded up our luggage and made our way over to Galway. On the way we stopped at Sean's Bar, the oldest pub in Ireland and all of Europe. It was established in 900 A.D., and some top beverages on the menu include Irish Coffee (whiskey and coffee), Bailey's and coffee and a pint of Guinness. Once we were settled in Galway, we took a catamaran boat tour of the Killary Harbor, which was the prime vessel to view the green mountains. We then explored Kylemore Abbey, where a Benedictine order of Nuns live. Besides

the Abbey and neo-Gothic Church, there's an enormous garden full of elaborate displays of flowers and trees. Not to mention, two friendly horses who are not afraid to approach guests and make friends with those who visit. In the days that followed, we watched a sheep dog demonstration, saw the incredible Cliffs of Moher, and drove through the Ring of Kerry.

My favorite spot we visited was the Blarney Castle. The grounds are over 60 acres large, and hold numerous gardens, trails, rivers and the infamous Blarney Castle. The castle looks like a stone fortress lost in time. Although parts of it are in ruin, the foundation and layout remains intact. The main attraction is the Blarney Stone. Guests climb 109 steps to reach the top where you can oversee the rest of the grounds. The stone itself is built into the wall. Imagine the wall and ground of the top level forming an "L" shape. The stone is located in that 90 degree corner where the wall meets the floor. However, the floor connecting to the stone in the wall is gone, leaving a gaping hole that exposes a 90 foot drop. So what are you supposed to do at the top? Lay down on your back, hang your upper body upside down



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD TRAVELLER 73

into the hole (again, 90 feet up), reach out and kiss the Blarney Stone! Why? For the Gift of the Gab, of course. Legend has it that a man once saved a woman's son from drowning, and to repay him, she told him to kiss the stone to give him the gift of eloquence. Later on, that same man went to see Queen Elizabeth I. He owed her a large sum of tax money, in which he never had to pay, because he had "eloquently" talked his way out of it. The Queen claimed that it was a "load of blarney," which is where the stone gets its name.

Night life in Ireland is vibrant and boisterous. When walking down the street as the time approach-

es 10 p.m., music fills the area from numerous pubs. Folks walk up and down the strip, bouncing from bar to bar looking for their destination. One particular pub my brother and I checked out had two areas. The front being an older scene, with an acoustic guitar and conversation. The back room, however, was a college student's dream. A live band played some of the most well known rock songs, while people between 18 - 25 danced and enjoyed a few drinks. By the time the band wrapped up, the dance floor was full, and the music switched over to a DJ. I was surprised to hear plenty of songs that I recognized, and I was also

excited to hear the club songs native to Europe. The locals cheered and rallied when they heard these tunes. (In case you are curious, listen to "Freed from Desire" by Gala, or for a more traditional listen, check out "Drunken Lullabies" by Flogging Molly).

Visiting a place that has incredible destinations and an exciting nightlife has made an unforgettable vacation. While there are places with sunny beaches or cities with huge skyscrapers, there's no place like Ireland. With its greenery, castles, bar life, music, culture and its folklore, it's clear to me that I (and hopefully you) will once again, visit Ireland.

The Cornelia Center's New Coffee Spot on Campus

JORGE ESPINOZA-GONZALEZ '26
FEATURES EDITOR

Trinity College is making big changes to its campus this year. Along with the renovation of Mather Dining Hall comes an innovation to the Cornelia Center (previously known as Vernon Social): a new coffee machine. This latest endeavor of installing a cutting-edge coffee machine at the Cornelia Center is reflective of the growing demand for accessibility to coffee on campus apart from the Peter B's and the Underground. But is it worth it?

The Cornelia Center, a vibrant gathering place for students and staff alike, has always been a favored spot for casual meetings, study sessions, and unwinding between classes. So, when the demand for a new coffee spot increased, the

Cornelia Center was the first building considered to house the new facility.

The Costa coffee machine, a sleek and sophisticated model, was installed over the summer. It boasts a variety of features that set it apart from conventional coffee makers. The machine has a user-friendly touch screen interface, and the menu is available in English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and French. Users have an array of customizable options, including different syrups and cup sizes, and an impressive range of beverage choices, from traditional espresso to chai lattes. Don't worry — the milk is replaced every week to ensure freshness.

One of the most appealing aspects of the new coffee machine is its speed and efficiency. With the capacity to brew a fresh cup of coffee in under a min-

ute, it's become a time-saving boon for students and faculty members at the Career & Life Design.

Yet, some students, especially those known to be discerning about their coffee preferences, have not been quick to embrace the new addition. Concerns about the limitations of the machine, most notably, the fact that the machine only utilizes whole milk, are only growing. Other students miss the barista-customer conversations, especially when they act as breaks for those studying.

"I usually only buy coffee when I have a lot of work to do," said Frieda Seo '26. "I spend hours at a time in the library, by myself, and sometimes I buy coffee to have human interaction — you can't really have that with a machine."

Originally, the plan was to build a second Peter B's location. For

an unknown reason, ultimately a decision by Peter B's, the plan fell through, and the machine was implemented instead.

The Costa machine's prices are \$3.25 for a small/medium and \$3.75 for a large. Although the machine has a sign that reads 'Dining Dollars accepted here,' the machine does not, in fact, accept Dining Dollars, like the ones prom-

ised through the new dining pass. Notably, the machine, since its installation in late summer, has had to be repaired multiple times.

It's difficult to call its installation a success or a failure. As a safe rule-of-thumb, if you're not particularly picky about your milk preference, located on Vernon and need a quick energy boost; then this might be the machine for you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY COLLEGE WEBSITE

Arts & Entertainment

The Cinematic Event of the Year: Barbenheimer

HANNAH SMITH '26
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On July 21, 2023, theaters around the world were packed because of the cinematic event of the year. It became a renaissance for theatrical releases after thousands of theaters were forced to close their doors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every major movie either postponed its theatrical release or was digitally released through streaming platforms, plummeting the global box office. However, years later, the releases of “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” have had an astonishing effect on getting people back into theaters.

Greta Gerwig, director of “Lady Bird” and “Little Women,” has grown in popularity over the years as a gifted screenwriter and director. She has gained critical acclaim after her Academy Award nomination for Best Director, being the first woman in eight years to receive a nomination in that category. After news spread of Gerwig’s involvement in creating “Barbie,” audiences were immediately overjoyed, knowing how capable she is at creating incredible films. Once the cast was announced, excitement only grew. Having Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, America Ferrera, Kate McKinnon, Simu Liu, Michael Cera, Emma Mackey, Will Ferrell, Issa Rae, Kingsley Ben-Adir and so many more in a single film outside of a franchise movie is like nothing seen in recent cinematic history.

That was, until “Oppenheimer” was announced and audiences realized, if an actor wasn’t in “Barbie,” they were most likely in “Oppenheimer.” The cast includes Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Robert Downey Junior, Florence Pugh, Matt Damon, Rami Malek, Gary Oldman, Benny Safdie, Jack Quaid, Kenneth Branagh and more. Director Christopher Nolan is a household name in the film industry, creating blockbusters such as “Interstellar,” “Inception,” “The Prestige” and the “Dark Knight” trilogy. Having been nominated for four additional Academy Awards following his first nomination in 2002, Nolan has only grown in popularity amongst both cinephiles

and casual moviegoers.

It is hard to believe two films released on the same day with entirely different stories could captivate the world, encouraging millions of people to participate in what became known as the “Barbenheimer double feature.”

“Barbie” is a film about (wait for it) Barbie, one of the most well-known toys of all time, as she journeys from fantastical Barbieland into the big wide world, Venice Beach. She is forced to come to terms with the striking realization that the Barbies haven’t put an end to misogyny while Ken learns all about the patriarchy, returning to Barbieland to introduce misogynistic male dominance to the Barbies and Kens, and of course, just Alan. The film is filled with remarkable musical numbers, loving mother-daughter relationships, tear jerking reactions to existentialism, commentary on capitalist greed, as well as lots of brewski beers and horses.

Projected on the screen in the next room is a historical biopic of one of the most famous and morally ambiguous theoretical physicists in history, J. Robert Oppenheimer, the man responsible for the cre-

ation of the atomic bomb.

There are multiple timelines intertwined to create “Oppenheimer”: a young Robert Oppenheimer developing what is now known as quantum mechanics and nuclear physics, the inner workings of Los Alamos, home of the Manhattan Project, and Oppenheimer’s trial for suspicion of communist involvement in the early stages of World War II. “Oppenheimer” is a visually striking cinematic feat created without the use of computer-generated imagery (CGI), empowered by brilliant acting, momentous sound editing and a truly heartrending score.

At first glance, projected audiences for both of these films were believed to be entirely separate. Young girls would go to watch “Barbie” while “Oppenheimer” was for the “film bros,” a term used to describe men with rudimentary film knowledge and an aggressive attraction to Christopher Nolan films. However, this was not the case. This concept of “Barbenheimer” took on a life of its own on the internet, producing memes that encouraged everyone to see both “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer.”

There is merchandise

being sold combining the two films, images of a stereotypical Barbie standing in front of a massive nuclear explosion, and viral videos of people planning their outfits that would fit both aesthetics of the films. “Barbenheimer” became an international craze, eventually leading “Barbie” to gross over \$1.4 billion globally and “Oppenheimer” to reach almost \$900 million.

Not only did social media encourage world-wide intrigue, but both films used brilliant marketing techniques to get audiences to the theaters. The strategy of “Oppenheimer” was to utilize a clock counting down the seconds until it was released in theaters, reflecting the countdown until an atomic bomb explodes. The cast and crew also participated in a press tour, traveling the world to various festivals and opening nights, increasing anticipation through interviews, hinting at the film’s excellence, as well as displaying the cast’s chemistry on and off screen. One of the most effective marketing tools used was telling people to watch “Oppenheimer” in IMAX theaters. The film had been shot on IMAX 70mm film, which is the largest size available. The

film is 11 miles long and over 600 pounds. By explaining to audiences just how big this film is going to get, people were filing into IMAX 70mm theaters, of which there are only 30 worldwide, to not miss out on one of the greatest events in cinematic history.

“Barbie” on the other hand, took on a more aggressive marketing strategy that did not go to waste. Through hundreds of interviews, behind-the-scenes access and red carpet appearances, “Barbie” became a global sensation. Margot Robbie’s eye-catching fashion looks reflected vintage Barbie outfits over the years, displaying how perfectly the role was cast. Ryan Gosling’s “Kenergy” quickly made its way into millions of people’s vocabularies. Clothing stores were completely sold out of all pink apparel and custom Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling Barbie and Ken dolls were flying off the shelves. It became commonplace for all conversations to eventually wrap around to the Barbenheimer phenomenon.

After what felt like forever, “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” began their global theatrical runs, and the height of cinema’s potential was changed forever.



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A Celebration of Stand-Out Artists at the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards, from K-Pop to Selena Gomez

HANNAH LORENZO '24
A&E EDITOR

Best K-Pop: Stray Kids - "S-Class"

The K-pop boy group, Stray Kids, celebrated a huge milestone in the U.S. and South Korean music industry by winning the Best K-Pop award. Since debuting in 2018, Stray Kids grew in popularity alongside famous groups like BTS and Seventeen. Their song, "S-Class," released earlier in June, its lyrics depicting the group's successes after years of intense training and honing their talents in music and dance. Their performance of "S-Class" at the VMAs demonstrated their rapidfire rap beats, steady vocals, and polished dance movements.

PUSH Performance of the Year: TOMORROW X TOGETHER - "Sugar Rush Ride"

K-pop boy group, TOMORROW X TOGETHER, won the PUSH Performance of the Year, proving that the group maintains a strong trajectory as young artists. They performed their latest song, "Back for More" ft. Brazilian singer Annita, who won the Best Latin award. TOMORROW X TOGETHER along with Stray Kids are part of the rise of Asian music artists, breaking cultural and language barriers through music.

Best Afrobeats: Rema and Selena Gomez - "Calm Down"

Rema, Nigerian singer and rapper, won the Best Afrobeats award for his song, "Calm Down" ft. Selena Gomez, which reached over a billion streams on Spotify. Rema's achievement helped bring global attention to the afrobeats genre and the cultural significance it has within the transnational range of West African music. He is accompanied by artists, like Libianca, who amplify their stories of culture and identity through this genre.

Best R&B: SZA - "Shirt"

SZA is a force to be reckoned with in the R&B world. She won the Best R&B award for her song, "Shirt," from her popular 2022 album, "SOS." "Shirt" details the struggles of attaining love but also hints at a self-reflection of one's worth. Her unique set of vocals and beats shine through all her songs alongside her lyrics of vulnerability and growth. "Kill Bill" trended on TikTok, but music listeners should not miss out on this golden song.

Song of the Summer: Jung Kook ft. Latto - "Seven"

Performing as a solo artist, Jung Kook of the worldwide K-pop group BTS won the Song of the Summer award for his song, "Seven" ft. Latto, released in July. Jung Kook's song encompasses everything needed for a hit summer single: catchy lyrics, danceable melody, and impressive vocals and dance, of course. His smooth vocals and dance moves prove he is capable of standing on his own as a solo artist.

Video for Good: Dove Cameron "Breakfast"

Dove Cameron won the Video for Good award for her song, "Breakfast," sharing a message of women's rights and independence against the patriarchal restrictions of society. "Breakfast" became a global hit, uplifting women during an ongoing period of gender equality and identity. Cameron stands out for her evolving music career since her Disney Channel days and confidence in herself as an artist and woman.

"Guts" Review: Alt-Punk Album in a Dreamy Pop Aesthetic

RHIJU CHAKRABORTY '27
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After months of releasing singles and putting out easter eggs all teasing the arrival of her newest album, Olivia Rodrigo, former Disney Channel star turned overnight pop sensation, finally released her sophomore album, "Guts," on Sept. 8. The singer who had previously gained widespread recognition for her debut album "Sour," an album that shattered records and eventually earned the artist three Grammys, continued her exploration of the pop-rock genre, through the 12-set tracklist of "Guts."

The songs on her latest albums sonically range from soft-pop ballads ("Lacy"), gut-wrenching songs whose lyrics you can scream in the shower ("Vampire") and absolute punk songs inspired from the likes of late 2000 punk icons, like Hayley Williams.

With "Guts," Rodrigo did something provocative that went beyond just the lines of music. She did what very few female artists have been able to do in the past few decades

by choosing to not go through a sonic reinvention and continue where she left off with "Sour." Her pop contemporaries, most notably Taylor Swift and Beyonce, have had such a long lasting career in a field that has famously pigeon-holed its female artists, partly due to their ability to shapeshift through the different genres and eras.

It has almost become an expectation as a culture to want something completely new and fresh from the musicians we consume our music from, especially everytime they release new music. As it adds a level of excitement that transcends their music from just music to culture. Being an artist in the music industry has translated to being a full-on circus act that has to balance being on a tight-rope while juggling several different stunts all at once.

But despite the similar visual aesthetics of the album to her debut album "Sour," the 20-year-old Nevada native does experiment with new sounds in "Guts." Even her vocals sound a lot more mature than the voice we

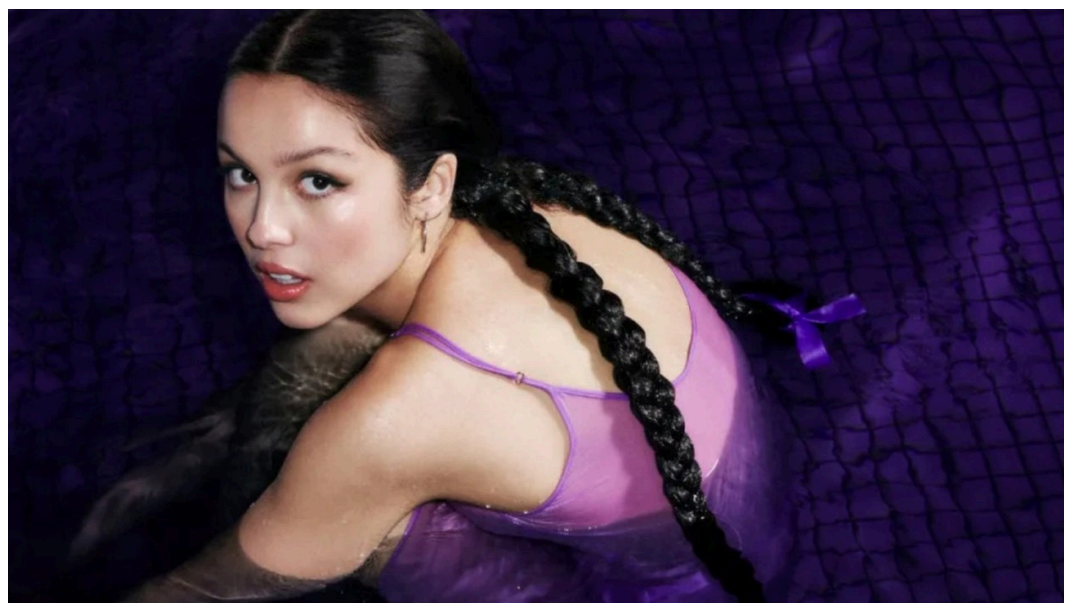
heard just a couple of years ago in "Sour." With the vocal growth, there has also been growth lyrically, with Rodrigo herself confessing to *Rolling Stone Magazine* that prior to starting this album, she had no idea where to begin. This was a major difference from when she'd started working on her debut album "Sour," where she'd used heartbreak as a musical motivator. Despite the lack of inspiration, she utilized a work ethic with her co-writer Dan Nigro that allowed her to truly create

a sense of discipline for herself to get the album finished.

"Guts," lyrically, is surprisingly more sour than the artist's debut album that shares the same name. While there is diversity sonically in the album, the actual songs range from breakup songs to songs about toxic relationships and broken friendships. So if Rodrigo was trying to spill her guts through this album, she succeeded.

While it is too soon to gauge the commercial impact this album will have, it's clear

that it is already had a cultural impact, evidenced by the virality of the songs on popular social media apps, like Tiktok and Instagram. With familiar elements borrowed from the music scene of the late 2000s, "Guts" is a newer take on a familiar genre of music. And despite the pressures the artist claims to have felt after an exceedingly successful debut, with its mixture of pop ballads and punk alt music, "Guts" is undeniably pop perfection at its finest.



COURTESY OF OLIVIA RODRIGO

Bits & Pieces

<3 An Open Letter to the New Baby Bants <3

OLDER AND WISER '24
NOT QUALIFIED TO ADVISE

So, you have now completed your first two weeks of freshman year, and hopefully have avoided passing out on your communal bathroom floor!

Congrats! I'm sure you're thinking to yourself, wow everyone looks so old! But don't worry, those are just the 21 year old freshman hockey players that you're seeing (they just went to taft for four PG years). In all seriousness, freshman

year is great. For those who are the embodiment of the boarding school to NESAC pipeline, you've already mastered the art of avoiding your sneaky link on campus, but if this is your first time away from home, let me give you

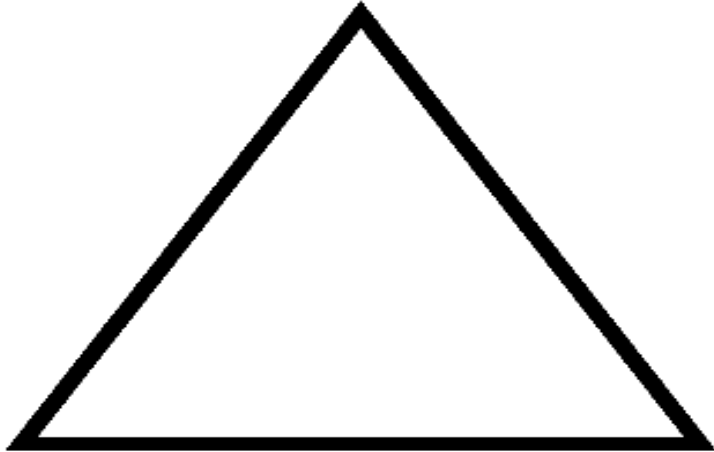
the gist. You will see every person who you have hooked up with in any or all of the following places; Peter B's, Bistro, and the line at the post office. Now that we have gotten that out of the way, I suggest you avoid hooking up with

the following; your brother's best friend, anyone in your first year seminar and last but certainly not least someone who works at your campus coffee shop of choice.

XOXO,
Older Bant

The Holy Trinity

H&L



Sam's

Campus
Pizza

When you didn't go to class and your professor didn't take attendance:



Overheard at Trinity: Yik Yak Edition

"The term narp makes me feel like a second class citizen."

**"I wish every couple broke up.
#hater"**

"I got with a lax boy last night and he kept his helmet on."

"You aren't finding your husband at a frat party, I'm sorry"

"She's the girl of my dreams (she's in two of my classes and we haven't spoken)."

"Is rev trev gone or Dean trev?"

"They're the same person."

While You Were Away at Nantucket...

Mather was renovated (don't be fooled the food still sucks)

The Bistro removed the pesto caprese from the menu (it's time to give chartwells the riot act)

DRINKS AS FRATS



AD
Martini



Psi U
Margarita



KSig
Long Island
Iced Tea



PIKE
Corona



CROW
Any can of beer



AEPI
Red Wine

An Absolutely Delulu Introduction to Girl Math

\$PENDS TOO MUCH
DEF NOT AN ECON MAJOR

For those who have heard the term flying around, but have yet to

fully comprehend what Girl Math consists of, here is the gist. In the world of Revolve returns and cashless payments, currency exchange rates

and dollar values differ. Thus, in Girl World everything is askew. For example, anything paid for in cash is essentially free. (As

long as it doesn't show up on a monthly statement, you're in the clear).

Likewise, when it comes to the nest, Bantam Bucks aren't real money, it's sim-

ply a magical currency used on the hilltop. But, really, Girl Math is great, it's another way for one to be delusional about their spending habits!

VIRGINA PEACHES '24
AVID REALITY TV FAN

What Vanderpump Rules Character You Are Based on Your Freshman Year Dorm

Jones

The cultishness of Jones Hall reeks of Lisa Vanderpump. You can name every person that's lived in your room before you and know all your neighbors by heart. There's no empire like the Jones empire. That's all that needs to be said.

Trinity Hall

You go hand in hand with Jackson and people often get the two of you confused. So, for that reason Trinity Hall is Ariana Madix. You cause drama and upheaval with your partner in crime Tom Sandoval (aka Jackson) but unlike him you start to mature in your sophomore year.

Smith

Like Funston, people tend to forget about you guys but not as frequently. Therefore, Smith is Katie Maloney. You pop up when it's time to go out or one of your friends tells you about their breakup in the bathroom of AD. Like Katie you are a weekend friend, but the camera never sees you during the everyday drama of Sur.

Elton

Objectively the nicest of the freshman dorms with two room doubles, if you reside in Elton you're spoiled. You're spoiled like Stassi Schroeder. Both of you seem to believe you're the descendants of Swedish royalty.

Jackson

Current and past Jackson residents are a close runner up to the Jones crew. Causing trouble with the makeshift bar in your common room, if you live in Jackson, you're Tom Sandoval. People know you as the ones who pulled the fire alarms in Elton your freshman year and to be honest you've never fully matured.

Funston

Everyone forgets about Funston being a freshman dorm. I don't think I could ever point to it on the campus map. For that reason, Funston is Laura-Leigh. You guys appear for one season and then nobody knows what happens. You claim your big break was We're the Millers, but people couldn't tell you what role you played.

Cook A

The newest addition to the "Concrete Jungle" with the best views of the quad. Downside is that if you live in Cook A, you're probably cheating on your high school girlfriend with a girl you met the first night at Blax. And let's make it clear that committing this act is done on the top bunk of your bunk bed. People sleeping in the bunkbeds of Cook A are Jax Taylor, the pathological liar and constant cheater of Sur. If you find yourself climbing up to the top bunk...get out.



I am literally looking for an Elliot Grainge in a world full of Scott Disicks.

ASPIRING STAY AT HOME WIFE '24
FREQUENTS CYCLEBAR

I've said it once and I'll say it again: it is very unlikely that you will meet the love of your life in a frat basement. Also, the likelihood that this so-called love of your life turns out to be a "genuinely good guy" is slim to none (I'm sorry but it's the truth). Thus,

when Sofia Richie married Elliot Grainge last April, I couldn't help but wonder, was Sofia on to something? Sure, you may not be the daughter of an 80's icon, and the most notable holiday party you've attended is Laxmas, but that doesn't mean all hope is lost. If Sofia can make the transition from Kar-jenner adjacent to quiet luxury queen,

anything is possible. So here's what I suggest. If you're looking for an Elliot Grainge on a campus full of Scott Disicks, please know the odds are working against you, especially with the suspension of the Hall; but if you're really determined to make what seems to be the impossible, possible, don't forget the FORG minor.

You versus her and the guy she told you not to worry about:



To submit a question or ask for advice, DM us on Instagram @trinitytripod
(We will keep your question anonymous)

B&P Horoscopes This Fall

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Find your purpose, become a pledge.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Please learn to be alone.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

Your friends can't tell if you're miserable or having a good time.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

Stop trying to sell everyone on going to Solidcore on Sunday at 9 am.

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Someone has to be the “mom” of the friend group, and we're glad it's you, but every once and a while, it wouldn't hurt for you to have some fun too.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

What would happen if you befriended a Libra? Just a thought?

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

It doesn't matter that he was the first view on your Instagram story. IT'S NOT A SIGN.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Lighten up.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

News flash, you can't make friends if you don't leave your room.

Gemini

May 21 – June 20

You know a little about everything and everyone. You're a jack of all trades.

Cancer

June 21 – July 22

The comfort you seek is not in a twin XL bed.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Big personality, even bigger ego.

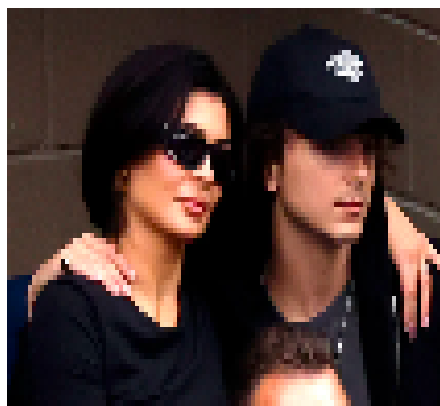
Didn't get a bid this year?

Don't worry, you can always rush *Tripod!*

To pledge B&P, email submit.bandp@gmail.com
For all other sections, email tripod@trincoll.edu

TRINITY COLLEGE APPROVAL MATRIX

HIGHBROW



FIRST YEARS
IN COOK A



BRILLIANT



PLEDGE
PACKS

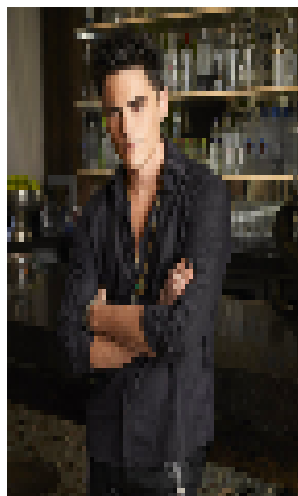
DESPICABLE

THE BISTRO
WITHOUT
PESTO
CARPACC



PICKLEBALL

JONES
BASEMENT



TOM
SANDOVAL

CONTINUING
YOUR
HIGH SCHOOL
RELATIONSHIP
INTO COLLEGE



CYCLEBAR

LOWBROW

SPORTS

Coco Gauff and the 2023 U.S. Open: Celebrating Victory and the New Voice of a Generation

ANNIKA DYCZKOWSKI '25
SPORTS EDITOR

This year's Women's U.S. Open broke new records and reintroduced star players to the spotlight. Saturday, Sept. 9, New Balance Athlete and Atlanta, Georgia native Coco Gauff won her first Grand Slam singles title at 19 years old. During her 13-day trek to victory, Gauff competed in seven rounds of play, winning 85 games in 18 sets, clocking in at over 13 hours' worth of matches played. Her finals match against Aryna Sabalenka earned over 3.4 million views on ESPN, not only breaking the record for the most watched women's Grand Slam tennis final, but also garnering more than the men's final on the same network.

The heat wave that the East Coast experienced last week was felt by players at Arthur Ashe Stadium in Queens, but Gauff contributed her upbringing in Delrey Beach to her victory. In her championship press conference, she nonchalantly added, "Yeah, the heat means nothing to me... South Flor-

ida has helped me a lot prepare for these moments."

National acclaim for Gauff was reflected through crowd approval at Saturday's finals match. Mary Joe Fernandez, American former professional tennis player, recalls having to use both earpieces in the stadium to block out the crowds' overwhelming roar. Fernandez ordinarily uses one earpiece to hear broadcasters and stadium chatter, but crowd support and participation prevented this balance. "I couldn't hear them talking in the booth. It was that loud", she denotes.

Following her historical win, business analysts predict that promotional outreach will climb exponentially. Gauff already has sponsorships with reputable brands like New Balance, UPS and Rolex. Fernandez comments that "the sky is the limit" in terms of future collaborations for Gauff. The tennis star will reportedly close this year with over \$10 million in endorsements alone, and the combination of her talent and appeal to younger crowds is

what drives her high marketability. Rory Satran, Executive Fashion Director of the *Wall Street Journal*, emphasized that Gauff is "all about ultrabright colors, body-baring crop tops and youthful, independent-feeling brands." Immediately following her biggest victory to date, Gauff sported a New Balance graphic tee which reads, "Call me Coco Champion"; the shirt has since been sold out online. The appeal of Gauff to a wide audience has businesses clawing

for brand deals and promotions with the tennis star.

In addition to her undeniable athletic ability, Gauff is also admired for her charisma and relatability to the younger generation. Shortly after winning the Grand Slam title, Gauff went live on TikTok and interacted with fan questions; one viewer posed using the prize money to pay off debts, to which she replied laughing, "I'm 19, I don't have any debt." After her win, viewers observed reactions

from Gauff's family, including her father's tear-stained celebration. She remarked that was the first time she had seen her father cry, let alone on live television with millions of viewers; Gauff humorously added that her dad was "caught in 4k", a phrase coined by Gen-Z to colloquially describe someone being caught red-handed. Fans of all realms excitedly anticipate Coco Gauff's next big move—whether that be on a court, a billboard, or an Instagram post.



GAUFF CELEBRATES MATCH POINT IN HER FINAL VICTORY AT THE US OPEN (COURTESY OF USA TODAY SPORTS)

NFL Week 2: Injuries, Losses and Fantasy Leagues

ANNIKA DYCZKOWSKI '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Last week the National Football League (NFL) experienced a whirlwind of events that were not included in this season's script.

The most jarring and disappointing news for New York is Jets star quarterback Aaron Rodgers tearing his Achilles in his fourth play of their first game. MRI scans reveal that he will likely miss the team's entire season. Rodgers was tackled by Bills pass rusher Leonard Floyd on a first-and-10; immediately following the play he appeared fine, but shortly after took a seat at the 30-yard line until he soon brought attention to medical personnel. Jets head coach Robert Saleh reports that Zach Wilson will ultimately take Rodgers' place in the meantime. Unfortunately for Jets fans, this substitution will decrease New York's playoff chances by 55% and possible Superbowl appearance from 2% to .1%.

Two nights before Rodg-

ers checked out for the 2023 season, the Cowboys buried the Giants at home 40-0. In the press conference following the blowout, Giants Coach Brian Daboll stated, "We got beat all the way around, from coaching to playing." Victor Mather of the *New York Times* humorously delineates that this astute observation shows "a keen ability to read a scoreboard." The Giants finished last season at 9-7-1, so this subpar performance was a bit more than unexpected.

For bettors who had their odds on the Giants, they can now lose their money at FedEx Field in The FedEx Field sports book. Owned and operated by the Fanatics sports apparel company, this venue is the first of its kind to embrace the profitability of gambling inside of an NFL stadium. The weary 241-person capacity sports book has features like air-conditioning, comfortable seating and a bouncer posted outside in accordance with state regulations. To market the newly befriended business ven-

ture, Fanatics displayed a sign outside of the venue offering a free Commanders hat to any fans who bet \$20.

As a school with a football team who reigned as last season's NESCAC champions, Trinity students largely embrace fantasy football season. Hannah Leclair '24 finds that fantasy games "make Sunday's more fun." She hopes her dedication to the pastime is reflected in her final ranking: "If I don't win, I'm gonna be really upset," she laughs. "I put a lot of research into my team." Gianna Tito '24 describes her fantasy league as a way to stay connected. "I'm doing it with my roommates to keep us close, it keeps us together." Nick Dolente '24 expresses a similar sentiment, "fantasy is a great way to connect with my family." Tony Casillo '24 has different motivations, to which he notes, "beating my friends is fun." Emma Wax '24 welcomes the avocation of sports betting with enthusiasm. "It makes me excited about every game." Wax is in one

league with family friends and another league with her dad's work friends; last week, she went 2-0 in her dad's league, climbing up in the rankings and flattening those of New Jersey insurance brokers. Reilly Campbell '24 reveals her unforeseen adeptness in her league after being ranked at the bottom in preseason,

"they underestimated me, I'm ranked 2-0 right now!"

To quickly recap Sunday night's most memorable activities: the Seahawks took down the Lions 37-31 (how fortuitous), the Giants edged the Cardinals 31-28, and the Ravens welcomed Bengals fans back to Peycor Stadium on their revenge tour with a 27-24 victory.



COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

Djokovic Wins 24th Grand Slam After Defeating Medvedev in 2023 Men's Final of U.S. Open

CECE HAMPTON '24
SPORTS EDITOR

On Sunday, Sept. 10, the Arthur Ashe Stadium in Flushing, New York welcomed thousands of tennis fans in attendance for the men's final of the 2023 U.S. Open. The matchup was between Novak Djokovic, who holds the world's No. 1 rank in singles by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATA), and No. 3 ranked Daniil Medvedev. Djokovic won the match in just three sets, going 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 to take home the victory. This is the third Grand Slam event Djokovic has won this season, and his fourth season to do so. At 36 years old, the Serbian tennis star is the oldest U.S. Open men's winner in the Open Era. Just two years ago, Djokovic and Medvedev faced each other in the 2021 U.S. Open final, with

Medvedev claiming victory, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. This remains Medvedev's only Grand Slam title thus far in his career. Djokovic's achievement of 24 grand slams ties him with former Australian pro tennis player Margaret Court for most Grand Slam titles in tennis history.

Djokovic came into this year's tournament seeded at number two, with 20-year-old Spanish tennis star and fan favorite Carlos Alcaraz seeded at one. Alcaraz took home the Wimbledon trophy this past July after defeating Djokovic in the final match of the championship, earning the second major title of his career. For the better part of the U.S. Open tournament, tennis fans eagerly expected a rematch between Djokovic and Alcaraz in the men's singles final. However, Medvedev defeated the reigning Wimbledon champion in the semifinals of the U.S.

Open, 7(7)-6(3), 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Meanwhile, American players exceeded expectations in the tournament. The 21-year-old American Ben Shelton made it all the way to the semi-finals, taking on Djokovic, but ultimately losing 6-3, 6-2, 7(7)-6(4). The media has deemed Shelton's performance at the 2023

his "big break," and speculate that he has a lot of success ahead of him. Shelton will go on to make his debut in the Laver Cup later this month in Vancouver, representing Team World in the tennis competition.

Djokovic's 24th Grand Slam title sets him two ahead of long-time rival Ra-

fael Nadal, who holds 22. Nadal did not participate in the U.S. Open this year, as he continues to recover from a hip injury he experienced at the Australian Wimbledon earlier this year. Looking forward into the next season, Djokovic could likely achieve the leading record for Grand Slam titles.



MEDVEDEV (LEFT) AND DJOKOVIC (RIGHT) (COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES)

New York Jets Defeat Buffalo Bills in First Monday Night Game

COLTER MARINO '27
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Monday, Sept. 11, the Buffalo Bills took on the New York Jets at MetLife Stadium for the highly anticipated first Monday night football game of the 2023 NFL season. After a quick trip to overtime, the Jets walked away with their first win of the season. Though Jets fans may ask, "At what cost?" After a Bills drive stalling at their 42 yard-line, the revamped Jets offense received the ball. But on just the fourth play from scrimmage, their new star quarterback from Green Bay, Aaron Rodgers, suffered a season-ending Achilles injury. Coach Robert Saleh of the Jets had no choice but to put in former 2nd overall pick, Zach Wilson, whose spot in New York has remained up in the air this offseason.

The Jets' defense, the MVP of the game for New York, held strong following the loss, only giving up a

field goal to Josh Allen of the Bills. One drive later with the ball back in the hands of Allen, Jordan Whitehead had his first pick of many on the night on an ill-advised throw downfield by Allen. Coming off a solid rookie year cut short by injury, second-year running back Breece Hall seized the opportunity with an electrifying 83-yard run to set up a field goal to tie the game for the Jets. Starting on their own 25-yard line, the Bills marched down to the opposite end zone where audiences witnessed their first Allen to Diggs touchdown of the season. With the game now at 10-3 Buffalo, Wilson threw an interception to veteran linebacker Matt Milano swaying momentum in the favor of the Bills.

Entering the half with a 13-3 deficit, Breece Hall again put the Jets in field goal range where they shortened the margin to 13-3. With possession back to the Bills and threatening to score

on their first drive of the half, Allen launched another pass downfield only to fall into the hands of Jordan Whitehead yet again. Things only went downhill for the Bills where after both teams traded punts, Allen threw his third interception of the night to begin the fourth quarter. Tying his most thrown interceptions in a game at three. Shockingly, Jordan Whitehead was the one to come up with all three interceptions. Three interceptions that tied the Jets' franchise record and allowed Whitehead to earn a season-long incentive for \$250,000. On the ensuing drive, Jets' offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett put in some more pass plays that lead to Wilson finding Garrett Wilson in the endzone. The praised second-year receiver made a spectacular juggling catch to tie the game at 13-13. Immediately following the touchdown, Josh Allen turned the ball over again on a fumble and

gave the ball right back to the Jets who cashed in with a field goal to take the lead.

All was not lost for the Bills. On their final drive of regulation, and despite a terrible second half, Allen and Diggs turned into a two-man wrecking crew to set up a field goal sending both teams to overtime. With the Bills winning the toss and electing to receive, Allen had a chance to redeem himself and finish with a win. Though this was not to be with the Bills sending on their punt team after a quick three and out. The Bills defense was still playing strong and could likely hold Wilson and the Jets to a field goal. But on the punt to recently signed return specialist Xavier Gibson, tragedy struck for the Bills, while Jets fans found something to lift their spirits. Gibson returned it 65

yards to put the Jets over the top and defeat the Buffalo Bills in their season opener.

The story for the Jets though is the 16 games ahead. Saleh named Zach Wilson to be their starting quarterback moving forward. However, questions remain about how long this will last after his less than mediocre seasons with the Jets since being drafted in 2020. The Bills are facing many questions of their own after such a disappointing start by their franchise quarterback. Head coach Sean McDermott remarked, "When you turn the ball over four times, it's hard to win in this league." The Jets will be traveling to Texas for week two to face the red hot Dallas Cowboys who will no doubt be a challenge, while the Bills will stay at home to host the Raiders in their home opener.



COURTESY OF NBC SPORTS



Coming Up
Saturday

Women's Volleyball vs. Regis College
@ 12:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer at Wesleyan
@ 2:00 p.m.