

# The Trinity Tripod

ESTABLISHED 1904

Now then-Trinity!

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Volume CXXII  
Number III

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AVA CAUDLE '25  
OPINION EDITOR

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## Confederate Monument

SAVANNAH BROOKS '26  
MANAGING EDITOR

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## Deans Follow Retaliation Non-Discrimination Policy, Ombud Finds Other Retaliatory Behaviors

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

In a July 2023 email to all Trinity faculty, President Joanne Berger-Sweeney stated that the external lawyer hired by The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) found that the actions of Dean Sonia Cardenas and Associate Dean Takunari Miyazaki involving the grievances from engineering professor John Mertens regarding a 2021 engineering department climate assessment "were not inappropriate." This conclusion, and the report as a whole, focused only on whether or not the deans violated the Non-Discrimination Policy by retaliation as defined by the policy, which was not the subject of any of Mertens' grie-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY COLLEGE

vances against the deans. Trinity's Non-Discrimination Policy defines retaliation as "[occurring] when an individual is subjected to a materially adverse action because the individual has opposed conduct reasonably believed to violate this policy, filed a di-

scrimination complaint, or participated in good faith in the reporting, investigation, and/or resolution of a discrimination complaint filed under this policy, any other College policy, or any other local, state, or fe-

deral law." Scott Roberts, the external investigator, was directed by DEI to investigate if Cardenas and Miyazaki had violated this policy. He found they did not, as stated by Pamela Whitley in a March 2023

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## 2023-2024 Election Results for 14 Seats on SGA

CAITLIN DOHERTY '26  
NEWS EDITOR

Campaigning for fourteen available positions on the 2023-2024 Student Government Association (SGA) began Wednesday, Sept. 13 with elections commencing the morning of Saturday, Sept. 23. As described on the organization's website, SGA is "an autonomous body of students dedicated to advocating for student interests in every aspect of the College." During this fall 2023 election, the organization had openings for Vice President of SGA, Vice President of Communications, Class of 2027 President and three senators per class year. To be eligible for candidacy, individuals must be in good academic standing and receive an outlined number of student signatures, ranging from 25 to 75 depending on the position. Several candidates ran unopposed, with Nikolas DeAngelo '26 and Halanda Nguyen '26 named as SGA Vice President and Vice President of Communications respectively. Kelly Thomas '24, Keyla Torres '24 and Gabri-

elle Desrochers '24 will serve as Senators for the Class of 2024. The Class of 2025 will be represented by Ava Bolyan '25 and Case Darby '25.

While these seats were uncontested, online elections took place for first-year and sophomore senators, as well as Class of 2027 President. Six members of the Class of 2026 ran for senate positions, with Antonia Kambolis '26, Ki Hwang '26 and Finn Donelan III '26 winning the three spots. Kambolis, a political science major from New Jersey, reflected on the election in a comment to the *Tripod*: "I'm super excited and grateful to have won this election. I love the Trinity community, and I am looking forward to bringing my passion for service and outreach to my role as senator." Many members of the newly arrived Class of 2027 took up campaigns to represent their class as a senator or class president. Jia Kumar '27, an intended economics major from Massachusetts, was elected as the Class of 2027 President, and Ella Schaffer '27, Rhiju Charkraborty '27 and Eleanor Gray



SGA PRESIDENT JAKE MCPHAIL '24 (PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY COLLEGE)

'27 will serve as senators. "My priorities are to improve SGA-student communication, highlight many of our existing resources, make changes to Mather based on student feedback, improve dorm life (cleaning & laundry), and create more social," said Kumar. "I aspire for the class of 2027 to be inclusive, supportive and united."

The first round of elections for the 2023-2024 session of the SGA took place in April 2023. During that period, Jake McPhail '24 was na-

med as SGA President, with class presidents and vice presidents of finance and multicultural affairs elected as well. The SGA meets weekly to discuss solutions to prominent campus issues and oversees the admittance and funding of student organizations. Meetings are open to all members of the student body. McPhail, who oversaw the recent election, is looking forward to starting the 2023-2024 SGA session alongside both new and returning representatives.

# The Trinity Tripod

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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.

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

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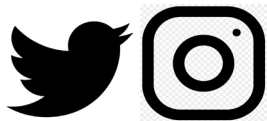
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The *Trinity Tripod* is always looking for student contributions in photography, writing, and graphic design. Anyone interested in joining the *Tripod* can email tripod@trincoll.edu.

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**CORRECTIONS**

## Letter From the Editors

### Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad AI?

As autumn leaves pirouette from their lofty perches and the campus vibrates with the peculiar energy of a new academic year, we, your humble and slightly eccentric Editors-in-Chief, find ourselves embarking on an expedition into the enigmatic labyrinth of what lies ahead. With an exhilarating blend of anticipation and audacity, we stand poised to divulge our rather unconventional aspirations for the upcoming year...or, at least that is what ChatGPT thinks our editorials sound like.

The usual first day of class includes a discussion of class expectations, your name, your major and perhaps an ice breaker about your favorite season (we are both fall girls, in case you were wondering). The average introduction back to the classroom this year now included a new consistent theme: AI. We were reminded about how plagiarism is wrong and the serious consequences that can come from it, and that we should carry out our work with integrity. The writing assessment given to first-year and junior students was based on an article about AI in the classroom, and numerous other prompts in other courses are asking students to question this budding technology.

Some of the concerns that AI brings up are certainly valid and make sense. Of course an institution of higher education wants to foster students for the pursuit of knowledge, and of course that would be followed by a condemnation of plagiarism. We can accept that as reasonable. But the constant reminder at the

beginning of each course makes us wonder: do the adults in our lives think we have no integrity? No drive to learn and grow? We all are here — willingly or not — to learn, right?

As two writing tutors, both of us have spent a lot of time considering the possibility of what AI can do to help us and our peers, not just how it can be harmful. Having a hard time getting started on a lab report? Need relevant sources for your essay? A synonym? Or, maybe English is not your first language, and you need help bridging that gap quickly. AI tools have the potential to level the playing field for students, making information affordable and easily accessible regardless of where you are searching from. These tools are not perfect — they sometimes simply make up information, which, for you professors out there, is almost like a built-in cheating prevention function. But it is hard to argue against AI completely as a tool for comprehending material, translating language, getting unstuck on a project and more. We have an emergency equity fund to help cover the costs of textbooks when students need it, so why should we then turn around and denounce a resource that any student could utilize for free?

Painted in blue and gold on the Life Science Center building, Mather and other spots around campus is the following message: 'Committed to the future since 1823.' Well, 200 years later and the future is here, now and writing our editorials. It includes some scary stuff, but it

also holds a lot of potential for good. AI is a legitimate force in the world and in the job industries that each of us are on the cusp of entering. Trinity College cannot say with confidence that they are sending us into the world prepared if we are not equipped with the tools of the future — and that includes AI. For better or worse, it is here to stay and our future employers will expect us to have some knowledge of the technology.

But let's circle back to our four years here and the years of education that will follow us. We are not done here yet. In the classroom, we are in need of change, too. As the article selected by the writing assessment committee and written by Will Douglas Heaven suggests, educators should be modifying assessments to match modern day needs rather than trying to stop the use of AI in their courses and sticking with "well, we have always done it that way" thinking. This traditional model that requires regurgitating information or the basic five paragraph essay is outdated, even without the rise of AI. We are all so much smarter than that and we hold far greater potential. Our assignments should push us to think critically, to make connections and to have human emotions. A computer cannot do these things. A computer can be a parrot; it can synthesize information from computer sources and write us that five paragraph essay, but ultimately, it is cold and inhumane. We are not.

-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

## Trinity Prepares for Admissions Cycle Following Supreme Court Decision to Strike Down Affirmative Action

RAJSI RANA '26  
STAFF WRITER

On June 29, 2023, Trinity College President Joanne Berger-Sweeney sent out an email alerting the student body and staff of the U.S. Supreme Court decision to ban affirmative action in college admissions. "This is a disappointing decision for all who deeply believe that a diverse student body benefits the educational and lived experience at Trinity and, more broadly, society," said Berger-Sweeney. "This decision does not change our core values...we will continue to focus on supporting a diverse community." The case regarding the banning of affirmative action involved two institutions: Harvard College and the University of North Carolina (UNC), respectively the oldest private and public universities in the U.S. UNC only began to admit Black undergraduates after an order from a federal court in 1955, and while Harvard did not institute a race-conscious admissions perspective until 1978, its program soon became one of the country's leading examples of affirmative action. Affirmative action policies originated from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s and continued to develop in the following decades to address discrimination that women and minority groups face. In two lawsuits originally filed in 2014, Harvard and UNC were sued by Students for Fair Admissions, a nonprofit claiming that the universities' race-conscious admissions policies unfair-

ly disadvantaged white and Asian students. In the Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard College and the UNC cases, the Supreme Court held that these universities violated the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ruling that U.S. colleges and universities can no longer use race as a determining factor in admissions.

At Trinity, affirmative action was a factor in admissions before this decision. In a recent interview Matthew Hyde, dean of admissions and financial aid, stated, "It's not going to be as simple and straightforward for us to be aware of how we maximize diversity in our admitted cohorts. It's a limiting factor on our ability to do it with the same degree of intentionality [as before]. There has been one attribute of a candidate we've been limited to know, and that's uncomfortable to me... that's the one thing we can't have awareness of." The conversation around the recent affirmative action ban has sparked dialogue about legacy admissions, sports recruitment, income-based admissions and the ethical implications of the continued use of these practices in college admissions. Hyde, describing legacy admissions at Trinity College, puts it as "a non-issue at the college... it never surfaced as a point of making an admissions decision. It might have informed a conversation about a candidate and their connection with the college via family legacy, but it never dictated a decision." Regarding income-based admissions,

Hyde stated, "We do need to have awareness of the family's ability to afford the experience and the investment we need to make the Trinity experience possible for each and every student. At that point, we need to be aware of their ability to afford. We make some hard choices. I would say, at least in my time here, it impacted between 8-12% of our final admissions choices." After the news of the ban, the college put together a list of core values and steps as they move forward to navigate this new age of admissions. Trinity College "retained outside counsel for the purposes of reviewing the league policy as it relates to race-conscious admissions and recruitment practices" in April and May 2023.

Following the Supreme Court's decision, Trinity put new protocols into place to ensure continued diversity and accessibility within the admissions process. An optional Common App prompt for the 2023-2024 application cycle was included to gain more insight into an applicant's background. It asks: "The identities you claim, the challenges you face, and the successes you enjoy shape the background for your college experience to come. What is an aspect of your background that you are excited to share and/or explore as a member of the Trinity community and why?" Additionally, an agreement was signed by the College Board to include Landscape as a tool in the college's applicant evaluation process, which is a recruitment and admissions tool. According to the College Board web-

site, Landscape "provides consistent high school and neighborhood information so admissions officers can fairly consider each student within the context of where they've learned and lived." Hyde specifies that "it gives us a rating and a score of the obstacles that might have existed for this student to find success academically." Many schools will use this program in their admissions process this year.

On Sept. 20, Trinity's cultural group La Voz Latina hosted a roundtable discussion on the recent Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action featuring speakers from the Hispanic Studies department, the Admissions Office and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Panelists present included Director of Admissions Anthony Berry, Vice President of DEI Anita Davis, visiting lecturer in history Cristian J. Padilla Romero and Hispanic Studies professor Priscilla Meléndez. Throughout the panel, they discussed current implications of the decision and their own experiences with affirmative action when they were college students. Davis touched on her experiences as a Black student at a predominantly white institution where she was often told "You're only here because..." implying she was undeserving of her spot as a university student and had only been admitted because of affirmative action. She also discussed the fast-paced increase of diversity within Trinity's faculty and staff in the last few years because of affirmative action. Romero discussed how many

schools historically were built and maintained for the "rising elite," a cycle that was beginning to be disrupted because of increased diversity through affirmative action. He encouraged students to turn to activism and reminded them of the power they possess to change unjust institutions and their practices. Meléndez expressed her lack of trust that legal structures will do the "right" thing, touching on the U.S. legal system's legacy of injustice and exclusion. As the panel ended, the conversation shifted from affirmative action to legacy admissions. Similar to Hyde's perspective, Berry shared that Trinity does not take legacy into "significant consideration." The faculty present at this La Voz Latina event all emphasized putting power and responsibility into the hands of the student body.

Moving forward, Trinity claims to continue with the same principles and priorities: supporting a diverse community, enhancing the Trinity experience for historically underrepresented students, and uplifting awareness, exploration and engagement as a cornerstone for Trinity's path forward following its Bicentennial year. The upcoming application season for the Class of 2028 will be the first admissions cycle post-affirmative action. The demographics of the newest class of Trinity students arriving in 2024 will reveal the impact of this Supreme Court decision on the student body and demonstrate whether Trinity's new policies are an effective way of maintaining diversity on campus.

## Deans Follow Non-Discrimination Policy, Continued

continued from page one

letter to Mertens, saying "the investigator concluded that the preponderance of the evidence did not support a finding that Deans Cardenas and Miyazaki retaliated against you in violation of the Policy on Nondiscrimination. Accordingly, the complaint filed against them is dismissed."

Mertens' grievances filed to both the Faculty Ombud and to the Academic Freedom Committee do not include complaints regarding the deans' violation of the retaliation section of the Non-Discrimination Policy; Mertens' use of the word retaliation in his grievances referred to the

deans "releasing the Climate Assessment when [Mertens] did not elect to retire" as the Ombud report states when outlining his grievances, and involved no references to discrimination. Furthermore, the conclusions of the Ombud report did find Cardenas and Miyazaki to have committed "retaliatory behavior against [Mertens]" due to "the fact that the Climate Assessment was released to the office of DEI after [Mertens] elected not to retire (as Cardenas said would be the case)." The Ombud also states, "it is extremely reckless for [the deans] to even hint at not releasing the report (as they apparently did in their two meetings with

[Mertens]...) or to delay its release... in my view, [this] serves as further evidence that their eventual release of the Climate Assessment was retaliatory in nature."

Roberts began his investigation into the allegations against Mertens in May 2022, directed by DEI. In a November 2022 email, Whitley directed Roberts to narrow the scope of this investigation to two main allegations: one involving Mertens' "behaviors towards women, minority and international students" and the other involving his alleged creation of "a toxic work environment in the Department of Engineering," both of which Roberts even-

tually found no evidence of. In this same email, sent to Roberts, Mertens, Cardenas and Miyazaki, Whitley also stated that DEI is directing Roberts to investigate "Professor Mertens' retaliation allegations against Deans Sonia Cardenas and Takunari Miyazaki." Whitley stated at the end of this email that in this investigation into Cardenas and Miyazaki by Roberts, "...the College is the complainant." Thus, Roberts was concurrently investigating Mertens and the deans.

In the Mertens investigation, "the complainant remains the Office of Human Resources," as stated in a November 2022 email from

Roberts to Whitley and Mertens, and the respondent was Mertens. In the second investigation, the complainant was the College, and the respondents the deans. On the Nov. 2, 2022 email from Whitley, all complainants and respondents of both investigations (except for HR) were included, with information about both investigations shared. A release of information in this fashion violates the Non-Discrimination Policy's investigation protocol which states, "All participants in the investigation... are expected to keep all aspects of the complaint adjudication and investigation process confidential."

This is an ongoing story.

## Trinity Ranked 220 Out of 286 Selective Colleges on Economic Diversity by the *New York Times*

FAITH MONAHAN '24  
NEWS EDITOR

The *New York Times* recently published the College-Access Index which measures selective universities in terms of access across socio-economic statuses. Trinity College ranked 220 out of 286 selective higher education institutions. The rankings were based on the percentage of freshman receiving Pell shares, and how much the Pell share has changed over the past decade. On average, selective universities have an average freshmen Pell share of 21%. Trinity College has a Pell grant share amongst freshman of 15%. The Pell share grew amongst

the freshman class at Trinity by two percentage points since 2011 when the number of freshman receiving Pell grants at Trinity was 19%.

The study was done with Ithaca S+R, a higher-education research group. The data came from reports by colleges to the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics. Criteria for the list included institutions that are nonmilitary, approved for federal student aid funds, had a student population over 250, and were considered selective by Barron's profiles of American Colleges in 2009 or 2016. This includes colleges found to be "most competitive," "very competitive," "highly com-

petitive" or "very competitive plus." The list also included the net price of a mid-income family which includes students coming from a family income between \$48,001 and \$75,000 per year. This number represents the average cost of tuition following federal, state, or institutional financial aid or scholarship funding. Trinity's net price for a mid-income student was found to be \$14,200 per year which is higher than the majority of other selective colleges on the list.

Trinity has been ranked poorly in previous reports by the *New York Times*. In the 2017 report, the profile for economic diversity and student outcomes at Trinity Col-

lege stated that the median income at Trinity college is \$257,100, and 75% come from the top 20 percent of the income bracket. The study from Opportunity Insights was based on millions of anonymous tax files and tuition records. It determined its rankings by using the number of students from the top 1% in comparison to the number of students with incomes at the 60th percentile or below. According to the study, 26% of students at Trinity had come from the top 1% while 14% of students came from the bottom 60%. Trinity College had among the highest proportion of students from the top 20% compared to other Connecticut colleges,

NESCAC colleges and highly selective private colleges.

The overall patterns of the list show that many colleges with higher endowments have increased the number of students in the freshman class who are Pell grant recipients over the past decade. In the 2020-21 academic year, 32.1% of undergraduate students in the U.S. were awarded Pell grants. Over the past 10 years, this number has hovered around roughly the same level. About 94% of Pell grant recipients have a family income level below \$60,000. About half of all recipients have family income levels of \$20,000 or less. The average Pell grant recipient in Connecticut is provided

## Iran Releases Five American Prisoners in Exchange for \$6 Billion in Oil Revenue After Years of Negotiations

LUCY SHELDON '27  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After several years of negotiations, five American citizens were released out of Iranian custody and back into the U.S. in exchange for the unfreezing of nearly \$6 billion in Iranian oil assets. Sentenced to 10 years in Elvin Prison in Iran for alleged espionage, the Biden administration negotiated the release of Siamak Namazi, Emad Shargi, Morad Tahbaz, and two who wish to remain anonymous. The U.S. also dismissed the federal charges against five Iranians in U.S. prison for violating sanctions.

Negotiations began in 2021, and after two years of talks between the U.S. and Iran, all mediated by Persian Gulf nations, it seemed a consensus had been met on the release of four Americans from Iran. The original deal was immediately dissolved after the arrest of a fifth American citizen. Utilizing diplomats from Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, the U.S. and Iran began renegotiating the exchange.

The deal included the transfer of \$6 billion assets in oil revenues from accounts in South Korea to Qatar for Iran with the requirement that the money would be paid to vendors for humanitarian needs such as food or med-

icine. Republicans have criticized the Biden administration for the deal, citing that the transfer equated to ransom and could incentivize further detainment of Americans.

Siamak Namazi was arrested in 2015 while visiting family, and Morad Tahbaz and Emad Shargi were seized in 2018. When Namazi made it home after 3,898 days in captivity, he made a statement saying, "for almost eight years I have been dreaming of this day. I want to see foliage instead of walls and wardens."

The formerly incarcerated Americans were met on the tarmac with loved ones and flying American flags to celebrate their journey home. Also emerging from the plane were Namazi's and Tahbaz's wives who were previously met with roadblocks when trying to leave Iran due to travel bans.

The deal took place two days after the one year anniversary of uprisings in Iran for the death of Mahsa Amini, who was detained by the morality police for not abiding to Iran's mandated hijab for women. The

government crackdown on the protests has resulted in hundreds of deaths including minors and children and the detainment of an estimated 20,000 Iranian citizens. The Iranian government has stated that the date of the deal was coincidental due to the arrival of the assets in Qatar in response to criticism of diverting attention from the uprisings and crackdowns.

Tensions between Iran and U.S. have been heightened by the handing of a nuclear deal under the Obama administration. The Biden administra-

tion has sought to revive it and limit Iran's nuclear production in exchange for economic sanctions relief. The U.S. withdrew from the deal under the Trump administration. In current talks over Iran's nuclear program, the U.S. does not agree to Iran's demands to exceed the numbers established in the Obama-era deal. Despite negotiations on Iran's nuclear program remaining unresolved, the humanitarian exchange made between the U.S. and Iran is a testament to easing tensions between the two countries.



PRISONERS RETURNING HOME (PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS)

# OPINION

## Your Boyfriend May Be Justified in Constantly Thinking About the Roman Empire: U.S. and Roman Overlap

AVA CAUDLE '25  
OPINION EDITOR

The grandeur and achievements of the Roman Empire can captivate, sparking human curiosity with its iconography and far-reaching legacy. Rome's influence on art, architecture, law and Western governance continues to shape our modern world, whether one is enjoying central heating or walking along wide paved streets. This allure extends beyond history documentaries and into, apparently, the minds of modern men. A new TikTok trend emerged earlier this month with users asking the men in their lives how often the Roman Empire pops into their minds — answers have predominantly ranged from a couple of times a week to multiple times a day. Fathers, boyfriends, brothers and sons alike seem to agree that this historical topic deserves heavy contemplation.

While the question itself is, of course, a joke, it brings up valuable connections to our modern societal patterns and constructs. This merits a breakdown of what may be so intriguing about the Romans to the point of thinking about them daily. By studying the Roman Empire, anyone (men included) can deepen their understanding of politics, governance and the complexities of the human condition as they may apply to America's tumultuous climate today.

A common thread between the United States and the Roman Empire is imperial overreach, which is one of the reasons the story of the Romans can be so enticing. Both civilizations experience(d) expansion to a point of overextension. The Roman Empire grew rapidly, stretching its resources and administration thin as its borders widened. Similarly, the American government

has been involved in numerous interventions or military conflicts (in both state formation and global wars) to stretch our political influence, with the side effect of economic strain.

The Roman Empire was also plagued by internal divisions, with a stark divide between the wealthy elite and the low-

our government has taken. A decline of trust in public officials or confidence in the government can weaken a civilization from within, breaking an otherwise strong power structure.

These factors become especially relevant to consider when mapping the prospective direction of our nation in years to

for our young country, of the potential rise and fall of powerful civilizations.

Many people may think about the Roman Empire often due to its significance to modern sociopolitical issues. From increasing class stratification to public corruption, the parallels between the Roman Empire and the United States resonate with current events and debates. By reflecting on these similarities, one can gain insights into the potential consequences and lessons that can be learned from history. Its story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked expansion and the sustenance of governmental institutions. In this context, the Roman Empire's chronology becomes a reminder of the state-building traps we have fallen and can avoid falling into... a hyper-relevant idea worth considering on the regular (yes, even multiple times a week).

*“The Roman Empire serves as an all-encompassing remembrance, especially for our young country, of the potential rise and fall of powerful civilizations.”*

er socioeconomic classes. This, much like the United States, further contributed to widespread corruption within its political and social institutions. Public mistrust from Roman civilians became a prevalent part of its political culture with bribery running rampant, another shared cue

come. Will future societies discuss the meteoric ascension and decline of the United States of America, brought up by idealism and down by falling prey to the same patterns that history is doomed to repeat? The Roman Empire serves as an all-encompassing remembrance, especially

## Islamophobia Is on the Rise: What Does Trinity Do to Combat It, If Anything at All?

SARAH DAJANI '26  
OPINION EDITOR

There would be no excuse to invade Iraq and steal its resources better than a Saudi militant taking full accountability, as the leader of an organization based in Afghanistan, for the Sept. 11 attacks. As ridiculous as it sounds, the invasion of Iraq, still referred to as the Iraq war despite being a “textbook example” invasion, founded the basis of many Islamophobic and Anti-Arab laws in the U.S. and around the world. Since then, many scholars have argued that the prejudice

directed and unique “culturally sanctioned antipathy with a full repertoire of dehumanizing images, from the mad terrorist to the voluptuous” dating back to well before 9/11.

Outside of the United States, France has been a prominent leader in legislating Islamophobic policies with the excuse of maintaining “laïcité,” separating church and state. Examples of such legislations have specifically targeted Muslim women for wearing a hijab or a burqa, in violation of human rights; the French freedom of worship law and women's rights and freedom

trality with a ban on “face covering”... keeping masks and neck warmers and really anything that does not restrict the freedom of Muslim women. With this in mind, the West, as audacious as it has been, is the first to criticize the brutal mandated wear on women in Iran. In India, Muslims report fear for their life. Journalist Rana Ayyub says that the PJB party has successfully created a “climate of fear” which made the majority of the Indian population passive to hate crimes and house demolitions of Muslims. Islamophobic propaganda has infested Bollywood which only features a hijabi or a green flag for roles of terror, violence and treason of the Indian state. Ayyub reports that the Muslim Indians whose ancestors fought for liberation from British Imperialism are now burdened to prove their “Indianness” to the state. Other crimes against humanity, like the Chinese genocide of the Muslim Uyghur remain uncondemned.

Although Trinity does not actively promote Islamophobic ideas, it puts in no effort to protect its

students from U.S. hostility towards Arabs and Muslims. Comments connecting “Allah Akbar” and Arab students to terrorism and violence are not punished or even addressed. When Trinity, rightfully, hosted a 9/11 remembrance service, many Muslims and Arabs, specifically Iraqi, students were harassed and targeted. As a college

that is supposedly committed to “social change,” Trinity fails to attempt to correct deliberately misguided conversation about the “wholly unjustified and brutal invasion of Iraq” as put by George Bush, also called the Unsanctioned Putin, and “the one man” whose decision is responsible for hundreds of thousands of lives lost in Iraq.

*“...the Muslim Indians whose ancestors fought for liberation from British Imperialism are now burdened to prove their “Indianness” to the state.”*

against Arabs and Muslims have dated way before the atrocities of 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq. In fact, this prejudice might have inspired the unlawful attack on Iraq. Edward Said so eloquently puts it as a

of choice. Conveniently, “laïcité” is not in order on the annual Christmas holiday or any of France's Catholic public holidays. Islamophobia transcends borders, and penetrates the infamous Swiss neu-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

# Now Facing Bribery Charges, New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez Must Resign

KASH JAIN '24  
OPINION EDITOR

On Friday, Sept. 22, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York announced bribery charges against Senator Robert "Bob" Menendez. The New Jersey Democrat allegedly received cash, gold bars and a Mercedes Benz in return for using his position to protect New Jersey businessmen from legal trouble and support the Egyptian government's interests.

The charges against Menendez, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC), are certainly troubling, compounded by the fact that this appears to be a pattern. In 2015, Menendez faced similar charges after he allegedly directed State Department officials to pressure the Dominican Republic's government to enforce a contract that would benefit a close friend — Florida-based ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen — who later donated to his campaign in return. Menendez was also accused of personally intervening to secure visas for Melgen's girlfriends and receiving over \$750,000 in return.

In 2018, after a mistrial due to the jury's inability to reach a verdict, the charges were dropped. Following this, the Senate Ethics Committee issued Menendez a Public Letter of Admonition, stating that he had violated Senate rules and federal law by repeatedly accepting and failing to report gifts and by misusing his office to advance Melgen's interests.

*"What sets bribery apart from many legal issues is that it directly involves the office that the accused holds. This is not a crime that an ordinary civilian can commit — it's one reserved for those who wield power."*

These allegations are serious, particularly because they are not ordinary crimes. What sets bribery apart from many legal issues is that it directly involves the office that the accused holds. This is not a crime that an ordinary civilian can commit — it's one reserved for those who

wield power. It requires that such an individual actively misuses their position to deliver action that would otherwise not occur.

An individual who makes a bribe is committing a serious crime; an individual who solicits or accepts a bribe is committing a serious crime, but they're also betraying their office and those who put them there. Trading on influence, even if it only directly involves a few people, has implications for many, particularly when policy decisions are the focus. In placing oneself over the people and duties of one's office, an elected official who takes bribes and reciprocates with action isn't harming an individual but all the people that they represent. In some cases, one who directs action in favor of their personal interests may go even further and directly harm the interests and security of their constituents.

Bribery isn't uniquely wrong, but it does belong to a unique class of crimes; the Constitution acknowledges this, listing bribery and treason as two "high crimes and misdemeanors" that can be grounds for removal from office. High crimes, as the Founding Fathers understood them, were those that could only be committed by government officials; while there were disputes regarding exactly what would count as a high crime, there were some who felt that such a crime involved betraying public trust, the responsibility granted to elected officials by the people who elected them. Alexander Hamilton held that conduct that



SENATOR MENENDEZ (PHOTO COURTESY OF AXIOS)

misusing his position for personal gain. He has allegedly misused his position as a Senator and as Chairman of the SFRC. If the accusations are accurate, he has used the influence he holds over foreign policy to directly shape policy towards the Dominican Republic and Egypt, both times for the benefit of himself and those around him. As both states are allies, there's no serious threat to domestic security or the interests of Americans from these actions, but using a position such as SFRC chair to influence policy both within and beyond the nation's borders would be a grave offense.

This is not to suggest that Menendez is guilty of such — however, legitimate concerns that he may have accepted bribes warrant strict action.

The presumption of innocence is an integral part of the justice system, and Menendez deserves the chance to present evidence and make his case against these charges. However, someone who is under suspicion of taking bribes cannot be trusted to remain in public office —

even if they are innocent, the potential cost of allowing them to retain that position while proceedings are underway is too high to risk. Therefore, given the severity and nature of these allegations, Senator Menendez should resign.

Menendez seems to recognize the severity of these concerns and has stepped down as SFRC Chairman. However, even without chairing the committee, he has significant influence over foreign policy, which, if the claims are true, he has already directly misused to enrich himself. Stepping down as SFRC Chair is the right call and indicates that he is willing to act in good faith; however, that is not enough. This is an individual who will wield immense power so long as he holds a government office, and whether he can be trusted with this — particularly as it relates to defining American foreign policy — is being directly called into question. The risk of maintaining his influence is too great.

Resigning would be a serious, irreversible measure. It is not quite the same as a temporary sus-

pension or limitation that could come with certain crimes — it's not a preliminary injunction meant to bar action while the court proceeds, there's no such measure for situations like this. As such, it's easy to understand why Menendez has said that he would not step down from the Senate. If his personal conduct was all that was being called into question, perhaps remaining in his position would be a more defensible decision. However, when the public trust is in jeopardy — when a powerful individual is suspected of having misused their power — serious measures are necessary.

Menendez has had a remarkable career, and his decades of service to the people of New Jersey have undoubtedly left a positive impact. There's no question that he should be afforded a fair trial. However, the gravity of these allegations impairs his ability to serve the people of his state and the nation's foreign policy interests and implicates the responsibility placed on him; as such, it is best that he resigns his position as a senator.

# FEATURES

## A Cappella at Trinity: Reflections from an Accidental

NICK CIMILLO '26  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before coming to Trinity as a freshman, I, like any high school senior eager to start college, did my research on extracurriculars. In my search, one organization caught my attention: Trinity's all-male cappella group, the Accidentals. At that point, I was still unsure about whether I wanted to continue with singing beyond high school, but I kept the Accidentals in the back of my mind. But, coming onto campus, I attended a few of their performances, took a stab at auditioning during the spring semester, and was accepted. And I am very grateful I was.

In the semester that I have been a Dent, I have learned some groovy music, performed in on-campus concerts with other Trinity cappella groups, attended a reunion concert with alumni dating back to the class of '95, and discovered the meaning of a mysterious acronym (SFTB!). My initial hesitation in joining came from a practical perspective; after all, how would performing in a singing group help

me towards my public policy and English double major? But as my first semester at Trinity progressed, I longed more and more for a musical outlet. I desperately missed performing, and, knowing the restorative power of music, wanted to be a part of something that brought smiles to people's faces. In that regard, becoming an Accidental was just what I needed.

But along the way, I have come to an important understanding: while I may have joined the group merely for the music, my reason for staying goes far beyond that. In my experience, my fellow Accidentals have been nothing short of the most genuine, supportive, and heartwarmingly chaotic band of brothers I have the pleasure of knowing. The group's atmosphere is one of constant understanding and non-judgement, lending itself to a sense of solidarity and brotherhood that shines through in our high-energy performances. While each of us loves performing for its own sake, it is when you do it alongside a group you could consider your own family that it becomes something special.

Of course, bombastic shows are nothing new for the Accidentals. Over our 30-year history, we have been spreading joy at frequent on-campus and many off-campus gigs; we have performed at the 1996 Presidential Debates, the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, DC, and countless colleges nationwide. Additionally, we got first place at the Nutmeg A Cappella Slam in 2005 and 2007, besting all others in Connecticut. Trinity's other cappella groups are nothing to sneeze at, either: the Pipes are the oldest co-ed cappella group in the nation, the all-female Trinitones have released two albums on Spotify and iTunes, and the femme-focused Quirks have opened for the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall.

All four cappella groups will perform at the Welcome Back concert this Friday Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel with auditions happening directly after. Joining an a cappella group has been one of the most rewarding decisions of my college career, and I would recommend it to anyone looking for community and belonging through music.



COURTESY OF NICK CIMILLO '26

## Trinity College's Rome Campus: Intersecting the Past and Present

JULIA PECORA '25  
FEATURES EDITOR

On Aventine Hill, overlooking the ancient churches and the breathtaking vistas of Rome, the Trinity College Rome Campus has been a beacon of experiential learning and cultural immersion for over five decades. Established in 1970, this educational institution provides students with a unique opportunity to delve into the heart of one of the world's most historic and vibrant cities.

Usually, the Rome Campus welcomes approximately 60 students each semester, from sophomore year to first-semester seniors, from Trinity College and other esteemed institutions across the United States.

At the Rome Campus, education transcends the classroom. The curriculum is designed to make history, politics, art, culture, language, literature, and economics come alive through regular academic excursions and city-based research projects. Students have the chance to explore Italy's rich historical and cultural heritage firsthand, fostering a deeper understanding

of the subjects they study.

Extracurricular activities and trips are integral components of the Rome Campus experience. These excursions encourage students to connect directly with Italy's people, landscapes, and history. Whether it's a guided tour through the ancient streets of Rome or a journey to the cities of Venice, Florence, Sicily, or Naples, these experiences enrich students' perspectives and create life-lasting memories.

One of the standout features of the Rome Campus is its unconventional teaching method. The campus offers and encourages a diverse range of internship opportunities in Rome, including placements in museums, human rights organizations, schools, government agencies, and community service initiatives. These internships provide invaluable real-world experience and the chance to engage with the local community.

Of course, living Rome is an immersive experience in itself. The program creates a sense of belonging by encouraging students to embrace the local culture—instead of clashing

it. Trinity students can take cooking classes that teach the art of making fresh pasta at noon and have dinner at a historical local eatery with newfound friends. Evidently, Rome quickly becomes a home away from home for Trinity's students.

Fieldwork is also a vital aspect of the Rome Campus experience. Students can engage in hands-on art preservation and survey work in the nearby 5th-century Basilica of Santa Sabina—how many other programs can offer that? Additionally, the campus collaborates with the Ex-Fenile Project, enabling students to work with children and older adults on cultural events and numerous social support initiatives.

In this cosmopolitan environment, the Rome Campus nurtures intellectual growth and intercultural competency. Its mission is to immerse students in the legacy of great civilizations, preparing them to lead in the modern world. With a strong emphasis on experiential learning, the campus equips students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences needed to excel in an ever-chang-

ing global landscape.

In the heart of Rome, the Trinity College Rome Campus continues to be a center of learning, exploration, and cultural immersion, offering students a transformative educational experience that

transcends the boundaries of the classroom. It's a place where history comes to life, where the past and present intersect, and where students embark on a journey of self-discovery and global understanding.



COURTESY OF SAMMI BRAY '25

# Trinity's Confederate Memorial: The USS *Hartford* Cannons

SAVANNAH BROOKS '26  
MANAGING EDITOR

Not many Trinity students know that the College currently has a Confederate memorial right in the middle of campus. In fact, it is quite possible that students walk by it every day without realizing. Trinity's founding in 1823 means that there are several alumni who served in the Civil War (105, to be exact). Twenty four of these men served in the Confederate Army.

The cannons mounted on the main quad that are oft-described as pointing towards Wesleyan College or Amherst College (in reality, they do not point towards either) were donated by the City of Hartford to Trinity College in 1950 at the request of then-President G. Keith Funston '32. The cannons came from the USS *Hartford*, a Civil War steam-powered sloop-of-war (a type of warship) that was the first ship in the U.S. Navy to be named after Hartford. The USS *Hartford* and her cannons saw combat in the Battle of New Orleans and the Siege of Vicksburg during the Civil War. Due to the significance of the USS *Hartford*, President Funston chose to dedicate the cannons Trinity received to the College's Civil War veterans. On one cannon, he installed a plaque that reads:

"In memory of the Trinity men who fought for the

principles in which they believed with the Union and Confederate forces in the Civil War and of those who gave "the last full measure of devotion."

President Funston made a concerted effort to ensure that these cannons served as a memorial for both Union and Confederate veterans. In the 19th century, according to past Trinity archivists Glenn Weaver and Peter Knapp '65, Trinity was known as a safe space for Southerners who were against the abolishment of slavery to go to school. Other New England institutions of higher learning at the time were generally much more anti-slavery than Trinity.

In the fall of 2021, Trinity's Student Government Association (SGA) motioned to remove the plaque from the cannon and move it to the Watkinson Library archives. However, the plaque still stands. Confederate memorials are not unique to Trinity's campus — in 2020, the University of Mississippi moved a large statue of a Confederate soldier from the most prominent part of campus to a campus cemetery. In the same year, the University of Alabama removed plaques commemorating Alabama students who served in the Confederate Army from their main library.

Other than the cannons, controversy has also surrounded the names of



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC ART CT

Wheaton Hall (now Trinity Hall) and Seabury Hall. Wheaton Hall was named after Nathaniel Wheaton, Trinity's second president and a known slave owner. In 2021, Wheaton Hall was renamed to Trinity Hall. Seabury Hall was named after Samuel Seabury, another slave owner whose name readers may recognize as a villain in the musical "Hamilton." Seabury was a loyalist who owned several enslaved people

and was hardly associated with Trinity College beyond proposing an idea for an Episcopalian college in Connecticut, long before the founding of what was then Washington College. While Seabury Hall was a centerpiece of the push to rename campus buildings in 2020 as part of the Umoja Coalition's demands, it was found that a key treatise cited to be proof of Seabury's support of slavery was actually written by his

grandson, Samuel Seabury III. The name of the building stands as Seabury Hall to this day, even though there are numerous primary sources, such as Seabury's personal journal and census records, proving he owned enslaved persons.

Trinity has a long history with slavery and racism, but these cannons (both literally, given their place on campus, and figuratively, given their historical importance) serve as the centerpiece.

## Hartford Has It: A Guide to Eating Around Trinity

EMILY FOX '26  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the fall semester in full swing, Trinity students are back on campus ready to dive into new classes, participate in extracurricular activities, support our athletes and much more. While there is always something happening on campus, the pleasant weather and easy access we have to Hartford serve as a reminder to go off-campus and explore the city around us. And, food is a great way to experience the diversity and culture of Connecticut's capital. Whether you want a change of pace or are looking to try a new cuisine, here is a guide to eating around Trinity's campus.

First up, we have the American & Mexican Diner, a family-run business that has been open since 2021. Located on Zion

Street, American & Mexican Diner is a fan-favorite among many Trinity students. Open Tuesday to Thursday 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday to Sunday 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., this is a fabulous weekend brunch or lunch place that serves American, Mexican and Mediterranean food. The portion sizes are huge, the prices are good, and every dish is decorated extravagantly. Make sure to try the pancakes, which come plain or with a variety of toppings including fruit, whipped cream and chocolate sauce; the chilaquiles are delicious with spicy green salsa; and you cannot go wrong with five different omelette options, each one coming with breakfast potatoes and toast.

Located on New Britain Avenue, Piolin is a Hartford staple that opened in 1988 and continues to serve classic Peruvian

food. Open Monday to Friday 11 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Piolin is famous for the Lomo Saltado, a traditional Peruvian dish with stir-fried steak, onions, tomatoes and french fries. The portion sizes are massive and reasonably priced. Do not miss out on their Pollo a la Brasa and an extensive list of ceviches. And, make sure to try their green sauce: a salty, spicy, garlicky condiment.

Right across the street from Piolin, Bro's Dough is a classic pizzeria with great prices. You can order online or get delivery to your dorm. Open Tuesday to Thursday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Friday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., you can try any of their signature red or white pizzas with toppings ranging from cheeses, meats and vegetables. They also have massive

calzones, a variety of sandwiches, wraps, and chicken wings as well. And, make sure to snag an order of the fried dough for dessert!

Finally, we have El Sarape, a Mexican restaurant busy every day of the week. Located on Broad Street across from the Park Street branch of Hartford Public Library, El Sarape is open Monday to Saturday from 9

a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. They serve a wide array of food, including everything from tacos and burritos to enchiladas and fajitas. The carne asada is delicious and they have more than five different types of burritos. Make sure you try the red and green salsas that come with your food, they are the perfect condiment for your meal!



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARTFORD COURANT



# Arts & Entertainment

## Misogyny and Homophobia in Media: The Impact of Lesbian TV Shows Getting Cancelled

LINNEA MAYO '26  
A&E EDITOR

Despite LGBTQIA+ representation becoming more prominent within mainstream media, streaming services and media companies have had a problem with canceling lesbian-lead TV shows over the past few years. These stories often do not stand a chance to show audiences their potential because streaming services, particularly Netflix, chose to cancel them within the first few seasons.

In 2020, Netflix canceled three of its original programs with lesbian leads within a week of one another, which included "Atypical," "I Am Not Okay With This" and "The Society." That same year Netflix also canceled "Teenage Bounty Hunters." Netflix claimed these shows were canceled due to "COVID-related circumstances," but many other series with male queer representation continued on.

In 2022, women-led queer shows were constantly being canceled, including "The Wilds," "Paper," "Warrior Nun," "Gentleman Jack" and "Girls." The Warner Brothers also canceled their Batgirl film, which would have included the first openly trans character and actress in the DC film universe.

This pattern is especially disappointing when the shows cannot even make it past the first season and are swept beneath mainstream shows that guarantee companies funding. Companies' main concern is the profit they can make rather than the value of the show. As someone always searching for shows and movies with even a hint of a queer plotline, it becomes incredibly frustrating when you find out their stories are always cut short and incomplete. Examples of lesbian and queer shows axed after their first season include "Willow," "4440" and "A League of Their Own."

Some canceled shows are bound to be objectively bad due to lack of quality, resources, or accuracy, but the uncertainty around the show's cancellation after one season makes it difficult to find and enjoy quality WLW (women loving women) media. A few examples of longrun lesbi-

an shows include "The L Word," "Orange is the New Black," "The Fosters" and "Transparent" - a list that is far too short. We cannot praise the industry for its progressiveness without acknowledging the clear lack of care in longevity towards these shows.

Streaming services have also argued that ratings were too low and not enough people watch the show to keep them going. However, many of these shows have strong fandoms and positive reviews from critics behind them. Take "First Kill," a lesbian vampire show. Despite being canceled two months after the release of their first season, "First Kill" was on Netflix's Top 10 for various weeks, and received 100 million hours viewed in the first month of release. This pattern becomes especially apparent when shows like "Riverdale" continue to be renewed, despite mixed reviews.

These cancellations have caused many fans to take to social media to fight for their favorite

show's future and the future of queer women-led shows. This shared desire to bring a show back has allowed people to connect with others who are also impacted by the content and underscores the value of lesbian media.

Actresses like Zoë Kravitz have also addressed this controversy. Kravitz took to Instagram following the cancellation of her Hulu show "High Fidelity." She captioned an Instagram photo with, "It's cool. At least Hulu has a ton of other shows starring women of color we can watch. Oh wait," calling out the streaming service's lack of diversity and poor decision.

Although these cancellations are not limited to lesbian shows, a bias toward gay men media cannot be ignored. Shows like "Heartstopper," "Young Royals," or "Queer Eye" have continued to be renewed, while much of the LGBTQIA+ media getting canceled is centered on queer women and their romantic relationships. Celebrating shows that include

positive representations is valuable, but only having this perspective excludes more diverse LGBTQIA+ stories and experiences.

There is no denying that these streaming services have a problem with canceling lesbian-lead shows. The need for lesbian representation is not simply about wanting a show, it is about preventing the time of never seeing yourself on screen - when LGBTQIA+ representation was less diverse than it is now. Seeing yourself adequately represented in media, especially queer media, allows you to figure out your sense of identity and belonging. The more characters and representation there is, the higher the nuance and visibility there is for people to see themselves reflected.

Including multi-dimensional characters within queer media would also educate and sensitize a wider audience about the diversity of queer experiences. It allows viewers to challenge the harmful objectification, sexualization and stereotypes me-

dia typically portrays of lesbian and queer women.

Ultimately, lesbian and queer representation is far behind where it needs to be. The uncertainty of adequate lesbian representation unfortunately remains, and it is crucial that we continue to hold these streaming services and companies accountable for those stories they deem less important. The pattern of canceling lesbian-led shows raises questions about the media's genuine commitment to diverse queer representation and proves the misogyny that persists towards queer women in leading roles.

These streaming services and companies must acknowledge the impact that their media could have on public opinions by empowering all queer voices and stories. Asking for lesbian and queer representation is not asking for too much, and I hope that someday people do not need to worry about their favorite show getting canceled simply because of its demographic.



ATYPICAL, COURTESY OF NETFLIX

# Sabrina Codrington '25 Reflects on Her Student Photography

HANNAH LORENZO '24  
A&E EDITOR

Sabrina Codrington '25 demonstrates her passion for photography among the arts community at Trinity College. As a studio art and English major and art history minor, Codrington hones her photography skills through her personal experiences, professional goals, and Trinity's educational and student-led opportunities.

Codrington's investment in photography began with her mother's large collection of family photo albums. Codrington mentioned that at a young age, she enjoyed sifting through these albums and paying close attention to older photographs of her family's history. With the support of her family, her early interests grew into a dedication for photography.

"My family started to notice, and they got me this cheap, pink, little digital camera, and I would take pictures," Codrington said. "As I got older, my siblings all pitched in and got me my first DSLR [Digital Single-Lens Reflex] camera, which I still use today. Ever since, I've been getting better and taking classes."

Coming in as a transfer student after her freshman year, Codrington had a significant foray into professional photography at her previous

school, setting the stage for her journey at Trinity. She reflected on the memorable experience of being one of the photographers for a D-1 college basketball team. Along with the opportunity to connect with expert photographers, Codrington learned about the versatility behind the art of photography. She said, "It showed me that doing photography is not just doing a wedding or someone's event. It could be explored in all these different ways."

At Trinity, Codrington found a space to study photography and connect with the diverse communities on campus. She expressed her excitement of being offered the chance to be a photographer for last year's TrinGala that celebrates Trinity's community of artists. This year, she took photographs for student-led organizations, which she said was "a really good way to get to know a lot of people on campus." These new experiences helped shape her perspective of how Trinity supports artists like her.

As a photographer, Codrington has her own techniques on how to improve her skills. When she is not taking photographs at planned events, she still has a camera around when spending time with her family and friends.

"Whenever I'm home, my family are my test

dummies, so I've done a lot of their profile pictures," Codrington said. "Whenever I'm with my friends, I take a bunch of candid. It's really about picking the best of what you have." Codrington maintains this mindset of freeing herself from restrictive guidelines when it comes to her photography.



COURTESY OF CODRINGTON

While she continues advancing her photography skills, she considers what her future career may look like, such as delving into event or museum photography. Wherever it takes her, Codrington's passion for photography remains an ongoing process of self-reflection.

"You can learn so much

about how people see the world through the pictures they take, and it's always so interesting to see different people's perspectives through their pictures," Codrington said. "I think that I'm starting to develop my own unique voice in that way, and I think it would be really fun to explore that."



HARTFORD, CT (COURTESY OF CODRINGTON)



VIRUET WEDDING, DECEMBER 2022 (COURTESY OF CODRINGTON)

## College Celebrates 26th Annual Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford

HANNAH LORENZO '24  
A&E EDITOR

The Trinity College and Hartford community joined together in a celebration of organ music at the 26th Annual Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford on Saturday, Sept. 23 in the Chapel.

Since 2016, Trinity has hosted this annual organ festival named after Albert Schweitzer, an organist and scholar well-known for his music studies on Johann Sebastian Bach. The festival holds one of North America's top organ competitions for high school and young professional organists to showcase and support their music journeys.

This year's festival consisted of three main events. Bruce Xu, the first-prize and audience-prize winner of the 2022 festival, returned to Trinity to perform an organ recital. The festival hosted the high school division competition the next day, and Daniel Colaner, a student from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, was named the winner. Colaner and the Chapel Singers performed at the festival concert that same night.

Christopher Houlihan '09, John Rose Distinguished College Organist and director of Chapel Music, is the festival's artistic director. Houlihan expressed the importance that the festival has for the living history of organ music and its reach across Hartford and the U.S.

"This festival works to bring the community to campus to appreciate this music," Houlihan said. "It connects student music-making on our campus with choirs from the community, audiences from the community, and young organists coming from around the country to make music here."

The festival's location at the Trinity College Chapel also honors Trinity's history of the chapel's architecture and ongoing music traditions in Hartford.

Houlihan said, "Audiences really love coming to this unique building, to hear this amazing pipe organ, in a space that's very special in the region and city."

At the festival concert, the Chapel Singers sang with two choirs from Connecticut, Chorus Angelicus

and Gaudeamus and The Choirs of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, Hartford.

Daniel Lenois '25, neuroscience major and applied mathematics minor, shared what it was like to perform with the choirs as part of the Chapel Singers. "Having another choir sing with us is very different, but it's also a lot more relieving because there's not as much pressure on us," Lenois said. "It's also fun to sing with other people that we've never sung with before. We always like doing collaborations with other groups, especially in the Hartford area."

The Chapel Singers performed music pieces that not only reach back to five centuries, but also signifies the diversity of organ music through the variety of languages and cultures they engaged with. Some notable pieces from this year's concert include Gaspar Fernandes's 17th century "Tieycantimo Choquiliya" that was sung in Spanish and the indigenous Mexican language of Nahuatl, and Benjamin Britten's 20th century "Rejoice in the Lamb."

Madison Thompson '25, music and French major

and member of the Chapel Singers, reflected on the culmination of the work toward making the festival a success.

"We came together with these two wonderful choirs, and we get to treat the City of Hartford to this that is right here on our campus, Trinity students, and every-

one else who comes out and enjoys it," Thompson said. "I've really enjoyed every single piece we've done together; it's an absolute joy to sing with others."

Learn more about the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford at [asofhartford.org](http://asofhartford.org)



COURTESY OF HANNAH LORENZO '24

# SPORTS

## CT Sun WNBA Team Defeat Minnesota Lynx, Advance to Semi-Finals for the Fifth Consecutive Time

CECE HAMPTON '24  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, the Connecticut Sun defeated the Minnesota Lynx 90-75, advancing to the playoff semi-finals for the fifth consecutive time. Sun forward Alyssa Thomas and point guard DeWanna Bonner carried the game, with Thomas tying a career high of 28 points, and Bonner scoring 25 points and making 10 rebounds. In this game, Bonner became the third player in WNBA playoff history to have 1,000 points and 500 rebounds, sharing the achievement with Candace Parker and Tamika Catchings. Earlier this season when the Sun played the Lynx, Thomas became the first WNBA player to achieve back-to-back triple doubles, recording a 20-20-10 stat line. It was Thomas' fifth triple double of the season, and the ninth in her career. Although the Sun lost to the Lynx in their previous game against them on Sunday, Thomas still proved her

strengths and immense value to the team, making 17 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists. As of 2023, Thomas is the ninth highest paid athlete in the WNBA. Point guard Tyaisha Harris made 17 points off the bench on Sunday, and 18 on Wednesday, propelling the Sun ahead in game play both nights.

To qualify for the WNBA playoffs, a team must have one of the top eight highest winning percentages, regardless of conference. All four top seeded teams this year advanced to the final four playoffs, with the reigning WNBA playoff champions the Aces seeded at No. 1, Liberty at No. 2, Sun at No. 3 and Wings at No. 4. The Aces hosted the Wings on Sunday at Michelob ULTRA Arena in Las Vegas, with the Aces winning 97-83. After losing all four regular season games against the New York Liberty this season, the Sun won on Sunday, Sept. 24 78-63 at the Barclays Stadium in Brooklyn, New York. Within this game, the Sun took on previous

Sun superstar Jonquel Jones, who requested a trade from the franchise in the 2023 offseason, but is now playing for the Liberty. Without Jones this season, the Sun was expected to plunge to the bottom of the league standings, but MVP Alyssa Thomas has kept the Sun on top, helping them to finish this season 27-13, the third

best record in the WNBA.

The playoffs will continue in the best of five series this week, with game two on Tuesday night, and game three on Friday. Game three could potentially be the last game of the series if a team sweeps. The question remains over how the Sun will continue to fare against the Liberty, and whether they

squash the potential for a historic matchup between the top teams in the league, or power through and earn a rematch of the 2022 WNBA Finals, when the Sun took on the Aces. It can only be revealed as these four teams continue to battle it out this week, and the two victors will play game one of the final series on Sunday, Oct. 8.



COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

## Spotlight on USWNT Star: CT Native, Alyssa Naeher

CECE HAMPTON '24  
SPORTS EDITOR

This past summer, the United States Women's National Team (USWNT) traveled to New Zealand and Australia to compete in the 2023 Women's World Cup. Among the veterans on the squad were striker Alex Morgan, winger Megan Rapinoe and defender Kelly O'Hara, all returning for their fourth world cup, as well as goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, who came back for her third World Cup. Naeher has experience backing up for former goalkeeper star Hope Solo, as well being a two-time Olympian. In the 2019 World Cup, she played every minute, giving up just three goals and having four shutouts. Her teammates describe her as being very focused, serious and stoic, even joking that she barely stops for a drink of water. Previous head women's soccer coach Vlatko Andonovski described Naeher as being "world-class."

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Naeher grew up in

Stratford, attended school her whole life in Trumbull and eventually moved with her family to Seymour. In her early days of playing soccer, Naeher played all over the state, forging ties within the soccer community across Connecticut. Each time the World Cup rolls around, Christian Heritage School, which Naeher attended for 16 years and where her dad has worked for 40 years, does something special to continue to support Naeher and share their pride for her achievements. After the Christian Heritage School, Naeher attended Penn State, where she was a multi-year All American and once earned Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. She played at Penn State from 2006-2009, then turned pro.

Since her first time as a backup goalkeeper in the 2015 World Cup, 35-year-old Naeher has emerged as a veteran and leader of the USWNT. In an interview, she shared how her experience with two World Cups under her belt has naturally made her into a leader on

the team, helping to guide the 14 players who made their World Cup debut this past summer on the USWNT. She says that the key to making a cohesive team dynamic is by balancing the freshness of the new players with the experience and knowledge of the returning players, some of them with almost a decade of experience in the league, to create the perfect culture on the team. In addition to playing for the women's national team, Naeher also plays for the National Women's Soccer League club Chicago Red Stars.

In 2020, Naeher was in the rankings for The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper of the Year, ultimately being one of three finalists. As of now, she ranks third all-time in U.S. goalkeeper history for caps, wins, and shutouts. In the early 2023 season, her 11th year in the league, she became the all-time leader for both saves and appearance by a goalkeeper in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). One of Naeher's personal strategies for

success in competition is having zero distractions. During the World Cup, she deletes all social media from her phone, and leaves it on airplane mode for most of the tournament. She has explained that it helps her to lock in and be more present.

This past World Cup, the USWNT was eliminated from the tournament very early on, falling to Sweden

in a penalty shootout and losing 3-0. The loss was the first time that the USWNT had been eliminated from the tournament at such an early stage, and the first defeat for them in the World Cup in 12 years. Despite these disappointments, the USWNT remains optimistic about the future of their team and its developments, and the future of women's soccer on a global scale.



COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

## What the PWHL Merger and Acquisition Means for the Future of Professional Women's Hockey

ANNIKA DYCZKOWSKI '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

Monday, Sept. 18 marked a new era for women's hockey at the inaugural Professional Women's Hockey League draft in Toronto.

In 15 rounds, six teams drafted 90 of the top female players hailing mostly from the U.S. (29 selections) and Canada (48). In total, nine different nations were represented with Czechia garnering the most of any European country (five). This was a monumental step in the right direction for the unification of professional women's hockey players.

In the past, women's leagues have been littered with poor relations and sub-par league standards and conditions. The National Women's Hockey League (NHL) was the first senior women's league, founded in 2015. The league was later renamed the Premier Hock-

ey Foundation (PHF) in June 2021. The Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA) was founded in May 2019 by players as a result of their dissatisfaction with the NHL. Midway through the NHL's second season, for instance, they announced to players they would be receiving a 50% pay cut; this decision resulted in a \$5,000 minimum league salary per player instead of the previous \$10,000. In addition to not receiving a livable salary, players frustration with the NHL also stemmed from a lack of health insurance, infrastructure resources and training programs for young women. As a result of these vexations, over 200 players released a joint statement declaring their withdrawal from any North American professional league in the 2019-2020 season.

The grievances of these players and fragmentation

within leagues desperately called for a restructuring of the professional women's league; thus, the PWHL was born in August 2023. By June, both leagues had been liquidated and the PHF's assets were sold to the Mark Walter Group and Billie Jean King Enterprises.

King's excitement for the endorsement of women's hockey was seen at the press conference following the inaugural draft: "I have no doubt that this league can capture the imagination of fans and a new generation of players." King delivered opening remarks and announced the first overall pick, Taylor Heise for Minnesota.

This breath of fresh air for professional women's hockey is like nothing that has ever been observed before in women's sports. Olympian and former Boston Pride star Hilary Knight, for instance, negotiated such benefits as a housing stipend

and a \$55,000 salary. This influx of resources opens the door for women's players to demonstrate potential they never had the opportunity to display before, Knight proposes. "I think it's exciting because you're going to see players really come into their prime when they have never had the chance to before."

This draft begs the question: what does this mean for the future of professional women's hockey? The most important certainty worth

noting is the league is the most sustainable and practical we have seen thus far. The transition from multiple women's leagues with inadequate resources and funding to a conglomeration of top prospects in the same division is especially noteworthy. Great talent in the same competition implies stability, especially when its extensive funding promises livable wages, medical benefits and housing relocation compensation.



FIRST OVERALL PICK TAYLOR HEISE WITH BILLIE JEAN KING (COURTESY OF USA HOCKEY)

## Saturday Trinity Sports Recap: Soccer, Football and More

ANNIKA DYCZKOWSKI '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

Under overcast skies and gloomy gamedays, the Bantams faced substantial competition this past weekend.

Women's soccer made the quick trip to Wesleyan for a 1-1 draw against the Cardinals. For those of us who cheered from the livestream, there was minor confusion over whether the goal was scored by Tori Simas '24 or Sami Olsen '25; to clarify, Simas netted the game-tying goal in the second half to keep the Bantams alive after Wesleyan's offense succeeded first on their second shot 13 minutes into the match. Olsen did have one shot on goal, which narrowly missed the top of the net as the final buzzer sounded, ending the game in a tie. The team has their eyes on victory for their

home matchup this Saturday against Bates at 2 p.m.

Also in Middletown on Saturday, field hockey faced a tough battle, falling 4-1. The Cardinals were scoreless and shotless in the entire second half. On a corner shot with less than five minutes left, the Bantams got the last word in. Defense/midfielder Izzy Deveney '25 inserted a quick pass to forward/midfielder Katrina Winfield '24, who ended the play with the ball behind the Cardinals goaltender. Next weekend, field hockey will face Bates on home turf at 11 a.m.

Volleyball swept both of their matches against Regis and Montclair State at home, finishing 3-1 and 3-0 respectively. In their win against Regis, Caroline Howell '26 dominated with three aces, 18 assists and 10 digs. Lola Craig '24 earned eight kills, two aces and 10 digs. In their sweep

against Montclair State, Ava Boloyan '25 finished with six kills, two aces and five blocks. Libero Scarlett Jago '27 had two aces, three assists and 11 digs. Volleyball finds themselves in a home NESCAC matchup this Saturday against Colby College at 2 p.m.

In addition to field hockey and women's soccer, men's soccer also ventured to Middletown for a 2-2 draw against the Cardinals. The Bantams had two shots on net, both of which flew by the Cardinals goaltender (for the sake of layman's clarification, that is a 0% save percentage). Captain James Donaldson '24 opened and closed Trinity's scoring with both goals; the midfielder totaled three shots in the game. This Saturday, the team will take on Bates at home at 11 a.m.

Meanwhile, in Waterville, Maine, football annihilated Colby College 48-7

to improve 2-0-0 in the NESCAC. The Bantams had a slow start, when at halftime they led 9-7 with all of their points being awarded through field goals. Not to worry, because every Bantam possession in the third quarter resulted in a touchdown. Tyler DiNapoli '26 ran a one-yard touchdown to open scoring for the Bantams, while Zander Zebrowski '24 closed out the Mules with a two-yard run, sending the

team back to Hartford with a 41-point margin victory over their Waterville rivals. Football's next home game is this Saturday against Amherst, with kickoff taking place at 1 p.m.

This weekend is a whirlwind of home games, so be sure to be at Jessee/Miller Field, Trinity Soccer Field, Oosting Gymnasium and Robin L. Sheppard Field on Saturday (and Friday at 7 p.m. for volleyball) to support your Bantams.



COURTESY OF TRINITY ATHLETICS



Coming Up  
Saturday

Men's Soccer vs. Bates College  
@ 11:00 a.m.

FB vs. Amherst College  
@ 1:00 p.m.