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The Trinity Way sparks campus conversation

Collective challenges white supremacy, discrimination at Trinity through social media campaign

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On July 5, The Trinity Way shared their first post across social media platforms, in which they expressed their mission to “discuss the ways in which the Trinity way perpetuates white supremacist ideology ... provid[ing] a visual experience as to how students, who do not fit into that framework, are dismissed and mistreated.” Since then, the collective has shared 146-and-counting experiences of discrimination and mistreatment against members of the Trinity community, with the goal of exposing the regularity and breadth of such instances.

“I think the project is a great platform for people to share their experiences, and it’s a great resource for people in the Trinity community to be more aware about everything that’s going on on campus. I have my own stories and I know a few of my friends have some as well,” said Briahn Hawkins, an alum from the class of 2020. “But the majority of the stories that have come from The Trinity Way are new to me.”

The Trinity Way (TTW) collective has garnered over 1,200 followers on Instagram, almost 300 followers on Twitter and over 140 followers on Facebook to date.

“We chose the name ‘Trinity Way’ because this is a phrase often thrown in the face of marginalized students, faculty and staff in defense of institutional tradition. We wanted to turn it on its head and say ‘The Trinity Way’ allows the university to carry out numerous

injustices behind the guise of ‘business as usual,’” wrote The Trinity Way (TTW) in a group statement over email.

The collective stated that TTW was “born out of multiple interactions between former and current students after the BLM statement from Trinity University” was released.

TTW explained that their purpose is to reveal one through-line connecting all of the stories.

“The Trinity Way aims to encompass a wide variety of experiences with an intersectional focus. These diverse yet shared experiences of discrimination and violence lead the viewer to recognize the root cause of all these inequalities: White supremacy,” said TTW.

Each post of TTW contains a written statement from a member of the Trinity community. To date, there are 15 posts that include pictures of students or alumni holding up a piece of paper on which their experience is written. One post included Stacy Davidson, former director of Academic Support, who shared her headshot along with a quote detailing a microaggression she experienced during her time at Trinity. All other posts to date are anonymous statements, ranging from incidents of racism to sexism to discrimination based on one’s sexual orientation. Despite not being paired with a photograph, anonymous posts also have a visual component.

“Many accounts that we drew inspiration from for TTW utilize a text-only system for anonymous entries, however, we chose to accompany each anonymous entry with a representation of the submitter depicted by a classical statue. Classical Greco-Roman



illustration by
GABRIELLE RODRIGUEZ

sculptures have been historically white-washed to perpetuate a tradition of white supremacy,” wrote TTW. “Contemporary study has found that these artworks whose whiteness has been used to signify racial superiority/purity were

often in fact painted in vibrant color. We believe the history of these statues is emblematic of the white-washed, color-stripped experiences of Trinity University.”

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TU Census and Voter Task Force prepares for elections

The group consists of faculty, staff, students aiming to spread awareness around Census, voting

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“REMEMBER THERE’S AN ELECTION THIS FALL!” reads the all-caps, bolded print inside several professors’ syllabi. Following are a list of election dates and hyperlinks to voter resources. This recurring, copy-pasted blurb is courtesy of the TU 2020 Census and Voter Engagement Task Force.

The syllabus language, which some professors have opted to include in their fall 2020 syllabi, is one of the many initiatives the Census and Voter Engagement Task Force has undertaken to spread awareness about civic engagement to Trinity students this semester.

“2020 represents a pretty significant year,” said Jamie Thompson, Assistant Dean of Students, director of Student Involvement and founding member of the task force. “[There is] a census and a general election, and at that a contentious one.”

Thompson and former colleague Scott Brown, who recently took a new job opportunity at the University of Texas at Austin, founded the task force in the fall of 2019.

Thompson and Brown started the task force as a “passion project” until the two realized that they could “make something formal and really build momentum around these efforts,” said Thompson.

Thus, the task force was born. The task force has no formal hierarchy and includes



RACHEL BOAZ-TOPPEL, ZACHARY NEELEY and **BRIAN YANCELSON**, members of the task force, discuss over Zoom plans for organizing a voter registration contest. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

faculty and staff from all over campus. It also includes representatives of myriad campus student cultural, religious and political organizations.

In spring 2020, the task force directed their efforts at the 2020 Census. The task force worked to support the university’s group enumeration, or counting, all on-campus and City Vista students for the Census. They also provided the addresses of off-campus students to the Census Bureau so that census takers could follow up with those residences.

The task force also raised awareness by making videos and distributing materials.

Juan Sepúlveda, professor of political science, joined the task force because he “loved what they were doing,” Sepúlveda said. “I love that our group has been whoever wants to participate and step up to participate.”

Stepping up is the task force’s specialty. The task force has undertaken numerous

efforts this fall to get Trinity students registered and voting.

The task force has deputized dozens of students, allowing them to register other students to vote. They have also conducted numerous trainings for student leaders, including First-Year Experience peer tutors, student organization leadership and athletic teams. The idea is to proliferate voting information and resources as far and wide as possible on campus.

“Most people I know, they want to vote, they want to be active and civically engaged” said Sarah Pita, sophomore Student Government Association senator, political science major and member of the task force’s social media team. “It’s just a matter of ‘how do I do that?’”

“What’s tricky is that you basically have 51 different versions of what’s going on, with each state and D.C. setting up their own set of rules,” said Sepúlveda.

The task force is heavily encouraging students to use the TurboVote and LibGuide

pages set up specifically for Trinity. The LibGuide has general voter information for the most common states of origin of Trinity students and TurboVote is a resource where you enter your address and the program walks you through how to register and vote where you live.

“Texas is a challenge,” Sepúlveda said. “We’re one of the six states in the country where you cannot use the pandemic as an excuse to get a mail-in ballot. We’re really encouraging people not to wait until November the 3rd [to vote].”

“Especially this year with coronavirus it’s just much more difficult logistically to figure out where you need to register, where you need to vote,” said Pita.

The Trinity Maverick Society, which is currently putting together multiple civic engagement workshops in conjunction with the task force, hopes to increase turnout and help demystify the process.

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trinitonian@trinity.edu

we love tips, and more tips

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The Trinitonian [USPS 640460] [issn 1067-7291] is published weekly during the academic year, except holidays and final exams, by Trinity University, One Trinity Place, San Antonio, TX 78212-7200. Subscription price is \$35 per year. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Antonio, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Trinitonian, One Trinity Place, #62, San Antonio, TX 78212-7200.

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Previously, on SGA: Athletics to return to the field

This covers the meeting on Sept. 9

COVID-19 UPDATES

Administrator Tess Coody-Anders said as of 9/9, Trinity has no active COVID cases and no one in isolation. Surveillance testing will begin 9/10 and end on 9/11 for this week. 100 students will be tested and this sample will have a balance of on and off-campus students, faculty and staff. From these numbers, they hope to get an overall sense of how the campus is handling COVID. Depending on the results that come back, the university may expand testing, and perhaps switch to a faster test option instead of the swab test. The alternative test would be able to notify students of their results within 15 minutes.

After the estimated 10 students in quarantine, Coody-Anders says the university has been able to make adjustments based on their experience in isolation. Students in quarantine are encouraged to utilize the Integrated Care Team, a group that provides essential services to students who have to remain in their rooms for 14 days. These services include laundry, food, academic support, and anything else a student may need. Coody-Anders says that they are looking to capture the impact of the Labor Day weekend, so they may continue testing until next week.

ATHLETICS

Coody-Anders said that athletics was approved to return

to practice with significant changes. Students should expect to see athletes out on the field as early as the end of next week. Junior Vice President Oliver Chapin-Eiserloh expressed concern over the returning athletic teams and their ability to avoid spreading COVID to one another. Coody-Anders responded by saying that the teams have already been around each other and will be following strict guidelines to avoid the spread of the virus. According to Coody-Anders, how well teams are able to keep their COVID numbers under control will determine whether they can keep playing, and possibly progress in what they are and aren't allowed to do as a team.

KEEPING AN EYE ON CITY VISTA

Junior Chief of Staff Noor Rahman asked Coody-Anders whether she knew if City Vista was considered on or off-campus. If students in resident halls were to be sent home, would residents of City Vista be sent home too? Coody-Anders says that at the moment, they have enough capacity to count City Vista as on-campus, but that could change depending on positivity rates and the number of people in isolation.

Coody-Anders added that were the COVID cases to rise on campus, the students living off-campus in San Antonio would be asked to continue their classes remotely for the rest of the semester. Those living in City Vista may or may not be asked to move out were campus to close.

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Additional coverage can be found online at trinitonian.com, coverage by **KAYLA PADILLA**

COVID Snapshot:

Updated 9/9/2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Overall Numbers

Total # Active Cases: **0**
 # Test Results to Date: **2,578**
 Total # in On-Campus Isolation: **0**

Total # Tested: **2,646**
 Total Positivity Rate: **0.5%**
 Cumulative Tested Positive: **12**

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(of 2,200 copies printed and distributed)

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(total number of page views)

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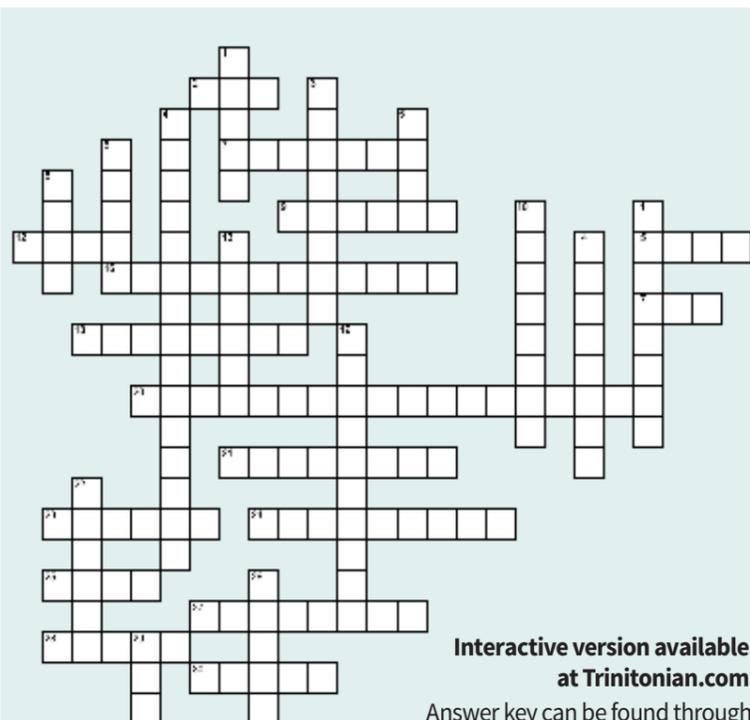
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Classified ads are free for Trinity students. For non-students, each ad is \$25 for 25 words. Send your ads to trinitonian-adv@trinity.edu

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Health & Wellness Crossword Puzzle



Interactive version available
at Trinitonian.com

Answer key can be found through
the interactive puzzle link.

ACROSS

2. Almond _____.
7. Maintain a healthy equilibrium
9. People toast to this
12. Meditative exercise
15. Soap carving
16. Emotional wellbeing
17. Temporary break
18. This drink improves blood flow and reduces inflammation
20. Drama, dance, music are all forms of...
21. Manipulating yarn to create something
23. Place where flowers and herbs are grown
24. Passion Pit's 2012 hit which doubles as destressing advice
25. Satisfied
27. The supposed best medicine
28. Dove's hope
30. An optimist's urging

DOWN

1. Something you pick up
3. Improper insulin production
4. Yellow lab
5. No _____ for the wicked
6. Fond wish
8. Emotional state
10. Type of coffee
11. An artist's picture
13. Repeated for encouragement
14. To workout
19. "Breath in..."
22. Outside world
26. Aural art
29. Common therapy style abbr.

Faculty, students discuss TTW

continued from FRONT

Kirsten Iyare, senior human communications major and president of the Black Student Union (BSU), wasn't surprised to read about the incidents. She first encountered TTW when she saw a tweet using the hashtag "#TheTrinityWay" that critiqued TUPD's Blue Lives Matter flag, which was hung up in front of their on-campus headquarters earlier this summer. There were subsequent calls from the Trinity community to take the flag down.

"As president of the BSU and as a student, and as someone who has witnessed the TUPD and their lack of effort to help students, specifically, students of color — not to knock them on any other avenue because I've seen other tweets of how helpful they have been — they just haven't been helpful to me or anyone that looks like me," said Iyare. "When that flag thing happened, no had said anything about it, it was kind of underground. The people on campus were the ones who saw it and that's the only reason we knew it had been hung. After that, it was boom: that's The Trinity Way."

Iyare also disclosed that she had anonymously submitted an experience which was published on TTW.

"We want to share experiences as a means of pushing for change. This allows people to see that these experiences are not singular or isolated by any means; but instead, part of the larger systemic devaluation of student life at Trinity University," said TTW.

Gabriella Garriga, senior sociology and economics double-major and president of Trinity Diversity Connection, hopes TTW pushes Trinity students to take more seriously the discrimination certain students report.

"I don't speak for all students, but I hope the Trinity Way has snapped something in students who are typically apathetic or who maybe have heard a one-off story ..." said Garriga. "I think that this account can bring hope to a lot of students who maybe feel like that their experience was like a marginalized experience or to students who didn't believe other students, I hope that now Trinity students or members just won't be as apathetic as they have been in the past."

When asked about the on-campus reform the collective wishes to see, the collective stated that they should not be expected to ideate these changes.

"There is a misconception that collectives such as TTW must have ideas on campus 'reform'; otherwise, their work is seen as invalid. Unless TTW is getting paid like administrators, whose primary job is to create these "reforms," we will refuse to address these types of questions and simply continue the work of sharing student experiences."

Some members of the Trinity community are already calling for specific reforms, after reading the experiences of discrimination posted on TTW social media accounts.

"In all honesty, based on all of the negative stories that have come out about Sheryl Tynes and David Tuttle, I think they should be fired," said Hawkins.

The Trinity Way reported that the names of Dr. Tynes and Dean Tuttle "come up very often in people's responses."

Both Sheryl Tynes, vice president for Student Life, and David Tuttle, associate vice president for Student Life and Dean of Students, responded to calls for resignations.

"As a sociologist and an educator, I understand the motivation to assign blame and responsibility to individuals when we are heartbroken and enraged by injustices that are truly systemic in nature," said Tynes. "While we may not always agree with what is shared publicly, out of a respect for confidentiality and a desire to encourage students to formalize their complaints, we do not comment on individual cases."

"I have been dedicated to seeking equality for students throughout my more than 30 years at Trinity, and I am proud of the many things we have accomplished and the ways I have contributed to making Trinity a more welcoming place," said Tuttle.

Not all agree with the methods of TTW and instead see the experiences revealed on the social media pages as a part of the college experience.

According to TTW, Robert Huesca, professor of communications and international studies, commented under one of TTW's Facebook posts that detailed an in-class experience where a white student made a comment about foreign accents in a class and this was recounted on TTW by a student who saw the professor, who had an accent, to be "visibly hurt" after the comment was made. As stated on the original Facebook post, Huesca commented, "You hit a nerve. That's what a college class is all about."

"We found his response to trivialize the experience being shared and entirely miss the point of our entire platform," wrote TTW collective.

Huesca shared that he made the comment with the intent of making two points.

"My comment was intended to make a good contribution to a bad website in two ways. First, the student made a complaint but also challenged an ignorant attitude in a class. That's what is supposed to happen in a college classroom. I was congratulating the student, rather than condemning the ignorant comment. Second, I put my name on my contribution, unlike the vast majority of contributors to this page who hide behind anonymity while issuing charges that border on libel. I think people should own their communication and wanted to offer an example of what that looks like," said Huesca in an email response.

Other faculty members see The Trinity Way less as bordering on libel and more as productive and necessary for the future of the university.

"Faculty and other groups on campus, [and] Dr. Dee's task force, have really been advocating for stronger leadership on campus around diversity and inclusion, around being anti-racist on campus. I really hope that that happens, because I think that The Trinity Way really illustrates how that's needed," said Sarah Beth Kaufman, associate professor of sociology. "These are our students, and I think there's lots of different ways to react to it, right? You can read it as a faculty member and think 'Oh my gosh, I'm working so hard and here are these students complaining,' essentially, which is like writing a paper and then being upset when someone criticizes it. It's just not a useful way to experience this. I mean, I have seen myself in those posts in that I know that I have upset students. I read one and I thought, 'That's me,' and I was upset with myself at the time when I did it and it just made me remember that, you know, my actions matter."

Garriga suggests TTW serves as a learning experience for which Trinity should be grateful.

"I think the Trinity Way gets a lot of judgment because people think they're just calling out people for no reason. But I think it's so important for people, even people who think they're above this, to understand that they're also causing harm," said Garriga. "If you're causing harm, you should be grateful that someone's calling you out for it so you can stop."

Kaufman acknowledges the different conversations happening on campus and regards the Trinity Way as "effective."

"I think it has gotten the attention of the people on campus. I think people are having very different reactions," said Kaufman. "I have heard frustration at call-out culture, you know, the kind of question about what's more effective to use: people's names or to leave them [anonymous]. ... Certainly, there's that conversation of what is more effective. For the people in my circles, it's not surprising, but it is very sad. We as faculty are advocating as much as we can, and it's not part of our jobs either to be on these committees ... and we're not paid either. The DIO task force, in particular, this summer, put in — I was one of the subject experts so I wasn't in the majority of the meetings — a lot of work and are not being paid [extra]. I felt like it was a good summer to be doing that because [The DIO task force and the Trinity Way] were working in tandem. They didn't mean to, but I think it was effective. It's the right time. That people are talking about it is the point."

Students isolate, quarantine to prevent COVID-19 spread

Physician urges to monitor symptoms, wear masks



Students check in for COVID-19 testing during move-in. Testing was provided free-of-charge by Trinity. photo by GENEVIEVE HUMPHREYS

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Face masks, social distancing, and daily health checks: While unfamiliar and wearisome at times, such precautions are necessary to preserve a semblance of normalcy in the midst of COVID-19. As part of these measures, Trinity's administrative leaders and healthcare workers have organized quarantine and isolation procedures in the event that students are exposed to or test positive for the virus.

With an array of new COVID-19 terminology having entered everyone's vocabulary, Tess Coody-Anders, vice president for Strategic Communications and Marketing, explains the differences between quarantine and isolation.

"Isolation is what happens when someone has tested positive for or been clinically diagnosed with COVID. Quarantine is if you had an exposure to someone who is positive, but you have not yet tested positive, so we put you in quarantine just to be safe," said Coody-Anders.

Once a student enters isolation they are treated as highly infectious and the university begins monitoring symptoms, conducting vital signs

checks, and contact tracing. The differentiation between isolation and quarantine requires a defining of "close contact," which according to Marcy Youngdahl, university physician, is set in terms of duration and proximity of contact.

"[Close contact] is when you have been unmasked with someone for a period of fifteen minutes or longer at a distance of less than six feet. We see that the six-foot rule helps cut down on the ability of those respiratory droplets to make it to another person," said Youngdahl. "Of course the mask comes into play because that mask is actually what's called 'source control,' so it prevents some of those respiratory droplets from coming out. So, if you are unmasked with somebody, then that of course puts you at higher risk."

Coody-Anders also emphasized the importance of wearing a mask, especially when around other students on upper-campus

"Even if you are in a study room in the library or CSI by yourself, somebody could come in right behind you so it is really important that you have been wearing that mask. If we wear our masks, give each other some space and wash our hands frequently, we can really slow this down," said Coody-Anders.

continued on TRINITONIAN.COM

Task force aids voter registration

continued from FRONT

"[We believe] that civic engagement is one of the most important things one can take part in to increase the wellbeing of individuals," said Matthew Garr, junior psychology major and one of the Maverick Society's representatives on the task force.

"Due to COVID-19 and the many questions around mail-in voting, it is now more important than ever to make sure that voters are informed about the best and safest ways to vote," Garr said. "Voter engagement is more important than it has been in recent memory, and if we can play a part in increasing it, then we have done our job successfully."

One of the task force's most attention-grabbing initiatives is to get students to sign up to be poll workers.

"60% [of poll workers] nationally are usually senior citizens, but it's obviously not healthy for seniors to be working the polls" Sepúlveda said. "We're lucky in Bexar County [because] students can get paid."

The task force has also signed onto and facilitates relationships with several non-partisan groups aimed at increasing voter registration and turnout.

On behalf of Trinity, the task force signed onto the Ask Every Student program, which is a commitment to ask every student on

campus to register to vote, and continued Trinity's membership as an ALL IN challenge-participating school, which commits signatories to developing, articulating and "calendarizing out" an action plan to support student voting and registration. After making that set of plans, ALL IN then provides resources to the institution to assist with voter registration and turnout.

Trinity also participates with the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, which takes voter data being sent to think tanks and connects it with institutions like Trinity. Institutions then use that information to guide their approaches to voter outreach.

"[We] look at the data and use it to set goals. [We] saw that females vote higher than males," Thompson said. "What to do to bump up male voting?"

The task force has and continues to facilitate events, raise awareness and reach out to students, staff and faculty with resources.

"The only thing that holds us back is our own bandwidth," Thompson said.

Bridging the geographical divide that the Trinity community faces due to COVID-19, the task force has various virtual event coming up, including a "Voting 101" workshop on Sept. 17 and #voteTUtogether student org training workshops on Sept. 18 as a part of Leadershipalooza.

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Health and wellness in the “real world”

Health and wellness are of utmost importance right now. We as a community have talked so much about physical health that mental health often takes a backseat to our discussions about well-being. Here at the Trinitonian, we've been thinking a lot about our staff and their mental health. How do we produce a paper every week but ensure that their physical and mental health is intact, all while dealing with a global pandemic?

It wasn't easy, but the answer was obvious: we, the executive editors, had to recognize that it is our responsibility to pick up the slack if one of our staff members got sick or simply didn't feel okay enough to write a story when bigger things were consuming their mind. The “real world” doesn't seem to be thinking about mental well-being, and we suppose if we wanted to be “realistic,” we'd probably work our staff to the bone despite their other commitments and real-life happenings, you know, to get them ready for “real jobs.” Except working for the Trinitonian is a real job, and the “real world” could be a whole lot more empathetic.

We've only had our executive positions for a few weeks now, but one thing's certain: You can emphasize deadlines and manage a communicative staff and still keep their mental health intact.

You can emphasize deadlines and manage a communicative staff and still keep their mental health intact.

Everyone's always talking about how harsh the “real world” is: “The real world doesn't care about mental health,” and “the real world doesn't care about your tears.” Well, we believe that denying college students the tools to maintain good mental health while they're balancing classes, working for us and you know, living through a pandemic, is detrimental to everyone and serves absolutely no one.

Workplaces are falling apart because of the pandemic, people are getting COVID-19, and depression and anxiety are skyrocketing. Wouldn't we just be the greatest editors ever to proceed with production as we would any other year? Oh, forget the mental health of our staff, but let's go ahead and publish an editorial about balancing work and school, right? Ridiculous. Being an editor, reporter or illustrator during a global pandemic isn't easy. Sure, our writers could decide to throw their laptop into a lake, dye their hair, impulse cut their own bangs, go into hiding in the jungle and never submit their stories to us, but instead, we trust that we've built an environment that would allow them to communicate their distress and concerns.

We hope that during this extremely difficult period, people in the workplace can be more empathetic to one another. We need radical empathy and communication in the workplace, and the Trinitonian needs it for the survival of the paper and for the wellbeing of our staff. We'll do our part, and we hope the “real world” can do its part, too.

WANT TO SUBMIT A COLUMN? here's what you should know.

letters to the editor

Share your quick reactions to Trinitonian coverage and opinion columns. Send 300 words or fewer to the head editors and Phoebe Murphy, opinion editor, at pmurphy@trinity.edu. She or Kayla Padilla, editor-in-chief, will be in touch as soon as they can.

guest columns

Can't keep it to a few hundred words? Pen a guest column and let your views be known. Please keep it between 500 and 700 words, and give us time to prepare. If possible, submit by Sunday at noon to be in the Friday edition of the paper. Email it to opinion editor Phoebe Murphy at pmurphy@trinity.edu.

please note!

The Opinion section editor and the Trinitonian copy editors will fact-check your work and edit for clarity, legal concerns, grammar and style, but we will not alter your argument. Also, please include your graduating year and major or your position at the university.



When you see this “forum” stamp, know that you're reading community voices. The Trinitonian is a public forum for Trinity students, faculty and staff. All guest columns are unpaid and do not represent the views of the Trinitonian. Want to join the forum? Here's how to start a dialogue and have your voice heard in print and online.

The ghosts of GOP future



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I'm sure you've heard that this is the “most important election of our lifetime.” It's an old cliché often thrown around by politicians and activists on both sides. We hear it every two years or so in hopes of driving voters to the polls, but one wonders how true it is. Fundamentally, all elections matter and have an impact, but presidential elections are particularly important. Think of 1968, 1980, 2000 and 2016. Each of these elections defined the politics of whole generations of people and shifted the paradigm by which our national politics operated. While this election is indeed important, and for far too many of us a matter of life and death, I've seen a lot of my fellow Democrats throw around this cliché and forget the bigger picture. This November, the possibility for a blowout win should not distract us from the long-term obstacles that the Democratic party will continue to struggle with.

The way I see it, even if Joe Biden puts an end to the long national nightmare that is the Trump presidency, we will still be confronted by a conservative movement enthralled with populist illiberalism and authoritarianism. Beating Trump will not be a cure-all for our problems, and we need to realize that. In 2016, Trump was not a fluke and benefited from a larger shift in our politics that goes beyond any one candidate. He represents a large constituency of voters who've now had a taste of power. Even though the GOP lacks a written platform for this election, Trump voters have an agenda and will continue to look for leaders who will deliver for them after Trump is gone. They are

somewhere between the 43% of Americans who currently approve of and intend to vote for him and the nearly 63 million Americans who already did.

We'd be deluding ourselves if we thought things would return to some nostalgic sense of normalcy in a Biden administration. All things point to the fact that Trump filled a void left behind by Reaganism in the conservative movement. Therefore, Trump will likely go down as the first among many Trump-like figures yet to come. Over the next few years, we will see Republicans debate what truly

We should all want Trumpism to be resoundingly rejected and relegated to the trash heap of history away from any national party platform. For those of us who have experienced first-hand the heightened bigotry and racism under Trump, we cannot go on while Trumpism is in control of the world's fourth-largest political party. Moreover, for the sake of our democratic republic, we must concern ourselves with not only beating Trump but beating Trumpism. Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president, famously said “a house divided cannot



2024?

2028?

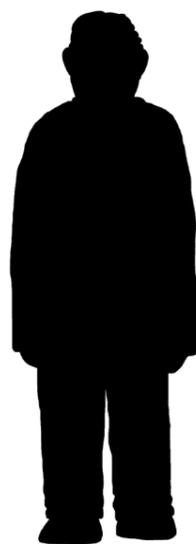


illustration by **REN RADER**

defines Trumpism without Trump as a new generation of leaders, like Josh Hawley and Tom Cotton, seek to succeed him. Whoever ends up replacing Trump and what strand of conservatism comes out on top in his wake should be a concern for all of us. I know there are those who think that a Trumpian Republican is preferable because they're “open about their racism” or they're “easier to beat” for whatever reason, but that's a bunch of malarkey.

stand,” and like a house, our democracy cannot stand if one of the two major parties threatens our democracy. That's why this liberal Democrat cares very much about who the Republican party nominates for President come 2024, 2028 and 2032.

In a future election, it is entirely possible for us to see a younger and more nuanced Trump-like figure reverse Biden's gains among crucial groups like college-educated whites and suburbanites. I'm not convinced that the Democratic party has learned its lesson from 2016. We continue to ignore the facts and deny that there is a genuine Trump constituency out there with real and genuine concerns. As a party, we continue the same

identity politics driven strategy that we used in 2016 and still lack an economic message that meets the moment and answers the real systemic issues that led millions of Americans to Trump. Unless we solve the real causes of Trumpism, we will continue to mean it when we say that “this is the most important election of our lifetime” every two years.

Ben Falcon is a junior political science and history double major.

TU President on The Trinity Way



DANNY ANDERSON
TU PRESIDENT
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Early summer seems a distant memory, clouded by anxieties produced by the arrival of COVID-19 to our community. Almost immediately, another diseased system demanded our attention following the death of George Floyd, and a global outcry to confront racism at every level in society, including at Trinity University. In the days following Mr. Floyd's death at the hands of police, we heard clearly the voices of students, alumni, faculty and staff, each of whom

cried "enough!" While we had embraced Intentional Inclusion as an aspirational value and were making progress in key areas, our efforts were not having a meaningful impact on the biased systems that impact members of our community. Our 150-year-old institution still has much work to do. We are seeking to listen to the voices in our community and to take action.

Social media accounts provide members of our community an unfiltered platform for sharing their experiences. Often the words and stories we read are positive and inspirational. Other times, they are shocking, galvanizing and difficult to read. The convulsive outpouring of wrongs and unacknowledged hurts is cathartic and certainly within every individual's right to free speech. However, we also know that social media posts in general may be missing critical information. As we organize to build a

new Trinity way, social media cannot be the primary means by which we work toward real, systemic change on our campus.

A problem as complex as systemic racism on our campus cannot be undone with a tweet, nor short-term, retributive actions. We must be committed to a factual inquiry and fair process. Investigations that result in findings of responsibility result in consequences and accountability. Even when an investigation does not result in a finding of discrimination, such inquiries present an opportunity to critically evaluate our systems and processes to seek ways to better serve our community. Finally, in the case of

incidences of bias, we have an opportunity to seek reconciliation and growth. Following our processes also will help us see barriers we did not know existed and identify ways we can improve. Moving Trinity forward meaningfully will require us to bring the same standards of rigor and accountability that we apply in the classroom to our conversations about the root causes of the barriers members of our community experience at Trinity.

In June of this year, I turned to our faculty and staff and asked them to bring the same leadership and sense of urgency we were applying to the COVID crisis to our Intentional Inclusion crisis. Our student leaders in BSU, TDC and ASA, among others, had provided explicit demands and concerns that deserved attention. First to answer the call were Dee Jones, VP for Academic Affairs, and Wilson Terrell, Jr., Associate Professor for Engineering Sciences. They agreed to co-chair an action-oriented Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion. A wide-ranging group of faculty and staff, supported by on-and-off campus subject matter experts and advisors, gave up time from their summer break to commit to this work. The resulting report offers 29 recommendations that position us for systemic change at Trinity. Though the transformation of our campus to one that is more diverse, equitable and inclusive will not happen overnight, we now have a roadmap to move forward.

Some of the immediate initial steps that we are taking include:

1. To follow the recommendations that are legally allowed and relevant to inform the search to select Trinity's next Vice President for Academic Affairs.
2. To conduct an external review of Student Life and, in addition, Academic Affairs. The holistic student experience depends on the full integration of these two administrative units and cannot be achieved in silos.

3. To conduct an audit of Trinity's administrative structure to examine the number of direct reports to the President, evaluate the portfolios of Vice Presidents and chief administrative officers, and benchmark the staffing of a Chief Diversity Office against peer institutions of similar size and operating budgets. This step creates the opportunity for establishing a Chief Diversity Officer reporting to the President.

I will continue to work with the Executive Leadership Team to shape the individual recommendations into cohesive initiatives with milestones, timelines and outcomes along with an initiative owner. The results of all projects will be publicly reported on the Intentional Inclusion website alongside the original task force recommendations. We must embrace the opportunities that are uniquely ours to address gaps and redress grievances. In this way, we will get to the root causes of those systems, processes and programming that hinder our ability to foster a true sense of belonging for BIPOC and other marginalized groups as we seek to ensure the diversity of individuals and thought needed to ensure our future.

Our next steps are critical to earning the confidence and engagement of those same students, alumni, faculty and staff who called us to shake off the status quo in favor of real, structural progress. I am aware of the limitations and biases I bring to this work, and I am prepared to compensate by listening to and involving the voices of those who do not look like me, and whose lived experiences I can appreciate but never replicate. This is how we achieve real and lasting change: each individual committed to their personal progress, standing on the shoulders of the next, until we form a more enlightened community and institution. Trinity is all of us, and it will take all of us to do better.

Danny Anderson is president of Trinity University.



illustration by GRACEN HOYLE

College dating: What I wish I knew as a first-year



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Going into your first year at Trinity, you will likely find yourself caught in college dating culture, either through your own experiences or your friend's drama. I am sure that socializing during COVID-19 is markedly different from usual social life on campus, but I am equally sure that dating culture will be kept alive through apps and social media. Whether you want to date casually or seriously, here are things that I think first-years should consider before dating at Trinity.

1. Focus on building and maintaining strong friendships first. Spending your time and attention on one person might narrow your social life. Having reliable friends and an emotional support system is key to having a good time.
2. Tell your friends about who you're talking to, even if you plan on seeing them casually.
3. Try to make clear distinctions between your friends and more-than-friends.
4. Set standards for what you want out of the relationship, and don't change the bar for anyone. Setting clear standards and meeting your own needs is looking out for your future self!
5. Figure out your priorities. You have limited time and attention

span to spend between socializing and studying. If there is a negative correlation between the time you spend with someone and your GPA, you may want to reflect on your time management.

6. Be cynical. Meeting people off campus can feel liberating, but it can be dangerous, so carry pepper spray. Never keep yourself in uncomfortable situations.
7. On the flipside, talking to people on-campus might mean you'll struggle to avoid them in hallways if things end badly.
8. Be aware of manipulative behavioral patterns such as sexual grooming.
9. Be transparent, but don't overshare your business because word spreads fast.
10. You don't owe anyone anything.
11. Be careful about giving second chances.
12. If someone says they're "not good enough for you," they aren't.
13. Taking an emotional break is good sometimes. Everyone needs time to process how relationships impact their lives. Spending a summer being single is also refreshing.
14. You are also capable of toxic behaviors.
15. Research birth control. Hormonal changes can mess with your mood and behavior.
16. When going out, always share your location with someone who's staying in that night.
17. Communicate hookup plans with your roomie early on.

18. You only have four years here, so shoot your shot.
19. Everyone has an emotional cap, so create and respect boundaries.
20. Have protected sex. Health services also has STD testing services.
21. Trust your gut.
22. Match the energy you are given. If someone is giving you 50% effort in the relationship, give 50% back.
23. Never settle for less. Being lonely sucks, but rebounding is a never-ending cycle. Comfort in being alone is rewarding in the long run.

Expanding your social circle and exploring your sexual and romantic interests can be a very liberating, enjoyable time at college. I hope that this year's freshmen find meaningful connections through these very challenging times.

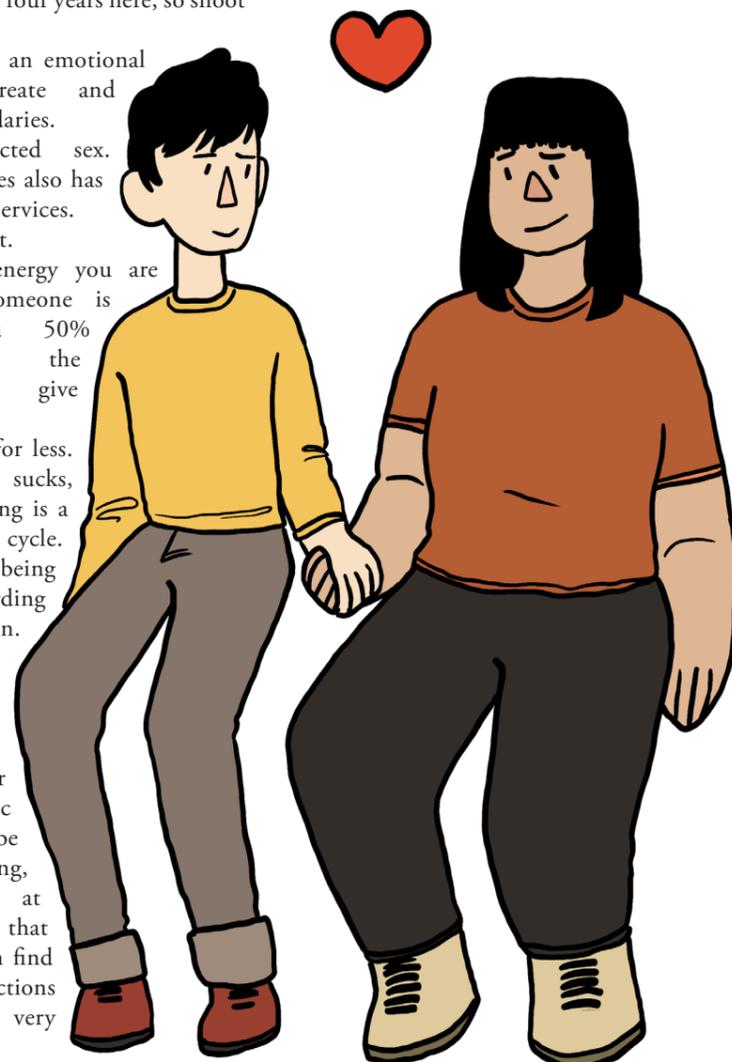


illustration by REN RADER

Yukiko Yamazaki is a junior anthropology major.

Tigerthon takes things virtual

Advocates find creative solutions to continue support of Children's Miracle Network

VICTORIA HENRETTY | REPORTER
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Student organizations are being left to adapt and use their creativity to function during a pandemic. Like many clubs, this is true for Tigerthon, a club that raises money for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN).

Jenny Rudnicki, a junior human communications major who serves as External Assistant Director, said, "TigerThon is a group of students who raise money and awareness for the Children's Hospital of San Antonio starting at the beginning of the fall semester and ending around March of the spring semester with our big main event we throw."

Tigerthon is part of a larger network of student organizations that help CMN help children and their families pay for their medical procedures.

Although the timing of campus closure in the spring was upsetting to most, Tigerthon was particularly let down. The notice of campus closure came just one week before their annual spring event, a dance marathon, which is their last fundraising opportunity.

Logan Muzyka, a senior neuroscience major and the executive director of Tigerthon, said "[Tigerthon] had the T-shirts ordered, the venue booked and every tiny detail figured out."

Ashna Wagle, a junior biology major and the Recruitment and Retention chair, explains that after the cancellation of their event, Tigerthon turned to alternative methods of fundraising.

"Social media is our best friend," Wagle said.

The week leading up to what would have been the dance marathon, Tigerthon used

social media to advertise their fundraiser and ask their communities to donate.

"Surprisingly in the next week...we were able to surpass our fundraising goal and raise \$19,000," Muzyka said. "None of us expected that."

Wagle continues that, "people were in a giving mood. These kids are already immunocompromised, and with the pandemic, people were more willing to give."

Tigerthon's goals apart from fundraising include advocacy for the children.

Wagle said, "I have to get college students to care about little kids, and a lot of times, they don't."

Trying to get students involved when on campus was a difficult task already, but with the added challenge of working remotely, Tigerthon had to change its strategy. Instead of tabling in Coates, Wagle will attend meetings of other student organizations and ask their members to participate in Tigerthon.

"[We are] trying to focus less on fundraising and more on advocacy. We just want to make sure people know they can join the cause," Muzyka said.

In the midst of the pandemic, people are still dealing with financial problems. Going into the new school year, Tigerthon is taking into consideration the fact that people may be struggling financially during COVID.

"Our goals include raising \$10,000 for the Children's Hospital of San Antonio, having successful virtual mini and main events, transitioning well to this new environment to keep everyone safe and informing our community about the importance of CMN Hospitals and our cause," Rudnicki said.



Senior neuroscience major and executive director of Tigerthon, **LOGAN MUZYKA** helps lead Tigerthon students in raising money and awareness for the Children's Hospital of San Antonio every year. photos by **NADIA CRAWFORD**

Tigerthon is still in the planning stages for their events, but they proposed challenges involving TikTok and activities that encourage people to be active in the outdoors.

Although students cannot gather in large groups, Tigerthon is making it possible to continue fostering community by connecting Trinity students to local San Antonio youth.

In order to continue their service-oriented goals, Tigerthon will be starting a letter-writing campaign to the children to help lift their spirits.

"Kids can't have visitors right now due to COVID," Muzyka said.

Isolation can be difficult for these children, but Trinity students will have the opportunity to reach out and make these kids feel less lonely.

"There are still kids who have cancer; there are kids who are sick with things that aren't COVID who still need funds for their medical care," Muzyka said.

The issues brought on by COVID, such as social isolation and financial strife, are only exacerbated by having existing medical conditions and debt. Trinity students have the opportunity to participate in community care and help mitigate the loneliness children may be experiencing.

INSTA-POSIUM

What's the reputation of the class of 2024?

@ellagrace

based on the prassel party, ignorant of the rules/ careless/selfish.

@tjlsmith0831

Those who determine whether or not we stay on campus this fall.

@olewis11

I view the class as a collection of confused students who've had a rocky introduction to TU

@brockduck

It seems as if no one likes them, but I haven't had contact or talked with any of them.

@_lyderally + @rachpoova

Resilient.

@ari_sid

Lonely.

Jenna Ashworth: Activism and Outreach

Ashworth works to improve Trinity community with Trinity Diversity Connection

EMILY PLATT | PULSE REPORTER
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Jenna Ashworth is the current vice president of Trinity Diversity Connection (TDC). Having been a member for two full academic years, she has also served as the sophomore representative and public relations officer. As the vice president, she now serves a role important for supporting the president and organization in meeting their goals.

One of her primary reasons for joining, as stated by Ashworth, was the lack of diversity and community on campus. It was important to her to find a campus as diverse as her middle and high schools, but she found a completely different reality upon arriving at Trinity as a freshman.

“Trinity wasn’t what it was marketed to me as. Diversity was the goal [in joining TDC].” said Ashworth.

Through Trinity Diversity Connection, Ashworth has attempted to make the campus environment a more understanding and diverse place, through community outreach and student engagement.

Over the summer, TDC released a statement in partnership with Black Student Union (BSU) and African Student Association (ASA), in response to statements made by Trinity University administration in light of police brutality and racial tensions in the United States. Ashworth discussed the extensive process they went through in creating their statement.

“[We] wanted to be there as an organization to facilitate support for BSU and ASA. Several

meetings had to happen to decide the language of the letter and action items.” said Ashworth.

The statement released by TDC, BSU and ASA contained several action items they had planned for the university community to address. It received a lot of attention from Trinity students, both activists and students on the outskirts of the activist community.

The statement inspired others at Trinity to speak out. Over 200 faculty and staff members at Trinity released their own statement to align themselves with the Black Lives Matter movement in response to the events of this past summer. A wave of social media activism has cropped up on Instagram for Trinity students. Student organizations have also increased their social media presence.

In addition, Trinity Diversity Connection held several events including allyship workshops and movie screenings. TDC screened 13th, Netflix’s documentary exploring racial inequity in the United States’ prison system, and Kiki, with PRIDE. Movie screenings were followed by discussions with students attending the screenings. The focus of these events was educating and supporting students in allyship. This summer was marked by major social upheaval and protest, inspiring many to advocate for change. With everyone physically separated, online communities became even more important in keeping students engaged together.

“This summer was really different because of all the things happening in the world and being virtual... we wanted to



Senior Marketing major and English minor **JENNA ASHWORTH** is the current vice present of the TDC and is interested in making the campus a more diverse and understanding environment for students. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

make sure there was a way people could feel connected and supported.” said Ashworth.

One of the ways that online engagement has benefited many student organizations is increased student engagement. With many events recorded and available to attend or view at a later time, it becomes easier for students to participate in events sponsored by student organizations. TDC saw a rise in engagement particularly with their activism workshops, as noted by Ashworth.

“Turnout for the events was really great compared to some past events. We’ve had as little as 15 at some events there were 200 people at our first allyship workshop.” said Ashworth.

Increased participation, particularly

in allyship workshops, can only serve to increase awareness among Trinity students and encourage them to get involved and help in any way they can.

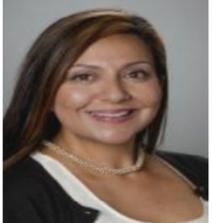
Ashworth is passionate about the work she does with TDC and has been encouraged by the positive response from the community.

“It’s really fulfilling to see people attend our events and stay engaged. A constant interest from the community is super empowering and encourages me to continue what I’m doing for TDC.” said Ashworth.

The events over this past summer run by TDC and their positive response have led to higher student engagement.

Counseling Services

Appointments are provided via secure Zoom

	
Aisha Woods, Psy.D.	Claudia Kypuros, Ph.D.
	
Daniel Hoover, M.A.	Gary Neal, Ph.D.
	
Lori Kinkler, Ph.D	Richard Reams, Ph.D.

To schedule an appointment, call 210-999-7411 or email counseling@trinity.edu and indicate the days and times when you are available.



illustration by Kate Nuelle

Recognizing your limits and your challenges

Asking for help and finding your peace amidst this semester's uncertainty



KAYLA PADILLA
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We've spent nearly half a year in quarantine, and there seems to be a lot of anxiety over how productive we should be. As the academic year begins, you may notice that you tire quicker than usual. Sometimes it feels so difficult to even get out of bed and do homework or go for a walk. Oh, sure, you can fill your planner with great expectations, but once the morning comes, you realize that yesterday's dreams are today's burdens, so how do you combat the anxiety and general exhaustion that comes with living in a pandemic, attending school and trying to be productive?

1. Accept that circumstances have changed, thus has your work capacity

I've written about this before, but people who are pushing great productivity during a global pandemic have lost their marbles, at least in my opinion. Keeping busy could help us keep our mind off of what's happening in our world. Reading, writing, playing outside, these are all things we can

do to create and keep a routine in our day-to-day lives. However, by pretending that we can achieve what we normally would when we weren't amidst a global pandemic, or at least without dire consequences to our mental health, we are only hurting ourselves, so accept this "new normal," at least to the extent that allows you to be more forgiving with yourself. Break up tasks, quit extracurricular activities you only joined to keep busy and give yourself enough time to complete your work!

2. Take breaks. No, really!

Face masks are cool and all, but is that really the true

form of self care for the entire world? Maybe for some people, adding an extra step to their skincare routine is helpful, but make sure you acknowledge your own needs and what brings you a sense of calmness. Whether that be playing video games or kicking a soccer ball around for an hour, take time out of your day to just do something without any expectations or goals. You can plan these breaks throughout the day, or perhaps you prefer a bigger break in the evening before you sleep. Winding down before bed can be great for your mind. Take a bath, meditate, listen to your favorite music or read a comforting book. It's all about you.

3. Check in on your friends

Responding to messages on any social media platform can feel exhausting during a pandemic. What is the right thing to say? What if you need to unload but you're afraid to "burden" one of your friends? How do we check in with friends when we really care about them but we are also really tired? It's important to establish boundaries with those we love and be honest about what we can and can't reciprocate. As far as being sure to respond to people, send a text first thing in the morning or as soon as you think about your friend. Don't think about how tiring it may be; just send it. Not looking your best for a video call because you've been in bed all day? Do a phone call.

Our generation has become so accustomed to video calls we forget that good ol' phone calls exist, and they communicate just as much as a FaceTime message.

4. Communicate with your professors about how you're doing

No doubt, staff and faculty are going through just as rough a time as we are. They're new to this, and in order for this Zoom business to work, we all need to be

accept this "new normal," at least to the extent that allows you to be more forgiving with yourself

communicating with one another. Don't be afraid to ask for help, and don't feel shy about asking your professors how they're doing too. They're feeling the same conflicted emotions we are, and they may find comfort in knowing their students are forgiving. On that same note, it takes a lot of courage to let your professors know you need help or extensions, but you must speak up if you're really struggling. It's not easy, but once you take that first step towards making your classes more accessible to you, you'll be glad you did.



illustration by REN RADER

Kayla Padilla is a senior anthropology and English double major.

The toll of a pandemic on mental health, self-image

How our anxieties have only grown in isolation



DANA NICHOLS
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Managing struggles with self-image during widespread isolation.

There's so much to be anxious about right now. As someone with chronic anxiety, yes, that's always my opinion, but for many of us there really is more to be anxious about than ever before: our classes, our jobs, our own health and safety, the health and safety of loved ones and just generally being in a global pandemic. The uncertainty of it all can be overwhelming, and being alone with these thoughts doesn't help.

Along with the obvious threats to physical health that COVID-19 presents, the pandemic has brought with it a series of onslaughts to our mental health. As a result of social distancing health and safety measures, many have been facing the challenges of being isolated during a long period of time with abounding sources of anxiety or stress.

With so little to funnel these negative thoughts and feelings into, our own bodies and minds easily become the target.

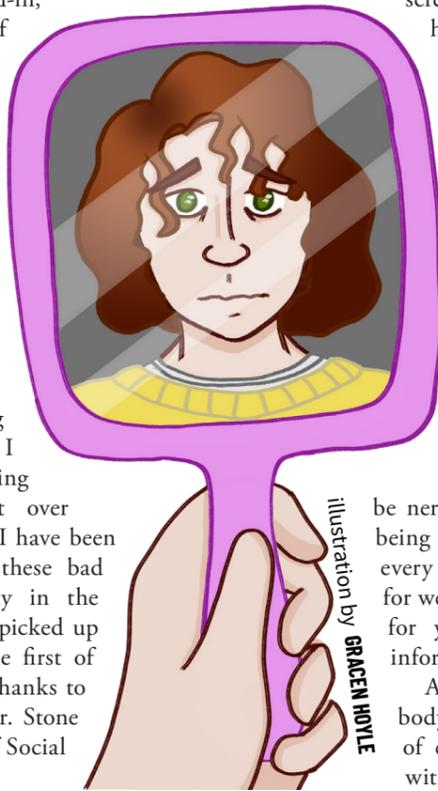
Social support theory, an area of study across various disciplines including psychology and medicine, directly explains the relationship between one's socialization and their physical and mental health. Feelings

of loneliness or isolation have been proven to have negative effects on one's mental and physical health. The buffering hypothesis, proven in social support research, suggests that support given during times of stress has a positive effect on mental and physical health outcomes, "buffering" the harm done by stressors.

Given our current circumstances due to the pandemic, we don't have access to the social support we need. Virtual socialization is an adequate stand-in,

but many aspects of isolated living still allow us to foster negative feelings about ourselves. So what do we do?

I'm no expert by any means. I've always been a reserved and self-conscious person, the type to find myself staring in a mirror for too long to figure out how I "really" look, dissecting my appearance, but over the past few years as I have been working to combat these bad habits, and especially in the past six months, I've picked up some helpful tips, the first of which, I'll admit, is thanks to sociology professor Dr. Stone telling the students of Social Research Design.



Do you catch yourself fixating on your appearance and actions in Zoom calls, focused mostly on your own video than your classmates' or professor's? This is pretty common, and there's a name for it: Zoom fatigue, the feeling of exhaustion that's a result of virtual multitasking, little non-verbal communication and having to stare at ourselves on a screen for hours at a time. With almost daily Zoom calls for classes and work, we're looking at ourselves on-

screen far more than we ever

have before, lengthening the time we spend looking at ourselves and making us hyper-aware of our appearance and flaws. Studies have proven that being able to see yourself in video calls is both mentally exhausting and affects the way you interact with others. To best counter this, try hiding your own video from your display in Zoom; it can be nerve-racking at first, not being able to monitor your every move as you have been for weeks, but will do wonders for your concentration and information retention.

Another component of body image that over 20% of college students struggle with is disordered eating.

Social isolation and disordered eating have a complex relationship—which comes first, the chicken or the egg? There's no one correct answer, and if you notice one issue then, for many people struggling with anxiety, the other is not far behind. Not to mention that there's added elements of stress surrounding meal prep, as just the thought of going to the grocery store is enough to create anxiety, as are worries about properly sanitizing groceries. While there's no one-and-done solution to disordered eating, planning mealtimes can serve as a source of stability and self-accountability, especially given the flexibility of schedules during this virtual era. Before beginning your week or day, look at your schedule to figure out times that are best for you to set aside time to eat and relax.

Lastly, I recommend unfollowing the people on your social media accounts that make you feel or think negatively, especially if those thoughts are about yourself. There's a difference between staying informed on current events, which can sometimes elicit negative emotions, and following people who do not bring joy to you personally. Why follow the influencer whose body makes you feel bad about your own or the old friend you've lost touch with who wasn't great to be around? There's something freeing about no longer exposing yourself to those kinds of people or pages; instead, follow some pages that focus on topics you care about, whether it's global warming or public health or watercolor painting, and social media will become a much more positive experience.

Dana Nichols is a junior sociology major.

Life lessons learned from the inside of a psych ward

Closeness can be scary, but making connections with others is worth the risk



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Trigger warning for suicide, self-harm and eating disorders

I've found that most people have an extremely inaccurate idea of what life inside a psychiatric hospital looks like. People think that patients are drugged and locked in padded rooms. As someone who spent eight days in a psych ward, I won't lie and say that there wasn't a room set aside for solitary confinement or that if you didn't follow the rules you didn't get a shot to calm you down, something we all called "booty juice," but most other conceptions of what life looked like are very wrong. I want to share with you all the lessons I learned during my time there and hopefully dispel some myths and stereotypes along the way.

It's important to enjoy the little things.

When you first go into a psych ward, you lose everything. You lose your shoelaces along with your dignity as you're forced to strip in front of a group of doctors and a nurse dumps out your bags onto a table to check for hidden contraband. You have no contact with the outside world. The isolation makes sense: you're supposed to be focused on getting stable, yet what it ended up teaching me was the importance of enjoying the little things in life.

As at a regular hospital, psych ward food sucks. Every once in a while, though, we got some pretty good snacks. A favorite of our unit was Smucker's Uncrustable PB&J's. They were a piece of heaven in our personal slice of mental illness hell. These horrible little sandwiches that are probably full of all sorts of preservatives and processed until there's hardly anything natural left were something to look forward to in our monotonous days.

We found similar joy in playing infinite games of UNO, where when you win you simply deal yourself in again. We never kept score of who was winning because that wasn't the point. In retrospect, it's kind of a good metaphor for going through the mental health system alongside others. It doesn't matter who gets out first, only that we go our own pace and are there for each other along the way.

When you're going through a crisis, it can be the little things that keep you going. At my worst, I was kept going by my



illustration by
GRACEN HOYLE

guinea pigs; I had to be there to take care of them. It doesn't matter how small your thing might be, all that matters is that it works.

Never judge a book by its cover. I met a lot of different people while I was in the hospital. People had a variety of mental illnesses and were in there for a range of

reasons. When I first got admitted, I was scared about being alone, as weird as that may seem. It didn't help my fears that when I got there the other patients were all in group therapy, leaving me to wait awkwardly alone. Eventually, they all trickled back into the sitting room and went back to their activities, each one giving me a small smile, but two girls playing cards asked if I wanted to play, giving me the welcome that I needed.

Almost every single person I met while I was in the mental healthcare system was incredibly understanding. Even though we were ultimately there for ourselves, we supported everyone else in their journey to recovery. I realized that our own struggles gave us our biggest strengths. The girls with schizophrenia were the kindest. The girls that struggled with self-harm were the saddest for you when you relapsed. The girls with eating disorders gave the best compliments. Sometimes the only people that can truly understand you are those that have been in your position. We could empathize with each other on a level that even our therapists could not.

These people that society ostracized proved to be the kindest and strongest people I have ever met in my life, and I honestly feel privileged to have been able to call them my friends. We still check in with each other every so often and share where we are in life now. We saw each other at our worst, and now we get to see each other striving to be our best. Mental illness does not make someone into a villain, so

don't think that you can anticipate the type of person someone is just because of their diagnosis.

It gets better.

Anyone that has ever gone through a mental health crisis is probably sick of being told this; I know I was, but it can't be more true. If someone had told me three years ago that I would be a successful college student who actually looked forward to every day, I never would have believed them.

One of my psychologists told me something that changed how I thought about my situation, though. She told me that, as young adults, we have such little life experience that what we feel when we're on the brink of calling it quits is the worst thing we have ever experienced. We have no measurable comparison of another moment when we felt this way or previous experience that we can use to figure out how to get out of our current situation. With that in mind, it makes sense that it felt like my world was ending because, to me, it was.

I am here to tell you, though, that you can fight this. I won't lie to you and say that it's easy. My journey of getting better was the toughest thing I've ever done in my life. The secret, if there can be one, is to want it. You have to want it more than anything you've ever wanted. It is a fight for your life, so you have to give it everything you've got.

If you are currently in a crisis, please use the resources below:

Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Crisis text line: text HOME or START to 741741 to text with a trained crisis counselor

Savannah Wahlgren is a junior classical languages major.



written by KAYLA PADILLA, illustrated by PHOEBE MURPHY

CLOSER THAN EVER

Navigating health and wellness during a pandemic can be frightening. We can't have our loved ones visit us without putting them at risk, and video calls can feel insufficient when what we really want is a hug from the people we love most. To ensure the safety of those around us, however, sometimes postponing in-person interaction is the right thing to do, no matter how much it pains us to be far away from one another.

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A history of diseases and their effect on athletics

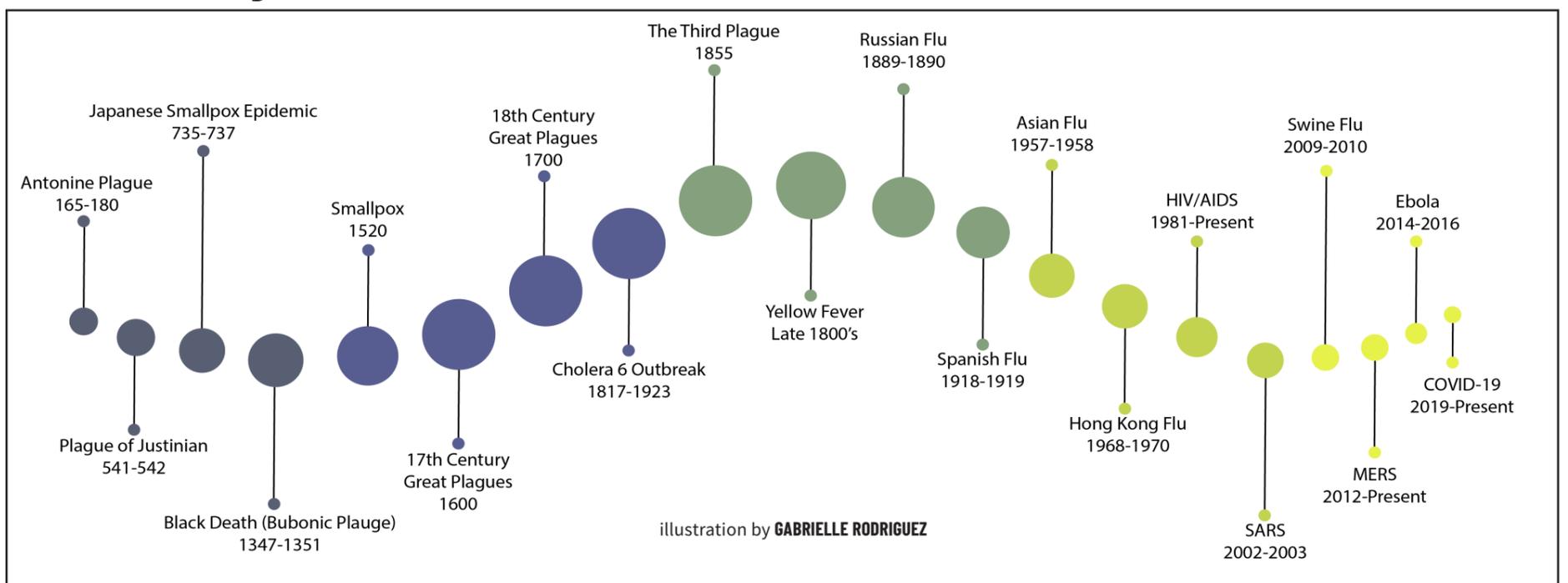


illustration by GABRIELLE RODRIGUEZ



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Since the emergence of COVID-19, the sports world has struggled to figure out the best way to address safety issues while also allowing sports to continue and give players and fans what they want. When trying to find solutions, the general tendency is to look to the past for guidance.

Unfortunately, there isn't much to go on. Like all other aspects of life, sports have most certainly been impacted by past pandemics and epidemics. However, each disease's biology and the context in which it began has resulted in very different situations than our current COVID reality.

1918 Flu

The 1918 flu pandemic, caused by the H1N1 virus, is very similar to the scope and condition of COVID-19; however, there is little comparison since it occurred during such a different time. This flu was a pandemic, when a disease spreads worldwide, while an epidemic refers to when a

disease quickly spreads to many people. The 1918 flu killed at least 50 million worldwide and 675,000 in the U.S.

Since there were no vaccines or antibiotics to treat the subsequent bacterial infections, the only interventions were quarantine, personal hygiene, limiting public gatherings, and using disinfectants. These are the same interventions used today to limit the spread of COVID-19; however, the 1918 Flu did not nearly impact sports the way COVID-19 has.

In 1918, sports were already mostly canceled not because of the flu but because of World War I. Additionally, only two major sports were occurring at the time: college football and major league baseball. The National Football League (NFL), National Basketball Association (NBA), Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), Pro Golf, Major League Soccer (MLS), National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), and Pro Tennis hadn't even started yet.

Most college football players were off fighting, but baseball continued with its 1918 season. It feared shutting down due to revenue losses, but ultimately the war ended the season rather than the flu. The Secretary of

War, Newton Baker, announced that baseball was not an essential occupation, and by Labor Day, the season would be over.

SARS

In November 2002, Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was reported in China. SARS is a respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus like COVID-19. However, SARS is less easily transmissible, so it was ended through intense public health interventions by July 2003. Over 8,000 people became infected with SARS, and over 700 died. Only 8 cases were reported in the United States.

While SARS is very similar to COVID-19, it did not nearly impact the United States in the same magnitude. It did, however, affect the sports world. In 2003, China was set to host the Women's World Cup. Due to the SARS epidemic, the tournament was moved to the United States at the last minute.

The scope and magnitude of SARS is not similar to COVID-19, but both are very similar types of diseases and spread the same ways. With intense public health interventions, the spread was contained and didn't impact sports in the United States as much as it affected other countries.

HIV/AIDS

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the virus HIV. The virus was first identified in the 1980s and was discovered to be a sexually transmitted disease or occur through blood cross-contamination, such as sharing needles. AIDS and COVID-19 are different diseases, biologically speaking, and have had different impacts on the sports world.

HIV/AIDS faced tremendous stigma in the United States because it was conflated with a particular community and behaviors, mostly gay men. Initially, the disease was labeled GRID (gay-related immune deficiency) rather than AIDS, contributing to the intense stigma. There was also tremendous fear because, for a long time, there was no treatment for HIV/AIDS, so when someone was diagnosed, it was a death sentence.

In 1991, NBA L.A. Laker's Earvin "Magic" Johnson announced that he was HIV positive, which had a tremendous impact on the perception of AIDS and the sports world. Johnson's diagnosis made professional athletes question the risk of transmission through blood in contact sports.

This brought about legal questions revolving around whether athletes must be subjected

to mandatory HIV testing and whether their status should be disclosed. This raised obvious privacy concerns and if players could be fired due to their status.

Ultimately, research has shown that the likelihood of HIV transmission during contact sports is tremendously low. Regardless, this prompted organizations to develop regulations to be as safe as possible. The NBA and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) require players who are bleeding or have an open wound to be taken off the field and tended to.

HIV/AIDS had a much different impact on sports than COVID-19 has, but each has changed how sports are played. COVID-19 has forced schedule changes, limited fans to fewer or none, new regulations in terms of facilities and sideline treatment, and even conversations between players and coaches.

While we don't have history to look back on for exact advice on COVID, it's essential to stay consistent and adamant with COVID-19 regulations because the pandemic isn't over, and it will take everyone's efforts to stop its spread globally.

Paige Wallace is a junior anthropology major.

Individualist policies are the opposite of wellness

In defense of colleges' classes of 2024



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As the fall semester begins, universities across the US have taken drastically different approaches to how their communities will learn this semester -- from having all-remote semesters, to a mixture of remote and in-person learning, to opting for an entirely in-person fall. And, as time and various news updates have shown us, things are going ... in a variety of different directions. COVID-19 cases have grown exponentially on several campuses, and many schools (including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill after more than 177 students tested positive for COVID-19, and the State University of New York, Oneonta after more than 650 students tested positive) have already had to close down after only a few weeks at the most in-person.

While it's discouraging that students at various colleges have chosen to breach social distancing rules, putting themselves and others in danger (and increasing the transmission rates for the areas surrounding their universities), I feel that the bigger problem is that college administrations -- following societal messaging and pressure to open up schools -- have decided that

18-year-olds who may have never been away from home for a sustained amount of time are likely to make the right decisions during a time of global crisis, decisions that have been difficult for adults twice their age to make over the last several months. For example, it's hard to see Northeastern's recent decision to suspend 11 students for gathering in a single room, and to charge them the full tuition of \$36, 543 (while not allowing them to learn remotely for the rest of the semester) as something other

You're in a situation that you arguably should not be in, caused by circumstances decidedly out of your control

than unfairly punitive. If events like this are almost inevitable as the unevenly distributed response to the pandemic continues, then what's the point behind not starting school remotely from the beginning -- as opposed to potentially switching to online classes midway through the year? This problem -- expecting individual rationality to make up for systematic problems -- isn't limited to the

realm of university policy; it happens every day when we blame groups of people not wearing masks instead of states not closing down bars and restaurants, and taking firmer policies that would have kept people safe. But it seems to be easier when there's a commonly identifiable scapegoat -- young people not taking precautions and having parties! -- easier than being skeptical of universities that thought it was a good idea to open, even when we're less safe than we were in March when schools shut down.

It's been a few weeks into our fall semester, and I hope that Trinity students will be able to stay on campus and connect with each other in new and socially-distanced ways. There are things that I miss about being able to live on campus, apart from the friends I've somehow made over the last three years; I miss the magic stones in front of the library, being able to sit in the chairs across from Storch, and finding a Trincat meowing around my feet as I walked to Einstein's Bagel's. Regardless, things feel different -- my friend and I were driving past Trinity's campus about a month ago (I was returning my three-month-old library books) and they remarked

that we felt more like alumni than current students; the buildings were still there, but the atmosphere had changed. I hope that the class of 2024 stays safe and makes decisions that benefit their community (and the city that they live in). but more importantly I hope this column reassures them that this "personal responsibility" discourse should have never been their responsibility in the first place. You're in a situation that you arguably should not be in, caused by circumstances decidedly out of your control, and you are probably -- no, definitely -- doing your best.

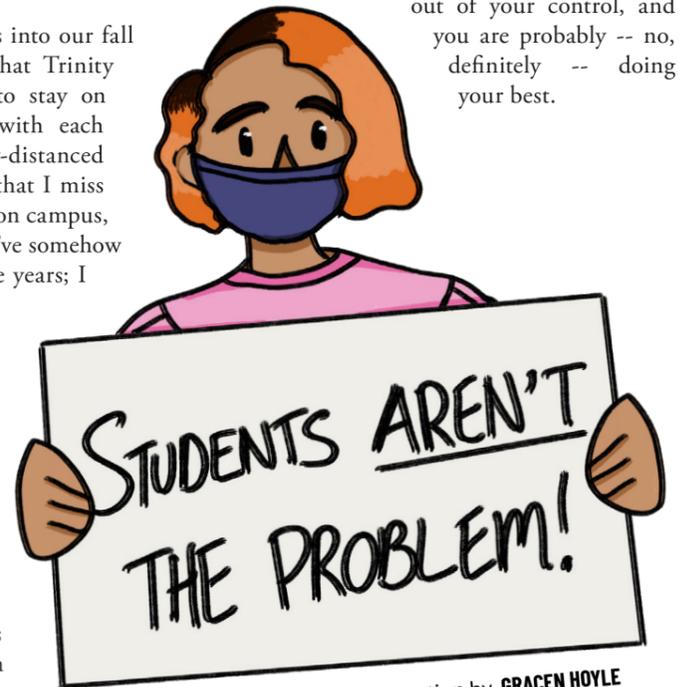


illustration by GRACEN HOYLE

Noelle Barrera is a senior anthropology major.

Dealing with complicated quarantine emotions

Guest poems about loneliness



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Long Summer

Paper grass shivering to cicada songs, scorching my feet on paper roads, paper sun crying light down to burn it all, while I drool over my paper cuts.

I need a place to become friends with my loneliness, or stake it down and bleed it dry. It's more suspenseful if the monster stays unseen, but this time she wants to be a starlet. Is this thing on? Can you hear me? Can you see me? Do you feel me? Am I making sense at all? Do I still have ten fingers, or is this a dream again? Hello? Hello? Hello?



Lethe

I don't want to wear the memories out. I keep them unfrayed by repetition, in a little book, in a little box in the trunk of my brother's car, in the dark, where it's warm and where immaculate moments won't be sun-bleached or rewritten into TV pilots by an overactive imagination, made into folk tales that I pass along to just myself. I save them for long summer nights under a new moon. And when my mind slips and catches against the very best ones, I try not to remember at all.



illustrations provided by RUBY WALKER

A List

I am coming up with a list of ways to simulate human touch.

Lying in a patch of sunlight on the porch, those warm boards a smooth sternum, the wind running fingers through my hair.

Buried under years of old quilts, tracing over past loves until the paper wears thin, scrawling new stories behind my eyelids.

In dreams, sometimes I remember it isn't safe to get close anymore, but I live for the nights when I forget.

I have a dream about you: we sit in the back of the class and you smile like you've won something. In another dream, I carry a thumb-sized lump of gold that drives good people crazy with greed. In countless others, I kiss girls I haven't met yet.

I wake up in only the sun's embrace.

Ruby Walker is a sophomore studio art major



Trinity's Handbell Ensemble starts rehearsals with new restrictions

With the new school year, Trinity's Handbell Ensemble is adjusting quickly despite setbacks.

CARMINE VILLARREAL | ARTS REPORTER
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Cool folks ringing cool tunes.

Ryan Gentry, a sophomore member of Trinity's Handbell Ensemble, used these five words to describe the ensemble. Trinity University's Handbell Ensemble provides a fascinating approach to composition by creating unique bell sounds with the ensemble essentially representing a singular instrument.

Since 1977, Diane Persellin has been the director of the Handbell Ensemble—an ensemble that now enjoys the luxury of practicing in the Laurie Auditorium.

"Dr. Persellin, our amazing director, fought to use the stage in Laurie Auditorium for the semester in order to still have in-person rehearsals but still do them safely," said Ethan Jones, senior member and student assistant.

Although the ensemble is celebrating a notable victory, the ensemble, like other school organizations, had to cancel many of their plans due to the pandemic.

"Before we were sent home in the spring, we were hot off the heels of our performing tour in NYC. In November 2019, the ensemble performed at Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall and Central Park, and the ensemble was the strongest it had been in a long time," Jones said.

Grace Culp, junior member, and Jones recall the New York performing tour with much nostalgia, appreciation, and warmth.

"The trip is something I think about often. It was so fun and a bonding experience too," Culp said. "It's a special connection."



Junior **Grace Culp** focuses on her music along with fellow classmates during one of Trinity's Handbell Ensemble's first rehearsals of the semester.

photo by **KATE NUELLE**

"The amount of work we put into making the trip possible bonded the ensemble and helped us make incredible memories," Jones said.

The next event they were preparing for was San Antonio's Fiesta festival in April, where they would have sported golden robes and performed professionally. Unsurprisingly, the event was canceled alongside their end of year concert. Despite these unprecedented events, the ensemble's ability to adjust to different rehearsal settings and measures showcases their determination to create music.

"We can't have the same amount of variety as we had before," Gentry said. "As a sanitary measure, we're mainly only using our default set of Schulmerich bells. We're ringing fewer bells and have a smaller selection of repertoire that we can play, but it's still just as fun."

Gentry, a former tone chime player, misses playing with the different types of bells and chimes and creating different, unique sounds.

Culp, who played handbells for her church when she was little, was encouraged by her friends Ethan Jones and Ciara McDaniel to join

the ensemble. Culp misses hanging out with the other members, being able to see their smiles and making jokes and faces during rehearsal.

"I feel nostalgic thinking about my time ending with the handbell ensemble soon...It has been a place I could always feel at ease and a place I could always count on seeing friendly faces. Being able to make music with friends [whom] I genuinely look up to and love spending time with makes a world of a difference," Jones said.

The ensemble encapsulates a community of passionate members who not only work towards creating music but meaningful friendships as well. Gentry, Culp and Jones all share the same favorite piece: "Toccata on King's Weston."

"It is so intense and intricate, and we learned it so well that it just felt amazing to play it all together while also hearing the beautiful sounds we were making," Culp said.

"We all reach over each other and switch bells very quickly; it's very dramatic," Jones said.

When asked what people should know about the ensemble, Gentry provided an insightful response regarding the group's versatility.

"We don't just make church style music; we play all kinds of pieces with different sounds and styles, ranging from jazz to classical to spiritual and everything in between, meaning there's really something for everyone in handbell music," Gentry said.

If you want to audition for the Handbell Ensemble, you can email Diane Persellin. You can also find more about these cool folks ringing cool tunes on their Instagram, @tuhandbells.

Stay tuned for their Virtual Christmas Concert in December.

For the Record: a review of CTV3: Cool Tapes Vol. 3 by Jaden

Jaden's third mixtape departs from his previous style and gives listeners an array of songs to chill and vibe to.

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illustration by **REN RADER**

For the record, I didn't even know that this album came out. I guess Spotify's "New Music Friday" failed me this time, but thanks to a friend's Instagram story, I picked up on it and have been listening to it for the last week. Jaden Smith, known by the mononym "Jaden," has come a long way since his musical debut with a verse in Justin Bieber's 2010 single "Never Say Never." Since then, he's released three studio albums, three mixtapes and three EPs along with a number of singles and music videos. His music career has garnered him Record Industry Association of America Gold certifications, a large fanbase with 8.5 million monthly listeners on Spotify and perhaps most importantly, his own name as an artist out from under the shadow of his father, Will Smith's, fame.

This time around, Jaden released "CTV3: Cool Tapes Vol. 3," the third installment of his series of mixtapes. Its predecessors, aptly named "The Cool Cafe: Cool Tape Vol. 1" and "CTV2" came in 2012 and 2014 and distinguished his sound and style as an artist. "CTV3" is a departure from the fast-paced rap/hip-hop sound of Jaden's more recent albums, featuring chilled guitar-driven beats, and a placid vibe that's easy on the ears.

Overall, I've been very impressed with the production and sonic elements of the mixtape. The tracklist touches the genres of moody bedroom pop and lo-fi rap, and Jaden seems honest and open in his lyrics. Sonically, the album is very well put together and features an array of orchestral arrangements from harps to soft pianos and a variety of strings. "Circa 2015" opens with an upbeat melody that is replicated on many of the tracks throughout the album. "LUCY!," "Photograph" and "Boys and Girls" all give off the same happy feeling. In between are slower songs where Jaden seems to be talking directly to the listener. His vocal performance ranges from light melodies and catchy hooks to soft rapping and borderline talking. It's a nice blend, but he doesn't completely sell me with some of the lyrical content. "Falling For You," the second song on the mixtape, reveals the chorus, "I think I'm falling for you/I think I'm falling for you/If you don't call me, I'll jump off the roof." Although the lyrics later in the song reveal that it's not as manipulative as it first seems, it still feels weird that Jaden is flirting with and romanticizing the idea of suicide. While the song in itself sounds great and features a charming verse from Justin Bieber, it comes off a little tone-deaf with the relevant discussion of mental health in today's society. Additionally, track 5, "Everything," includes the chorus "You're my

everything" (x8) which gets pretty redundant after a while. The album definitely has its high points, but there are a few songs that I haven't entirely bought in to.

CTV3 has a lot of good things about it. Jaden stays consistent in his lyrical content about life experiences and longing for love, and he's definitely matured in his delivery since the first two mixtapes. He pulls from influences like Frank Ocean, Joji and Post Malone to compose a tracklist that sounds really good. In its entirety, CTV3 is an evolution and development of style that Jaden does well. There are a few low points

throughout the album that I'm not crazy about, but I enjoyed the piece as a whole. I've found myself putting this on in the background and doing homework or enjoying it at night when things have quieted down.

I'm interested to see where Jaden goes from here; he's dipped into a variety of genres spanning trap, hip-hop, indie/alternative and airy pop. While it doesn't check all the boxes for me, I think CTV3 is a step in the right direction for Jaden as an artist.

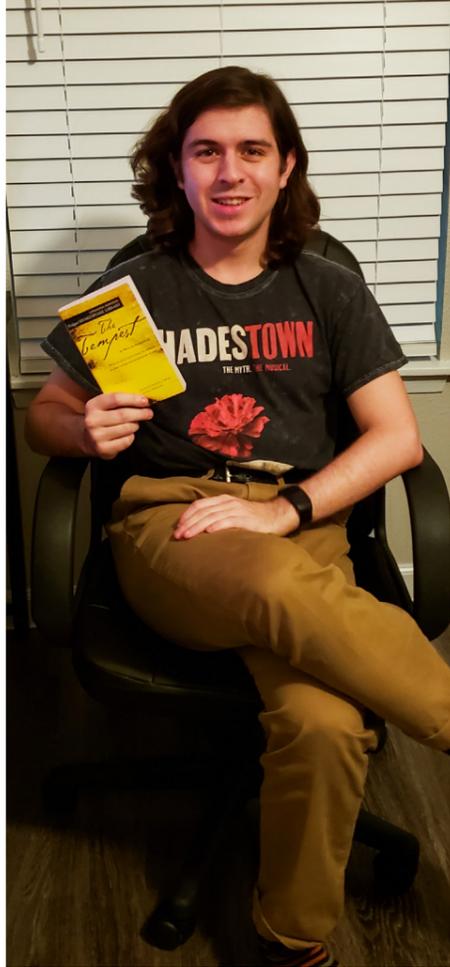
illustration by **GRACEN HOYLE**



Students find new meaning in Shakespeare during pandemic

Trinity students begin weekly virtual meetings to read through and discuss Shakespeare.

KAYLA PADILLA | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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While quarantine canceled most of the world's plans, it provided some with the opportunity to embark on new creative journeys. I virtually met with junior Anthony Tresca to discuss how quarantine helped give him the chance to finally make his hopes a reality.

How did this project come about?

Well, it really started as a joke. I kept telling people that I was going to start a club where

we just read and talked about Shakespeare, and then, during quarantine, I finally got bored enough to plan it all out and actually do it. I brought it up at one of the Trinity University Players (TUPS) Zoom officer meetings and then attached two other officers (Rafaela Brenner and Scarlett Patino) to help me execute it and work out some more logistics stuff. I am so excited to finally have it be an actual thing.

How did you choose the texts?

Well, we (being the three officers working on this project) only choose the first text, *The Tempest*. That is the play we are currently working on right now. We choose it because it is about characters who have been living in isolation for a long time on an island, and we felt those themes might be relevant because of what is going on in the world. Similarly, there are a lot of really interesting conversations to be had about colonization, prejudice and oppression that we want to highlight and call attention to through our reading of the play. We only chose this first play because we wanted out other two plays that we read through this semester to be chosen by our members. We actually chose our next play at our meeting today; beginning on October 4, we are going to be reading through/discussing *A*

Shakespeare was not meant to be read. Shakespeare was meant to be performed, aloud, for and with other people.

Midsummer Night's Dream.

Why three texts as opposed to any other?

We chose to look at three texts because we wanted to spend five weeks on each text, and so (because of the school's calendar) that works out

to us being able to fit in about fifteen meetings, and that forces us to do three plays.

What are some things you've learned from these last two Sunday meetings?

At our first meeting, we heard from Dr. Nathan Stith, who is a classically trained Shakespearean actor. He discussed his first exposure to Shakespeare, the four plays he performed in college, his time being a professional Shakespearean actor and the difference between performing and teaching Shakespeare, so, in order to make it more accessible to everyone, we give a whole bunch of technical information and provide frameworks for how to think about these plays so that we can all be on the same page. Hopefully, this serves to make Shakespeare more accessible to everyone.

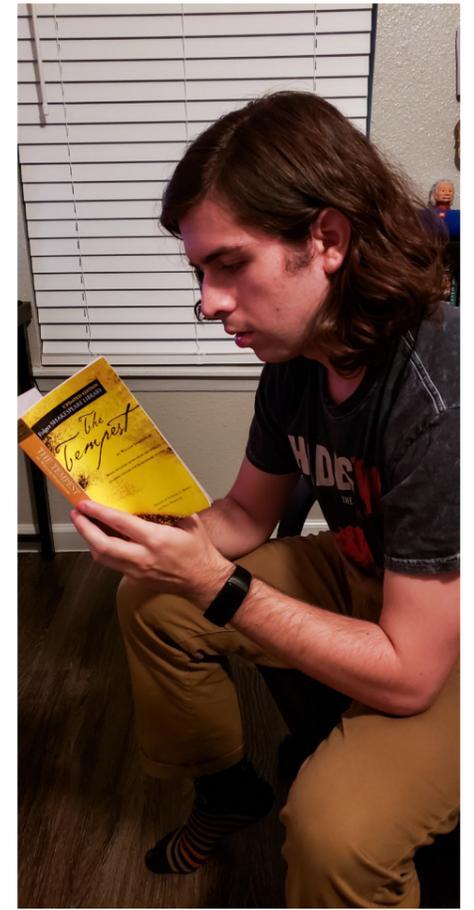
This week's meeting, we read through Act I, and it just struck me how relevant Shakespeare's work is today. The language is so beautiful, and the performers really gave it their all. It was really heartwarming to listen to all these people take time out of their days to read/discuss Shakespeare with another. Similarly, the group really clicked, and it was absolutely delightful to see people playing with Shakespeare's words and really having fun trying to put their own spin on the Bard's famous lines.

What would you say to those interested in attending who may not be confident in their Shakespeare fluency?

I would say that we try to do everything we can to make Shakespeare as accessible as possible. We acknowledge that a lot of people's only exposure to Shakespeare is through reading it in their high school English classes, but Shakespeare was not meant to be read. Shakespeare was meant to be performed, aloud, for and with other people. We have members of all skill levels (some who have been doing Shakespeare for years and some who have never read any Shakespeare before), so I would really encourage everyone to come out and give it a try if they are even remotely interested in Shakespeare. We, unfortunately, cannot take any

new members right now (as we have already cast *The Tempest* and have started reading through it at meetings), but we invite new members to attend our meeting on October 4, where we will all be hearing from Shakespearean scholar Dr. Kathryn Vomero Santos and be doing the dramaturgical presentation over *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. At that meeting, we will be welcoming new folks into the club so that we can cast them in our Zoom reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Junior ANTHONY TRESKA shows off his copy of *The Tempest*, which is the students' current project. photos by NADIA CRAWFORD



Art doesn't have to be perfect: some thoughts from a non-artist

Quarantine gave me the chance to create art of my own, and I learned a few things in the process.

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I've never considered myself a particularly creative or artistic person. I've played flute for eight years and even went to a performing arts high school, but I personally don't feel like that makes me inherently creative. Most musicians will probably disagree with me, but I always felt that it was the composer whose music I was performing that has done the creative legwork. It is up to me to interpret what is on the page, but even then I am limited by what the musicians who have come before me have decided is standard. However, the amount of free time on my hands since the start of the pandemic gave me the opportunity to try out some different forms of expression and helped me to realize that I actually do have the ability to be creative.

As someone who attended an art school and was surrounded constantly by extremely talented artists, I never even tried to test out my own abilities. I've always loved looking at art and hearing from student artists on their processes. I enjoyed walking by the art department and watching a blank canvas evolve into a beautiful work of art. My best friend at the time, who was in the visual art department, tried many times to teach me color theory or the basics of sketching, but I always found myself too plagued by anxiety to put a pen to paper. I knew that whatever

I drew was going to look like a flaming pile of garbage, so why even try? My own perceptions of what art needed to be or look like, as well as my ever-present perfectionist tendencies, kept me from exploring this side of myself.

This summer, though, I found myself intrigued by the prospect of creating art myself for possibly the first time. I realized that in the comfort of my own home I had nothing to lose, so I sat down with my tablet and enrolled in a free trial of Photoshop. I have since tried different tools and effects that the software offers, and, eventually, was able to create a design. To be fair, I only outlined the forms and shadows of a statue and then overlaid the lines onto a blank

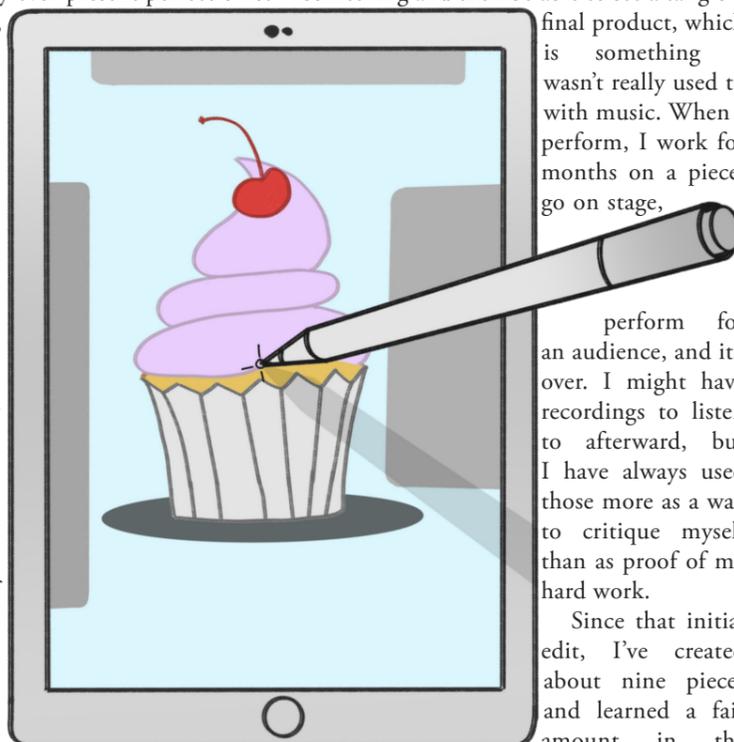


illustration by GRACEN HOYLE

background, but I felt an immense sense of accomplishment at what I had done. It was a new experience to spend time on something and then be able to see a tangible final product, which is something I wasn't really used to with music. When I perform, I work for months on a piece, go on stage,

perform for an audience, and it's over. I might have recordings to listen to afterward, but I have always used those more as a way to critique myself than as proof of my hard work.

Since that initial edit, I've created about nine pieces and learned a fair amount in the process. I learned that more simple color palettes look cleaner, a fine pen allows for greater detail, and that statues work much better than paintings for what I do. I've gotten better at working

with Photoshop and have undertaken more ambitious and detail oriented projects. I'm proud of the work I've been able to create.

I've also found the act of drawing to be extremely therapeutic in itself. I live with anxiety, and the events of the pandemic and all that has followed have only served to make each day a little bit harder. Yet, my new hobby helped me to cope with the stress I was feeling. When I am drawing, I have to focus on creating straight lines and carefully outlining the statues' forms; there is no time for me to stress myself out. As someone whose anxiety manifests in cyclical intrusive thoughts, doing an activity that requires me to be extremely focused on one action has helped to keep my anxiety under control.

Yet, more generally, I learned that art, or any hobby for that matter, doesn't have to be perfect. I've always approached all that I do with the mindset that if it's not nearly perfect, there's no point to try. I know how problematic a view like that is, but despite my best effort, I couldn't change it. Creating art solely for myself has helped me start that process, though. With art, whether it be creating music or a painting, there is no such thing as perfect. All that matters is that I enjoy what I'm doing. I'm under no obligation to ever show my work to anyone; I can create solely for myself, and there's something freeing about that.

Students discuss watching pro sports without fans

Professional leagues have returned with empty stadiums, changing viewing experience

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While many fall sports at a collegiate level have been canceled, athletes at the professional level are still proceeding with their 2020 seasons. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to protect players, professional sports are largely playing games without a live crowd.

Some leagues like National Basketball Association (NBA) and Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) have placed athletes in a "bubble" to prevent them from contracting the virus. While Major League Baseball (MLB) has opted out of isolating teams from the general population, the league has prohibited fan attendance at games. Similarly, as of September 2nd, the plan for the National Football League season (which begins September 10th) is to not put players in a bubble. Out of the total 32 NFL teams, most will start the year with either no fans allowed or a very limited capacity, such as in Cleveland and Miami.

While the "bubble" model is helpful in ensuring the safety of the players, having all the teams isolated in one place has changed the viewing experience, according to sophomore and NBA fan Jalen White.

"I think what feels different to me is that we're not witnessing the travel behind it, the culture behind it. We can't rally around that, we can't meet at a certain place to watch the game, you know what I mean?" White said. "All teams are in one location and it's pretty hard to keep track of when games are because



FROM LEFT: Sophomores **JALEN WHITE** and **BONNIE LLOYD** stand near the Miller Fountain. Both White and Lloyd have been watching professional sports return to play with no fans in the stands. photos by **KATE NUELLE**

they just run throughout the day and we're in class those days, so we can't even watch the games sometimes."

Scheduling back-to-back games is not the only big change that the NBA has made in response to COVID-19. Fans watching a basketball game on TV may notice recorded crowd noises in the background and fan reactions played out on the jumbotron, as fans have the opportunity to essentially FaceTime into the stadium.

According to White, the attempt to engage fans can't compare to the experience of having a live crowd.

"[It] is kind of weird to me. I don't know how the players feel about that, but as a fan watching it, it's not the same thing, it's not the real thing. My time watching and following the teams has gone down because of that," White said.

But sophomore Carter Raney, who keeps up with professional football, baseball and

basketball, has a different take on the NBA's jumbotron solution.

"I thought it was pretty creative, it's definitely nice that they thought this out," Raney said.

Raney's praise of creative sports solutions extends to MLB. Instead of having fans broadcast their reactions live, many teams have offered the chance for people to buy a cardboard cutout of themselves that sits in the stadium as a proxy.

"I think it's a creative way to mimic [a crowd], and, I guess, seeing your face on a cardboard cutout at a game is pretty fun," Raney said.

And while the cardboard crowds are different, according to sophomore Bonnie Lloyd who keeps up with MLB, their presence is a nice substitute for the time being.

"I've kind of gotten used to it. I think the cutouts in the stands are kind of funny. Every now and then you'll see someone's dog out there, which is kind of just cool. But it is really odd to not have the same reaction. I don't know, it'll be good to see the stands filled again," Lloyd said.

There is no denying that without fans, the atmosphere and culture surrounding professional sports is completely different.

In general, games are much quieter now. Without fans to generate white noise and energy, viewers can hear things that they normally couldn't. For example, during UFC fights you can hear the coaches talking to their athletes, or during a baseball game you might hear players chirping from the dugout. For Lloyd, the increased audibility is a positive.

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"Shut up and play" not an option now or ever

Opinion: Athletes have every right to speak out on political and societal issues



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"Shut up and play."

This trope has been used countless times throughout sports history to silence players when they voice their political views. It works to shape sports into a sector of society untouched by politics and dehumanizes the players themselves. It encourages the idea that sports should be a place of entertainment, a space to escape the mess and stress of daily life. In reality, politics shape and dictate every aspect of our lives, and they have always had a place in sports.

Sports occupy a tremendous amount of space in our society. Professional and collegiate sports use extensive public resources for training facilities, stadiums, marketing and advertisements. Globally, hosting major sporting events such as the World Cup and the Olympics is highly coveted. Professional athletes are given considerable financial compensation and extreme social prestige. Not only are sports a major spectacle and economic undertaking, but they are also reflections of gender, race and social class hierarchies in our society.

If politics are in every aspect of human life, and sports are such a massive part of human life, why does there continue to be pushback when professional athletes use their platform to discuss politics?

It's important to note that athletes throughout history have used their platform to speak out.

illustration by **REN RADER**



1961: Bill Russell and other members of the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Boston Celtics boycotted a game in protest of segregation after being refused service at a Kentucky restaurant.

1967: Muhammad Ali protested the Vietnam War and refused to serve in the military to fight the Vietnamese. He explained, "shoot them for what? They never called me n---, they never lynched me..."

they didn't rob me of my nationality, rape and kill my mother and father...shoot them for what?"

1968: At the 200-meter final at the Mexico City Olympic Games, Tommie Smith (gold medalist) and John Carlos (silver medalist) raised their fists at the podium to protest discrimination.

1976: The Yale women's rowing team went into the women's athletic director's office and took off their shirts, revealing "Title IX" written on their bodies to protest Yale's lack of women's athletic facilities.

2010: The NBA's Phoenix Suns wore jerseys saying "Los Suns," protesting Arizona's passage of a much stricter immigration policy.

2012: The NBA's Miami Heat wore black hooded sweatshirts to protest the shooting of Trayvon Martin.

2014: Missouri Knox College basketball player Ariyana Smith and some members of the St. Louis Rams protested the shooting of Michael Brown by raising their hands in a "don't shoot" gesture.

2016: San Francisco 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, refused to stand during the national anthem, stating: "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color."

2016: Shortly after Kaepernick, U.S. Women's soccer player Megan Rapinoe and the Women's National Basketball Association's (WNBA) Indiana Fever team began kneeling as well. Over the years, kneeling during the anthem has reverberated across sports.

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Special Olympics club adapting to changes this fall

Virtual student fair and events on Facebook reveal some of what's to come in semester

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Normally, the Special Olympics club participates in many events, like hosting Unified Basketball or other activities with athletes. This semester, however, the Special Olympics club is finding different ways to interact with the athletes as events will be held virtually.

According to the president of the club, Piper Swearengin, Special Olympics club members will be participating in an event called Breakfast with Champions, where the local community comes together to listen to athletes' stories and raise awareness and money for Special Olympics. This year the event will be virtual on Facebook Live, but there is a Zoom call planned with the athletes for after the event to congratulate them on all of their successes.

"This semester, I am feeling optimistic that the club will continue fulfilling our mission to support Special Olympics athletes and help lead the social justice movement of Special Olympics," Piper Swearengin said.

Sally Wyma, a member of the club who is in charge of marketing, also discussed a letter writing campaign that is still in the works. The club hopes to send letters of encouragement to athletes during this difficult time. She also talked about keeping in contact with the local Special Olympics in San Antonio to support them in whatever they need.

Because campus is dedensified this fall with many students studying remotely, a lot of the

events will be postponed until the spring semester. Wyma, like Swearengin, maintains a positive outlook on the semester.

"We are uncertain about a lot of our plans, but we are also hopeful that we will be able to encourage our community even if it looks a little different this semester," Wyma said.

Several members of the club expressed uncertainty about what's to come this fall. Many student organizations face similar concerns as student leaders deal with a shift to mostly virtual events. Typically, clubs are highly visible across campus, but in an online world, it can be hard to reach students.

One new way that groups are reaching students was the Virtual Student Involvement Fair. Rather than the traditional setup with tables

and organizations wrapping around the Coates Esplanade during Welcome Week, Student Involvement invited all organizations to produce a video promoting their respective group. These videos were all placed on a website for students to find them in one place.

On August 18 through August 22, student organizations hosted live Zoom meetings that allowed students to learn more and interact with leaders of those organizations. There were six new people who attended the Special Olympics Zoom at the Student Involvement Fair, and a few who have had experience with Special Olympics in the past.

"I thought the Student Involvement Fair went really well. I was able to have personal conversations with each club and its officers. I

learned a lot and really felt like I knew which clubs I wanted to take part in," first-year Sophie Radi said. "I'm interested in joining Special Olympics because I want to bring joy to other people's lives and help others have fun. I have a passion for helping others and I think this is a wonderful opportunity to make an impact. I love how flexible the schedules are for each club because it allows me to participate in several. Overall, the fair being virtual allowed me to attend almost every club meeting, meet new people from the comfort of my dorm and easily sign up for newsletters."

Likewise, first-year Lauren Hurley had also had a positive experience with the Virtual Student Involvement Fair, and despite some technical difficulties logging onto some of the Zoom sessions, she is looking forward to enjoying events this fall.

"I was a part of Best Buddies at my high school, which works with the special needs students, and I wanted to continue doing that in college. I know it will be hard to have events with the Special Olympics Club this semester, but I am hoping to become involved as much as I can. It's unfortunate that things have to be all virtual this year, but dwelling on the negative won't make our situation any better. We should be looking at how we can adapt to the world right now to make things work as best as possible."

Those interested in joining the Special Olympics Club or learning more can email Piper Swearengin at pswearen@trinity.edu.



illustration by **GABRIELLE RODRIGUEZ**

Politics do have a place in sports

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2020: There have been protests across sports due to the most recent police shootings of Black Americans. All across sports, teams have worn jerseys supporting Black Lives Matter and using slogans to promote change. As the violence continues, teams have begun boycotting games. The NBA, WNBA, Major League Baseball (MLB), National Hockey League (NHL), tennis and soccer have all had teams refusing to play to take a stand against racism and police brutality.

Politics within sports is not new and has a long history; however, I believe that some aspects have made political talk in sports more visible and more susceptible to criticism starting in 2016.

In 2016, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton and became president, and his frequent use of Twitter situated political conversations into a new, real-time and easily accessible space. Suddenly, direct conversations about politics and political stances situated themselves at the forefront of our social media filled lives. This served to make criticisms and support for political protests in sports much easier. Since 2020 is an election year, the momentum and potential for a leadership change raises both intense encouragement and criticism for athletes taking a stand depending on what side people fall.

I find that this criticism towards athletes is extremely harmful and helps undermine the ramifications that politics have on individual's lives. The "shut up and play" discourse dehumanizes the athletes expressing their opinions. Professional athletes are often viewed as objects: factors used to bet on games or just images in a TV ad. Additionally, most sports fans never actually come in contact with these athletes,

so sometimes it's easy to hold them up on a pedestal rather than think of them as real people who go through daily life.

Saying "shut up and play" to these mostly black, POC, LGBTQ, or female athletes when they speak out against injustices that directly impact their communities and their lives invalidates their humanity. The harm that they or other members of their marginalized identity could experience due to political decisions is very real. Why shouldn't professional athletes get to use the platform they worked hard to get in order to address concerns for marginalized communities? They are not just objects for our own entertainment.

"You want us to be role models for your kids. You want us to endorse your products. You parade us around. It's like, we're not just here to sit in the glass case for you to look at. That's not how this is going to go," Megan Rapinoe said to the New York Times when discussing if politics have a place in sports.

Wishing that these opinions would stop and hoping that sports can remain an "apolitical" entity that provides escape and entertainment is an expression of privilege. It's a privilege to remove yourself from political conversations. For some, those political conversations can translate into life or death. Some don't have the option to escape this reality.

Ultimately, sports have always been political. Maybe our tendency as a nation to try to find escapes and remove ourselves from politics is indicative of how we've ended up where we are today. Politics have real, tangible consequences, and we need to hear about those from the impacted communities. We need to listen when marginalized groups speak. It is time to confront these issues head-on and stop expecting an escape from accountability.

Viewing games on TV with no fans

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"I also think it's funny to hear the players in the dugout sometimes, what they whistle and call out to each other whenever some of them get on base," Lloyd said.

The downside to increased audibility, however, is the increased potential for fights. While bench-clearing brawls are nothing new in baseball, players being able to hear the opponent's dugout a little to well has already led to some altercations that break social distancing guidelines.

"I also think it's funny to hear the players in the dugout sometimes, what they whistle and call out to each other whenever some of them get on base."

BONNIE LLOYD
SOPHOMORE

In late July, an altercation led to players flooding the field, yelling at each other and crowding together. The cause? Joe Kelly, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher, stuck his tongue out at Carlos Correa, Houston Astros shortstop, after overhearing Correa complain in the dugout. In August, Alex Cintron, Astros hitting coach, earned a suspension for a third of the shortened season for his part in a bench-clearing altercation, in which Oakland A's player, Ramon Laureano, charged the dugout in response to the coach's chirping.

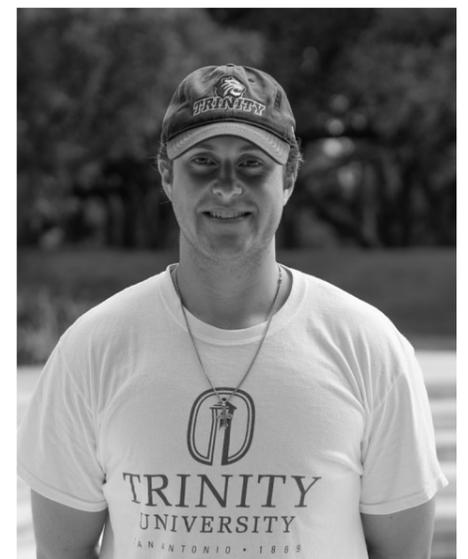
While heckling your opponent is to be expected, Raney feels that bench-clearers detract from the game overall.

"I'm not one to say I really enjoy when the players fight, I would rather them just chirp at each other," Raney said.

Overall, whether or not the replacements for fans in the stands are palatable to fans at home is subjective. The determining factor, in Raney's opinion, is typically what you're watching the game for.

"I mean it depends, it depends what you're watching for. The game is the game. The game's not really going to change as much," Raney said.

However, if you love the atmosphere and culture that surrounds the game as much as the game itself, the 2020 season may be rough for you. But, as Lloyd explained, that doesn't mean you can't still enjoy the season.



Sophomore **CARTER RANEY** stands beside the Miller Fountain on Trinity University's campus. Raney has mainly kept up with professional baseball and basketball over the past few months. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

"I mean, obviously it's not going to supplement buying tickets, going to the games, getting involved, going with friends, but I think it's the best they can do, you know? I think it's something, better than nothing, rather than just having them not play," Lloyd said.



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