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New Director for Student Diversity and Inclusion hired

Courtney Balderas-Jacob joins after nine-month hiring process led by university search committee

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In 2020, a year characterized by injustice, protest and both local and national conversations on white supremacy, Trinity University has spent nine out of 10 months so far without a director of the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

In a surprise announcement on Sunday, Oct. 11, Sheryl Tynes, vice president for Student Life, announced that Courtney Balderas-Jacob, assistant director of the Dreamers Center at the University of Texas at San Antonio, had been selected to serve as the rebranded Director for Student Diversity and Inclusion.

Balderas-Jacob's resumé includes her most recent work at UTSA's Dreamers Center and also features Assistant Director of UTSA's International Student Services and the UT Health Sciences Center's International Visitor Advisor. Outside of diversity work, Balderas-Jacob is also the Chief Operations Officer and co-owner of FLOAT, a local spa.

Balderas-Jacob is proud of her work at UTSA, especially with International Student Services. "As the youngest member on the team," said Balderas-Jacob, "I learned a lot about how to lead in the face of ageism, sexism and general doubt. It was an opportunity I cherished and allowed me to lead the largest international office in San Antonio."

"Assisting individuals in navigating challenging systems is something I am deeply passionate about — as an advocate and as a seeker of justice," Balderas-Jacob said. "I am a brown Mexican-American female who was raised in a predominantly white neighborhood, in a predominately white small town. I struggled during my youth with not feeling as though I belonged with white friends while also never feeling quite Mexican enough when visiting México."

Balderas-Jacob's predecessor leading the Diversity and Inclusion Office at Trinity, Alli Roman, resigned this past January.

After her departure, a hiring committee co-chaired by Esther Kim (assistant director for Orientation Programs) and Dr. Michael Soto (associate vice president for Academic Affairs) began working in February. Jaelen Harris and Tomás Peña were the student representatives on the committee.

Soon after the hiring committee was formed and was getting to work, Trinity closed in March due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Tynes, who made the final hiring decision, says that the outbreak derailed the committee's plans to hire a new DIO director by June 1.

"We couldn't envision [what] a search looks like if you can't bring people to campus," Tynes said. "We hit pause. Then I think as people figured out how to use Zoom and how to do searches, we restarted the search in the summer."



COURTNEY BALDERAS-JACOB, Director for Student Diversity and Inclusion, stepped into her role on Monday, Oct. 19. As one of three interview finalists, she met with students, administration and staff before being hired. photo provided by **THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

Tynes said that Kim and Soto had busy schedules over the summer and that the hiring committee's report eventually made it to her desk on Sept. 2.

Balderas-Jacob was one of the candidates recommended by the committee's report.

After virtual forums and presentations open to the whole university with the three finalists in late August, Balderas-Jacob was selected, hired and set to begin her new role on Monday, Oct. 19.

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Financial barriers of attendance lowered for SAISD students

New Trinity Community Investment partnership to make Trinity a more financially feasible option

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If you look just beyond the Trinity fountain, past the admissions office, you'll see Alamo Stadium, which Trinity has shared with the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) for years. However, this literal "common ground" between Trinity and SAISD may not be perceived as so common by SAISD families. It is this gap of financial disparities, between Trinity's high sticker price and the 90.4% of SAISD students being economically disadvantaged, that the new Trinity Community Investment partnership helps to bridge for prospective SAISD students.

This partnership has been in the works for over a year and is a result of a collaboration between Justin Doty, Dean of Admissions, Christina Pikla, director of Financial Aid in Student Financial Services, and Eduardo Sesatty, director of Postsecondary Initiatives at SAISD.

"This is a huge win for Trinity and for the district in San Antonio, SAISD, and most importantly, a huge win for the students and parents in that district. What this is is opening access, financially, to make Trinity a much more financially feasible option for students in our backyard, like immediate backyard," said Doty.

Under the new program, the student, their family, and Trinity University work together to make Trinity an affordable option. The student will commit to addressing educational costs via capped student loans and Federal Work-Study. Student loans will be capped at \$3,500 for



Alamo Stadium, located across the street from Trinity, is the home field for football teams of San Antonio ISD. The Trinity football team played at the stadium in fall 2018 as renovations were made to the university field. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

First-Years, \$4,500 Second-Years, and \$5,500 for Juniors/Seniors. The family commits to addressing their expected family contribution, if any, each academic year, based on financial aid forms such as the FAFSA. Finally, Trinity University commits to addressing the remaining cost of attendance with gift aid (money that does not have to be repaid).

What about undocumented students who cannot fill out the FAFSA?

"Whether or not a student is able to complete a form, should not preclude them from being considered for an opportunity," said Pikla.

Undocumented students would be treated, financially, as international students and may be required to fill out the CSS profile to receive their financial aid package. Pikla acknowledged that is not a perfect mechanism but allows an undocumented student to be considered for an alternative, non-federal funding source.

"There still would be a mechanism to measure the ability to pay. It just changes where the funding sources are coming from," said Pikla.

Pikla made it a point to say that undocumented students' financial aid packages will be adjusted on a case-by-case basis depending on different student and family situations.

Economics is not the only barrier to entry that SAISD students will face in making their decision to attend Trinity.

"This is a good thing—the partnership—but does Trinity have the infrastructure to really help these students succeed not just academically when they get here? Will they have to be exposed to hostile environments and not be supported here?" asked Joy Patterson, junior psychology major and Access and Inclusion Intern in the Trinity Admissions Office.

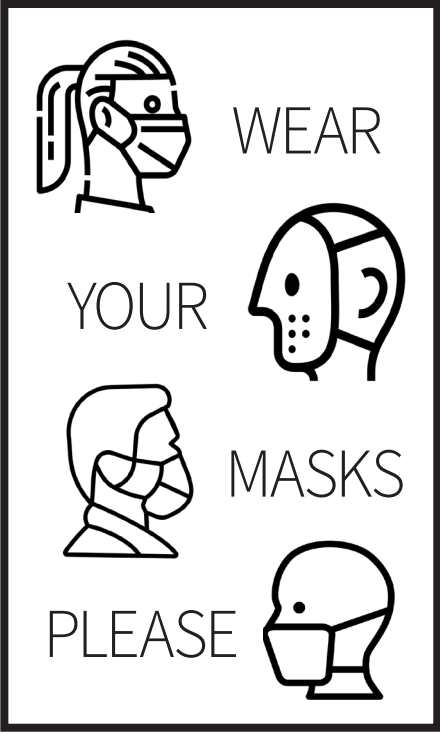
Trinity is a predominantly white institution (PWI). SAISD is 93% Hispanic and 6.3% African-American. How will Trinity ensure the retention of the students they hope to recruit?

"It's to and through — because it doesn't do anyone good to have a student start and not be able to complete at an institution," said Pikla.

Pikla gives a lot of credit to SAISD for how they are creating systems to support their alumni once they're at Trinity.

"SAISD is committing resources to continue to interface with the student, they will have a mentor. And the way I'm answering this question is not to put the onus on SAISD—it's a shared commitment to students, to make sure they have continued support from their community and from people they know, and the people who have gotten them to this point. I think this is something that has rightfully come to a head, micro and macro, in Trinity and the world, and I'm happy to see [the Diversity and Inclusion Office (DIO) director] position filled to make the experience better for all of our students," said Pikla.

continued on **TRINITONIAN.COM**



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Previously, on SGA: Student Activity Fund, What’s It Good For?

MEET THE FIRST-YEAR SENATORS

To kick off this week’s SGA meeting, President Jaelen Harris introduced the new first-year senators, including Senator Zoey Adama, Senator Danae Barkocy, Senator Steven Cox, Senator Emily Baggett, and Senator Dany Nguyen. These first-year senators were introduced to the rest of the SGA members and given a brief overview about how meetings work.

CLIMATE CHECK

Senator Donya Ahmadi raised a question about Zoom burnout and what professors were to do if the majority of their class was failing due to the difficulties of the pandemic and general feelings of anxiety that prevented them from learning as they did pre-pandemic. Though professors have mostly transitioned their classes online, Senator Ahmadi was curious about how these classes and their course work would be more accessible to students who aren’t learning as much as they would otherwise. President Harris responded to Senator Ahmadi by referring to the work of sociology professor Sarah Beth Kaufman and her work with student Rachel Kaufman on making pass/fail class more readily accessible for students in the spring.

ROCKY HORROR FUNDING REQUEST

Senior and director of this year’s Rocky Horror Picture Show Rachel Morris presented a funding request for the Trinity

University Players Society (TUPS) to the members of SGA. Vice President Oliver Chapin-Eiserloh reminded first years that funding requests over the amount of \$1,500 are to be voted on by everyone, and that amounts can be approved in full or partially, depending on whether or not the total amount request is justified.

Morris emphasized the importance of putting on one of the only in-person events the theatre department is hosting this year. She mentioned that there were 5 cast members and 4 production team members. There rehearsals are outdoors and the theatre group has been split up into four different bubbles to make contact tracing easier. Morris noted that the people working on this production are either roommates, suitemates, close friends, or romantic partners. Their total funding request includes \$850 to gain the rights to produce Rocky Horror, and \$600 to pay the TUPD officers who will be attending the event to make sure that those in attendance are following social distancing guidelines. The amount of \$1,600 was approved for TUPS to use on their production of Rocky Horror.

LGBTQ+ SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Junior Steven Murphy Drake presented on the importance of normalizing pronouns in the classroom so as to be inclusive. He also discussed hopes for an expansion on the gender-inclusive hall that will be located near the first-year residence halls. Currently, the gender-inclusive hall is not available for first-year students.

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 10/20/2020

OVERALL NUMBERS
Test Results to Date: **3,475**

Total # Active Cases: **6**
Cumulative Tested Positive: **20**

DISTRIBUTION

PRINT
Oct. 2: 416
Sept. 25: 705
Sept. 18: 632
Sept. 10: 639
Sept. 4: 601

WEB
6,378 page
views this week

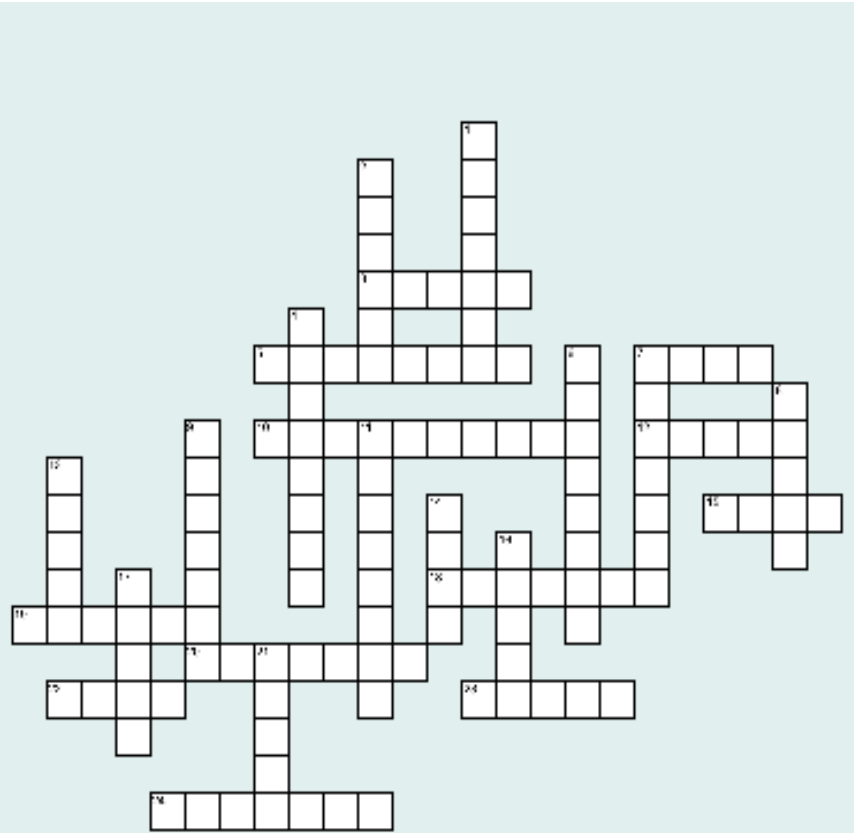
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WANT TO TAKE OUT AN AD?
Classified ads are free for Trinity students. For non-students, each ad is \$25 for 25 words. Send your ads to **trinitonian-adv@trinity.edu**

CORRECTIONS

Spot a correction? Let us know!
trinitonian@trinity.edu

Music Themed Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 3. Chord consisting of three stacked notes: root, third, fifth
 - 5. N.E.R.D member who produced “Get Lucky”
 - 7. Vertical ancient stringed instrument
 - 10. Kanye West album, students work towards this
 - 12. What Timberlake wanted you to cry
 - 15. Vulgar Kendrick Lamar album title
 - 18. Most popular streaming platform
 - 19. “Take Me To Church” Irish singer
 - 20. Atmospheric and relaxing music genre
 - 22. To adjust an instrument
 - 23. String instrument that rhymes with a greeting phrase
 - 24. “I listen to everything but ____”
- DOWN**
- 1. Both an Adele and Travis Scott song title
 - 2. Santana and Chuck Berry’s weapon of choice
 - 4. Contactless electronic instrument
 - 6. Sublime lyric, “I don’t practice ____”
 - 7. Two or more notes being played
 - 8. Rhythmic instruments
 - 9. This musician’s hips don’t lie
 - 11. Electronic duo that composed the Tron: Legacy soundtrack
 - 13. Buzzing toy instrument
 - 14. No sound
 - 16. White or Ambient ____
 - 17. Debussy, Prokofiev, and Arrau play this
 - 21. Color of the hypothetical note that makes you lose bowel control

Interactive version available at **Trinitonian.com**
Answer key can be found through the interactive puzzle link.

Students face less leniency with pass/fail requests

As the pandemic continues, students are facing more stress with less leeway than spring 2020

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This past spring, on April 22, students received an email from Deneese Jones, vice president for Academic Affairs, detailing that all pass/fail course requests would be accepted through the end of fall 2020 regardless of whether the course was for elective, Pathways, or major or minor credit. This semester, Trinity students were limited to declaring a fall 2020 course as pass/fail by Sept. 30.

After the sudden shift in course expectations in March, students immediately began to face new forms of academic pressure alongside the many stressors of COVID-19.

Noticing these issues, Rachel Kaufman, junior sociology major, took it into her own hands to institute the changes students needed to be successful in spring 2020.

“With the pandemic in mind, everyone was pretty stressed out about classes and sent home, so I reached out to Dr. [Sarah Beth] Kaufman saying, ‘Hey, what do you think we should do?’” said Kaufman. “I developed a survey for the student body to see how everyone’s mental health was and about whether or not they thought extending pass/fail would be at all beneficial to their wellbeing during this time.”

After receiving survey responses from over 1200 students, Kaufman presented the information to the faculty senate and the board of trustees with the aid of the Student Government Association. Soon after, the announcement on temporary changes to the rules on pass/fail course requests was made to students.

“The fall 2020 deadline for making such requests is meant to give you ample time for consultation and careful decision-making,” wrote Jones in the email announcement, sent on April 22. “... I am especially humbled by

the willingness of individual students to stand up not for themselves, but for fellow students, as we navigate this ongoing crisis together.”

Despite little change in academic, national and personal stressors, there was only a two-week extension of the fall 2020 semester’s pass/fail course request deadline from mid-Sept. to Sept. 30. As during normal circumstances, only one class per semester may be permitted as pass/fail, and no class permitted may be a major or minor requirement, nor a class used to meet a Common Curriculum or Pathways requirement.

“For the fall 2020 semester, students and faculty had time to prepare, and in fact, my colleagues put in thousands of hours gearing up to support student success in hundreds of different ways,” said Michael Soto, associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

While the fall semester is not the same as this past spring, there is still a feeling of unfamiliarity and uncertainty among students. Many students feel as though a pass/fail on their transcript could be damaging to their GPA and future plans for things such as graduate school.

“I think pass/fail classes are a risky thing, and I don’t know that I would ever take them myself,” said Aubrey Featherston, first-year. “I don’t think that more than one pass/fail class should be allowed.”

Kaufman disagrees with this concern.

“A lot of schools, like law schools or med schools, have already come to the understanding that students are going to have to pass/fail during these times. This is out of the ordinary,” said Kaufman.

Although it seems as though much concern regarding pass/fail comes from students’ worries about their GPA, a few complaints actually came from professors and their feelings towards class performance.



RACHEL KAUFMAN (left), junior sociology major, gathered and presented survey responses from over 1200 students to the board of trustees, faculty senate and MICHAEL SOTO (right), associate vice president for Academic Affairs. The result was the extension of the deadline for pass/fail course requests for the spring 2020 semester. photo provided by RACHEL KAUFMAN (left) and TRINITY UNIVERSITY (right)



“Dr. Soto explained to me that certain faculty members were complaining that students were not up to standards to pass/fail their prerequisites, my guess being that it’s a lot in the STEM department,” said Kaufman. “My thing is, if they pass/fail[ed] for a reason back then, they probably still have that same reason right now.”

With the pandemic raging in the United States for over six months now, many students have faced both economic and mental setbacks with no end in sight.

“A lot of students have also had to get jobs during this time, as their parents lost jobs or they’re having to pay to live off-campus,” said Kaufman. “Students, regardless of whether or not they pass/failed their prerequisites, are going into this semester at a deficit.”

Across the nation, students have been underperforming in school due to the many challenges of the pandemic, many of which directly affect the student body. However,

unlike last semester, it seems as though there is less leeway for students in meeting the high standards that Trinity requires of them.

“Maybe, just maybe, these students are underprepared because of the emotional labor and burden of a global pandemic, and they don’t have the ability to be at their 100%, and they have every right,” said Kaufman. “They’re paying to go to this institution, to be given that leniency.”

Despite these many setbacks, students continue to search for ways to relieve stress and succeed under such dire circumstances. Whether or not the pass/fail policy will revert back to an extended deadline like that of last semester or remain the same is currently unknown.

“I feel this intense obligation to figure out something,” said Kaufman. “I can’t sit right knowing that students are in need: I want to be able to do something right now to the best of my ability.”

Director for Diversity and Inclusion hired, steps into position

continued from FRONT

“I felt that the interview process was incredibly robust,” Balderas-Jacob said. “The line of questioning during the first and second round of interviews showed that the community really cared about bringing on someone who was not only qualified but more importantly would be able to move the needle on the Diversity and Inclusion work Trinity is seeking to do internally and externally.”

“UTSA loved her — the feedback on her was very positive across all the constituencies,” Tynes said. “We’re looking for someone to build an office and really meet with our students and understand what our students want and need.”

The general hiring timetable for the new DIO Director, however, has raised concerns amongst some students. Aria Gastón-Panthaki, senior psychology major and student assistant in the DIO, has followed the process closely from the beginning.

“I don’t think they’re taking [the hiring process] seriously,” Gastón Panthaki said. “I think the fact that it has been [this long] is shocking to me.”

That’s not the only issue that has some students grumbling — after Roman’s resignation in January, the DIO’s halt in operations left students involved reeling.

“Everything in DIO shut down,” Gastón-Panthaki said. “All funding was put on hold, all programs shut down.”

“The way that [the DIO] has been treated is like it’s ‘extra,’” Gastón-Panthaki said. “When there are financial difficulties it’s considered non-essential.”

Balderas-Jacob will be stepping into a different title than the one Roman left behind, becoming the Director for Student Diversity

and Inclusion rather than the director for the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

“We changed the title to be more clear and focused on students,” Tynes said. “It doesn’t mean that she won’t do things for faculty or staff, but the main goal is to work with students.”

Balderas-Jacob, as the new Director for Student Diversity and Inclusion, will also have direct lines of reporting to both Tynes and Danny Anderson, university president.

“I think that there’s just a real hope from the student body that [Balderas-Jacob] will look at what is working in the DIO and what is not working in the DIO and enhance what’s not working and then also do the same for Trinity,” Gastón-Panthaki said. “There are a lot of things that go on on our campus that are not great.”

“We changed the title to be more clear and focused on students.”

SHERYL TYNES
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE

According to Dr. Tynes, the first month or so of Balderas-Jacob’s time on campus will be a structured set of meetings to put her in contact with key individuals and organizations on campus.

“Step one is becoming familiar with the critical campus allies and all the aspects of the Intentional Inclusion initiative,” Balderas-Jacob said. “Step two will be to complete an inventory or what currently exists for students, finding out what has been working, what may need adjusting, where there are opportunities for

new programs, partnerships and training. Then, taking all of these things forward to be sure that we meet the goals set by the D&I task force and responding to the immediate needs of students.”

Between the country’s ongoing reckoning with systemic oppression and on-campus discourse with entities such as The Trinity Way movement on social media, Balderas-

Jacob is taking up her post at a time where ties between everyday people and institutions of power are strained.

“I think that what students are worried about is that if the person in the DIO will not challenge the administration, then nothing will change for the better,” Gastón-Panthaki said. “I hope [Balderas-Jacob’s] that person.”

See something sus?

Let us know!
trinitonian@trinity.edu

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Midterms and pandemic burnout

With midterms still lingering on our calendars, we are all feeling the stress of making it to mid-semester. Managing Zoom classes has not been an easy feat, but we've made it this far.

Since being in quarantine, the days seem to pass by without our knowledge, and many people are beginning to worry about just how long we'll all have to live under COVID-19 restrictions.

When the virus first reached Texas, we were all incredibly optimistic that if we followed the health and safety guidelines for two weeks and stayed at home, the whole virus issue would be resolved by summer. In March, the mere idea of classes being online in the fall seemed outrageous and idiotic. Yet here we are, the virus raging stronger than ever with no end in sight.

Every day we hear about the rising cases in some city adjacent to our hometown, or how medical professionals

are quitting their jobs because they feel overwhelmed by the influx of COVID-19 patients. We are collectively trying to manage the burden of the pandemic while also making it to Zoom classes and contributing to class discussion.

No doubt this semester has been ridiculously hard on students, but it's also been really hard on our professors, staff, and anyone who has to wake up every morning and pretend that everything is just alright.

Everything is not alright, and hardly any of us are alright. It's a difficult time to try to "keep it all together," but somehow we manage. We are not being allowed to grieve the losses that we've had to set aside in order to continue with school, work, and life. Our "successes" during COVID-19 come with a cost. That cost is our mental health, our physical health, our friends and family. We keep waking up and getting hit

with heartbreaking news that we aren't allowed to process because we have to be productive people.

Be kind to one another, remember to breathe, and trust that we will all get through this together. It hasn't been easy at all, and it will continue to not be easy, but there is immense strength to be found in the knowledge that we are collectively facing this together.

So what will happen when things get better? Will we return to our old ways and forget we ever had to be cautious of whether we are exposing other people to illness? We hope not.

COVID-19 is teaching us a lot about caring for others, but not without costing us the lives of the people we love most. We can only move forward from here, and we want you to know that though it may feel like you're alone, not once during quarantine has that been true. It will continue to prove false.

The many cases to be made for Joe Biden



BEN FALCON
COLUMNIST
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You've probably been asked to "go vote," but let's make something clear: people keep dropping three important words from that call to action. What we really mean to say is "go vote for Joe Biden." You see, I'm not going to sit here and pretend that it doesn't matter who you vote for because that's just a bunch of malarkey. Whether or not you vote and who you vote for in this election does matter.

After 2016, I hoped that we would all learn our lesson and realize that the "lesser of two evils" principle encouraging you to sit out the election or vote for a third party is the electoral equivalent of pissing on your own leg and telling yourself it's raining. It's literal nonsense, and the people who perpetrate it need to stop it. Don't let anyone tell you that your vote doesn't matter, least of all a white leftist, because your vote does matter, and if you're a person of color, a child of an immigrant or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, then your vote is your shield and best defense.

There is a real choice on the ballot and it's not between Democrat and Republican. It is between life and death. Since Trump took office, there have been 46 immigrants who've died in ICE custody, 14,000+ known victims of hate crimes, 220,000+ deaths due to COVID-19 and literally countless deaths due to police brutality, which continues to go unreported by Trump's Justice Department, despite them legally needing to do so. In this election, Joe Biden leads a coalition that represents the diversity and strength of America. His message has a lot to offer this country and everyone in it, from progressives on the left to conservatives fed up with Trump on the right, so if you still need some convincing, hear me out.

THE PROGRESSIVE CASE

Whether you supported Bernie or Warren in the primaries, the goals of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party will be best achieved

under a Biden presidency. The Overton window in this country is fast moving on issues from health care reform to racial, economic and environmental justice, and Joe knows it. He is running on the most progressive platform of any major-party nominee in modern history. On criminal justice, Joe wants to abolish cash bail and mandatory minimum sentencing and create a national roster of abusive cops. On education, Joe wants to triple the Pell grant and make college free for families earning less than \$125k. On immigration, Joe supports a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants without linking it to tougher border enforcement. On climate change, Joe wants all new buildings carbon neutral by 2030 and to end the use of fossil fuels electricity by 2035. None of these things will be possible with four more years of Trump, so a vote for Joe Biden is a vote for a more progressive nation.

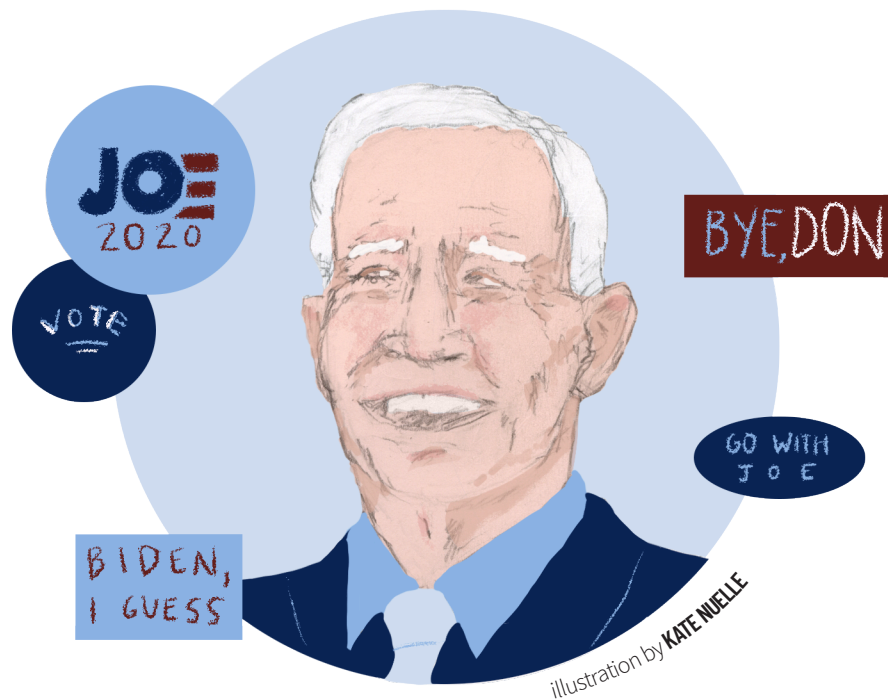
THE CONSERVATIVE CASE

Lifelong Republicans like John Kasich, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Cindy McCain, Collin Powell and Jeff Flake all stand with Joe because they see the irrevocable harm that a second term Trump administration

will continue to do to our constitution and our national security. Trump has raised our taxes, expanded our government, saddled us and future generations with more debt and undermined our alliances and the free market. He has raised tariffs, a tax on consumers and overseen one of the largest increases in government spending in recent memory. Under him, our nation's debt has reached \$23 trillion and rising, increasing about \$3 trillion in less than four years, so if you value responsible government and true conservative values in character, then you should vote for Joe Biden, the only competent leader in the race who supports free trade and our constitution.

So if you're a progressive leftist or a conservative still deciding whether or not to vote in this election or on who to vote for, then ask yourself this: are Bernie Sanders, Noam Chomsky, Cornel West and AOC all mistaken to support Biden, and are Mark Sanford, Jim Mattis and Bill McRaven wrong or any less conservative for opposing Trump? Do the right thing and vote for Joe.

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



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

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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.

FORUM

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.

You don't have to hurt others to feel okay



SHELBY SPERLING
COLUMNIST
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So you've had a bad day, or maybe even a bad month. Heck, maybe you're having a bad year. If that's the case, you're not alone. Whether you struggle with mental health or not, we all still feel sad or numb at times. Feeling down is natural and normal, but it's the way you behave when you feel this way that may or not be OK.

It's really common for people to want to isolate themselves when they're upset. Removing yourself from your support system is a form of self-destructive behavior that often goes unnoticed. Someone may start to isolate themselves when they feel depressed or angry because they're embarrassed about how they feel; they don't want to "bring people down" or they think they deserve to feel this way and therefore do not wish to be cheered up. Another unhealthy response to feeling down is to brush it off. There are many reasons people avoid working through their feelings. They may be scared to accept how they feel, but turning your back on your problems is not an attempt at solving them. Some see feeling sad as a weakness, but that is not the case. If you do think feeling upset is a sign of weakness, prove to yourself you're strong enough to work through any conflict you face, as opposed to letting them overcome you.

So, instead of taking all your problems on yourself, or ignoring that you have any, use your support system! Do note, however, there are correct ways and incorrect ways to use your

support system. We all need to accept the truth that we are capable of being toxic. Of course, most people think about toxicity within relationships with others, but we can just as easily be toxic towards ourselves by engaging in self-destructive behavior. The mental health community needs to start stressing the idea that when you're hurting it does not mean you get to hurt others. This may seem obvious, but too often I hear something along the lines of, "Oh they're just having a hard time," as a defense for someone behaving in a harmful way. This should never be an excuse for treating others or ourselves poorly. When we aren't at peak mental health we have a responsibility to recognize this and start engaging in productive behaviors.

So, how do we use our support systems in a productive way? There are many different ways you can properly take advantage of the caring people in your life. First, if you want to get your feelings out, try journaling. Journaling before talking to someone can come in

handy because it may help you organize your thoughts or feelings before reaching out. Take time to just write out everything you're feeling in a nonjudgmental space. Then, reach out to someone you trust and ask if you can talk with them about how you're feeling. Always clarify with the person you're talking to beforehand

what you're looking for from them. If you just want them to listen or you want them to give you advice, let them know. This will help them provide you with the right support. And remember, no one has a magic wand they can use to make you feel better all of a sudden. The people in your life are there as helping hands, but it's up to you to put in the work to resolve your own dilemmas.

Outside of talking out your feelings, you should also use healthy coping mechanisms that will help when you're feeling down. My best suggestion is to start a list of coping mechanisms that seem appealing to you. Really push yourself to include as many as you can because this list should be your go-to when you're feeling too stuck to pull yourself up. Some examples of things you can include on your list are: get out of bed, shower, brush your teeth, put on an outfit that makes you feel good, work on some homework, eat a healthy meal, go for a walk, go to the gym, work on an art project, try to learn a new skill, throw on your favorite childhood movie, clean your room, or meditate. If you're struggling to come up with some ideas just look up "list of healthy coping mechanisms."

When you're in a dark headspace you may feel stuck, and no matter how hard you try you just can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. Trust me, as someone who has been there too many times to count, that light is there and will always be there. You will see the light again with time and when you take manageable baby steps towards getting better. And just remember, you can't grow when you tear others down.

Shelby Sperling is a first-year undecided major.



illustration by
KATE NUELLE

Building a community where learning can occur



DANNY ANDERSON
TU PRESIDENT
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Transitions are complex moments. They bring to the forefront of our attention contradictory and possibly competing feelings of loss, anxiety, uncertainty, and excitement. This year we will experience a transition as David Tuttle, Associate Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students, retires and begins a new chapter in his life. One key trait that Dean Tuttle championed and will continue is what we often call "student-centricity." Trinity University, from its inception,

Our task is to create a future—rooted in the values of community and inclusion—and anchored to the belief that the Dean of Students position serves as a champion for diversity, an advocate for students, and implements fair and equitable policies and procedures.

has prioritized the student educational experience by promoting mentoring relationships between faculty and students, independent intellectual work of students, and the encouragement of students to pursue their passions.

This week we announced the committee that will conduct the search to identify the next Dean of Students. This committee will play a key role focusing our excitement toward the future.

As we all navigate this transition, I invite you to think broadly about the future Dean of Students—the traits that you believe will ensure that individual's success and will meet the needs of our campus community in the years ahead. Our task is to create a future—rooted in the values of community and inclusion—and anchored to the belief that the Dean of Students position serves as a champion for diversity, an advocate for students, and implements fair and equitable policies and procedures.

The role of Dean of Students on the 21st century Trinity campus is as complex as the moment of transition we face. There are the responsibilities that are very public—welcome remarks at orientations, attendance at student events and forums, facilitation of student conduct reviews, and partnerships with others on our collective student success work. However, there is also a tireless breadth of responsibilities that many of us never see - ranging from responses to tragedies to parent and family communication to student retention and success.

Historically, we face challenges together with compassion and resolve. We will continue to make our community stronger and our next Dean of Students must actively participate in building a community where learning can occur.

Danny Anderson is president of Trinity University.



illustration by GRACEN HOYLE

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Career Services aims to ease career anxiety

Tiger Connections program created to connect Trinity students to alumni networks

MIKAYLA MULLIN | PULSE REPORTER
mmullin@trinity.edu

Has any student ever escaped the anxiety of going to interviews and finding a job? I figure the majority of people reading this cannot say they are immune to the stresses of planning our futures.

Luckily, the Office of Career Services is working to relieve that career anxiety. That is why they created the Tiger Connections program.

Tiger Connections is a program Career Services is putting on to connect Trinity students to alumni. Maranda Larsen, Associate Director of Career Services, spoke about why Career Services decided to start this program.

"The purpose was to help students who need to broaden their network, do informational interviews, and reach out to people they don't know. We wanted to create a way for students to have those connections in a less stressful environment," said Larsen.

All of the Tiger Connections meetings are on Zoom, so Trinity students do not have to be on campus to participate. The Zoom format also means that Trinity students are able to talk to alumni wherever they are.

To participate in the program, all students have to do is show up. Career Services takes care of the rest.

"I set up a Zoom meeting and ask students to sign up on a Google Calendar with appointment slots. Each student has 15 minutes," said Larsen.

Career Services is taking a very diverse approach to Tiger Connections. They

have alumni and parents from all fields and interests offering to talk to students, so there is something for everybody.

Katie Ramirez, Director of Career Services and Co-Director for Experimental Learning and Career Success, spoke about some of the opportunities Tiger Connections offers.

"The fields have been incredibly diverse. [We] have someone from a museum and a parent that works with a wine company. We've gotten to the point now where we've had an athlete edition. We've had a DEI day, where recruiters talked about DEI. Specific events for different pockets of students. Maybe a Greek one. Also, we have someone who has lived internationally," said Ramirez.

Right now, we are obviously going through a global pandemic, and that means a lot of things for Trinity students. One of which is that Trinity students are looking at graduating in a recession.

The prospect of graduating in a recession makes some of the benefits Tiger Connections offers even more important.

"You're expanding your network. When there is a recession in a labor market, expanding your network is especially critical. You are practicing articulating yourself in a career oriented way. Liberal arts students can do so many things by the time they graduate. Talking to an alumni will expand your horizons so you can see who is out there. Most people don't have a linear career path. The ability to reposition yourself and be curious is especially important in a recession. People can give you advice on your professional decisions," said Ramirez.

Overall, the students have had a very positive reaction to the program.



Associate director of Career Services **MARANDA LARSEN** wanted to create a way for students to create meaningful connections with alumni in a comfortable environment. photo by **MILLIE ECKEL**

Trinity students Shivani Alur and Nicholas Friedman shared their Tiger Connections experiences.

"I have learnt so much about business, consulting, and professional advice from alumni, and I think this Trinity sponsored event for students to chat with alums is awesome!! Alison's advice was very helpful and insightful for my questions about a career abroad. Thanks so much for putting this together," said Shivani Alur.

"This is an incredible program and Alison seemed really interested in talking to us. Please keep doing more of these, and we have to find a way to let more Trinity students know this is available.

I am incredibly grateful y'all put these together, and I am going to share with some peers about this opportunity," said Nicholas Friedman.

These students are not alone in gaining confidence and insight from this experience.

"From our surveys, students reported increase in the likelihood of reaching out to someone for informational interviews from 3.9 to 4.4," said Larsen.

Whether looking for a job, thinking about a field, or wanting to meet people with interesting experiences, Tiger Connections can be a great way for Trinity students to learn something new and hopefully clear up some of that anxiety about our futures.

Celebrating Halloween (safely) at Trinity

Various Trinity organizations get in the spooky spirit with Halloween-themed events

ISABEL CHAVEZ | PULSE REPORTER
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For Mary France Lembke, senior political science major and president of Trinity Art Collective (TAC), costumes are part of how she gets in the holiday spirit. "Throughout college, I've enjoyed participating in group costumes, costume parties, and decorating my living space to make sure I have big Halloween energy. When setting up our calendar for the upcoming year, the officers and I all agreed that carrying on a Halloween tradition was important to us as a club."

Trinity Coatney, one of TAC's Events chairs, proposed mailing craft kits to students so that the tradition could be held virtually. The club sent pots and painting supplies to students so that everyone could make their pot look like a pumpkin, explained Lembke.

"That way, we could bring the Trinity community together regardless of whether you were on campus or not," she said. The thirty students who signed up will gather virtually on October 29th to decorate their plant's homes just in time for Halloween.

Lilian De La Rosa, assistant director for the Student Programming Board (SPB), explains that Halloween became an important holiday when she got to college.

"Since coming to college I've definitely been more involved in celebrating it, and me and my friends will dress up on Halloween. It's gonna look a little bit different this year," said De La Rosa.

SPB's Traditions Team will safely host an in-person screening of Hocus Pocus on the Jim Potter Intramural Field to fill the gaps in our Halloween celebrations this year.

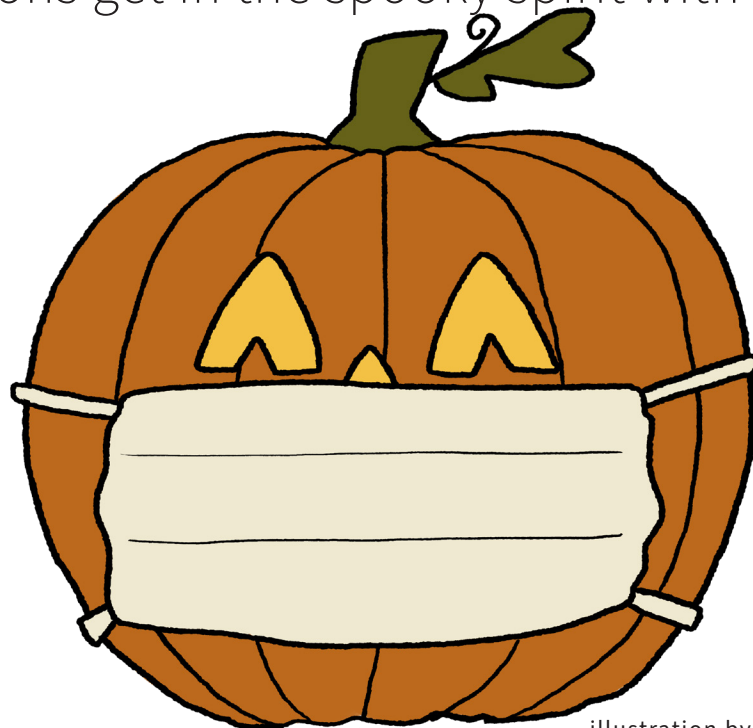


illustration by **REN RADER**

"It should be a big thing, it'll be exciting to have a safe and socially distanced event on the intramural field" says De La Rosa.

De La Rosa, who also serves as a Resident Assistant in Herndon Hall, is also busy planning a memorable event for her first years, who have yet to experience a normal Trinity holiday.

RA's from both Herndon and Beze are planning what De La Rosa calls a "spooky-fest," where residents can pin the tail on the clown, participate in a costume contest, or be wrapped up in toilet paper at the party and go as a mummy instead!

"I'm honestly looking forward to spending Halloween with my residents," said De La

Rosa. "It's kind of providing an alternative for unsafe partying."

For English and communications double major Daniela Jahn '21, Halloween in college has always consisted of going out, dressing up with friends, and working on TigerTV's Halloween special.

"I love Halloween, and it made me sad when I wasn't allowed to trick or treat anymore as a kid but then I just started having Halloween parties. But now, alas, no more," said Jahn regarding this year's more ghostly tone.

After holding positions in all three of TigerTV's shows, Jahn has become a pro in creating Halloween content in the studio. This

year, Not So Late Show wants to bring the spooky vibe to your home, straight from theirs.

"Since it's virtual, everybody who has videos for that day they're gonna be filming in their homes or apartments or wherever they're staying, it's gonna be visually different from all at home. Lots of spooky, creepy, vibes," Jahn says.

Jahn is also a video creator for TUPress, and is hoping to make a video about a lore written about in Mark Louis Rybczyk's "San Antonio Uncovered: Fun Facts and Hidden Histories."

"This school bus of kids got stuck on a railroad and they got hit by a train, so if you put your car on the railroad in neutral ghosts will show up and push your car. And if you put baby powder in the back of your car and then look afterwards you can see the fingerprints of the kids pushing your car over, which is a costume I wanna do," said Jahn.

You can find Not So Late Show, along with the remaining TigerTV Halloween specials on Youtube and Vimeo (tigertv14), or on channel 14 on campus televisions at 5 p.m. central.

To carry festivities throughout Halloween week, SPB will also be hosting a virtual escape room and an October-themed give away including items like gift cards, a picnic kit, a hammock, Trinity mugs, and hot cocoa to bring the Texas fall (also known as other states' summers) to wherever you may be studying this Halloween.

TAC will also continue their seasonal events into an upcoming winter-themed event and the spring semester's annual Bob Ross painting night. To get involved with TAC, follow @trinityuart on instagram or email tac@trinity.edu.

INSTA-POSIUM

What side of Tiktok are you on?

@anne.mickelson HARRY POTTER.	@lxrightsbot sword lesbians and gardening	@joliefrancis Glee Tiktok	@imcalledcarmen the “what’s the trinitTEA” side and clearly y’all are too
@joshuavangogh I get a lot of Tiktoks of chihuahuas! :)	@ericamae397 gay alt Tiktok, sometimes there’s a frog!	@eduardaduenas Fashion Tiktok	@ethanjones0 Glee Tiktok

CLOSER THAN EVER

IT WAS SUPER COOL OF YOUR MOM TO MAKE COOKIES, SYNCLAIRE!

SHE LOVES TO BAKE!

I'M GLAD WE CAN STILL CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN TOGETHER EVEN THOUGH TRICK OR TREATING ISN'T SAFE THIS YEAR!

written and illustrated by GRACEN HOYLE

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Trinity's Tartuffe goes virtual after being postponed

Students and faculty in the theatre dept. work together to put on Zoom production of Tartuffe

CARMINE VILLAREAL | ARTS REPORTER
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After students moved to virtual learning last semester, the theatre department's plans for their second mainstage production "Tartuffe" by Molière was cut short. Fortunately, the department has been rehearsing for "Tartuffe" after a series of unexpected and creative changes.

Dr. Stacey Connelly, associate professor of human communication and theatre and director of "Tartuffe," a French play based on religious hypocrisy, has found safe ways to still be able to put on rehearsals.

"Scott Neale, our scenic designer, has created a standing 3D stage that looks like a 17th-century French theater using a 3D printer. It's very elaborate and beautifully designed with wings on the side. All the actors will have their own green screen and the interior of the theater will be projected onto the green screen," Connelly said.

Using the crafted stage, puppet shows are going to be implemented in place of scenes involving actions actors can't do, such as physical interactions ranging from violence to intimacy, according to Connelly.

"The performers have to create their world within the small frame of about six feet. They have to almost be like a living picture in a portrait. What we're trying to do is see how the actors can use their bodies to make it look as if they're actually interacting. It has made me think of theater in terms of illusionism," Connelly said.

Senior Anthony Tresca, who is playing the role of Tartuffe, and senior Trace Glorioso, who was cast as Orgon, both commented on the adaptability required to perform through Zoom.



Tartuffe "Toy Theatre" created by **SCOTT NEALE**, Assistant Professor of Human Communication and Theatre. Photo provided by **THEATRE DEPARTMENT**

"It's hard to convey my character's [motives], especially when it's over "Zoom," and I'm sitting in my room in my little roly, spinny chair," Tresca said. "It's so important to adapt. If you do everything you were doing on a stage, it will be ineffective since it's a different medium."

"The term 'the show must go on' really is a thing. We've been working on some fun ideas involving the incorporation of our living spaces in our performance. When we're so

close to the camera like we are in Zoom, it's also important to use facial expressions as much as we can, as our face is the only part of our body that the audience sees in our performance," Glorioso said.

Although a virtual performance is not what the department had in mind, they are looking to make it as authentic as possible. First-year Nicolas Diaz, who is playing the role of Valere, has been optimistic about these changes.

"Valere is largely based on the Innamorato from commedia dell'arte. I am enjoying the role. Sometimes my internet acts up, which turns the show into an incomprehensible slide show, but other than that, there haven't been any problems," Diaz said. "In my mind, performing is performing, no matter the medium."

Senior Kathleen Arbogast is playing the role of the officer. She is also one of the dramaturgs for the production along with Rafaela Brenner. Arbogast and Glorioso expressed the impact of Tartuffe's verse.

"The play is written in rhymed verse, so as an actor, it's difficult not to get caught up saying the lines in a sing-song-y way. You have to intentionally de-emphasize the rhyme so that you can put meaning and emotion into your lines," Arbogast said. "Molière does a fabulous job of intertwining wit and religious commentary into this satirical masterpiece."

"It is in my top three favorite roles I've played at Trinity. It fits the type of roles I play and allows me to be very over-the-top," Glorioso said. "While the [verse] can be a little difficult to take in at first, the play is a great comedy. It's kinda like a seventeenth-century reality TV show."

Tresca, like other cast members, vocalized his gratitude for having the privilege to perform during these times.

"Just because the world is crazy doesn't mean theatre should stop. I'm always thankful for the ability to blow off steam and just do some theatre, even if it's not the same," Tresca said.

Stay alert for an upload of the performance on their YouTube early next month.

Faculty Favorites: Halloween Movie Recommendations

From Nightmare Before Christmas to German expressionist movies, faculty weigh in on their favorites

JORDYN GUZMAN | ARTS REPORTER
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As Halloween is fast-approaching, fall season has brought back spooky classics such as "It" and "Child's Play." This autumnal section of films includes movies of true horror, animation and family-friendly flicks for people of all ages to enjoy. Then there's the whole debated gray area on where exactly Coraline resides. However, this bulk of favorites often overshadow films produced internationally. Here are some unconventional Halloween movie recommendations from professors who specialize in film, communications, and language.

Curtis Swope, Associate Professor in Modern Languages and Literatures

There are definitely a couple of German Expressionist movies that are must-sees around Halloween. One is "The Cabinet" of Dr. Caligari from 1919. It's about a fairground hypnotist who uses one of his hypnotized subjects to start killing innocent townspeople. The film has a sort of narrator figure and, let me tell you, is there ever a twist about him when you get to the surprise ending.

Another classic is Nosferatu (1922), a very early vampire movie. Warning for viewers in 2020: this vampire doesn't just bite people, he also spreads a nasty plague.

Finally, I'd recommend Dr. Mabuse the Gambler (1922). It's about a criminal mastermind who uses mind control and disguise in his quest for world domination. It's got stock-market crashes, decadent art collections, seances, crazy nightclubs, and

taxi cabs rigged up with traps. Obviously no shortage here of good costume ideas.

Nina Ekstein, Professor of French

Beyond saying that I love the Nightmare Before Christmas, I do not like horror films. I don't know of any French Halloween films. Halloween is a recent holiday in France. When I lived abroad (1975-76), it simply didn't exist there at all. Aside from the wonderful, creepy music, Nightmare before Christmas is definitely worth seeing for the remarkable juxtaposition of two beloved, but profoundly dissimilar American holidays. The scene where the creatures of Halloween are let loose in Christmastown is unforgettable.

Rosana Blanco-Cano, Associate Professor of Spanish

I recommend you The Devil's Backbone, The Orphanage, and The Book of Life. All of them are in the Coates library. All of them are important from a cultural and historical perspective. The first two deal with the Spanish Civil war and the horror associated with that period of history. Both are Guillermo del Toro's productions. Amazing cinematography and ideas to think about. The Book of Life is a binational production (Mexico/US) that talks about Dia de Los Muertos, also from a binational point of view. I am thinking that another film [I] could recommend would be Coco, also of binational production, that is intended to talk about Day of the dead from a "Greater Mexico" perspective (US/Mexico).



Patrick Keating, Professor of Communication

I recommend two Korean horror movies: The Host (Bong Joon-ho, 2006). From the director of Parasite, this horror film was the top-grossing film in Korea when it was

released in 2006. A great mix of action and horror, with several moments of unexpected comedy. Train to Busan (Yeon Sang-ho, 2016). A sharp satire about income inequality in Korea. Also, zombies on a train.

Remembering musician Eddie Van Halen after his death

Iconic rock guitarist, musical inventor and family man dies at 65 due to complications from lung cancer

JOSH ANAYA | ARTS REPORTER
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Eddie Van Halen — lead guitarist of iconic rock group Van Halen — passed away on Oct. 6 following complications with lung cancer according to a tweet from his son, Wolfgang.

“He was the best father I could ever ask for. Every moment I’ve shared with him on and off stage was a gift,” Wolfgang Van Halen said.

Valerie Bertinelli, Van Halen’s first wife and Wolf’s mother, shared some sentimental words about Eddie in a tweet as well.

“Forty years ago, my life changed forever when I met you...I’m so grateful Wolfie and I were able to hold you in your last moments. I will see you in our next life my love,” Bertinelli said.

The post went viral, with nearly four-hundred thousand likes and thousands of replies and retweets from other musicians, celebrities and fans alike.

There are millions of fans all over the world that will push towards a future of radical love for rock & roll, guitar wizardry and the lasting legacy that Van Halen worked tirelessly to provide throughout his lifetime.

Van Halen’s namesake group released a slew of hits beginning in the late 1970s up until the 1990s, including songs like “Running with the Devil,” “Unchained” and the band’s U.S. No. 1 single, “Jump.” This music unearthed a powerful culture of young rock and roll enthusiasts that has

continued on to this day.

Van Halen’s playing anchored the group through nearly four decades of platinum albums

illustration by **REN RADER**



and sold-out tours.

Eddie Van Halen was born to Eugenia Van Halen and Jan Van Halen — a clarinet,

saxophone, and piano player — in Amsterdam on January 26, 1955. It was imminent that Eddie would grow up with a musical influence in his life.

Van Halen has rightfully been famed for his mesmerizing solos, musical versatility, innovative guitar technique, such as two-handed tapping,

and re-invention of rock and roll. He was lauded by many for being an amazingly enthusiastic performer that stunned and enthralled audiences all over the world.

David Lee Roth, lead singer in Van Halen, spoke on Van Halen’s stage presence in an NPR interview, noting it as one that was intensely precise and heartfelt.

“Not just in terms of speed, but how he articulates the notes, his accuracy, his focus. There’s a whole lot of emotional content to the way that kid plays,” Roth said.

Van Halen learned to play piano when he was six, and jump started his passion for music ever since. In a 2017 interview with CNN, Eddie Van Halen noted how strong of a role that music played in his life, especially after graduating from high school towards an unconventional path.

“My whole life has been music. I could not imagine anything else. It really hit me when I graduated high school, you sign everybody’s yearbook and everybody asks you, ‘So what college are you going to?’ Uh... ‘Hey Al, I think we better stick to what we know,’” Van Halen said.

Ted Nugent, American singer, guitarist and long-time fan of Van Halen, left some lasting remarks on Facebook when notified of his death.

“Thank you Eddie for vitalizing, enriching, and stimulating our lives with your brilliance, gifts, and vision,” said Nugent. Jam on my friend. Jam on.”

Right now is a time marked with more loss than many of us are geared to handle. The loss of Van Halen is one that is collective, visceral and long-lasting. During this time, and into the future, we must take care of one another and appreciate the richness of life, meaning, and happiness.

Van Halen’s presence on this Earth is one that will never part. There are millions of fans all over the world that will push towards a future of radical love for rock & roll, guitar wizardry and the lasting legacy that Van Halen worked tirelessly to provide throughout his lifetime.

For the Record: “Candy II [Beat Tape]” by Louis The Child

This tracklist is full of different and creative sounds that put their production talents on full display

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illustration by **REN RADER**

For the record, if you’re a fan of electronic music, Louis The Child is probably a household name in your music library. The American producer duo of Fredrick Kennett and Robert Hauldren has been making music since 2013 and created a name for themselves in the EDM and dance-pop genre. A handful of EP’s and two full-length

studio albums have them achieving close to 6 million monthly listeners on Spotify and a number of charted hits as well. Best known for their singles “Better Not,” “Free” and “It’s Strange,” Louis The Child produces an upbeat and easy-to-dance-to electronic-pop sound that’s unique to their style. While their first full-length LP arrived in July of 2020, the duo has returned with their most recent project “Candy II [Beat Tape],” which is a 19-song, 34-minute tracklist full of variety and creative sounds that puts their production talents on full display.

Although listed as an album, “Candy II [Beat Tape]” plays much more like a mixtape. The songs are absent of catchy choruses and hooks, and as the name implies, the project is entirely instrumental. Despite there being 19 different tracks, most of them run under two minutes in length. While the presentation is certainly stripped back, the sounds most definitely are not. “Candy II” shines a light directly on Louis The Child’s production skills and features a diversity of sounds and themes throughout the project. The duo wastes no time getting to the first song, “The Sh*t.” Just 10 seconds in, the instrumental is already building to the first drop. Their futuristic brand of electro-pop is immediately recognizable as the album kicks off with wavy beats supported by original synths and dialed in percussion.

One of my favorite things about the album is how seamlessly it plays. The first six songs fit together perfectly—each one

leading into the next without any noticeable transitions. If you’re not actively watching Spotify, you would think it was all one long song. Louis The Child then switches things up with tracks 7, 8 and 9. “Parashoes,” “hey RAWB” and “Keep Moving” arrive with a deep bass euro-house vibe that will have you nodding your head with the beat. From there, “Candy II” features something a little different in every subsequent track. Varied beats, tempos and drops with a bunch of new sounds keep you on your toes. The album closes with “Classic LTC,” “Fresh Juice” and “Takeoff” giving us one last glimpse of what Louis The Child has up their sleeve. As the name suggests, “Classic LTC” is a sound reminiscent of Louis The Child’s early days making remixes that put them on the map. “Fresh Juice” features a collaboration with electronic music contemporary Troyboi for a track with dubstep influences, and “Takeoff” finishes with a chilled outro and sampled “thank you’s” to wrap the whole project up.

I have to say I’m a big fan of “Candy II.” Every time I listen to it, I pick up on new sounds and patterns within the production. I enjoy how experimental the mixtape is - as if Louis The Child has

taken the beats and sounds they’ve played around with and polished it into something cohesive. It comes off authentic and playful, while simultaneously pushing the duo’s sound forward with new ideas and designs. “Candy II” is something you can put on in the background of a workout or while doing homework, while listening closely to appreciate the talented production. It’s clear that the group has the raw talent and ability to continue developing their sound, and I’m already looking forward to the next project.

illustration by **DIEP HOANG**



Women's basketball coaches empower female athletes

Three Division I legends join San Antonio Sports panel ahead of city's 2021 Women's Final Four

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In September of 2018, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced that the 2021 Women's Final Four would be held in San Antonio. The event hosts —The University of Incarnate Word, University of Texas at San Antonio, and San Antonio Sports— immediately set out to break the all-time women's basketball attendance record and empower girls in the San Antonio area.

To help meet these goals, San Antonio Sports hosted a panel on Oct. 13 with some of the most prominent coaches in Division I Texas women's basketball to raise funds to send 5,000 Girl Scouts in the San Antonio area to the Final Four games, as well as kids from local youth organizations and servicemen and women. While it was free to watch the live stream, participants were encouraged to make a small monetary contribution. A donation of 10 dollars sends one girl to the game. The panel raised \$10,545, which is a little more than a fifth of the \$50,000 goal.

Moderated by Aditi Kinkhabwala, National Correspondent for the NFL Network, the panel had something for everybody, whether fan, coach, or player. The panel opened with a discussion with Jody Condrat, the former Head Coach and Women's Athletic Director for the University of Texas in Austin, and Marsha Sharp, the Hall of Fame former Head



illustration by GABRIELLE RODRIGUEZ

Coach for Texas Tech University. The two legends reflected on the history of women in basketball, including the importance of Title IX and of using what's learned on the court when faced with adversity. Condrat summarized the importance of women having the opportunity to foster the skills and values that come from being on a team.

"Many times young people don't realize that what they're learning on the basketball court and in the locker room are the very same skills that are going to make them successful in

life and for so long, those skills were valued in young men, but not necessarily in young women. I am so happy, in today's environment, those same values and those same skills are valued in young women, and more and more of them are having the opportunity to practice through basketball and other team sports," Condrat said.

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Rays, Dodgers make World Series, set to play in front of fans

Opinion: MLB is mistaken by joining other leagues in welcoming crowds to their games



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Although the Major League Baseball (MLB) regular season did not go as planned, with COVID-19 outbreaks and multiple series' being postponed, the World Series is finally upon us.

This has been an exciting Major League Baseball (MLB) postseason, to say the least, with the Los Angeles Dodgers coming back from being down three games to one against the Atlanta Braves in the National League Championship Series (NLCS), and the Tampa Bay Rays barely holding off the Houston Astros in the American League Championship Series. Now, the Rays will face the Dodgers in a Fall Classic sure to be unlike any other in history.

The World Series will be held in the Texas Rangers' brand new Globe Life Field in Arlington, and fans will be allowed at games for just the second time this season, with the first being during the (NLCS), also held in Arlington. Open-air stadiums are legally allowed to have 50% capacity in Texas. Globe Field seats 40,300 fans, but only about 11,500 tickets will be sold, with 950 fans in suites. Tickets will be sold in groups of four seats, called pods. Seats within a pod

cannot be broken apart for sale, and each pod will be at least six feet from each other. Masks will be mandatory for fans except when eating or drinking.

It makes sense that the MLB is finally allowing fans, as other leagues like the National Football League (NFL) have been allowing fans in certain stadiums. Since it looks as though we might not have a vaccine for a long time, it makes sense for sports leagues, like other businesses, to move forward and find new safe ways to do things that used to be considered 'normal.'

However, it is not in the country's interest to allow fans in for the World Series or any other sporting event. As cases continue to rise in the US, we should not become complacent with COVID-19 precautions. If the people who decided to go to the game were the only ones to be affected if they were to contract COVID-19, that would be one thing; however, we know that many people can be asymptomatic with COVID-19, and one person can spread the virus to many people. Therefore, attending the World Series is putting other people at risk too. There are plenty of safer things that people are able to do right now than going to a professional baseball game.

In the past two weeks, cases have increased in the US by 29%. This is important to note, as the World Series is likely to bring a national audience to Arlington and affect the city long after the tourists are gone. Not only

that, but people who come to Texas for the World Series are more likely to be dining out, possibly going to bars, and staying in local hotels. While this is great for the economy at a time when it is so desperately needed, it is important to note that this is putting hospitality workers at risk when they do not have the option to stay at home like the rest of us.

Additionally, it is hard to force people to wear their masks. When watching football games on TV, there are often many people not wearing masks. If fans cannot be responsible enough to wear masks, it's hard to justify having fans at sporting events when many people are still unable to return to work — or are forced to work in unsafe conditions — and many children are still not able to go to school.

It does look like the pandemic will continue for the foreseeable future, so it is important that we can learn how to do things we used to do with minimal risks. MLB is taking a big step in allowing fans at the World Series. Time will tell if the decision was, in fact, a wise one.



