

Recap of BHM Events

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Student Spotlight

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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Increasing Awareness and Empathy at Trinity: New Trinity Plus Curriculum Requirement

CAITLIN DOHERTY '26
NEWS EDITOR

On Tuesday, February 21st, College faculty voted to instate a new "Identity, Power, and Equity" requirement as an addition to the existing Trinity Plus Curriculum. The announcement was released in an email by Professor Sonia Cardenas, Dean of the Faculty and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. As stated in her email, students will "satisfy the requirement by taking a course that advances their understanding of marginalized communities in the United States."

The announcement comes over six years after the Action Coalition at Trinity, a student group, advocated for this type of requirement to be instituted in 2016. In 2020, the Umoja Coalition and others on campus advocated for reform and racial justice at the college. Trinity is behind in adding this requirement, as many



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of its peer institutions, such as Hamilton, Wesleyan, and Williams, already had equity-based educational requirements as part of their curriculums.

The Deadly Protests and Debates Surrounding the Creation of "Cop City" in Atlanta, Georgia

MELINA KORFONTA '25
NEWS EDITOR

Atlanta, Georgia—For almost two years, organizers and activists have been protesting the City of Atlanta's plans to build a police training center in Weelaunee Forest. The concept is still being defended by Keisha Lance Bottoms, a former mayor of Atlanta, who claims such a facility could only be built on forested territory. A new facility for the cops "can't wait," according to Bottoms, who said at the time the City Council voted 10-4 in favor of the training center. The unrest around Atlanta's "Cop City" has lately intensified

see "The 'Cop City' of Atlanta" on page 4

after a protester was fatally shot by police, property was damaged by protestors, and other protestors were detained and charged with serious offenses.

Since it was first proposed, "Cop City" has sparked controversy due to its placement on Weelaunee Forest, which was previously home to the Muscogee Creek Nation. On January 18th, 26-year-old Manuel Esteban Terán, nicknamed Tortugita by community residents, was murdered by police while protesting on the site in a wooded area with other environmental activists. Activists with Defend the Atlanta Forest claimed that police officers from Atlanta regularly walk through the woods whi-

le drawing their weapons to remove demonstrators. The Black Alliance for Peace's Atlanta chapter organizer Tunde Osazuwa claimed that the violence started after the police came and started "using intimidation methods." Six people were taken into custody after a demonstration on Peachtree Street in Atlanta three days later. These individuals were arrested on felonies such as domestic terrorism and unlawful assembly.

The Atlanta Police Department, in addition to Atlanta Fire Rescue, the city's 911 call center, and various K-9 units, receives training at the Old Atlanta Prison Farm. In order to improve morale, retention, and recruitment in

the city's law enforcement agencies, Mayor Bottoms praised the project as a "reasonable reform" that she believes is necessary. The initiative, however, rapidly received opposition from local communities that fear a training facility would do nothing to combat police-spurred violence. According to environmental organizations, clearing out a significant portion of the forest could have a harmful impact on the South River and the local villages. The Atlanta Police Foundation has received public criticism for leasing the forested area from local residents, who have also gained support to raise awareness of the issue—even persuading investors to withdraw...

The Trinity Tripod

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"Now then-Trinity!"

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Check out these articles that have yet to be released in print!

- OPINION: "Dialogue on the Origins and Concerning Ideologies in the Russia-Ukraine War" - David Green '71
- OPINION: "Ukraine Facing Russian Attacks on Their Power Grid: How My Experiences in Denmark in 1973 Influences My View of Ukrainian Persistence" - Daniel Reese '75
- OPINION: "To Stand or Not to Stand: The State of the Union as a Political Arena" - Connor Reck '23
- OPINION: "A Necessity for Economic Stability: In Support of the FTC's Proposal To Ban Non-Compete Agreements" - Jackson Loze '24
- ARTS: "I Endured the Motern Ganza: Matt Farley's Fifty Song Spectacular" - Jules Bourbeau '25

Tripod Editorial

When the Shampoo & Conditioner Run Out

The title of this piece might have some of you asking questions. Questions like, "Where is this editorial heading?" and "Is this a metaphor?" are ringing in my ears just writing this piece. If you are one of these people asking these questions, I am happy for you; the metaphor is lost in the ears of those with adequate dopamine and serotonin coursing through their neuronal synapses. For those of you who understand this metaphor—even if you have never heard of it before reading this piece—I dedicate this article to you. I also dedicate this article to the celebration of Black History Month. While I will never understand the systemic racial injustices of this world, I can understand the mental strain and inevitable anhedonia arising from living as a "second class" citizen in this world. I know that many more people of color will understand the title of this piece than white people, and that is what I am here to discuss today: how intersectionalities of identity different from the heterosexual white male norm contribute to mental illness and the loss of cerebral bliss.

Before getting into the data on this deafening issue, let me explain the metaphor for those of you who want to understand. When you suffer from depression, you begin to focus on smaller and smaller incidents in your life, eventually finding yourself continually ruminating on the past. If you suffer from suicidal ideations, you will begin to focus on if and how these tiny occurrences in your life fit into the mangled mental framework of your mind, and if and how they support your continuation or discontinuation of life. The title of this editorial is the puzzle piece with the most-perfect fit. It is rare to run out of shampoo and conditioner at the exact same time, so when you do, maybe it's a sign. Maybe it's a nod from the universe that you should no longer inhabit this Earth and that, like the shampoo and conditioner, your essence has been drained and is ready to be trashed. And no, not all depressed people become these spiritual mediums. Depression just causes the need to search for meaning and to search for reason and the answer to why your mind has lost faith in the world you have landed yourself in and why it might not get any better. When you have lost all reliance on empirical justification for your mental venture into Socrates' cave, the non-nomothetic methods of interpretation begin to garner greater mental salience, and

a simple thing like shampoo and conditioner running out at the same time becomes that sought after nod from the universe that your time has come to embark on an early venture down the soil of this Earth.

When one suffers from suicidal ideations, everything around you begins to symbolize the grim reaper and how close it is to satisfying the singular goal of the ominous mistletoe hanging over your head. From this metaphor we can pivot to the main discussion of this editorial: the unequal distribution of these thoughts and depressive symptomatology over the variety of identities represented on every racial, sexual, ethnic, and socioeconomic spectrum. The highest suicide rate belongs to white men, followed closely by indigenous male populations. Black and then Asian men are next on this list. Looking at only the racial spectrum in this rating can be a bit misleading, as it is not only the racial and gender spectra but their interaction with sexual, ethnic, and socioeconomic spectra that create the individual environments that must be survived. With men being the primary "breadwinners" in many areas of the world, the socioeconomic spectrum hits hard, making life feel even more intolerable when facing trying financial times. Also, the concept of "masculinity" is one devoid of emotion and, especially, sharing one's emotions with someone else. Men striving to be this "masculine" figure will bottle up their emotions, leading to a darker depression that seems wholly inescapable. Furthermore, "masculinity" has become a powerful identifier for most men, due to its carrying the weight of most other men's acknowledgement and congratulations; therefore, striding from the "masculine" ideal—which is heterosexual, cisgendered, and socioeconomically well-off—will cause tremendous emotional pain as that title that preserves so many societal relationships with other men is ripped away.

What about women? Shouldn't women, who undeniably fare harder in this world than their male counterparts, suffer from suicidal ideations at a greater rate than men? To some degree, they do: Women attempt suicide at a rate 1.5x that of men. Extending from suicidal ideation to depression and major depressive disorder (MDD), numerous research has identified that the more marginalized and intersectional identities to which one belongs—whether

gender-based, racial/ethnic, or socioeconomic—the higher their scores on inventories set to evaluate depression. Below, I would like to share with you some of the reasons I think this problem is present in our society—and why it will likely continue without major social and cultural reform.

When you inhabit a world not built for you but for a tyrannical oppressor, you will have your cultures discarded or commodified and your communities fall in the wake of the missing favor of the high-powered classes. Your desires will not be fulfilled unless you are lucky enough to share desires with those holding the checkbook. After this world has been built to the liking of the white, heterosexual, cisgendered man, opinions of those representing other identities will be suppressed for the likes of those similar to the powerful man. The man and his lookalikes will then stomp some horrifically racist and vehement attack to explain their superiority over all those who fail to have their desires met or opinions heard. Now that is a quick explanation of colonization and the world it creates and the culture it incubates; regardless, our postcolonial world is still heavily influenced by colonial forces, leading to the value of some identities over the rest. Living as a "second class" citizen in this world intensifies depressive symptomatology.

This valuation of the white man's desires over those who do not look like him is ubiquitous, thus it extends to mental health. Research over mental health, then, revolves around the white, heterosexual, cisgender male, causing evaluation and treatment methods to often fail when used with anyone other than this male prototype. Without tailored mental health services, those identities already disparaged by society do not have adequate treatment methods, causing their mental health issues to persevere and severely limit their ability to live a happy life.

Intersectionalities of identity and depression will likely remain positively correlated until drastic social and cultural change is made. Whether investments are made to change the trajectory of society and boost cultural investments and minority opinions or we pioneer mental health research into all identities' unique projections of mental illness, change needs to come. In honor of this Black History Month, I ask for you to ponder the multitude of ways our society is tailored to a single identity and how to change it.

NEWS

Four Event Recaps From This Black History Month



"Belly of the Beast" with Da'Shaun Harrison.
February 16, 2023.

(Left) "This is the first time I had ever heard about anti-fatness, and when Da'Shaun was talking about it, it made me realize that even as a POC, I don't even know all the discrimination or the instances of things that happen against my race, so this was very eye-opening, and I'm glad that Trinity was able to find someone like Da'Shaun to talk about these important things." - Saviana Augustine '26, Participant

see the full interview on page 8

(Right) "MOCA's ProtE.C.T Our Heritage outreach event was uplifting and rewarding—for both the Trinity students in attendance and the families at the YMCA who took part. It is great to see Trinity students engaging with, teaching, and inspiring Hartford youth. Black history is important; I was happy to be part of an event that promoted the celebration of our people alongside our next generation of leaders!" - Zoe Sylvester-Chin '23, Participant

"Presenting at ProtE.C.T Our Heritage in front of young people of color was an eye-opening experience for me as someone who's fairly new to MOCA. Seeing young kids with seemingly short attention spans so invested, collaborating enthusiastically and being supportive of each other was inspiring for me. It was reassuring that in spite [of] personal struggles in a world that is being increasingly materialistic and selfish, there still exists a sense of communal ownership, honor and pride in one's roots and heritage. I'm incredibly excited for what next year's event brings!" - Mohammed Ali '26, MOCA's Alumni Relations Chair



ProtE.C.T. Our Heritage.
February 18, 2023.



Night of Worship.
February 19, 2023.

(Left) "This past Night of Worship was a great atmosphere and time to fellowship with members of our campus community. I thoroughly enjoyed taking the time out to acknowledge God's presence in my busy college life. I'm excited to continue to partner up with TCGC and other individuals in our community for other Nights of Worship this semester!" - Cassidy Willie-Lawes '24, FIST Co-President

"I think one of my favorite aspects of worship is testimonies so you can see how people persevere through the trials and tribulations they face in their life." - Tiara Ogunsanya '25, Participant

see the full interview on page 4

(Right) "Affirming Black Mental Health and Self Love Discussion was a very necessary event for Black History month. This event included a meditation from Mickey Amilcar Correa '20 and a discussion from Dr. Hunt from the University of Colorado Anschutz. It fell at a perfect time of the month which allowed many students to meditate and reflect on mental health. The event also revealed how students may be racially fatigued and ways to cope with these feelings to move forward."- Sydney Cross-Watts '24 & Deion Kelly '23, Black History Month Co-Leads for 2023



Affirming Black Mental Health and Self Love.
February 21, 2023.

A Few Words From the Men of Color Alliance: "The Men of Color Alliance was honored to be part of the process to put on wonderful and intentional events for Black History Month! Experiencing the BHM events continues to offer incredible learning experiences. Additionally, MOCA was able to gain unique firsthand exposure to black history and culture! We're looking forward to continuing to find ways to put on such crucial events for years to come!"

Rihanna's Electrifying Super Bowl Halftime Performance

JULIA PECORA '25
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Super Bowl halftime show has become one of the most watched television events in the United States. Each year, the NFL selects a major artist to headline the halftime show, and the 2023 Super Bowl saw pop superstar Rihanna take the stage. The show was nothing short of spectacular, with Rihanna delivering a powerful performance that left the audience in awe.

The performance began with Rihanna emerging from the center of the stage, wearing a bright red bodysuit with an unzipped jacket on top. The outfit revealed the artist's baby bump that had not yet been disclosed to the public, but Rihanna's fans

immediately embraced it. The crowd was on its feet from the beginning, with the pulsing beat and electrifying dance moves captivating the audience.

Throughout the performance, Rihanna showcased her incredible vocal range and star power. The stage design was also impressive, featuring elevated sets, intricate light systems, and an army of backup dancers. Rihanna's setlist was a mix of her greatest hits and new material, showcasing her range as an artist and her ability to captivate an audience.

In addition to the music, Rihanna also used the platform to make a statement. She spoke out about issues that were important to her, such as gender equality and racial justice. Her words were met with

cheers from the audience, and her message of empowerment and unity resonated with millions of viewers around the world.

As the performance drew to a close, Rihanna closed with a powerful rendition of her hit song "Diamonds." The crowd sang along with her, and the energy in the stadium was palpable.

In conclusion, Rihanna's performance at the 2023 Super Bowl halftime show was a truly unforgettable moment in pop culture history. With her incredible talent, stunning stage presence, and important message, she cemented her place as one of the greatest performers of our time. It was a performance that will be remembered for years to come, and one that will inspire generations of artists to come.



RIHANNA HALFTIME SHOW (VANITY FAIR)

Identity, Power, and Equity: New Requirement Battling Intolerance

continued from page one

The new curriculum addition was planned with support by the Student Government Association, the faculty Racial Justice Committee, and the Curriculum Committee; however, some students have expressed concerns about the new requirement because of the low number of faculty that are people of color and the logistics of whether this requirement will be instituted in an effective and equitable way. In an unofficial report by those

that planned the requirement, it is assumed that at least thirty courses will be needed per academic year to allow all students to take these classes. When reviewing current current course offerings, the committee identified over eighty courses that would satisfy this need. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Office of Student Life will also be offering support to implement the new requirement in the fall semester of 2024. The "Identity, Power, and Equity" requirement will

be instituted for all students matriculating in the Fall of 2024 and after.

As acknowledged in Professor Cardenas' email, many states politicians and educators are trying to limit justice and equity education throughout the United States. By instituting this requirement, Trinity is attempting to increase the awareness and empathy of its student body. "At Trinity College, we affirm the equal value of all persons and the right of every student to learn in an open and inclusive environment."

An Inspiring Event for All: Complete Night of Worship Interview

CAITLIN DOHERTY '26
NEWS EDITOR

Following the Night of Worship event, News Editor Caitlin Doherty '26 interviewed attendee Tiara Ogunsanya '25. Below is the transcribed interaction.

Caitlin: Why is this event important to you and why did you want to participate?

Tiara: Night of Worship was something started by the past President of FIST a few years ago, and it's just a great space to come on campus and worship God together. I think this space invites people who aren't officially in FIST, which is nice, and FIST is a non-denominational Christian group on campus, so for people who are kinda interested in faith, trying to see how their faith aligns while being on a college campus, Night of Worship offers the perfect opportunity for that—and just worship-

ing God, praying, hearing other students' testimonies is a great opportunity to just meet other Christians on campus and come together under Christ.

C: Was there anything in this event that stood out to you?

T: Oh yeah! I think one of my favorite aspects of worship is testimonies so you can see how people persevere through the trials and tribulations they face in their life. I think it's also acknowledging to students that it's hard out here with classes and extracurriculars and stuff, so here people sharing about how God got them through those situations is really inspiring—that's why I like this event. Also, [I like this event because of] the worship music and the gospel music that was sung. Gospel music, especially, has deep roots in Black history, so also being able to share those gospel songs and music with other people is amazing.

The "Cop City" of Atlanta, Georgia

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...their funds from the project. Although there have been environmental concerns, the facility is reported to be constructed in accordance with EPA regulations and controls.

Atlanta's proposed \$90 million, 85-acre Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, which would contain shooting ranges, a fake city for police training, and a K-9 unit kennel, is being opposed by historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) students. A forum with Chris Smalls, president of the Amazon Workers Union, who backed the students, was organized on February 2nd by student organizers from the Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC). Spelman made a statement congratulating students for their "address[ing] the key social concerns of our time" while Morehouse released a statement "calling for peaceful protest," reiterating their commitment to

improved policing procedures and connections with the Black community. The plans for the training center were discussed at a private forum that Morehouse College hosted with current Atlanta Mayor, Andre Dickens, following the forum; however, students expressed dissatisfaction with the Mayor's patronizing tone of communication. This is particularly true in Atlanta, the location of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which served as the primary vehicle for student involvement in the civil rights struggle in the state.

Vigils for Tortuguita have been held everywhere from Florida to California, garnering support for the effort to "Stop Cop City" from outside Atlanta. Activists are hoping that the city will commit to its pledge to turn the run-down area into a park and reserve, including investing in building low-cost housing, basic social services, and mental health services.

OPINION

“Starting Tomorrow, We Shall End Racism”: Commentary on White Supremacy and Critics of Critical Race Theory

SARAH DAJANI '26
STAFF WRITER

“Starting tomorrow, we shall end racism”: It sounds funny doesn't it? Who (or what institutions) would ever say such a thing?

It is almost a week after Washington's birthday, one of the federal holidays that continues to celebrate the white supremacist ideals of colonial figures. Debates over teaching critical race theory and attacks on white supremacy critiques and DEI work adopts the narrative: “starting tomorrow, we shall end racism.” This perspective, one

beyond the color of the skin into all aspects of culture, the inferiority of intellectual thought and culture

“However, the attack on race goes way beyond the color of the skin into all aspects of culture, faith and language (and, therefore, thought). Our modern world has been shaped by white supremacy and acknowledging this is the only way to overpower this misrepresentation.”

faith and language (and, therefore, thought). Our modern world has been shaped by white supremacy

“This perspective, one that often takes the form of an attack, is presented as a call to prioritize competence, excellence and distinction rather than the color of one's skin and background. After the reduction of several tragedies that took place over hundreds of years to an issue of qualification, these attackers call out racial equity advocates for practicing “reverse racism.”

that often takes the form of an attack, is presented as a call to prioritize competence, excellence and distinction rather than the color of one's skin and background. After the reduction of several tragedies that took place over hundreds of years to an issue of qualification, these attackers call out racial equity advocates for practicing “reverse racism.”

Whether you are a person of color, white, or white-passing, these concepts apply to you. After moving to the US from Palestine, the former of which is much more racially diverse, I saw the impact of skin color on the quality of one's life. Let's start from the “New World” which we inhabit. In my Palestinian national history school book, we learned how the “New World” was “discovered” and that Palestine was at the center of the “Old World.” Although we are an occupied nation ourselves, a long history of colonization made us internalize the inferiority and adapt the forced narrative of those more powerful than us. What else still makes English in former British colonies, like Palestine, a measure of social standing?

Skin color has been so divisive as it is one of the first noticeable traits about another person. However, the attack on race goes way

in the colonized nations. With a lack of motivation to integrate with the local “exotic” culture comes an exclusive selective attribution of one's success to their place of residence; so, Elon Musk is all-American and nothing South African, while many of the most famous immigrant football players' and scientists' successes are attributed to their place of residence and snatched from their ethnic roots.

Psychology further demonstrates how different characteristics contribute to the process of immigrant acculturation. Miranda and Matheny, in a psychological study conducted in 2000, investigated this in Latino immigrants to the US. Unsurprisingly, they found that immigrants who spoke more fluent English achieved higher academic degrees than those who spoke less fluently, and that the more financially stable an immigrant already is, the more seamless their acculturation.

What is surprising, however, is that this does not apply to white nationals migrating elsewhere. This only occurred to me months after I found this study. In the UAE, for example, almost 89% of the population is foreign and only 20% speak the national language, yet they still successfully get accustomed to the environment they are living in. In fact, the language of business and higher education is English, so one would be better off learning English over Arabic when migrating to the UAE. This can be attributed to the many international schools in former colonies, that originally served as one of the many ways to internalize

with the theft of Africa's resources and the subsequent vilification of their skin color. Keep this exploitation in mind during Black History Month... and the months to follow.

ry of the nonexistent rights they currently enjoy? This list goes on and on and on. It is actually not a list; it is a development of a deeper understanding of how so many things are the way they are. The British National Museum is one of the most visited in the world, in large thanks to the Rosetta Stone that belongs to Egypt or the brass head of Ooni that belongs to Nigeria.

These examples only reiterate what Black activists have been saying for years:

“These examples only reiterate what Black activists have been saying for years: Vacant support of free speech, competence and excellence without critical context and the attempt to overlook race because ‘why does color even matter?’ is still white supremacy in action.”

Vacant support of free speech, competence and excellence without critical context and the attempt to overlook race because “why does color even matter?” is still white supremacy

in action. The only way humanity can move forward is by acknowledging the atrocities of the past, whether a result of white supremacy or not. Each continent and era has its own variation of an Aryan race resulting from years of power dynamics and attempts of domination, but white supremacy has been the most influential in shaping our current world, and Black people have been at the heart of this struggle, starting

with the theft of Africa's resources and the subsequent vilification of their skin color. Keep this exploitation in mind during Black History Month... and the months to follow.

“...white supremacy has been the most influential in shaping our current world, and Black people have been at the heart of this struggle, starting with the theft of Africa's resources and the subsequent vilification of their skin color.”



POSTER DURING BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS (MILWAUKEE INDEPENDENT)

FEATURES

Christian Dwirantwi '25 Reflects on His Identity and Practices Cultural Curiosity During Black History Month

AIDEN HEBERT '25
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Throughout Christian Dwirantwi's life, his father repeatedly retold his experience of immigrating to this country with nothing but one bag. Dwirantwi is now a 20-year-old student-athlete at Trinity. He believes the values his father instilled in him throughout his childhood, especially the importance of ambition and culture, has fostered his strong work ethic.

In an interview with Dwirantwi, he said, "[My dad] is always doing something. My dad is a grinder, he loves to learn, that's why he got me into my sciences. Where do you think my passion for this science comes from? My father."

These philosophies have allowed him to succeed in many areas of his life, even when faced with obstacles such as the academic rigor as a neuroscience major, or the discipline required for

wrestling. There is nothing his dad hasn't prepared him for. Throughout Dwirantwi's years in school, he has learned what it's like to be in both predominantly Black and white settings. When Dwirantwi got to high school, he started to learn the value of these experiences, and what it felt like to be defined by the color of his skin. As Dwirantwi matured, he understood that because of this difference he would have to work harder than his peers. Although he was never frightened by this responsibility, he remembered a clear moment he shared with his father that has stayed with him to this day.

"It wasn't till one day, at a soccer field, and we were training. My dad is looking at me, and tells me the kids you sit in class with are not your friends," Dwirantwi said. "At the end of the day it is you vs. him, not only academically but by the color of your

skin. You have something to prove, you have to be better."

Dwirantwi explains that many African-Americans don't even know where their lineage starts, or where they come from. His parents are a perfect example of this: his mother is unaware of her lineage, and has even taken genealogy tests to try and find out. On the other hand, being that Dwirantwi's father immigrated from Ghana, he is very in touch with his lineage. Dwirantwi is still in a constant pursuit to discover and meet other family members. There was even a moment he recalled concerning the death of his grandmother. Due to immigration and loss of relationships, Dwirantwi was unaware of who his grandmother even was. Speaking to this experience, Dwirantwi said, "I didn't understand why he was crying so much, I had never known who this woman was and what she meant to him."

Despite all of this, Dwirantwi ended up being named after his grandmother, and always places an emphasis on never forgetting where he comes from. He even has the adinkra symbol of his father's tribe tattooed on his right shoulder. Dwirantwi conveyed how fortunate he is to know where he comes from and his culture; however, he feels that America diminishes the value of people's culture through the various names used to label people of color. To this point, he stated that, "It's not just a label to say I'm one category, but what it means to that person. It's not to define the color of our skin, but to emphasize the culture which I come from."

The history of America is something that should never be overlooked, but remembered, Dwirantwi says. He expressed his belief that Black culture has not only constructed the foundation which this country thrives on, but has

remained one of the main influences on American culture.

"We shouldn't just be honoring Black people in one month of the year," said Dwirantwi. "Injustices are always being done to a group of people...There has to be a minority, there has to be a majority, someone has to work for other people to thrive, it's just a matter of who."

Dwirantwi feels that it should be understood by all that every month is dedicated to the cultures and innocent lives lost which founded and directed the success of this country. In his beliefs, everyone should strive to become a more globally aware individual and be curious about other cultures. He believes that this is one solution for combating racism in this country and calls on others to "Go learn about your culture. Go learn about others' culture, you will have an appreciation for the world you could never imagine."

Reese San Diego '25 and Anna Grant-Bolton '25 Perform Impactful Research for Hartford Organization Her Time

OLIVIA PAPP '25
MANAGING EDITOR

During the Fall of 2022, Reese San Diego '25 and Anna Grant-Bolton '25 participated in a Community Learning Research Colloquium. For this project, the research fellows partnered with an organization in Hartford, Connecticut, called Her Time. Her Time is a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization that connects Connecticut women involved in the justice system with social services.

For this project, the research fellows conducted research on the challenges that formerly incarcerated women of color in Connecticut face when returning to their communities. Throughout this project, the research fellows created an anonymous survey that was sent to formerly incarcerated women of color involved with the Her Time organization. The goal of this survey was to identify exactly which social service resources were already available to them and what additional resources would be beneficial if made available.

To further immerse herself into the research project, Grant-Bolton de-

scribed to attend one of the "Hang Time" sessions, hosted by Her Time. "My favorite part of the project was being able to sit down and talk to the women who were there. By hearing their experiences directly, getting to know these women, and building meaningful relationships, I felt that this research could have real impacts," she said.

Additionally, Grant-Bolton expressed the importance of hearing these women share their stories. "When any research is done, it is important to directly connect with the people that you are performing research on because getting to know these people as human beings is special. It is easy for Trinity students to sit in the ivory tower and see research participants as a way to collect information for research purposes. Having the opportunity to bare witness to these participants' lived experiences is the way we can create change. Overall, going to these meetings made me realize that these are real people's lives and any of the research we do will have an impact, meaning that this project needed to be thoughtful

and intentional," she said.

San Diego's favorite part of the project was the connections that she made. Every time San Diego became involved with a project based on collaborating with community partners, it inspired her to participate in another one. "I loved becoming connected with people who work in Hartford. It's always a special experience to connect with someone doing amazing work, such as our community partner. The gentle guidance and inspiration she gave us every step along the way were appreciated. She always was instilling confidence in us and making us feel capable," said San Diego.

Grant-Bolton stressed the importance of Trinity students getting involved with the Hartford community. "We have all of these resources at Trinity, and with that, we have great academic learning and research opportunities. It is important to learn about social justice in the classroom so we know how to take thoughtful action, but it's important to learn from people with these lived experiences," she remarked.

For San Diego, being an interactive member of the Hartford community and a member of the Trinity community are not mutually exclusive. "It is always interesting for me to participate in projects such as

these. Understanding the work that our community partners do and why they do the work they do is important. By doing research projects such as this one, you can become connected with the Hartford community, which is a special opportunity that all Trinity students should take advantage of," she said.

Overall, this project was meaningful, impactful, and enjoyable for San Diego and Grant-Bolton. These fantastic research fellows recommend that the Trinity student body applies to be community research learning fellows. The professors are supportive and all students will learn a lot. Get involved!



Her Time

UNWIND. UPLIFT. UNIFY.

A Discussion on Intersectionality and Rhetoric: The *Belly of the Beast* Full Interview With Saviana Augustine '26

ASHLEY MCDERMOTT '26
STAFF WRITER

Following the "Belly of the Beast" event, Staff Writer Ashley McDermott '26 interviewed attendee Saviana Augustine '26. Below is the transcribed interaction.

Ashley: What did you find most profound about Da'Shaun as an author and a speaker?

Saviana: I think what I found most profound was how he was able to articulate the complex topics he was talking about. I really liked that the first half of the event, [which] was him describing what his book was about, so when he started reading he was linking things together that I had never known before, and it was very easy to follow. Also, when he was reading from his book—I believe it was chapter four—you could tell that the research was there, his intimate knowledge on the topic was there, and he was able to

link so many things. He talked about policing, he talked about anti-blackness, anti-fatness, the difference between flesh and how people of color are viewed as animals when it comes to police brutality. I think that's what I found most interesting about all the different topics he was addressing.

A: Why are events like this so important?

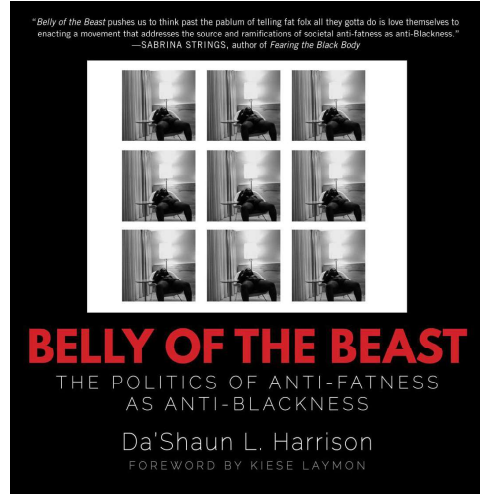
S: Black History Month in general is very important. We live in America, and it's not very hard to find instances where we are oppressed as a people... so I think just having these talks and these events in a space like Trinity, which is a primarily white institution, is important for not only people of color but also people that are white who would like to attend and just learn more about a topic that they may not know so much about. As a POC, having this space where you are able to talk candidly about topics that you might not necessarily want to talk about

with your white friends or someone who is Hispanic or someone who is Asian that wouldn't understand [is important]. Especially conversations like this where it's a topic that isn't really talked about in the Black community. This is the first time I had ever heard about anti-fatness, and when Da'Shaun was talking about it, it made me realize that even as a POC, I don't even know all the discrimination or the instances of things that happen against my race, so this was very eye-opening, and I'm glad that Trinity was able to find someone like Da'Shaun to talk about these important things.

A: What was a key takeaway for you?

Answer contains a trigger warning, as derogatory language and police brutality is mentioned

S: My key takeaway was when he was talking about children and how when it comes to white children and black children, specifically males, the white boys are viewed as kids and in-



BELLY OF THE BEAST BOOK LIBRO.FM

nocent much [longer] than black males are. So when he was talking about the 18-year-old and 12-year-old who were described as men, and as apes or gorillas, it made me think about how at 12 years old, you're in sixth grade, starting middle school, so using rhetoric like that to describe a child was very

impactful because it really shows the ways that our views on specific situations can be shifted based on the language that is used. I thought [this rhetoric] was especially harmful to children, who are so young and are barely adults, and hearing him talk about the kids who were murdered was very impactful.

T Women's Herstory Month
Telling Our Stories

February 27th: Paint Your Stories! UG, 5 - 7 pm
 March 1-24th: Telling Our Stories, Mather Art Gallery
 1-30th: Telling Our Stories, Instagram
 1-30th: Menstrual Products Drive, Trinity Homelessness Project
 2nd: Movie Night with IGNITE, *The Pauli Murray Story*, 5 pm WGRAC Lounge
 4th: Hey Sista, Soul Party with BHM, 10 pm - 2 am Washington Room
 8th: International Women's Day tabling, Mather Lobby

- Cupcake Sale: Planned Parenthood Benefit, Stella Society
- YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Services (SACS)

9th: Abortion Rights and Religion, 12:15 pm Terrace Rooms
 9th: Movie Night with TCBWO, *Little*, 7 pm Terrace BC
 10th: Rainbow Shabbat with QRC, 6 pm Location TBD
 11th: Volunteering with IGNITE at My Sisters' Place, 1-3 pm
 12th: Women's Appreciation Brunch, MOCA, 12:30 - 2 pm Washington Rm
 14th: All Things Period Party, 12:15 pm Rittenberg
 15th: Keynote Masih Alinejad, *Global Rights for All Women*, 5:30 pm - 7 pm, Washington Rm, Hybrid
 16th: Current Events & Crafts with IGNITE, 5 - 6 pm WGRAC Lounge
 16th: Women Loving Women with QRC, 6 - 8 pm The UG
 22nd: *Power: The Rise of Black Women in America*, Charity Elder, '00, Virtual
 27th: Her Bold Move director Jordan Zaslow, 5 pm, Dangremond, Hallden
 28th: Movie Night with P.R.I.D.E., *B.A.P.S* 6 - 8 pm, Terrace BC
 29th: WHM Trivia Night! 7 - 9 pm, Cornelia Center
 30th: Sex, Milk & Cookies with TCBWO, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Dangremond, Hallden
 30th: Meal Swipe for Menstrual Products Drive

Sponsors
 WHM Committee, WGRAC, DEI, IGNITE, MOCA, TCBWO, P.R.I.D.E., OHER, QRC, LACS, SRL, INTS, OISS, WLC, Trinity Hillier, Human Rights, Public Policy & Law, International Studies, LACS, Religious Studies, LTC, Watkinson, WMGS, Campus Safety, English, MAC, American Studies, ESC, Triffo Cafe, Faculty Events Fund, Neuroscience.

TRINITY COLLEGE
SENIOR THESIS - PSYCHOLOGY

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3. Schedule a 30-minute onboarding zoom call
4. Use App for 3 weeks
5. Complete a 15-minute post-study survey for **\$10**
6. Complete a brief one-month follow-up survey for **\$5**

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Arts & Entertainment

Breakdown of AfroVibe Live's Valentine's Day Concert

NAOMI DYER '24
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"My Baby my Valentine" it's that time of the year and AfroVibe Live Club (AVL) is ready to celebrate! Last semester AfroVibe culminated our efforts and put all our energy towards hosting our first ever concert! It featured African music (Afrobeats) from big artist names on the African continent, including Burna Boy, Tems, Angella and Harmonize, and WizKid. We also featured African dance class and some local artists doing Afrobeats on and off campus! It was a huge success and a wonderful night full of bumpin' Afrobeats, dancing, singing, and, of course, Afro-Vibes!

When we met after returning from winter break to discuss our plans for this semester, we realized that we had to do something during February in honor of Black History Month! Being a club focused purely on AfroBeats, we had to bring something to the table—and it wouldn't be Valentine's Day without some banging music to dance the night away with that spe-

cial someone, with friends that you love, or just with yourself! The schedule for Black History Month had already been posted at the time of our deliberations, and it was too late to try and do anything considering a concert, especially one as large as the one we hosted at the end of last semester considering how much work we had to put into it, but we knew that we had to bring AfroBeats into February somehow. So, we decided to do a Valentine's Day event, spreading love and vibes for everyone with every type of relationship status.

The event consisted of Afrobeats music in Mather Hall played by none other than our very own DJ Sem-G Dile during normal dinner time (6 pm -8 pm) on the special day. Our playlist consisted of more than 100 AfroBeats songs all about various types of love. This playlist is now available on YouTube as "AfroValentine!" The goal was to create a celebratory atmosphere in honor of the day of love and the Afrobeat's music inspired by love itself. It was definitely a wonderful night

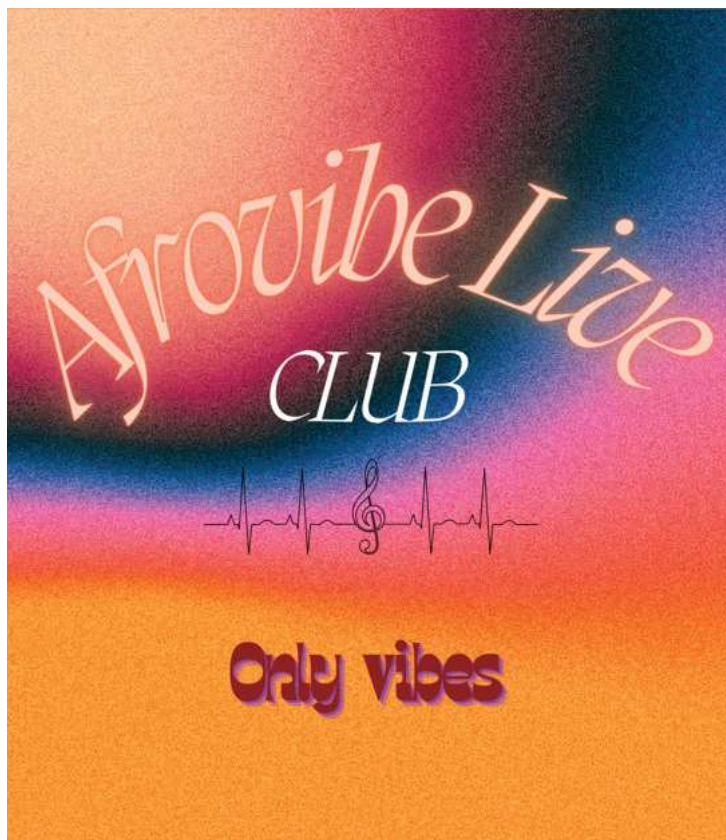
to be a part of, whether you shared Mather dinner with someone special or just celebrated yourself, or your friends, or anything really. The dining hall was full of live DJ'd music that could move anyone to dancing, something that is not very common here at Trinity College.

Beats from the night consisted of music from the likes of CKay, Fave, Nao, Diamond Platnumz, Burna Boy, Simi, and so many more. AfroVibes were definitely in the building on Valentine's Day night! In case you missed it, you can checkout our "AfroValentine" playlist on *Spotify* and, on top of that, below we've provided 28 song recommendations from the playlist, one song for every day of Black History Month! In the coming months, AfroVibe will be hosting more Afro-events in various locations around campus, so make sure to come out, enjoy, and support! Don't forget to follow us on *Instagram* @afrovibelive (*wink wink*).

Yours truly,
Naomi Dyer
AVL Vice President on behalf of AfroVibe Live Club

Songs Recommended by AfroVibe Live

1. "Love nwantiti" - Ckay
2. "Asibe Happy" - Kabsa De Small
3. "I need your touch" - Dj Obza
4. "Ku Lo Sa" - Oxlade
5. "Joromi" - Simi
6. "Dusuma" - Meddy
7. "Melanin" - Sauti Sol
8. "DO DO" - Tayc
9. "Number one" - Nandy
10. "Katerina" - Bruce Melodie
11. "Somebody" - Diamond Platinumz
12. "True Love" - 2Baba & VIP
13. "In Love" - Ajebo Hustlers & Fave
14. "Emiliana" - Ckay
15. "Baby Riddim" - Fave
16. "Knee Down" - Falz feat. Chike
17. "Know You" - LADIPOE feat. Simi
18. "Beautifully" - Fave
19. "Avoid Things" - Tems
20. "Bloody Samaritan" - Ayra Starr
21. "Drive and Disconnect" - Nao
22. "Baby" - Aya Nakamura
23. "Gbona" - Burna Boy
24. "My Baby" - Diamond Platnumz
25. "Joro" - WizKid
26. "Closer" - Abigail Chams & Harmonize
27. "On Fire" - Andy Bumuntu
28. "In Love" - Otile Brown feat. Alikiba



AFROVIBE LIVE CLUB LOGO (AVL)

The Problem With Harry Styles' Acceptance Speech

LINNEA MAYO '26
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On February 5th, the 65th annual Grammy Awards took place, and with them came an expected wave of controversy. After Beyoncé beat the record for the most Grammy wins of all time, Harry Styles won the highly anticipated Album of the Year Award for his 2022 album *Harry's House*. While the win itself left many disappointed that Beyoncé didn't win, another topic of conversation surrounded his acceptance speech.

After a clear expression of surprise, the artist honored his fellow nominees and spoke of how inspired he was by them and their work. Towards the end of his speech, Styles told the audience, "this doesn't happen to people like me very often." The controversy arose as people pointed out the fact that Styles comes from great privilege as a white cisgender man and questioned what he meant by "people like me."

As conversation contin-

ued, multiple viewpoints came to light, and many fans pointed out the importance of understanding where a statement like this may have come from. On his global "Love on Tour" tour, Styles continuously expressed his gratitude for being able to do what he does at such a great scale. When he is on "Love on Tour" and says, "people like me don't get to do things like this," he comes from a place of humility because he is likely referring to his background as a boy from a small town. Because of how common nepotism has become within the music industry, his story of going on the X Factor, joining one of the largest boy bands in the world—One Direction—and embarking on a successful solo career is a plain indication of great luck and hard work. It's clear that he's come a long way, and when he is on tour declaring his appreciation to fans, it makes sense considering he is the only artist in the room.

Therefore, context is incredibly important. On

tour, him being the only artist in the room means he is not being compared to any other artist. But this context does not apply to the Grammys because he is judged against nine other artists for the award. The other artists nominated for Album of the Year were ABBA, Adele, Bad Bunny, Beyoncé, Mary J Blige, Brandi Carlile, Coldplay, Kendrick Lamar, and Lizzo. Eight of these artists fall under the category of being queer, women, or people of color, and these identities make it so that the odds of success are stacked against them.

The patriarchal nature and set-up of award shows like the Grammys are exclusionary and prevent many artists from getting to experience recognition for their hard work. Considering that the majority of awards have been won by white men like Styles, and only eleven people of color have won Album of the Year in the history of the Grammys, it's clear his statement was not used in the correct context



HARRY STYLES HOLDING HIS AWARD (E! ONLINE)

and came off as tone deaf. Anyone can recognize that Styles' identity comes with benefits from the patriarchy and white privilege, and adding such a statement to his speech may not have been the best choice. I completely understand why people are upset, and I was disappointed to hear the sentence come from an artist I enjoy.

The Grammy Awards come attached to a patri-

archal and racist history, and no one can blame one individual for its faults; instead, we can address the importance of how our language and position can impact others. While the scrutinized clip may have been a cause of agitation, and one can assume his intentions were never meant to be hurtful, it's important to hold people accountable, even when they're your favorite artist.

Moonlighting Queerness: A Multi Film Analysis of the Queer Coming-of-Age Modern Film Canon

AYOUBA SWARAY '24
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The conversation surrounding queer coming-of-age films in the modern canon is most often stimulated by the fantastical projections of a dynamic interrogatively yearned for as in *Call Me By Your Name* or *Brokeback Mountain*, or the navigation of queerness and identity within a robustly heteronormative arena as seen in *Booksmart* and *Alex Lovestrang*. Despite the multifariousness in the delivery and ethos of these films, the commonality they all maintain is the paradigm in which they engage queerness within the confines of heteronormativity: whiteness. It wasn't until September 2nd, 2016, that a film in this canon truly began to peel back the layers queerness finds itself influencing and how it looks from an intersectional, not so picturesque perspective. This date marks the release of Barry Jenkins' Academy Award-winning film *Moonlight*. Originally written by Terrell Alvin McCraney, the film follows protagonist Chiron

through three critical stages of his life as he grapples with masculinity, love, and his deeply repressed queerness in the impoverished, gang-riddled, drug capital landscape of Liberty City, Miami. Unlike other films, Chiron's queerness wasn't neatly objectified nor did it have recognizable enough plights to make his experience familiar enough to digest. His queerness was informed by the intersectionalities of his identity, and the film beautifully depicted the performance he had to maintain in spite of his queerness, resulting in him never truly learning how to receive or give love as an adult. It was my first time watching the turmoils of queerness being explored not within the palatable boundaries of white queerness, but in something much more profound, more real. In order to effectively capture the differences in approach, I've compared the thematic elements and mechanisms of *Moonlight* to the film I regard as the paragon of white queer films and *Moonlight's* antithesis: *Love, Simon*.

Love, Simon follows a closeted queer boy trying

to figure out the identity of an anonymous fellow queer he's fallen for while trying to juggle the trials and tribulations family, friends, and high school throw his way. Of all the adjectives that were used to describe this movie and the grounds for its success, the one that triumphed over all was its "relatability." Simon is a caucasian, middle class suburbanite with a white picket fence family and a lively group of friends. The role queerness had within his character and the film was palpably one dimensional, a plot device used to assert his difference and draw from a self-evident source of conflict. The reasons for its purported relatability was because queerness in the film was packaged through a heteronormative archetype, which was informed by the inextricable underscoring of heteronormativity in white queerness. This isn't to say that the experience depicted in the film wasn't valid, but that the "relatability" of the film all but confirms the kind of audience the film catered to and the extent to which they chose to stretch the

expanse of queerness in a lived identity. Here we have the model queer coming-of-age story that's fun for the family with which anyone can relate to—anyone but queer people, that is. This is in stark contrast to Chiron, who slumbers in the projects of Vice City with his crack-addicted mother, eventually becoming a drug dealer himself through the systematical predestined influence of his environment and peers. Queerness in this film is characterized by its contained fluidity: tumultuous, inconspicuous, freeing, convoluted, but above all, always questioning. It need not announce itself as it already looms over every scene. Every decision Chiron chooses to or not to make is interrogated by his queerness as it isn't an identity marker he can define so easily such as his Blackness or his poverty. The struggle we see is one where Chiron couldn't make sense of this inexorable phenomenon that challenged everything he knew about himself and his place in society. He wasn't resourced with the cultural liberalisms of

suburbia, didn't have the financially and emotionally supportive mom and dad who'd love him unconditionally, and wasn't gifted with peers who accepted him with open arms with whom he could even divulge this monumental anchor he carried. *Moonlight* presents queerness within conditions that don't source its truth from a proximal universal "relatability," but frames queerness as a living, ineluctable facet of one's being, unfailingly challenging the understanding of self and shaping it in turn.

Moonlight's gritty portrayal of the tightrope Black men must choreograph when piecing queerness into their understanding of self in a modern day America certainly marks a thematic departure from the rest of its cohort in the queer coming-of-age film canon. The film, however, redefined how queerness can look and feel onscreen, and while it doesn't have a fairytale ending, it leaves viewers with questions that'll forever reorient their understanding of queerness and its elusive properties.

SPORTS

The Legacies of Black Female Athlete Pioneers: Tennis Legends Althea Gibbons and the Williams Sisters

CECE HAMPTON '24
SPORTS EDITOR

Virtually everyone has heard of the famous tennis-playing sister duo Serena and Venus Williams who, at this point, have become household names. Globally recognized for their tennis skills and among some of the highest paid female athletes in the world, both sisters have created an influential legacy which will continue to inspire people for gener-

ations to come. Serena, in particular, has been recognized as the face of tennis, winning her first U.S. Open in 1999. For the past several decades, Serena has continuously advocated for increased racial and gender representation in the tennis world.

Until the 1980s and 90s, tennis remained a mostly white-dominated sport, due to a number of barriers like high tennis club fees and strict dress codes. This remained the case when Serena

and Venus began their tennis careers. Throughout their entire careers, the sisters have experienced different forms of racial discrimination, from critiques of their appearance and physique, to being called racial slurs, as well as being the victims of offensive cartoons and language, and more. However, despite all of this, the Williams sisters have maintained their fight for racial and gender equality and done so successfully. In 2007 when Serena won the Wimbledon, she became the first woman to ever be paid equally to her male counterpart. This was a huge achievement for not just Black female athletes, but all female athletes.

While we celebrate the careers of both Williams sisters, especially with Serena announcing her official retirement last summer, we also must remember and give credit to their predecessor, Althea Gibbons. Gibbons was

the first ever Black champion of women's tennis. In 1950, she broke the color barrier of tennis and became the first African-American woman to play in the National Tennis Championship. Additionally, Gibbons was the first Black woman to win the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. Gibbons' career lasted for eight years, spanning from 1950 to 1958. She was the first Black woman to be featured on the cover of *Time Magazine* and *Sports Illustrated*; however, despite all of her success, she struggled financially. At the time, there were no professional tours for women, and barely any prize money available in professional tournaments. Gibbons then turned to social activism and golf instead. While her white counterparts in the tennis world were granted opportunities and deals, Gibbons was unable to continue competing and making ends meet for her-

self financially. In contrast, as of 2022, Serena Williams was the second-highest paid female athlete in the world. Considering Gibbons' struggles with being fairly compensated throughout her career, this is a remarkable testament to each of their legacies.

According to a study by Sports Marketing Surveys, between 2019 and 2021, participation in tennis by Black players increased by a whopping 44%. This growth was stronger in women's tennis than men's, with the United States Tennis Association attributing it to Serena as a source of inspiration for young Black females to get involved in tennis after witnessing Serena play. The legacies of Althea Gibbons and Serena and Venus Williams will live on for generations to come, as we continue to recognize and celebrate the impacts of Black athletes throughout history.

Rundown of LeBron James' Prolific Career

BLYTHE HASTINGS '23
SPORTS EDITOR

LeBron James is one of the best basketball players and Black athletes of all time, and he just narrowed the race even further. The Los Angeles forward made history earlier this Black History Month when he broke former Lakers great Kareem Abdul Jabbar's all-time NBA points record, putting him at 38,388 career points and renewing the debate over who is the league's greatest player of all time, all of whom are Black athletes. James broke Abdul-Jabbar's record, which has stood for 34 years, in the third quarter of the Laker's home game against the Oklahoma City Thunder, with Abdul-Jabbar in attendance. James, a four-time NBA champion and four-time league MVP, passed 38,000 career points last month, a landmark that only two players have ever accomplished, scoring an impressive 35 points and making 10 assists and eight rebounds in the Laker's loss to the Philadelphia 76ers. He had previously surpassed Utah Jazz great Karl Malone—the third highest points total of all time with 36,928—as well as Kobe Bryant (33,643) and Michael Jordan (32,292), who is often considered the greatest of all time. Black excellence in the NBA is no new feat, but with LeBron breaking a long-standing record such as this, he has raised the standard for years to come.

James, a four-time NBA Finals MVP, is two short of Jordan's record of six Finals MVPs, and fourth all-time in assists, ninth in steals, fourth in free throws made, and second in field goals made, only behind Abdul-Jabbar. *Forbes*

values James' net worth at \$1 billion, largely due to a series of lucrative endorsement deals that often lead to him taking equity stakes in companies. James was the world's second-highest paid athlete in *Forbes'* 2022 rankings, only behind Lionel Messi, making \$41.2 million exclusively on the court, not including his endorsement deals. James became the first active NBA player to reach billionaire status last year.

Along with his excellent basketball career, James has used his resources as a philanthropist. James set up the LeBron James Family Foundation which raises money and donates to multiple partnered charities including the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, After-School All-Stars, the Children's Defense Fund, and A Force For Change.

Most recently, LeBron James donated money for the exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture's exhibit honoring Black boxing legend Muhammad Ali. The exhibit entitled "Muhammad Ali: A Force For Change," spans two parts of the museum honoring Ali, one celebrating his stellar boxing career and one celebrating his social activism. LeBron donated \$2.5 million to the exhibit, Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson also made contributions. LeBron has said that Ali was an important inspiration to him as an athlete but also as a champion of justice. LeBron admired the boxing legend, who passed away in June 2016 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease, for his passion, goals and morals during and after the civil rights movement.

Kaepernick Before Kaepernick

PEDRO OLIVAS-HOLGUIN JR. '25
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The story of Colin Kaepernick is a familiar one to most all Americans. His choice to kneel during the National Anthem at NFL games as a form of protest created a large controversy surrounding the meaning of his actions, racial tensions in America, and patriotism. From Kaepernick's own perspective, he did not wish to show pride in a flag that oppressed Black people and people of color. His actions eventually resulted in much backlash from NFL owners, fans, and many politicians. This all culminated in him leaving his team and not being offered another contract since. His story is often referred to as one of martyrdom as he used his platform as an athlete and sacrificed his career in hopes of shedding light on racial justice issues in America.

Kaepernick's story is one that rightfully received

national attention; however, 20 years before Kaepernick first knelt for the anthem, there was another athlete who thought the approach was worthwhile.

Mahmoud Abdul Rauf, formerly Chris Jackson, was an incredible basketball player. His skills earned him a shot to play at Louisiana State University and, eventually, he was drafted third overall by the Denver Nuggets in the 1990 NBA Draft. In the NBA, he proved his worth, earning a spot on the All-Rookie Second Team and later earning the Most Improved Player Award in 1993. However, as illustrious as his career was becoming, Abdul-Rauf focused more on studies and religion as he converted to Islam. It was in this conversion that he began to feel a disdain for the nation that had taken part in travesties such as slavery and Jim Crow. He looked around and noticed that not much had changed since and that Black people still faced

much oppression in America.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, like Kaepernick, felt no pride in standing for the anthem, and so in 1996, he did not. Unfortunately, almost immediately, the NBA Commissioner at the time, David Stern, suspended Abdul-Rauf. The devastation did not end with just him losing his career, but also his childhood home in Mississippi was burned down by the Ku Klux Klan.

When Mahmoud saw Kaepernick, he knew how it would end, even if it was 20 years later. Both Black athletes knew the importance and power of their positions and used it to push for a better America. While Kaepernick's protest may have received more attention, both sacrificed their career in honor of racial justice. Both deserved their jobs and their flowers for their spot in Black history.

If you would like to learn more, his story is documented on Showtime in a documentary called *Stand*.



MAHMOUD ABDUL-RAUF KNEELING (STAND DOCUMENTARY)

This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

Student-Athlete Spotlight: Senior Frankie Silva's Accomplishments On and Off the Basketball Court

ASHLEY MCDERMOTT '26
STAFF WRITER

On a cloudy Tuesday afternoon, I met with Frankie Silva, a senior on the women's basketball team. Frankie is a public policy and law major, a hard-working athlete, an executive board member of the Athletes of Color Coalition (ACC), and a dedicated member of the student body. She is determined to finish the season strong as the team approaches the semifinals and championship games. I asked her about her experience on the team, her endeavors while at Trinity, and what it means to be a student-athlete.

Ashley: This season has been awesome for the team; how does it feel as a senior to close your final year with so much to celebrate?

Frankie: It definitely feels awesome. Me and the rest of my seniors got hurt in the middle of our season last year, so having it all taken away from us all at once made us want to play with no regrets, and, honestly, I think we are seeing all of the hard work we did in the off-season, especially off of those injuries, really pay off. Obviously, I've been thinking about after basketball and everything, but I've been trying to prolong that feeling for as long as I can. It feels great, and I'm excited to keep it going.

A: How has your team helped you succeed academically and athletically?

F: Yeah, I think coming into college is a big jump, but I think in being a student-athlete, I've definitely been able to excel with time management skills, and having a team hold each other ac-

countable on and off the court has definitely been very beneficial to me, and I'm sure the rest of the team can say this as well. I would say when we have free time, we all are doing work together, we'll come to the library, so having these people around me who want to see [me] succeed and hold me accountable in the classroom and on the court has caused an improvement in myself.

A: What were some challenges you've had to face individually and as a team to get to this point?

F: I got injured last year, so it was definitely difficult to not do anything for x amount of months and then having to come back and grind, but, honestly, I see us being champions, so I've had that [on] my mind and that's been fueling me. But I would say some challenges came from this being an extremely long season, so I would just say being extremely focused and keeping the intensity level up for all this time, starting from [the] middle of October and now it's almost March, having to stay locked in is still a reality for us. Being intense in practice can be a challenge because the days can feel long, and it has been tough having to be here on New Year's Day, or the day after Christmas, but we just have to remember why we are here, and what we want out of this. We just look to the future and try to remember this angle on days when we don't want to do it.

A: Definitely. You have done some really impressive endeavors on your own, so could you tell me about some of the things you've done on campus besides being part of the team?

F: Yeah! So sophomore

year when we came back from Covid, this was my sophomore year so in 2020 to 2021, I felt disconnected from the campus community. We weren't able to practice anything, and our season was shut down, so I really wanted to get involved in campus life. At the time, a few of my teammates were a part of the ACC, so I was nominated to join, and I am still on the executive board, and I am very happy that I joined. I really feel that our mission statement is definitely important to me as a Black student-athlete, and as a part of the Trinity community. I feel like student-athletes definitely have a unique role in the campus community, and I think enhancing the student-athlete life and the student of color life on campus is very important. I am happy to say that my identity as a person and as a student-athlete here has definitely given me a position to seek change and to do something about it within the ACC. Also, in my academic life, I've met some amazing professors, who have helped me to sit on the Public Policy and Law Student Advisory Board, which is something I am very passionate about since I am a public policy and law major. I definitely love to broadcast the major to prospective students and talk to other students to see what they want out of the major. Covid was definitely a setback, but it gave me the opportunity to become more involved on campus outside of the basketball team.

A: What have done as a part of the ACC, what were the initiatives you guys had, and what were some outreach programs that you guys had?

F: I'm the Communications Liaison, so I'm the person between all student-athletes and student-athletes of color and all students on campus. I also sit on the board between us and other athletes of color coalitions across the NESCACs to see what resources and what events they have to see if we could recreate that. Last year we were actually given the opportunity to go up to Amherst College, I believe, to sit with a couple of the other members of ACC across the NESCACs to collaborate and network just to see what was working at their schools. I'm like the middle person between our athletic department and our Eboard. We also host a bunch of different events such as a Super Bowl watch party at the President's house the other weekend, we have a career event coming up, we have a lot of community service outreach within the Hartford community, and we want our presence to be known on campus, and it's not just for a student athletes or students of color, as long as you believe in diversifying and increasing equitable opportunities for anyone on campus, then you are more than welcome to join!

A: That sounds amazing. You mentioned you were a public policy major, I know I'm going to sound like every person around you, but what are your plans after college?

F: Yea, you sound like everyone in my family. I am a public policy and law major with a minor in formal organizations, and through those classes I've solidified that I want a career in sports and entertainment law, so before going to law school, I want

to work in sports management, hopefully within the Boston or New York area.

A: What does it mean to you to be a leader on and off the court?

F: I would say being a leader and being in this position now is not something I take for granted, especially having so many people that look up to me, in the freshmen class all the way up to seniors and juniors. I definitely have a lot of eyes on me, and it is a lot of pressure, but it only makes me want to do the best I can. I also want to leave the school and the women's basketball team with no regrets, and I want to leave it better than I found it.

A: What inspires you to work hard as an athlete, as a student, and as a member of this community?

F: I set really high goals for myself. I'm a perfectionist in that sense, and I would also say it's because of the people around me. It's not a good feeling to let others down, especially when they are counting on you. I don't want to let myself, professors, teammates, or coaches down; so knowing that there's a lot of people that I'm on this journey with who want to see me succeed as an individual and as [part of] a team, it makes me strive to be the best version of myself to make those around me proud.

I can certainly say as a student and as a fan of the women's basketball team, we are very proud of all of the hard work and dedication that comes from our student-athletes. The women's basketball team is currently ranked no. 3, and I look forward to seeing the success of this team.

Coming Up for Bantam Sports:



Fri.

Women's Squash at College Squash Association National Team Championships (Philadelphia, PA)

Men's Squash at College Squash Association National Team Championships (Philadelphia, PA)

Sat.

Women's Lacrosse vs. Williams College @ 12:00 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse at Williams College @ 1:00 p.m.

