

Fall 2005

The intense media coverage of this horrific storm forced Americans to open their eyes to the great inequalities that exist within our bor-

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Planned Parenthood also enlists the help of student representatives on college campuses. That's where you come in! Here at Trinity, we have two Planned Parenthood interns that can provide information about services, local clinics, contraception and advocacy.

Events around campus are sponsored by Planned Parenthood in order to promote awareness and activism amongst our generation. We have two Planned Parenthood interns, Elizabeth Guernsey and Carmen Caban-Otero. According to Elizabeth, a sex educator will be brought to campus to teach people how to have better safe sex. Elizabeth can provide information, offer support, and organize events around the interests and concerns of Trinity women.

Planned Parenthood is a vital organization for the health of women in this country. In the 21st century, we live in a climate wrought with uncertainty concerning the right to privacy and reproductive rights. Now, it is more important than ever to know about Planned Parenthood, to know that we have representatives here on campus, and to get involved!

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Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Bushnell Park,
October 16, 2005.

Approximately 60 Trinity students participated in the walk, and together raised over \$1400 for Breast Cancer Research through the American Cancer Society.

Katrina's Wrath

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the havoc was epitomized in scenes of mothers screaming for their lost children. The intrinsic bond between a mother and her child is undeniable and unexplainable, but was clearer than the crystal blue sky after the storm. The way that women were literally brought to their knees in anguish was heart wrenching. The morning news shows featured desperate moms pleading for someone to help them find their babies. I found myself standing in shock one morning as Katie Couric told the story of a mother who had her daughter taken from her hands as she boarded a bus to evacuate. Her baby was never returned to her. As Katie tried her best to remain composed, the woman looked into the camera with her devastated eyes and begged for assistance. She stood on national television embodying the suffering of countless other females; suffering that should have been addressed a long

Infants went without formula, children went without their parents. As dead bodies lay around them, women gave birth.

time before Katrina struck.

The oppression of women and children seems to be an issue that, as a society, we refuse to consider occurring within the boundaries of our own country, but Katrina has forced us to reconsider. It is undeniable that those who were most impacted by Hurricane Katrina had a harsh quality of life to begin with. Before the hurricane hit, 9,000 people who were unable to flee the city of New Orleans took refuge in the Superdome. Many of the people that could not get out were poor African-Americans, many of them women and children. As Katrina's winds caused a tear in the roof, leaving the building subject to the harsh environment, the internal conditions took a huge turn for the worse.

It is estimated that over 60,000 people flocked to the Superdome, were subject to conditions that were anything but humane. In the immediate days following the storm, there was no water, food or medical help. Infants went without formula, children went without their parents. As dead bodies lay around them, women gave birth. These images seemed foreign, like ones we'd see in advertisements to sponsor a starving child; I had to remind myself that this was America.

The unprecedented media attention given to those most disturbed by Katrina irrefutably depicted the conditions in which the women and their families in the low-income areas of our country exist. These women not only had to take care of themselves in the midst of this crisis, but were also responsible for their children and other family members, further adding to the already brutal burden they faced. While Katrina's wrath spun the spotlight onto the women of New Orleans, they are only representative of the millions of others who live under these conditions.

Perhaps the initial irony of a female storm inflicting such suffering amongst her sisters is not as ironic as once thought. There is hope that the attention elicited by Katrina will spawn a significant change in the overall social structure of this country, so that these women can rise beyond the oppression that stifles them. If we learned anything from her, maybe Katrina will turn out to be a "friend" for future women.

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Do We Really Need Another Man on the Supreme Court?

One issue has defined, shaped, and dictated the debate over the next Chief and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Since Justice Sandra Day O'Connor submitted her resignation to President Bush, after 24 years of service as the first woman Justice, the nation has been consumed by discussing the questions pertaining to a women's right to an abortion: what influence will the new Court have on this right, should *Roe v. Wade* be regarded as a strong legal precedent, and how does the potential or actual nominee view *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to an abortion? Richard W. Stevenson's predicted a "tumultuous fight" over the next two Justices on the Court. The battle that has brewed and continues to develop is primarily attributed to the contentious battle that continues between conservative and liberals on the divisive issue of abortion.

The question of abortion rights highlighted discussions in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings. Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) began the first round of questioning on the second day of Chief Justice Robert's hearing

by raising a large sign listing 38 different occasions in which the Court had the opportunity to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Since Roberts would not clearly define his stance on the constitutionality of abortion, Specter continued to drill Roberts on whether *Roe v. Wade* was a "settled precedent" asking, "Do you mean settled for you? Settled only for your capacity as a circuit judge? Or settled beyond that?" Roberts replied, "Well, beyond that... It's settled as a precedent of the court, entitled to respect under principles of stare decisis." While Roberts may have affirmed that *Roe v. Wade* is a strong precedent, questions of abortion and women's rights continued to frequently appear at his hearing.

Senator Feinstein (D-CA), among other Senators, looked to Roberts' work in the Reagan Administration to search out his position on women's rights. Roberts, like most nominees going through the judicial committee process, was hesitant to indicate how he might vote in a case or how he felt on an issue. Thus, the nation was still left with some answers, but more questions about Roberts' stance on abortion rights and the precedent of *Roe v. Wade*.

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Groomed for Great Careers and Choosing to Stay Home

Editor's Note: On September 20, 2005 *The New York Times* published an article discussing the results of a Yale University Study concerning women at elite colleges who are planning a career path that includes becoming a stay-at-home mother. The following are opinions by Trinity students.

Wasted Potential

The New York Times recently ran an article entitled "Many Women at Elite Colleges Set Career Path to Motherhood." The article describes the growing trend of young women that are graduating from prestigious colleges and choosing to become stay-at home mothers rather than pursuing professional careers. Many of the women say that they will work until they have children but will stop working once they do in order to parent full-time. My overall reaction to the article is disappointment. In my opinion, the decision to abandon a career in favor of motherhood is wasted potential. These women are extremely intelligent, having attended some of the most prestigious schools in the country. Indeed, the article is about a study done at Yale University. It seems like an enormous squander of potential that women who are willing to challenge themselves by attending Yale will give up their professional opportunities in favor of staying at home to raise children.

I understand that parenting is a difficult and time-consuming job and I know that it is important for children to have parents who have the time and energy to interact with them. Some may argue that working parents do not have the time or the energy to be a good parent because it takes both to make a positive impact on a child's life. However, women who are intelligent, capable and disciplined enough to graduate from a distinguished university are wasting their talents by staying home. Some of the women in the article said they would go back to work or work part-time

once their children were in school, which seems like a satisfactory compromise. Never working again after having children, on the other hand, does not seem right. These women should value their education enough to want to continue to develop their minds and to use the skills they have learned to better themselves and those around them, including their children.

I feel it is important for everyone, men and women, to stretch their minds and challenge themselves in a professional arena outside of the home. Although family life is very important, I think it is equally important for people to have a life separate from their families in which they can express their individuality and keep their minds sharp. While working out of the home obviously takes away from family time, I think it has positive consequences because parents do not get bored and are able to have a life that revolves solely around a small family unit. Parents who work are also role models for their children who will aspire to be successful just like their parents. In addition, I feel that parents who hold jobs are more interesting and more insight to bring home and add to the family life than if they merely spent the day around the house.

One woman said that her mother told her "you can't be the best career woman and the best mother at the same time; you always have to choose one over the other." Now, it might be true that carrying on a successful career and being an involved mother would be difficult. However, I don't think it is impossible and the fact that mothers are telling their daughters this is very discouraging. I think women should embrace their abilities to be successful and powerful in the working world, not only their abilities to raise and care for a family.

The bottom line is that women who have successfully earned a college degree should put it to use. It will benefit them and their families. It will inspire their children to be just as successful and will show the children that hard work is important and valued. Women who are intelligent and motivated enough to graduate from college should not waste their potential in the home when they could be making a difference in the world.

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It Doesn't Matter

When I was asked my opinion about women at elite colleges choosing motherhood as a career option, my immediate reaction was, "Who cares?"

At a time when everyone, male and female, is striving to find happiness and their calling in life, I am in no position to judge someone in their pursuit of happiness. If a woman is happy being a homemaker, or working a nine-to-five job, doing both, or not having any children at all, that's her right.

I don't care if a woman goes through an Ivy League undergraduate school and graduate school and decides to start her own company. I don't care if that same woman decides she doesn't want to work and would rather marry a rich entrepreneur, or a poor man for that matter. I don't care if she decides to give up all worldly possessions and live in seclusion in the Himalayas. So why should it matter if she decides to stay home and raise three children if it makes her happy?

People need to mind their own business. It may be nice to have the Women's Career Police out there, appalled that this isn't the eighties anymore and the working woman's jackets with the linebacker shoulder pads are no longer in style, but please, leave this alone. It's not anyone's place to decide what a woman should or should not do with her life. If she wants to use her top-notch education to raise a family, then good for her, break out the breast milk and I'll TiVo "The Young and the Restless" for us to watch during naptime.

To assume that someone who gets a first-rate education and decides to be a full-time stay-at-home mother is wasting her education, is unfair and demeans the responsibility of raising children. These days, children need more guidance than ever, and we could use more than a few capable mothers out there. In a world where people are wondering where all the good parents are, what better person to raise a family than a well-educated and ambitious female?

My mother was a stay-at-home mother, who voluntarily gave up her position as a principal and teacher in favor of raising me, her only child. For her, that was what she had always planned on doing and it was her choice, for which I will be forever grateful. It was my mom that was always there when I got home from school, who made me do my homework before I could play outside, and forced me to do “at home” book reports during the summer, that she graded, when I was struggling with reading comprehension in second grade. If it wasn’t for her college education, she wouldn’t be the same woman she is today.

These are decisions that men do not have to worry about. It is the women who have to put their life and work on hold during the nine month pregnancy, so they're the ones who should dictate their own happiness and future. If there is a large increase in number of women who decide not to pursue careers in the work force after college, will we see a decreased number of working women? Maybe. It's likely. But it's not a woman's burden to worry about the possible population decrease of her sex in the workplace. Her responsibility is to herself and her family.

If anything, we should praise this new trend in young women. They are mature enough to pursue what they truly want, rather than be forced into an undesirable role. They're not feeling coerced to jump into working if they're not comfortable with

that, and they're not being constrained to raising children if they don't wish to. These women are just as ambitious as their predecessors, because they are willing to dive into the work force after a decade or more break from school to raise a child. They're not trying to juggle a career and raise a child if they're not prepared for it. Women are waiting to have their children, until they are ready mentally or financially. This generation isn't setting feminism back a generation; they're defining a new one.

So are we really arguing about whether or not there should be smarter mothers out there? Because if you ask me, having an educated mom is invaluable. People are entitled to make their own decisions and responsible for what makes them happy: my mom taught me that.

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Support For Educated Mothers

According to a recent article in the New York Times, more women from prestigious colleges are choosing to forgo careers and preferring to be stay-at-home mothers. The article states that these women will “happily play a traditional female role” by putting aside their careers in favor of raising children. Many people, male and female, see this as wasted potential or as a set-back to the woman’s movement. However, I would propose that the opposite is true: by pushing themselves to excel academically and earn degrees from prestigious colleges then *choosing* to stay at home, these women are *not* conforming to a stereotypical ‘traditional’ female role.

Though, we still live in a society that is dominated by men and patriarchal ideals, traditional gender roles have undergone a fundamental change: women are now expected to maintain a career while fulfilling the demands of motherhood. Society's new expectation for women is to go to college, then to grad school, then go on to have fulfilling careers in leadership roles. Somewhere in all that they are also supposed to go through pregnancy and birth and raise their children. Many people now believe that when both parents work (as if often the need now) the children suffer. Because traditional gender roles for men have not changed dramatically in our society, it is even harder for them to be stay-at-home dads than it is for women to be stay-at-home moms.

The article features a quote from the dean of Yale college that says: “What does concern me is that so few students seem to think outside the box; so few students seem to be able to imagine a life for themselves that isn’t constructed along traditional gender roles “. Okay, how’s this for thinking outside the box? How about you go get pregnant, carry a baby for nine months, and give up your career as dean of Yale. That would certainly be *untraditional* for a man.

As much as we try to say that men and women are *completely* equal, it's just not true. This is not to say that women cannot maintain fulltime careers or are inferior to men in any way, but there is a simple biological fact that we cannot ignore:

men will never have to bear children. They don't have the proper equipment. Women do. So, of course, the expectations for men and women will be different. If women all chose to have careers instead of bearing children, the human population would simply die out.

It would appear that no matter what choice a woman makes she is going to be criticized. If she chooses to *not* have children and maintain a career, she is called unfeminine and criticized for going against the traditional feminine expectation of motherhood. If she chooses to have a career and children; she will be criticized for not being a good employee because of her children's needs, or a bad mother because of the demands of her jobs; if she chooses to be a stay-at-home mother, she is called backward and old fashioned, and attacked for conforming to a traditional gender role. It appears to be a no-win situation for the women in our society. However, the real victory comes in the woman's choice: if she is happy with her life, then she wins. It simply doesn't matter what anyone else thinks.

If she chooses to stay at home, and feels that she will benefit her children by not having a job or a career, and is happy with that decision, then what is the harm in her doing so? No one is forcing her to do anything, and she is doing what she feels is necessary.

I applaud these women for their choice, not necessarily because I believe that all women should be stay-at-home mothers, but because they are making decisions that they think will allow them to live their lives happily. I believe that as long as we, as a society, do not fall back into the trap of saying that a woman's place is in the home, that there is nothing wrong with women wanting to be full time mothers. The problem with gender roles is the assertion that a woman or a man has to be something or live a certain way. As long as it's their choice, what's wrong with that? A woman's place is wherever she chooses to be.

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Now we wonder:

Would you marry a stay-at-home spouse?

What if traditional gender roles were different?

What if we had nationalized day care?

Which woman are you?

Alito's Appointment

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Indeed, Karen Pearl, Interim President of Planned Parenthood Federation, testifying at the hearing per the request of the Democratic Senators, encouraged Senators to vote against the exceptionally qualified Judge Roberts because, as she noted, "Roberts has consistently declined to clarify his position, and we now firmly believe that his confirmation will jeopardize women's health and rights. The stakes are much too high to confirm a justice who has failed to demonstrate a commitment to the constitutional protections upon which women have relied for more than a generation." While Roberts was confirmed with a U.S. Senate vote of 78-22, the issue of abortion and *Roe v. Wade's* uncertain fate was the major issue discussed among the Senators and the nation.

The failed nomination of Harriet Miers can be attributed to the battle over abortion and reproductive justice. Little was known about Mier's judicial philosophy. Democrats began to question how conservative her views might be, while Republicans began to question where she stood on the issue of abortion. This lack of information caused much speculation on how Miers' felt about a women's right to choice. Conservative Senators, such as Trent Lott (R-MS) and David Vitter (R-LA), openly began to question Miers. Ultimately, Democrats and Republicans were not comfortable with how Miers viewed the constitutionality of abortion, even after her response to a lengthy questionnaire, and she removed herself from the confirmation process.

Judge Samuel Alito, another respected constitutional scholar, now faces Senate confirmation in January. Ironically, he will replace O'Connor.

In 1992, Alito, as a federal district court judge, wrote a lone dissent in the case of *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, in which he argued mandatory spousal notification for an abortion was constitutional. Consequently, Justice O'Connor, writing for the majority, in the same case, argued spousal notification placed an "undue burden" on a woman seeking an abortion and was unconstitutional. However, Alito has impressed both Republican and Democratic Senators by stressing the importance of legal precedent. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), said, "He [Alito] assured me he has tremendous respect for precedent and that his approach is not to overturn cases due to a disagreement with how they were originally decided". Thus, while more is known about Alito's judicial philosophy than Miers, the nation is still left to speculate how he views the right to privacy and abortion.

Sandra Day O'Connor proved to be the crucial swing vote on the issue of abortion many times during her 24 year tenure on the U.S. Supreme. The issue of abortion has defined the past four months of media coverage and national discussions because Americans recognize the decision of *Roe v. Wade* continues to sit on shaky ground. *Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England*, a case dealing with a parental notification statute, will be heard by the Supreme Court on November 30. The question of privacy and abortion are relatively recent concepts challenging the Constitution. These rights are still in their formative years in the context of American history. The new Chief Justice and the next Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court will without doubt cultivate or restrict the thirty-two year old right of abortion. Thus, it is appropriate that abortion is the central issue surrounding the judicial confirmations.

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For updated information on the Alito hearings, go to
www.now.org

The lines used in this poem were taken from the October 6 issue of Rolling Stone Magazine.

...like a Rolling Stone... like issue 984...

Breasts, black underwear, belly button. *The Hot List.*

The dark angel
Obsessions
Fun

How does it feel?

Reaction.

Where is the middle of nowhere?

Überbabe.

To be on your own

[Enters Mother, carrying gallon of Milk]

Mother: Love your every-
day purchases twice as
much - Chase Rewards
Card.

[Mother exits]

I don't mean "bitches" in a disrespectful way. Hotness is a
cruel mistress. Look who we've got our hanes on, now. Like
any good gumshoe, she has a ménage a trois with co-stars. She
also looks phenomenal in a bikini.

How dirty boys get clean.

In the event of a dicey and/or sketchy situation involving
TAF© affected females, call immediately.

A main street clogged by MILFs.
Nothing makes a damn bit of sense.
Laguna
Beach
Bunny.

With no direction home

[Enter Guy and Girl dancing with one another.]
Revolution in evolution. It'll reverse your thinking. Honda.

[Enter Guy Number Two and Girl Number Two hugging.]
Speak your mind without saying a word. Chevy.

[Enter Guy Number Three and Girl Number Three with Baby
in stroller. Girl number Three pushes stroller.]

All (together): Zoom-Zoom.

[All exit]

What's the only new technology a guy can't live without? What's
Kelli's Pop Secret? When the cameras are filming, even hipster girls
turn it on. "I don't have a lot of inhibitions." Jailbait:

small,

blonde,

lithe,

stacked.

(He's licking salt off her shoulder. She smiles.)

Happy? Her?

Simply perfect.

[Loosely dressed Dancing Girl enters dancing. Addresses crowd with
seductive look]

Dancing Girl: Your iPod. No strings attached.

[Dancing Girl exits]

Like a complete unknown

Sheila lost 72 lbs. Tammy lost 125 lbs.

"you don't need star wars –
your
war
is
down
here."

The best a man can get.

Breasts, White dress, flower. Sky Vodka.

Like a rolling stone...

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Women's Center Staff

Director- Laura R. Lockwood, '95

Newsletter/Feminist Scholarship Review Editors

Chelsea King, '06 & Kathryn Broad, '06

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Women's Center Mission Statement

"The Women's Center is a place of advocacy, support and welcome for all members of the Trinity community. Through educational, social and cultural programming, it seeks to promote women's self-determination and empowerment; awareness of women's rights and issues; redress of gender inequities understanding among women of different economic classes, cultural backgrounds, and gender identities; and the creation of a campus environment conducive to respectful interaction between men and women."

The Women's Center is...a place of change-our goal is to create a more positive Trinity experience for all.
The Women's Center is...a place of safety-a secure space on campus for women and men seeking short-term counseling, referrals, and resources.

The Women's Center is...a place of fun-a space to bring energy to bring your energy, creativity, spirit and humor :)

Please check out our website for upcoming events, programs, student groups, excursions, links and more! www.trincoll.edu -"A-Z", then hit "W"

The Women's Center office is located on the second floor of Mather Hall, behind the Washington Room. To make an appointment with the Director, to use the Library/Lounge (next door to the office), or to become a volunteer or start a new group, please call Laura Lockwood at x2408, or email Laura.Lockwood@trincoll.edu.

CHECK OUT THE NEW SART WEBSITE!



[Http://www.trincoll.edu/StudentLife/HealthSafety/CampusSafety/SART/default.htm](http://www.trincoll.edu/StudentLife/HealthSafety/CampusSafety/SART/default.htm)

Or go to www.trincoll.edu, hit "A-Z" and hit "S" for Sexual Assault Response Team

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Campus Safety

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Sexual Assault Response Team

+ Trinity College