Hi! I'm Charlie, and I'm running to be your next University Times Editor.

Information

How Do I Vote?

Voting Starts: Tuesday, February 27th, 2024 at 10:00 Voting Ends: Thursday, February 29th, 2024 at 16:00 Got to your nearest polling station to cast your ballot!

Vote For Your Voice

Charlie Hastings for University Times Editor

Vote Charlie for Change!

Accessibility

Re-introducing the Irish language as well as taking student welfare into account with meetings on mental health and established office hours

Visibility

Establishing the role of "Visibility Editor" to help capture stories from Gaeilgeoir, LGBTQ+, and ethnic minority communities as well as establishing a "Letters to the Editor" program within the Comment & Analysis section

Community

Increase the social media presence of the University Times, bringing students relevant and timely news through the platforms they regularly use

I have been with the paper for nearly my entire time at Trinity, when I arrived as a fresher in the fall of 2021. My first day I was given a short introduction with the senior staff, and then immediately thrown in with the sharks. It was stressful at first, but still, I felt fulfilled by what I was doing; and even in those stressful moments I kept my passion for journalism. I want to help nurture that same passion with new writers and staff members as well as the general student body. Since I started at UT full-time as Music Editor, I have also worked as Assistant Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board. Outside the Times, I have been published before in Yahoo! News, the 74, and Annenberg Media.

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Welfare and Accessibility

Coming from a tumultuous recent history at the Times, I understand what happens when the student's welfare is not taken into account. Just last year, after other students and I expressed discontent with the working conditions under the Editor at the time, we were fired for speaking our minds and expressing concern about the welfare of ourselves and other student journalists. The dismissal of the senior masthead last year, consequently, meant even more work for the students who stayed behind, resulting in many to quit the paper entirely. Because of this, I believe in the student's welfare coming first, precisely because I have seen what happens when this is not the case. To address this, I plan on starting each semestre with a welfare meeting: where the entire staff will meet in detail and discuss how to operate conducively to the needs and responsibilities of the staff. After all, when a newsroom operates with these things in mind, not only does the newsroom work more efficiently, it allows writers to actually have fun. We're students, after all, supposedly living the best years of our lives. It's important to remember that we can have fun while still doing well-rounded, professional work. Furthermore, it's important to allow those with disabilities to have fun as well working with us. I plan on working closely with the student disability co-op to ensure that the paper will promote the welfare and empowerment of disabled students while also remaining open to writers from the disabled community on campus. Lastly, not enough has been done to address the lack of Irish language within the newspaper, The entirety of this year has only resulted in two editorials from the monthly section being translated. I promise to cater more towards the Gaeilgeoir community within the College by ensuring that there is a full-time Irish language editor on staff. The editor will be tasked with translating to ensure that the Irish language community can read critical articles in the native Irish language.

Visibility

The value of safe accepting spaces can never be understated. The University Times has a unique opportunity to create spaces such as this and establish a publication that not only welcomes students of all backgrounds and identities but also uplifts their voices. I plan on making this possible within the new administration at the University Times firstly by introducing a Visibility Editor to the already thriving Radius section. The role would be characterised as a driving force to platform people, events, and ideas that expand understanding of critically underrepresented areas within our mainstream publication. Stories depicting the experiences of gender minorities, LGBTQ+, or disabled people doing their part to make our College, country, and world a better and more accepting place. Further, it can often be seen in most University Times print copies that the editor's email address, editor@universitytimes.ie, hides in small text on the bottom corner of the front page. I plan on making that text bigger by making it that much more relevant. Within a new "Letters to the Editor" program, voices that usually have nothing to do with the newspaper I will encourage to reach out to me with critiques, comments, concerns, and correspondence on current events or even personal matters. I feel that this is a great step towards bringing the paper closer to the students who read it.

Community

As needed as some of these endeavours are, they are useless without a sense of community within the newspaper or even the College. The newspaper is in a unique role to bring clarity to otherwise obscure events and people who make this College great. With this responsibility in mind, I plan on expanding the responsibility of the Editor to encompass

fostering a sense of community both within the paper and outside of it. To do this, I plan on hosting a series of collaborative events to engage new writers as well as the general community. Also, in light of the fact that many students receive their news via their social media, I plan on significantly increasing the social media presence of the newspaper: Offering breaking news stories via Instagram and X in tandem with their release on the University Times website. Within the past year, the Times has had an increase of slim to none in terms of followers both on X and on Instagram, citing a major discrepancy between the way the Times distributes its news and the way the students consume it. Correcting this discrepancy is essential to ensuring the continued accessibility and relevance of the University Times. As articulated throughout this manifesto, keeping the community informed and heard is the backbone of my campaign. Therefore, I plan on establishing regular office hours on a weekly schedule to encourage staff and the general student body to drop in and share themselves and their thoughts with the Editor. The door to the Editor's office will be wide open during this time period, but that's not to say it won't always be open to those who need it.

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