

# The Collegian

---

Volume 2020 2020-2021

Article 8

---

11-10-2020

## November 10, 2020

Saint Mary's College of California

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/collegian>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Saint Mary's College of California (2020) "November 10, 2020," *The Collegian*: Vol. 2020 , Article 8.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/collegian/vol2020/iss1/8>

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by Saint Mary's Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Collegian by an authorized editor of Saint Mary's Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@stmarys-ca.edu).

# The Collegian - November 10, 2020

## NEWS

### BLACK STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AT SAINT MARY'S

11/9/2020

*Two students discuss the expectations and reality of being Black and attending Saint Mary's College. Staff and administration respond with information on resources and current initiatives relevant to the experience of Black students at Saint Mary's.*

By Evan Rodrigues  
Contributing Writer

Tuition pays for more than your education. College and university advertisements showcase academic and community life alike. Jaelin Randle and Damian Cortez, two Black Saint Mary's students, speak about their expectations of the diversity and inclusion of the Saint Mary's community before attending, as well as what being a Black student at the college has been like so far. Various members of the community that work directly with diversity and inclusion initiatives and resources on campus respond.

"It feels like [they] want my face, but not my voice. Unless, of course, we are discussing the African American experience in seminar or something, that's when everyone wants to hear what I have to say," says Randle, referring to groups on campus other than the Black Student Union.

After seeing the faces of and reading written content on alumni Mahershala Ali and Ryan Coogler, third year Psychology major Randle was ready for what she thought would be an environment that seeks to not just include, but elevate, Black voices. She describes her experience with the BSU, saying "[it] is pretty much the only institution on campus where I feel heard and accepted." According to Randle, what she assumed her experience as a Black student at the school would be does not match what she has experienced.

Damian Cortez, a 4th year Integral and Philosophy double major with a minor in Law & Society, shares his expectations and experience as well. Based on the advertising he saw prior to attending, he was under the impression that Saint Mary's would be relatively similar to other private and Catholic institutions with a focus on the Liberal Arts. These advertisements "didn't drastically shape how I felt my experience would be as a Black college student," he says, "I knew that most places I could attend wouldn't have a strong Black student population." Cortez was well aware of the challenges that Black students and academics alike face in society and educational institutions, and he did not expect Saint Mary's to be the exception. Despite his expectations, he has persevered with his goals and dreams in mind.

On his academic journey at Saint Mary's, Cortez has felt a lack of opportunities to naturally connect with staff and faculty of color. He reports "throughout my time here I was riddled with doubt; with so few people to turn to who were experiencing similar feelings, I chose to set my feelings aside for the sake of my education." Cortez acknowledges that there are resources on campus for Black students, but as a double major with a minor, the ideal situation would be for him to be able to connect with faculty within his area of study. For Cortez, expecting to be underrepresented and then experiencing being underrepresented were two separate challenges.

Both students concluded with words of wisdom for Black students at Saint Mary's and beyond. "Prepare to feel burdened by the lack of urgency society takes towards our position in higher education," says Cortez, "but don't let that discourage you from earning your degree, wherever it may be." His realistic, yet hopeful words echo his experience at the school.

The feeling of support and community that Randle experiences in the BSU is definitely something she would recommend to any Black student. "I'm honestly blessed to have been introduced to our Black Student Union," says Randle, "There are so many members that are kind, helpful, supportive, and want to see you succeed . . . you get access to all of the amazing Black staff on campus, and a connection to other organizations." She wishes that this feeling would be campus wide.

Jane Camarillo, Vice Provost for Student Life, responds to statements from the two students. VP Camarillo comments on the College Committee on Inclusive Excellence, and their Black Lives Matter subcommittee. "On a regular basis," says VP Camarillo, "the College

Committee on Inclusive Excellence (CCIE) has conducted climate surveys." She goes on to clarify that the climate surveys serve to gauge the social climate of the Saint Mary's community. They are intended to give individuals the chance to "identify some key areas of their experience."

VP Camarillo explains that responses are examined by the Committee in order to identify the various impacts on community life as well as "any trends that can be prioritized for an action plan." Past surveys have only been administered to staff and faculty, and the most recent data is from 2016. Data from past surveys is available on the [Institutional Research](#) page of the Saint Mary's website. Finally, VP Camarillo points to the college's 44 Days Honoring Black history:

"In the last three years, there has been a concerted effort to celebrate Black lives, Black history, and the contributions of the Black community by the program series, [44 Days Honoring Black History](#). During this series, Black students are invited not only to attend and participate in programs but also to come and meet and connect with Black faculty and staff at signature programs like the Black Student Convocation."

More information on the Black Lives Matter Subcommittee and the 44 days Honoring Black History is available under the [Inclusive Excellence](#) page on the SMC website. This page also contains information on the specific goals and procedures of the CCIE and much more.

Following the introduction to the CCIE given by VP Camarillo, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Senior Diversity Officer and CCIE Co-chair Kathy Littles gives some insight into her work with the school. After graduating from Saint Mary's herself, she eventually returned with the goal of fostering a more inclusive and diverse environment. In the past year, she says "we brought in twelve new tenure track faculty, of the new faculty, five or 41.6% were faculty of color." She also says that "a critical part to the recruitment is also the retention of faculty of color...which calls for the creation of community, trust, support, and collaboration on many levels." In order to tackle this crucial part of the diversification of faculty, Littles has worked alongside Faculty Development to create and initiate a two year mentoring program for new faculty. She acknowledges the areas of growth for the program, but has definitely seen an impact in the way faculty of color are supported at the school.

The College Committee on Inclusive Excellence co-chair also shares about the status of upcoming climate survey work. She reports that a Climate Study Working Group is on its way to the SMC community. This working group will consist of 12 to 15 Saint Mary's

stakeholders, including students, staff and faculty. Little shares that the group will talk about ways to improve the survey and that they will ultimately be "critical to its success." She hopes that the group will be able to officially start working next fall.

Finally, Legacy Lee, director of the Intercultural Center, shares his thoughts. He says "I think it is absolutely crucial to really listen to what our student's authentic experiences are at the college so that we can be strategic and deliberate in what is in turn created and systematized as a solution." His words definitely align with the work he does on campus.

Lee highlights the various events and resources available through the IC. He says, "Expressions of Blackness is one of six annual Cultural Nights where Black students are able to highlight their culture and shine light on their lived experiences on campus and beyond."

The work Lee does in the IC greatly exceeds what is written here. This is all definitely a step in the right direction, but there is more work to be done on the larger scale. He concludes with a call to action: "We need to listen [to Black students], believe them, and get to work on making our campus community live up to our Lasallian core principles." Obviously, the campus community largely exists outside the walls of the IC, so ideally the way students feel when they are there should match what they feel anywhere else on campus.

Keep an eye out for future climate surveys and make sure to fill them out. In order to make sure that the advertisements relating to student experience are accurate for all that attend, the Saint Mary's community has to ensure that relevant feedback is being gathered from students. Given the past and current events relating to racial inequality, there is a definite need to be conscious of our community climate and how it matches the advertised values of the school.

# AMERICA DIVIDES FURTHER FOLLOWING BIDEN'S ELECTION

11/9/2020

*As media outlets call the election for Biden, Americans hotly debate who the rightful president is.*

By James Molnar  
News Reporter

Americans woke up on Saturday to the sight of a blue-shaded Pennsylvania on the electoral maps that they've been staring at obsessively for days on end. Many whooped and cheered, exuberantly celebrating the election of a new president. Others stared in horror at their screens, mouthing wordlessly at the electoral vote count, not simply because their candidate lost the election, but because they believed in their hearts it was complete and utter fraud.

While certain Republicans, such as Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney acknowledged Biden as the winner of the election, they are exceptions to the rule. According to a November 7th survey by Citizens for a Strong Democracy, only 37% of Americans actually believe that Biden won the race, while 18% believe that Trump did. The remaining respondents said that they were still unclear as to who the winner was. Among Trump's voters, only 10% believe that Biden won, while 37% believe that the president won. Even among Biden's own voters, only 64% believe that their candidate won the election.

Trust in the Democratic process appears to be in tatters. A YouGov survey performed prior to the election found that if Trump loses, 59% of his supporters believe that "the most important reason will be that 'Democrats rigged the election.'" A rare moment of political unity is observed in the fact that 58% of Biden supporters believe that if Biden loses, "the most important reason will be that 'Republicans stole the election.'" A similar phenomenon was observed in 2016, when the presidential election was shrouded in rumors about Russian collusion. Even then, however, only about 33% of Hillary Clinton voters thought that Trump had been elected illegitimately (Washington Post).

Why do so few Americans trust the results of the election? No doubt, a major reason for this has been the recent statements from President Trump, who later on Saturday declared unequivocally "I won the election," citing alleged mail ballot fraud. He has committed to challenging the vote counts in court.

There has been some evidence of voter fraud, including a whistleblower from Nevada's testimony of illegal counting practices at the polling place he or she worked. It is important to note, however, that these allegations have not yet been investigated, and so it would be premature to make any definitive statement about the presence of nefarious counting practices. Furthermore, even if some accounts of voter fraud are accurate, it would need to be prevalent enough to sway tens of thousands of votes in Trump's favor. This has of course not yet been substantiated and will be decided based on the evidence that it is presented in the courts.

As we enter the uncharted territory of an election where both candidates have declared victory, Americans brace themselves for a time of heightened uncertainty. There will likely be legal battles over the election which could stretch on for weeks or even months. In the event that these proceedings are not over by inauguration day, it is not clear what will happen. Trump could well stay in the White House until these legal proceedings are resolved. If Biden is declared the winner in the courts, he will technically have the legal right to physically remove Trump from office. Which "president" the government security officers will obey, however, is not self-evident. In addition, much of the public may well disagree on who their rightful president is. The battle for the presidency will likely not reach such an overt showdown as described above, but there can be no doubt that contentious times lie ahead.

# CONGRESS UPDATES: HIGHLY CONTESTED RACES AMIDST ELECTION CHAOS

11/9/2020

By Riley Mulcahy  
News Reporter

Tuesday's election is still not over, however in many of the key House of Representatives and Senate races, they have been decided. Democrats had hoped for a "Blue Wave" in the Senate, which would have flipped the Senate control to the Democrats and given them the power of both the House and the Senate. However, the Senate's fate is all but sealed, with Republicans most likely maintaining a majority. The Democrats have lost several House seats; however, they still retain control of the House.

One of the most talked-about races included the race against incumbent Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine). She, according to The New York Times, is the only Republican on the ballot not to have endorsed President Trump. Collins's opponent Democrat Sara Gideon had a strong backing nationally, however, that did not translate to local support. According to the Associated Press Collins won the race by an 8.9% lead.

In Arizona, incumbent Senator Martha McSally lost her seat to Democrat challenger Mark Kelly, former astronaut and husband of former Congresswoman Gabby Gifford. Congresswoman Gifford was shot during an assassination attempt and had to resign. Although Arizona traditionally votes Republican, Kelly's projected victory is not particularly surprising. Political analysts argue that the changing demographics in Arizona and President Trump's attacks on late Senator John McCain are some of the main reasons why McSally was struggling to win the traditionally red state. President Trump mocked the late senator many times, with the President criticising McCain's military service, claiming he likes "people who weren't captured."

Georgia's Senate race, just as the presidential race in the state has been developing over the couple days of the election. Republican incumbent Kelly Loeffler faced off against fellow Republican Doug Collins and Democrat nominee Raphael Warnock. Collins took third in overall all votes and because both Loeffler and Warnock were unable to achieve fifty percent of the vote, a runoff is scheduled in January.

Also in Georgia, the second Senate race is headed to a runoff race as well. Incumbent Republican Senator David Perdue is facing off with challenger Jon Ossoff. The race was called with Perdue leading the race; however, he only had 49.7 percent of the vote, which is below the 50 percent threshold. The races, which will take place on January 5th 2021, will determine which party will take control of the Senate.

This election has been nerve-wracking for most Americans, regardless of their party line. President Trump has continued to repeat falsehoods about the legitimacy of the election, calling for recounts in numerous states, and has filed lawsuits to contest the election results. Trump supporters have come to election sites to “observe” the vote, while Biden supporters have been protesting and arguing that every vote should count. President Trump has falsely declared victory and accused that the election is “stolen.” Not knowing the results of the presidential race the night of the election is not that unusual, especially with an election carrying so much weight.

Saturday’s news of Biden’s victory has not stopped President Trump’s accusations that the election was “stolen” from him. President-Elect and Vice President-Elect have already started working on their COVID response, announcing Monday a twelve-member task force that will be critical for the upcoming Biden administration to battle the virus. Depending on the results of the Georgia Senate races, President-Elect Biden may have an uphill battle passing any laws, as Republican Senators have vowed to fight the Biden administration on crucial issues.

# IS THE POPE IN FAVOR OF SAME-SEX UNION?

11/9/2020

*Pope Francis publicly declared that he is in support of civil unions between same-sex couples, however, his views regarding marriage seem to remain unchanged.*

By Annika Henthorn  
News Reporter

On October 21st, the documentary, Francesco aired at the Rome Film Festival for the first time. The Pope, according to CNN, reportedly spoke of members of the LGBTQ+ community as "Children of God," adding that "we have to create a civil union law. That way they are legally covered." This stirred great upheaval in the Church from those opposed and those in support of it.

Due to the mass confusion caused by the Pope's statement, the Vatican Secretary of State released a statement to its ambassadors in hopes of providing clarification for the statements made. According to The New York Times, the apostolic nuncio of Mexico, Franco Coppola, posted this note to Facebook. The note's legitimacy was later confirmed by a Vatican official.

The note explained how these statements were based on two separate questions in an interview in 2019. It was incorrectly "edited and published as a single answer without proper contextualization, which has led to confusion," according to the note. Director of Francesco, Evgeny Afineevsky claimed the Pope explicitly told him his views on same-sex union; however, it was later found that these comments originated from an interview with Televisia, a Mexican broadcaster, according to The New York Times. It is still unknown who edited these false statements.

CNN argues that rather than legalizing same-sex union, the Pope was simply referring to some type of legal protection by law. The note specifically states that "it is clear that Pope Francis was referring to certain provisions made by states, and certainly not to the doctrine of the Church, which he has reaffirmed numerous times over the years."

Controversy also ignited by the Pope's comment that: "Homosexuals have a right to be a part of the family. They're children of God and have a right to a family." This was thought

by many that the Pope supported the union of same-sex unions. However, according to CNN, he was simply stating that although same-sex marriage should not be allowed, gay couples should not be discriminated against because they are still "within the family."

After watching the film aired in Rome, many people were stirred by the Pope's controversial comments. However, his views remain unchanged besides his beliefs that same-sex couples should be protected by civil law, without altering the doctrine.

# OPINION

## THIS VIOLENCE IS UN-AMERICAN

11/9/2020

*With far-right, pro-Trump militia groups and caravans terrorizing the country this election year, we need to talk about violence associated with the presidential election.*

By Melanie Moyer  
Opinion Columnist



(Image courtesy of the Washington Post)

Venessa Ramirez, a junior at SMC, says she's afraid to leave her dorm room after the results of the election results are announced. She says "with the election, the feelings and emotions around this are just an amplification of what every single minority, BIPOC, and member of the LGBTQIA+ community have been feeling over the last four years. That feeling is constant fear. It is the fear that the President is going to encourage someone to look at them and want to harm them, and with the messages he's sent out to his supporters, that fear feels all too real right now. On election day in 2016, I volunteered at the polls in my hometown. This year I stocked up and stayed inside."

Objectively speaking, Ramirez has every reason to feel as if she could be put in an unsafe situation as a result of the election. Headline after headline has described the different ways groups have become violent in the name of Donald Trump's presidential campaign. Further, most of these violent groups identify with racist, anti-LGBTQ+, xenophobic, or misogynist sentiments. This shouldn't come as a surprise after Trump told the Proud Boys, a far-right and neo-fascist male-only organization, to be on standby after the election.

Days before the election, caravans of Trump supporters wreaked havoc across the nation. In New York, a pro-Trump group blocked traffic on the Governor Mario M. Cuomo bridge two days before the election. Participants waved flags bearing Trump's name and screamed hateful chants in an attempt to make their presence known. Something similar occurred near Lakewood, New Jersey when another pro-Trump caravan blocked five miles of traffic on the northbound Garden State Parkway. Many smaller caravans have also been reported around the country. This dangerous behavior on busy roads and bridges seems to have few purposes except for the intimidation of those who oppose Trump's presidential campaign, for, unlike protests that occurred earlier this year that advocated for the lives of Black folks, these protestors simply want a president reelected.

Violence was also targeted at the Biden campaign, with a caravan of pro-Trump supporters surrounding a Biden-Harris campaign bus in Texas. During this confrontation, one pickup truck collided with an SUV driving behind the Biden-Harris bus. Biden's campaign team confirmed that neither Biden nor Harris were in the targeted vehicle, but the campaign canceled further events in the state in response to the violent encounter.

Though the events of 2020 have desensitized many to the different historical markers of the year, it should outrage anyone who respects democracy to see a presidential election be wrought with violence in this way. It would be unthinkable that one of the two presidential candidates would be indifferent to these events, especially when comparing this election year to that of Obama and Romney in 2012. However, Donald Trump has gone so far as to defend participants of this road-based violence, calling them "patriots."

Violent, right-wing sentiments have also gone beyond responding directly to the election. In October of this year, it was revealed that thirteen people associated with the Wolverine Watchmen—a far-right militia group in Michigan—plotted to kidnap and possibly assassinate Governor Gretchen Whitmer in an attempt to overthrow the Michigan government. A week after this plot was revealed by the FBI, Trump traveled to the state

and encouraged a crowd to chant “Lock Her Up” in reference to Whitmer. A week before the election, former presidential advisor Steve Bannon continued the pattern of violence against those who oppose Trump by suggesting the director of the FBI and Dr. Anthony should be beheaded and put onto pikes in front of the White House.

Thus, it should come as no surprise that Trump supporters feel validated and prepared to participate in violent acts in the name of his presidential campaign. When violence against those who oppose Trump is encouraged in the way it is, we cannot pretend that those who become targets based on their race, sexuality, gender, and political leanings are not living in constant fear.

As far as we have seen with events occurring on election day, it is apparent that violent Trump supporters have been present at polling locations. Many videos have surfaced with people donning pro-Trump banners and attire attempting to block polling locations with their cars. There have been many reports of violent altercations happening between those who identify with the two opposing presidential parties. Further, it has been reported that many altercations have occurred in response to pro-Trump poll watchers not wearing a mask, an act that leaves voters susceptible to contracting COVID-19. Say what you will about someone’s right to choose what they do with their bodies, but intentional negligence in making a polling location a safe place to vote is antidemocratic. To name this poll-related violence and negligence as anything other than attempted voter-suppression would be a fallacy, for the presence of unsafe behavior deters voters from going to the polls to cast their ballots.

After the election results were announced on Saturday, thousands took to the streets to celebrate Donald Trump being removed from the presidential position. These celebrations were met with counter protests, including some with armed participants. Many different reports about these encounters becoming violent have been recorded. Further, the Proud Boys leader posted that the group was “rolling out” and that the “standby order has been rescinded.” Two armed men were arrested outside a convention center in Philadelphia after the FBI tipped off local police about a potential attack. Due to events of this nature, the FBI has warned that white supremacists and domestic terrorists harbor the country’s greatest threat of “lethal violence” in response to the election.

Those who want to defend this election based violence are most likely asking about how this violence compares to the protests and riots associated with the Black Lives Matter movement earlier this year. First of all, we need to distinguish the intentions of each social

movement. BLM protests and riots are in response to the institutionalized oppression of Black people in the US, specifically that which makes routine police encounters a death sentence for Black men. Pro-Trump protests are advocating for the reelection of a president; more specifically, a president who perpetuates systems of oppression contributing to the deep facets of white supremacy, male dominance, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia in our country. There is no way to draw a comparison between the motivations of a movement advocating for people's lives and the reelection of a president.

However, we should acknowledge which side is objectively more violent. Thomas Zeitzoff, a politics professor at American University, told *The Atlantic* that "we have two different, large protests: the protests against police racism and [...] far-right militia groups. And [we] have a president who is prepping and priming his supporters to delegitimize his results. Objectively, there's been more violence and more lethal violence committed by the far right." With motives and actions in mind, it is apparent that arguments for a comparison between Black Lives Matter protests and Pro-Trump protests are not solid ground in an argument for the validity of far-right violence.

Thus, violent, far-right protests in the name of reelecting Donald Trump intimidate voters and make this election an unsafe time for Americans. It is time for our country to wake up to what we are letting happen during this election. Ramirez leaves us with some hope, saying "I want to see those with hate in their hearts lose their platform. I do not want to live in a country where bigotry, racism, xenophobia, and transphobia are normalized. While there is a lot of work to do to create a more accepting society, if we continue to have these difficult conversations, we will be headed in the right direction.

*Author's Note:*

*Please read the below articles for further information regarding the research of this article.*

*Gretchen Whitmer on Donald Trump's continued violence against her and her family:*

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/10/plot-kidnap-me/616866/>

*Olga Khazan on election-related violence:*

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/11/will-election-get-violent/616875/>

*White Supremacists, Domestic Terrorists Pose Biggest Threat Of 'Lethal Violence' This Election, DHS Assessment Finds*

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jemimamcevoy/2020/09/18/white-supremacists-domestic-terrorists-pose-biggest-threat-of-lethal-violence-this-election-dhs-assessment-finds/?sh=423c025a4287>

# ARE NEWS NETWORKS THE PROBLEM?

11/9/2020

*News networks are not the root of the division amongst the American people, rather, we need to examine the heart of America.*

By Emmanuel Simon  
Opinion Columnist

The 2020 Presidential Election merely echoes what we knew from the last Election- the American people are divided. Are news outlets, such as FOX and CNN, to blame? Perhaps. Yet maybe the division lies in something deeper, the heart of the American People.

The function of a news outlet is to publish news stories. This means that a news outlet ought to report current events that occur in a state, country, or even the world. Furthermore, they also give commentaries on a given current event, sometimes interviewing those that are not a part of their news outlet.

Those that are skeptical of the structure of news outlets wonder two things. How do we know that the news outlets are actually reporting facts, and we are not receiving fake news? Second, why should one believe that a given commentary or interpretation if the facts are accurate?

It's obvious that if one were only to watch a given news-network, then that person can only rely on what that news organization has to say. However, there also is a way to confirm whether such news is fake or not- go to the source. For example, suppose FOX reports that the President said we are going to war with China. To confirm whether or not this is true, one must look at what the President actually said, and not merely at what an outlet reports the President had said.

But if we are to also look at the source in order to avoid receiving fake news, why watch any given news network in the first place? Perhaps because it's convenient. It's easy to turn on the T.V. and have some news-network running in the background while working on something else, whereas looking at a primary source takes more time and effort. But only looking at a given news-network(s) still keeps one susceptible to fake news.

This is not to say that news-networks have absolutely no value. Assuming that a given news-network is reporting real news, one is also given interpretations and reactions from staff in the given news network. These interpretations and reactions can be helpful, since they may help shape a perspective. But this can also be done without a news network. Just go on Google, Twitter, or Youtube, and you'll be able to see both a primary source and interpretations from others. After all, the staff on the news network are merely people just like you. A person can easily do what they do, and probably even better, assuming that one actually examines the primary source(s).

News-networks are therefore deceptive if they portray fake news, or if they give unwarranted interpretations of the facts. Such deception may be one factor that plays into a divided America, since Americans are figuring out what the facts are.

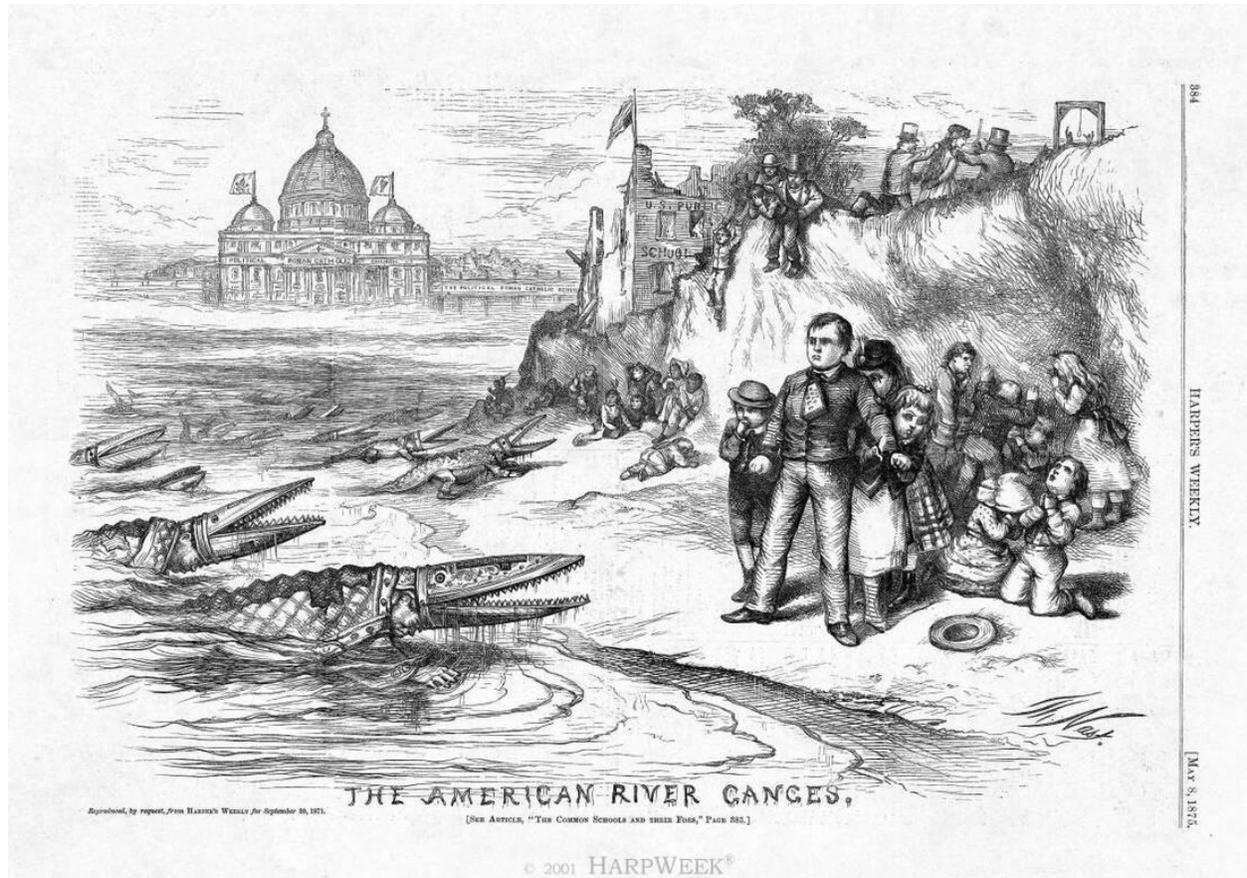
But I don't think this is the complete story. The division in America isn't solely due to news-networks, though it may play a role in it. The real cause of division are the hearts of the American people. The only thing that unites a group of people in contemporary politics is a shared accusation and hatred towards some other group or person. How many of you Republicans would like Trump to be President because Biden is trash? Or how many of you Democrats would like Biden to be President because Trump is incompetent? Critiquing the other side is one thing, but running a platform grounded upon a detestation of another is something else. At this rate then, America will remain divided, no matter who the new president is.

But there may be one thing that could help. If we start loving the person whom we disagree with, we will find that person to be less detestable. Though two parties may disagree with another in politics, they will find themselves in union through charity. Make 2020 better by loving one another.

# ANTI-CATHOLICISM IN AMERICAN POLITICS: HAVE WE BURIED IT OR DOES IT HAUNT US STILL?

11/9/2020

By Katelyn McCarthy  
Opinion Columnist



An 1871 cartoon in Harper's Weekly depicting fears regarding the increasing prevalence of Catholics in American public life and in public schools. Look closely at the alligators. (Image courtesy of HarpWeek).

Catholics seeking political office in America have historically been viewed with suspicion by their political competitors. Fears that Catholics would take orders from the Pope prevented them from making gains in the political world. Catholic Al Smith lost the 1928 presidential election to Herbert Hoover by almost 6.5 million votes in large part due to apprehension of Smith's Catholicism. The Ku Klux Klan and the Know-Nothing Party both held anti-Catholicism as an aspect of their bigotry.

This bigotry in American politics seemed to have evaporated. John F. Kennedy was elected to the presidency in 1960, after having overcome a clandestine scheme led by his opponent, Richard Nixon, to convince Protestant Americans that Kennedy's policies would be tainted by Romish ideas and interests. Today, 17 governors, 163 members of Congress, and two-thirds of the current Supreme Court are Catholic. The House minority leader is a Catholic. The House majority leader is a Catholic. The president-elect is a Catholic.

This shift swung into full force when JFK, addressing the Greater Houston Ministerial Association in a speech largely credited with widening public acceptance of Catholic politicians, stated, "I am not the Catholic candidate for president. I am the Democratic Party's candidate for president, who happens also to be a Catholic."

Kennedy's statement was to become the basis for the philosophy of Mario Cuomo, the former governor of New York. In a 1984 speech at the University of Notre Dame, Cuomo devised a template for the political character of the modern Catholic politician. If Kennedy described himself as a politician who happened to be Catholic, Cuomo described himself as a Catholic who happened to be willing to (politically, not personally) support policies contrary to the faith which he professed. This finagling philosophy has proved to be a boon for Catholic politicians in garnering support.

But to claim that anti-Catholicism has faded into the mists of history would be false. Catholic politicians who cede their Catholic beliefs to secular thought are acceptable in the American political realm. Catholic politicians who believe Church teaching privately and profess it publicly are not.

Take pro-life Democrat Dan Lipinski as an example. Lipinski, a former member of Congress, was ousted from his House seat for refusing to accept his party's support of abortion. Another example is Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was informed by a disapproving Senator Dianne Feinstein during the former's hearings for an appeals court judgeship that "The dogma lives loudly within you." For some reason, I can't see Senator Feinstein making the same complaint about certain Catholic politicians in her party.

Why not? The answer is simple. Many prominent Catholic politicians have discovered that the way to be Catholic and to ensure their election is to tout their private devotion to their faith while publicly behaving out of accord with it.

Joe Biden will be the second Catholic president we have ever had. In my opinion, he will also be the most anti-Catholic president we have ever had.

I don't mean that I question his personal faith. Nor do I mean that he harbors animosity towards Catholics. I do think, however, that he will enact anti-Catholic policies. He has said that he intends to sue the Little Sisters of the Poor to require them to provide birth control to their employees. He chose as his running mate a woman who imposed an unconstitutional religious litmus test on a candidate for federal judgeship, Brian Buescher, asking him whether he was aware that the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic organization of which he is a member, is opposed to abortion and supports traditional marriage, positions which are precisely those of the Church. Biden supports abortion access and has promised to overturn the Hyde Amendment, which bars federal funds from paying for abortions. Essentially, he would make it so that his fellow Catholic taxpayers pay for abortions.

The Catholic governor of California, Gavin Newsom, supported in 2019 a (now-withdrawn) bill that would have required priests to break the seal of the confessional, an act that would inflict automatic excommunication upon the priest. He signed into law SB24, which requires California public colleges to provide medication abortions. In 2019, as a response to pro-life legislation passed in Alabama and Georgia, he invited America's women to have their abortion procedures performed in California. Clearly, even Cuomo's line between a Catholic politician's private disagreement with but public permission of an act has been blurred.

As a final example, Andrew Cuomo, the Catholic governor of New York and son of the aforementioned Mario Cuomo, expanded abortion access in the third trimester of a pregnancy and lit the Empire State Building pink to celebrate.

All three of these politicians possess high levels of support. They do not face anti-Catholic bias in their political careers. Catholics have learned that to win in politics all they have to do is to contradict the deeply held precepts of their faith.

Some may say that it is necessary for Catholic politicians to disregard the teachings of the Church in policy decisions, as we in America practice the separation of Church and state. I think that this statement misunderstands where Church teachings come from. A Catholic politician should not impose moral standards which are binding only upon Catholics (like to go to confession at least once a year or, if one is going to be married, to be married in the Church). This would indeed be an interference of Church and state. But there are other standards which the Church preaches but which she does not make up herself. These standards are based upon natural law, meaning that they are binding upon everyone, regardless of their religious affiliations. Such standards include actions like telling the truth in court, not murdering, and not stealing. A society which permits a plurality of practices in these areas is not a society—it is an anarchy. None of these truths need be expressed

religiously. To say that they are explicitly Catholic because the Church teaches them would be like saying algebra is explicitly "Jonesian" because Mrs. Jones teaches algebra.

A Catholic politician who does not implement natural law into his policies is not practicing the separation of Church and state. Really, he is enforcing the separation of humanity from law. To disregard natural law is for him to do a disservice to his fellow men and to fall prey to the idea that algebra can only be true for Mrs. Jones' pupils. It is for him to confuse the teaching with the teacher. Unfortunately, many of our Catholic politicians do make this conflation.

Bigotry against Catholic politicians has not disappeared. It only seems like it has, seeing as so many of our Catholic politicians have it easy in American political life, choosing to call themselves Catholics without acting like they are. Discrimination against Catholic politicians and judges, like Dan Lipinski, Amy Coney Barrett, and Brian Buescher, who behave as they believe remains in full force. But such Catholic politicians have a consolation. Cracking them open, you'd find that their inner is the same as their outer. They might have harder battles to fight, but they have one thing that the other Catholic politicians do not: conviction, integrity, courage, and obedience to Christ. So far as I'm concerned, that's where the real gold lies.

# CULTURE

## SAINT MARY'S SPIRIT TEAM ATTEMPTS TO DELIVER SPIRIT DURING PANDEMIC

11/9/2020

*The Saint Mary's Spirit Team explores how to bring spirit to an un-spirited basketball season.*

By Peyton Prebil  
Contributing Writer

With Saint Mary's basketball season in full swing, the University Credit Union Pavilion is packed with excited fans. The student section, the band, and the spirit team collectively join forces to build a powerful sporting environment. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the influential role that the spirit team holds to create a fun, game-day atmosphere has been forced to take a back seat.

"This basketball season will look different," third-year spirit team member Alex Crivello said, "It will not hold the same electric energy as past seasons because we are unable to cheer for a big crowd." During a "normal" sporting season, the spirit team cheers in at least two men and women's basketball games a week.

Crivello described their typical schedule, "We typically have two game days a week starting in November up until the WCC tournament in Las Vegas in March."

Third-year spirit team member Kate Young explained how exciting it is to be part of the game-day action in the University Credit Union Pavilion. "There is nothing like cheering in front of Gael fans," said Young, "They are always so fun to perform for."

As of right now, there are no plans for the spirit team to be involved in the upcoming basketball season. However, coach Cassandra Ngyuen explained that there is hope for the future. "Things do change daily and we are hopeful to be part of it in some ways."

Until the spirit team is granted the green light to safely host events on campus to bring the Saint Mary's community closer, they will continue to meet over Zoom. Crivello said, "We've

been meeting over Zoom to practice cheers and to learn new dances in case we get to perform.”

In an attempt to deliver spirit to the Saint Mary’s community, Young explains the team’s utilization of social media platforms. “Instagram has been our main way of spreading spirit in a COVID-friendly way”, Young said, “We have made ‘Meet the Team’ posts so our followers can get to know a little more about us.”

To expand, Young explained, “We are also hoping to start a Tik Tok to create exciting content for Gael fans.” The team wants to post cheers, dance routines, and their own spins of popular Tik Tok trends.

“It has definitely been challenging to brainstorm the different ways we can virtually pump-up SMC fans for basketball season,” Coach Ngyuen said, “We are doing the best we can and will continue to explore our options.”

The spirit team plans to uphold their active social media status in order to distribute virtual spirit during this unusual basketball season.

# FILM IN THE COVID-19 ERA

11/9/2020

*The entertainment industry gets back to work forced to navigate shooting new film material amidst a global pandemic.*

By Benjamin Noel  
Culture Columnist

Through the trials and tribulations coronavirus has brought upon us, the world as we know it has changed. The precautions taken in restaurants, grocery stores and the like remind us that we are not living in a normal time. But none of these have faced a threat to their very existence like movie theaters. Movie theaters, as we know them, have been wiped out of the collective conscience, and new releases are continuously being pushed back in hopes of making a big box office opening. With no new movies coming out, we've found ourselves relying on the classics to keep our film itch at bay.

But films are still being shot, and T.V. shows continue to pump out new episodes. And it isn't unheard of for films to go straight to streaming services.

So what in the world is happening to the film industry? How hard can it be to shoot a T.V. show or movie during this unpredictable time?

Well, the whole ordeal of shooting amidst a virus is much trickier than meets the eye. To start, shows need dozens and dozens of ordinary people to populate a scene to make it feel genuine. For example, filling out a mall, or having cars driving by in the background, are vital parts in giving a scene authenticity. Compiling a group of people, testing them for the virus, then shooting all for a single scene at a time becomes a hassle and an expense.

Additionally, with so many places closed, or otherwise restricted with state legislation, with masks mandates, and social distancing, shooting on site has become a trial of its own. T.V. producers are forced to get creative with their scene, and ultimately plot, choices while navigating the seemingly endless maze of restrictions and regulations. Ultimately, the price of shooting during COVID-19 is sacrificing the feel of the show. For example, the Netflix series *Better Call Saul* heavily relied on shooting on site, where it be a nail salon, a fried

chicken spot, or another staple of New Mexico's money laundering landscape (Washington Post). So the show's producers have had to adapt their shows accordingly.

Additionally, the crew behind the camera must deal with the changes too. Make up, lighting, camera crews and more have the same regulations to follow. And the industry is harder to break through as smaller jobs are put on hold due to a hike in budget required to film safely.

And as a side note: to make shows more relevant to today, we may even see some producers start introducing masks, and social distancing to their scenes, and adapt their plot to COVID-19. And while that would make it more relatable, it almost certainly will not make for good television.

Back to the point, a big question to the industry is the sustainability of shooting in these times. Will extras put their health on the line for a minimum wage paycheck? Will new film crews be able to establish names for themselves given all the financial and logistical setbacks in these times?

Only time will tell.

All these obstacles provide for a challenging atmosphere for new and even established shows and films. But as measures ease up, and producers collaborate and figure out viable solutions to creating new content, we can hope to see some great new films.

# SPORTS

## BASEBALL STARTER READY TO HIT MORE HOME RUNS SOON

11/9/2020

*Senior baseball player Gabe Giosso prepares to enter his final season with the Gaels baseball team, ending his baseball career here with pride.*

By Mark Molz  
Sports Reporter

Gabe Giosso, a senior this year at Saint Mary's College, is eager for this year's team to compete at a level exceeding the play of the previous three.

Since a young age Giosso has always been a sports enthusiast. Whether he was on the baseball diamond, football field, or basketball court, he always excelled. Growing up in the Bay Area, Giosso decided to stay close to home when deciding to attend Saint Mary's, but coming here wasn't always his plan. Originally committed to play baseball at the University of Portland his junior year of high school, Giosso was excited to start a new chapter in his life. But, when the baseball coach wanted to divvy up his scholarship money Giosso decided to pack his bags and look elsewhere.

Entering his senior year of high-school Giosso was still unsure as to where he would continue his academic and athletic career. After a fallout with the University of San Francisco, Giosso was careful in his decision for where he would look next. As the baseball season rolled around, Saint Mary's came knocking on his door.

"I have met a lot of really close friends I enjoy being around. Being a part of the baseball program here has taught me a lot about myself and has given me the opportunity to do what I love while getting a quality education," Giosso said.

In his first two seasons with the Gaels, Giosso found himself in and out of the line-up, appearing in a total of 24 games and starting in three. Whether he was coming in to pinch

hit or taking the field for the occasional start his relentless work ethic kept him prepared for anything the coach asked him to do. During his sophomore year Giosso hit his first collegiate home run.

Entering his junior year the baseball program welcomed a brand new coaching staff. Giosso, like many of the other players, was unsure of what to expect, but he knew it was his time to step-up.

“As hard as it was to say goodbye to our previous coaching staff, coach Greg Moore and the rest of the coaches were a great fit right off the bat,” Giosso stated. “They made us feel comfortable by introducing themselves before school began and it made for an easy transition going into my junior season.”

His hard work in the fall of his junior year landed him the starting job at first base come season. Giosso was one of only four Gaels to appear in all 16 games before the season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Giosso was a workhorse in the Gaels line-up with his solid glove and smooth swing he was fitting into his starting role with ease.

Now a senior, Giosso is hoping he is able to play his final year in a Gael’s uniform come spring.

“In our minds we are getting ready to put together one of the better seasons Saint Mary’s has had in a while and win a championship, regardless of looming COVID-19 questions.” Giosso continued to say, “we have a really talented and experienced team this year and everyone is working hard to be prepared for the 2021 season.”

With aspirations of competing for a national championship in Ohama, Giosso has spent countless hours of preparation pursuing his goals. Long days in the classroom, combined with high intensity practice, and late nights in the gym, Giosso is what athletes like to call “A Gael Grinder.”

Whether the gaels are able to achieve their dreams of reaching Ohama or not, Giosso hopes to continue his baseball career once he is finished at Saint Mary’s. But, he is not too focused on the future just yet as the Gaels prepare to be atop of the West Coast Conference in just a few months’ time.

*Author’s Notes:*

*For more information regarding the research of this article please visit the links below.*  
<https://smcgaels.com/sports/baseball/roster/gabe-giosso/816>

# STAYING FIT WHILE STAYING SAFE

11/9/2020

*Saint Mary's Recreation Center continues to be open providing students with much desired physical activity. Rec Center Staff develop new sanitation standards to keep fellow students safe from infection.*

By Olivia Virgen  
Contributing Writer

With the closing of businesses, including gyms, throughout Contra Costa County, Saint Mary's needed to take the specific precautions put in place by the county. In late September, the county decided it was safe enough to open restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, and places of worship with restrictions and limited capacity. Shortly after, Saint Mary's decided to open the pool for lap swimming only, before reopening the Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center's indoor facilities. Swimmers were to schedule a time slot, using the Campus Recreation app on their phone, to ensure the pool remained at its limited capacity.

A student, Will Hansen, explained that there is only one student allowed in each lane and a lifeguard is always present. Hansen expressed his excitement for his access to use the pool and that he uses it as a way to destress. The center's indoor machines and equipment also needed to take on a new look this year to maintain the safety of students and staff.

Like Hansen, first year student Hayden Bradley, enjoys going to the gym with friends. While Bradley likes to use the pool from time to time, he also enjoys using weights and various machines inside the center. He discussed his routine of using weights and some of the machines to continue to stay healthy and fit. After touching any kind of equipment members must sanitize what they have used. Multiple sanitizing stations can be found throughout the gym, with disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.

In addition, Recreation Center staff must sanitize machines and equipment every hour. Hannah Holt explained her roles as a Recreation Service Assistant, saying "I work at the front desk and I answer phone calls, I help with member check-in, and for Covid-19 I make sure everyone has their mask on and clean periodically to make sure everyone stays safe".

Holt explains the new contact free way to check-in, which includes members presenting their green check mark on the LiveSafe app and scanning their member barcode from the Campus Rec app. Once members' barcodes are scanned they are immediately logged into the system for covid tracing. Members are then free to workout in selective areas of the gym. This form of no contact check-in limits the interactions between students and staff. Check-in desks are boarded with glass, separating gym goers from the staff.

Along with the sanitizing stations that are located throughout the gym that students must use after touching any machines or weights, Holt explains that each worker is assigned a particular zone that they must wipe down throughout their shift. Maintenance staff will also use a machine to spray free weights to further disinfect. Other equipment, such as basketballs and badminton rackets and birdies, must be checked out at the front desk. The basketball court is currently open to single players to limit the contact between students. Everything is again sanitized once returned to the front desk.

The center's hours have also been altered this year due to COVID-19 and the small number of students living on campus; open from 9:00am to 9:00pm Monday through Thursday and until 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. Other changes include the unavailability of the locker rooms and showers as well as the temporary closure of the cafe located inside. Fitness classes such as spin biking and yoga are held on the deck outside rather than the workout rooms. The gym is also where some Saint Mary's intramural sports would be held, such as basketball, indoor soccer, and dodgeball, but instead have been cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19. Recreation Service Assistant, Erin Clark, explains these cancellations and closures.

She says, "the school tells us what we can and can't do...asking if we can do certain things, open up on weekends, open up to people off campus but they [St. Mary's College] have yet to give us the 'okay'".

Clark explains that this year is very different from her previous years working at the Rec Center. The adjustments that have been made, have allowed on campus students to maintain their health and fitness while practicing social distancing. When asked to make a statement on the decision to reopen the Rec Center to on campus students with the necessary precautions in place, the Department of Athletics and Recreation has yet to respond at this time.

# MIAMI DOLPHINS UNVEILS PROMISING NEW QUARTERBACK

11/9/2020

*Rookie Tua Tagovailoa starts for the Dolphins in first season with the NFL, overcoming various injuries to make his debut.*

By Oliver Collins  
Sports Reporter

Tua Tagovailoa rose to become one of the most promising young quarterbacks in college football, continuing his draft stock even after tearing his ACL. Tagovailoa was born in Ewa Beach, Hawaii and immediately received nationwide spotlights for his quick legs and laser fast throws. It came as no surprise when decided to bring his talents to the most consistent college football teams, the University of Alabama.

Just after his commitment to the college however, his childhood idol and grandfather, Seu Tagovailoa, passed away, bringing a great deal of depression upon Tua who debated continuing with football. Only after his father convinced him that the only way to carry on his grandfather's legacy was to continue with his football career did Tua set his mind straight with his work ethic on the field. In 2017 after Jalen Hurts and the Crimson Tide were blown, Tagovailoa took the reins leading Alabama to yet another national championship against Georgia. Tagovailoa didn't stop there, taking the starting job the year after and keeping the team among the best in the U.S.

In 2019 Tagovailoa suffered a series of injuries including a high ankle sprain, however he continued to play off and on throughout the season. In January 2020 Tagovailoa decided to forego the 2020 season and declare for the NFL draft where he was drafted by the Miami Dolphins.

As most players don't start for their first NFL season automatically Tagovailoa was benched for Ryan Fitzpatrick until last week when he threw one touchdown and 102 yards, against the New York Jets. The Jets is a team that isn't exactly top notch; this is a small challenge for someone of Tua's talent. The young star played well and was a good sign for the Miami Dolphins fans there are out there. Although the remainder of the Dolphins quarterback

depth chart is up in the air for this year it is obvious Tagovailoa will be a star when the time comes.

Tua Tagovailoa came from almost nothing, a background of pop warner in Hawaii, he showed great talent when it came to throwing the ball. His commitment to Alabama cemented him a career in the NFL where he will likely have large success. After his first game it's clear to see why Tagovailoa went in the first round and it will be interesting how the rest of the season for him and the Dolphins will go.