

The Mandolin

St. Francis Catholic High School

November 20, 2020

“Spread the Word.”

Issue 106

Michael Jordan vs. LeBron James

BY MCKENNA HAUTEMAN '22

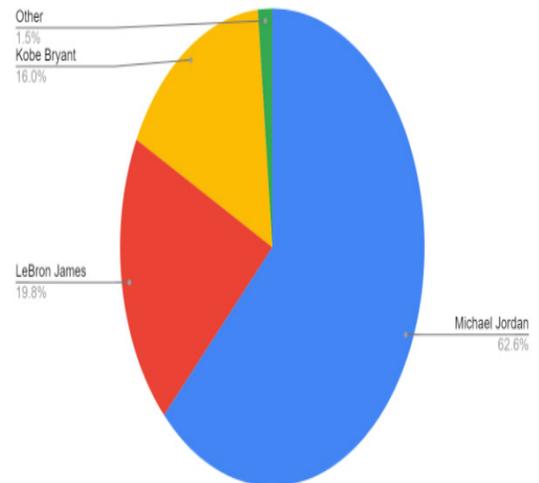
In light of the Lakers’ victory in the recent NBA finals, the debate over who should take the title of the greatest player in NBA history has come down to two incredibly talented players: Michael Jordan and LeBron James. Although Jordan and James never faced off on the court, as Jordan exited the league the year James entered, their reputations as players overall have been compared countless times to make this debate one of the greatest in sports history. Each athlete has defied expectations, pushed the limits and broken records to make themselves stand out. Let’s break it down to see how these two sports legends stack up against each other.

Beginning his career in professional basketball in 1984 as the third pick in the first round of the NBA draft, Michael Jordan is best known for his time with the Chicago Bulls. Joining the Bulls in 1984, Jordan’s dedicated attitude and leadership ability built a reputation for the Bulls who had previously been tossed aside as a “lesser team” in the league. He led the Bulls franchise to six NBA championships (the only championships the franchise has ever won) all within a decade. Under his leadership, the Bulls became only one of three franchises to ever complete a championship “three-peat”-- winning three consecutive championships in a row. Apart from his dominance in the NBA, Jordan led the American “dream team” in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. This team seized gold in the Games and is widely regarded as one of the most powerful sports teams ever assembled. Personally, Jordan has been awarded the NBA MVP award 5 times in his career and has become a cultural icon in America and across the globe. Even apart from basketball, Jordan has left his influence in the fashion industry, with the Jordan brand bridging in \$3.1 billion dollars at the end of the 2019 fiscal year according to

Forbes magazine. Overall, Michael Jordan is a force to be reckoned with in American sports history, but is it enough to compare to LeBron James?

LeBron James was coveted by many teams when he entered the league in 2003, starting his professional career strong as the number one overall pick in the NBA draft, signing with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Since then, “King James” has made an appearance in 10 different NBA finals. Over his 17-year career in the NBA, James has accumulated 34,241 regular season points ranking him 3rd across NBA history for regular season point totals. LeBron holds several other records, ranking 4th all time for field goals made, 5th for free-throws made, and 2nd in turnovers. In each of these categories James ranks above Jordan. With regard to championship wins, James led the Miami Heat to two consecutive championships in 2012 and 2013, the Cavaliers to a championship in 2016 and most recently, the Lakers to a championship this past season. He is the first player in NBA history to lead three separate franchises to NBA finals victory. LeBron is well known for his competitive spirit and dedication to the game. Even as a high school junior, James was making headlines; when he was 17 years-old, he became one of the youngest players to ever be featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, crowning him with the title “The Chosen One.” Now at 34 years-old, James has claimed four NBA MVP titles and a reputation as one of the most fierce and competitive players the league has ever seen. James has also made his mark politically and culturally, well-known for his calls for social and racial justice both on and off the court. He has established himself as a role model for many of this generation, and plans to continue his dominance in the league for seasons to come.

Both Michael Jordan and LeBron James are athletic powerhouses whose influence has spread far beyond the basketball court. Now that you know the facts, who will it be Troubies? King James or Air Jordan, The L-Train or His Airness? We wanted to see what you thought, so take a look at the poll below. Do you agree?



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Meet-the-Editors



Hailey Kopp '21
Editor-in-Chief

Favorite Book: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald



Sammi Guerrero '21
Editor-in-Chief

Favorite Book: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde



Alyanna Asuncion '21
Editor

Favorite Book: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen



Emily Squires '22
Editor

Favorite Book: *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon



Claire Westberg '22
Editor

Favorite Book: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows* by J.K. Rowling



Aubrey Spowart '23
Editor

Favorite Book: *The Young Elites* by Marie Lu



Hayley Labia '23
Editor

Favorite Book: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by J.K. Rowling



Adriana Lepera '23
Editor

Favorite Book: *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas



Ella Sebok '23
Editor

Favorite Book: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

The Presidential Debates

BY LYDIA VLAHOS '24

On Tuesday, September 29th the first presidential debate of 2020 was held at Case Western Reserve University in The Samson Pavilion of The Health Education Campus in Cleveland, Ohio. The President of the United States, Donald Trump, and former Vice President, Joseph Biden, squared off and were asked by the debate moderator, Chris Wallace of Fox News, questions about COVID-19 solutions and racial equality beliefs. This debate was filled with name-calling, interrupting, rambling, and personal attacks. The debate offered many voters a new view of both candidates for the United States, whether it was negative or positive. Even though some have reported the presidential debate was chaos, some useful things were able to be salvaged to help voters who are uncertain about where to put their vote

One topic that many people want to know is what the future president of the United States will be doing to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. First, Biden was asked the question. He started by listing statistics of how many people have died over the past six months. Trump countered his statement by saying he did an excellent job while in office during this pandemic. He then argued that despite how the epidemic was unexpected, he handled it well by opening up the economy. Biden then gave his points on how if he was elected he would bring back the health care programs that were lost during Trump's first term. He stated that because the health care programs were repealed many were left without care and died from this terrible disease.

Another issue that has been on a lot of people's minds is racial inequality and discrimination. Biden was first, stating that he believes Black people in the U.S. do experience racial injustices. "Yes, there's systemic injustice. The vast majority of police officers are good, decent honorable men and women ... but there are some bad apples," responded Biden. The Democratic candidate wants to look at this country's law enforcement infrastructure to take charge of these discriminative difficulties. However, Trump does not believe that the country's law enforcement is the problem. He states that leftist and Antifa groups and the protests are causing the problems that this country needs to tackle, such as property damage and violence.

Chris Wallace asked about positions on climate change, noting that many believe that climate change across the United States affects many people's lives and the president for the next term needs to have ideas to help the planet. Chris Wallace asked Trump what his views on the science of climate change are and what he will do to alleviate it. "I believe that we have to do everything we can to have immaculate air, immaculate water, and do whatever else we can that's good," Trump responded. Trump believes that to stop the wildfires there needs to be forest management, which includes raking the forest floor to prevent fast-moving and deadly wildfires. When asked again about science and how he repealed many of Obama's work to stop climate change, Trump explained that when more people can afford newer cars, more people will be driving around safer, cleaner, and more fuel-efficient cars. Then it was the Democrat's turn. "The first thing I will do, I will rejoin the Paris Climate Accord," Biden started. Biden wishes to rejoin the other countries who participate in the accord and act against climate change. Biden announced that we need to think about the planet. He says we could do this by electing him and starting the "Biden Plan." He wants to bring the costs of renewable energy down so that they are equal to or even less than energy coming from burning coal or fossil fuels. Biden wants to create car charging stations across the country next to freeways and build energy-efficient buildings too. He also states that these changes will create stable jobs and will not endanger old ones.

Later on October 7th, the vice presidential debate was held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Susan Page for *USA Today* moderated Mike Pence, current vice president and running mate to President Trump, and Senator Kamala Harris, running mate for former Vice President Joe Biden. The questions and topics focused mainly on the issues of the president and the first lady's current diagnosis of COVID-19 and the tension from the prior presidential debate that left many people questioning the outcome of this one.

As expected, the first topic of the debate was the coronavirus pandemic. "The American people have witnessed what is the greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history of our country,"

started Senator Harris as her very first answer. She continued with a sweeping attack on the Trump administration's failure to handle the virus properly and how the Biden administration deserves to be elected into office, not Trump's. "Our nation's gone through a very challenging time this year, but I want the American people to know that from the very first day, President Trump has put the health of the American people first," defends Vice President Pence. He went on to say that the current administration has saved countless lives during their last year in term and that they trust the scientists to give the best advice on how to stay safe during the pandemic.

The eighth topic of the debate was racial justice. Page asked both running mates about their views on Breonna Taylor, a Black woman who was killed in her home in the middle of the night while sleeping by the police. Kamala Harris believes that the Taylor Family deserves justice. She brought up other cases in which injustices that include the police were committed and stated how the Biden/Harris ticket will help minorities including African Americans become equal. Senator Harris continued, "I'm a former career prosecutor, I know what I'm talking about bad cops are bad for good cops. We need reform of our policing in America and our criminal justice system." Vice President Pence countered, "The family of Breonna Taylor has our sympathies. But I trust our justice system--and a grand jury that refused the evidence." The Trump/Pence ticket trusts the law enforcement and the justice system. He also condemned the protests that followed the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, focusing on the instances where rioting occurred.

While both debates ranged from calm conversations to rambling arguments, many points were made and questions were answered. Hopefully, more topics will be confronted in the next presidential debate on October 22nd and will help even more uncertain voters cast their votes wisely.

Meet-the-Staff

BY EMILY SQUIRES '22

Greetings Troubies! I hope you have all had a great start to your school year and have been keeping reasonably busy during quarantine. We have the honor of welcoming several new amazing faculty and staff members to St. Francis this year and I have asked them to respond to several questions to help you get to know them! We look forward to seeing them on campus!

Welcome to Mrs. Meyers, Math teacher:

Q: How have you kept yourself busy during quarantine?

A: I cook and bake a lot. I think I've watched everything on Netflix and Hulu. I also crochet amigurumi pets for people. I made sea animals, unicorns, sloths, etc. I took my dog on lots of walks and had three geckos hatch that I took care of.

Q: Do you have a favorite movie or show? Music or a book?

A: I LOVE 80's new wave and alternative but like almost all music. I will break out in song during class. I have seen a lot of sci-fi (all *Star Trek/Wars* franchises, *Raised By Wolves*) Every comic book movie (I used to collect and am a fangirl). *Fargo* is a show I always love but I like to get silly as well (*Parks and Rec*, *The Office*, *Flight of the Conchords*).

Q: What makes the subject you teach or the resources you provide useful to students? In what ways will they help us throughout our lives?

A: Well, math is everywhere! You see it all the time. It isn't just arithmetic, but the logic and critical thinking helps us understand information, reason abstractly, and even organize our writing and oral presentations. It helps us see patterns in everything and understand God a bit better as we use it to understand creation. Just look at all of the places where the Fibonacci sequence occurs naturally! Statistically that cannot be a mistake or random chance! I also like helping my students learn to maximize their learning modalities. We explore how to study! I don't give formulas or concepts at the beginning. I set up situations and conditions where my students discover the information themselves. This helps the information stick and become meaningful. Anyone can copy notes off a board, not everyone can derive the distance formula from trying to figure out how much string you need to send a paper clip from one corner of the classroom to the other.

Q: How has the experience of being a teacher changed your perspective of the world and education in general? How has it changed/impacted/solidified your opinions on the importance of education?

A: As a student I went to so many different types of schools, one had 100 students K-8 and another had 300 kids in the freshman class. There were lots of different approaches, so I was able to see the different styles of pedagogy. My undergrad degree is in psychology, so I love applying theory about cognition and development to my classes. This is my 26th year teaching, and I can see how much power and responsibility teachers have. Truly, I think that education is the way to change the world. We can change worldviews and perceptions.

Welcome to Mrs. Anzini, Special Events Associate:

Q: Do you have a favorite movie or show? Music or a book?

A: My favorite movie is *The Sound of Music*. I love Julie Andrews! In 2019 my family took a trip to Salzburg and I was able to visit some of the scenes from the movie. It was really amazing. I hope to go back one day.

Q: How has working at St. Francis been for you?

A: I have been at St. Francis for a little over two weeks, and I am really enjoying it. I have had a very warm welcome from all, and I look forward to seeing the students back on campus soon!

Q: What is your favorite food and why?

A: My favorite food is popcorn! My youngest daughter also loves popcorn as well. We usually have it about three times a week.

Welcome to Mrs. Baker, Sophomore Class Guidance Counselor

Q: How has working at St. Francis been for you?

A: It's been wonderful! I have loved meeting staff members and students. Everyone has been so gracious and welcoming. I am looking forward to meeting more students in person as we transition back to campus.

Q: How have you kept yourself busy during quarantine?

A: I have been doing projects around the house and activities with my kids. I have a 5 and 8 year-old at home and we do a lot of craft projects and board games to pass the time! I also started running for exercise during quarantine, which was something I never thought I would do.

Q: What makes the subject you teach or the resources you provide useful to students? In what ways will they help us throughout our lives?

A: As a counselor, I try to help all my students find their potential and work to accomplish any goal they have for their life. The world is a big place and there are so many opportunities available to each student after high school. It is easy to think high school is the end all, but your life is just beginning! This message of hope is so exciting for me to pass on to my students.

Q: Do you have a favorite movie or show? Music or a book?

A: I love to read and usually have 2 books going at the same time. Historical fiction or nonfiction. I am currently reading *Hidden Valley Road*. Shows that I can watch over and over again are, *Arrested Development*, *The Office* or *Parks and Recreation*. That should tell you something about my sense of humor. :-)

Welcome to Mrs. Fox, Freshman Guidance Counselor.

Q: How have you kept yourself busy during quarantine?

A: Walks, walks, and walks! Our neighbors make fun of us for how many walks my family takes.

Q: Do you have a favorite movie or show? Music or a book?

A: Embarrassed to admit this but my favorite show is still *Grey's Anatomy*.

Q: What is your spirit animal? Why do you think that animal represents you?

A: The turtle. Turtles are slow on ground but fast in the water. I often remind myself to take it slow and enjoy the precious moments in life, but when I need to do 10 things at once I can do it! I think I'm pretty calm the majority of the time, especially when it comes to listening to other people. I tend to retreat to the safety of my shell when I feel stressed or anxious just like the turtle.

New Clubs

BY AUBREY SPOWART '23

Here are some of 2020's highly anticipated new clubs. With a huge mix, there is surely something for everyone.

GRL PWR: Founded by Audrey Felsted and Abigail Rexroad, this club is the perfect place for girls to become leaders. Members will learn about women that are changing the world and will take action to do the same. Members will participate in drives, discussions, and special events such as the Homeless Period Project, group yoga classes, and the Women's March.

Make-A-Wish Club: Founded by Manasi Chintalapathi and Evelyn Stacy, the Make-A-Wish Club strives to raise \$10,000 to grant the wishes of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. "We are extremely excited to be working with Make-A-Wish," says Evelyn. "We hope to be able to change the life of at least one kid and their family with the help of our local community."

Girls for Human Rights: The perfect way to learn more about human rights issues, founders Elsa Fishman and Amelia Barkett aim to inform members on pressing current events around the world. Members will learn how to support those impacted by injustices through discussions, books, articles, and documents designed to educate.

Unheard History for Troubies: Founded by Sophia Saunders, the Unheard History for Troubies club seeks to highlight history that is typically passed over by eurocentric curriculums. Throughout the year, members will learn and discuss untold Indigenous, Latin American, African American, and Asian American histories, along with many others. "I hope that every St. Francis student, no matter their background, can be seen and heard," says Sophia.

Med for Mammals: Lauren Bernas and Alisha Anwar founded The Med for Mammals club for students who hope to pursue a career in animal care, or simply for those who love animals. Members will have the opportunity to participate in internships, listen to guest

speakers, learn about what the occupation consists of, and share animal-related information with other members.

Alaina's Voice: Founded by Grace Fletcher, the Alaina's Voice club seeks to honor Alaina Housley, a victim of the Borderline shooting, along with 11 others. Members will learn how to help those with mental health issues, listen to guest speakers, check in on their Trouble sisters, and perform acts of kindness around campus. "I would like to carry on the principles of her foundation that her parents have started in her honor--to be kind, spread mental health awareness, and end gun violence," says Grace.

St. John's Program for Real Change: Club leaders Grace Bashore, Thalia Bower, Emma Giordano, and Andrea Kustic hope to bring light, joy, and happiness to children and mothers at the St. John's shelter. Members will participate in a pen pal program, create craft kits, host birthday parties and holiday celebrations, and spend time with kids at St. John's. "We hope to give back to the community while completing service hours in a fun and immensely rewarding way," says Grace.

Dentist Club: Founded by MacKenzie Le, this club will educate students in dentistry and offer members the opportunity to explore the dental field. Members will have field trips, learn about dentistry through zoom calls, observe dental procedures and participate in many volunteer opportunities. The Dentist Club will allow students to interact with dentists to learn more about the profession.

Glee Club: Designed to create a space for people of all experience levels, club leaders Ella Raines, Grace Raines, Sophia Farwell, Reese Murray, and Emily Squires seek to teach members to sing and dance through an inclusive environment. Members will explore basic levels of music theory, choreograph dance routines, and hone vocal techniques. "We recognize that our voices and bodies are powerful instruments, and what better way to grow as artists and performers than coming together in music?" says Ella.

International Women's Cultural Connection Club: Founded by Haley Kim and Amy Abueg, this club explores various cultural traditions and crafts from all around the world, with a focus on celebrating women internationally. The club will donate goods and money to the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento and St. John's Shelter for Women. Members will learn about different cultures through foreign jewelry making, embroidery, and other crafts that will unify and connect students to women worldwide.

SF Book Club: Founded by Arianna Ross and Zahra Smith, the SF Book Club seeks to introduce members to different books across a variety of genres. Meetings will be paired with fun monthly activities such as a quote of the month, monthly challenges, scavenger hunts, and a tea of the month.

Star Trek: Founded by Eva Scripa and Maci Riffle, the Star Trek club seeks to create a fun and united community through discussions about favorite characters, scenes, and episodes. Members have the opportunity to partake in scavenger hunts to find a Star Trek-themed prize, film their own version of Star Trek, and watch episodes of Star Trek together.

WEBTOON: Founded by Justine Canio and Ariana Ocon, this club's meetings will consist of a number of activities such as icebreakers, discussion questions about specific webcomics, member recommendations, fanfiction and fanart contests, and debates about plotlines and characters. "Ultimately, our main priority for the WEBTOON club is to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where students can meet new friends," says Justine.

A Touch of Kindness: Founded by Olivia Reed, A Touch of Kindness aspires to spend time with and bring happiness to older people in care homes. Members will visit care homes, make cards and packages, and volunteer at movie nights and other events. "A lot of older people have many stories to share and a lot of love to give but they are not given the chance to speak to many people, and I would love to change that," says Olivia.

Sports Update

BY ELLA SEBOK '23

By now, fall sports should be deep into their season, the roars of The Zoo should fill the air, Troubie athletes should be playing their best game and dominating their divisions; however, like all other activities this year, Troubie athletics has been halted this fall due to COVID-19 regulations.

This summer, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) announced that the 2020-2021 education-based sports calendar was going to be altered. Instead of the usual fall, winter, and spring seasons, this year's sports have been placed into just two seasons--season one and season two. Season one features cross country, water polo, and volleyball, which will all begin practicing in early December. The remaining sports are to be played in season two, featuring both winter and spring sports. Typical winter sports, including soccer and basketball, along with tennis and golf, will start at the end of February. Spring sports--such as softball, swimming, and track--will start at the beginning of March.

Even when sports do return, there will be modifications to how practices and games are conducted. For athletes, modifications could include restrictions on contact and pre-COVID screenings before events. Modifications for spectator conduct is most likely going to be more severe, with the possibility of spectators not being allowed to games. "We will also likely not be able to use any parent volunteers, so there is a good chance that we will not have the snack bar open or in-person ticket sales for our ticketed sports..." says Mark McGreevy, St. Francis Athletic Director. "We will need to be creative in finding ways to perform many other duties that those volunteers performed across all of our sports programs," he continues.

One way St. Francis will perform these duties is with the Sports Media Club. With the probability that spectators will not be allowed to games, the Sports Media Club has become an important asset. The club is working to provide Troubie ath-

letes' friends and families a way to watch their games remotely. President Isabella McCullough states, "We are working on expanding our digital presence...Using the camera in the gym so we don't have to have someone physically in the gym. It tracks the ball automatically!"

Despite the halt to sports, Troubies are still receiving recognition for the outstanding performance by our athletes. For the second year in a row, the Saint Francis athletic program has won the Sac-Joaquin Section Commissioner's Cup, with section championships for soccer, cross country, and volleyball.

Not only are Troubies dominating in high school, but college as well. Just this past month, nine talented Troubies have committed to play their sport in college. Juniors Hope and Grace Jenkins have verbally committed to play softball at the University of Connecticut. Senior and varsity soccer player, Maya Milken, has committed to Cal Lutheran University. Junior Kate Killer, another soccer player, has committed to the University of California, Santa Barbara. Senior Chloe Henning has committed to play volleyball for San Francisco State and senior Kiley Kane has committed to play beach volleyball at UC Davis. Gigi Koerwitz has committed to the crew program at San Diego State next year. Water polo star and senior Libby Slater has committed to play at Santa Clara University. And finally,

junior Isabella McCullogh has committed to play lacrosse at Lewis University.

This year the athletic program will need more support than ever. The easiest way to support is to attend, if guidelines allow, a game held on our campus. Holy Court and Holy Hoops are both scheduled to happen at St. Francis this season. Another way to support is by watching the live streams on Troubie TV and social media. But the most important and helpful way Troubies can support athletics is to wear a mask properly, follow protocols, limit the risk of exposure, and social distance to prevent the spread of the coronavirus on our campus.

A common theme for this year is the uncertainty it holds. St. Francis athletics shares that issue. But one thing is certain, as St. Francis sports begin their season, safety is the top priority. Mr. McGreevy implores, "For the athletes, and really everyone, we stress the importance of being patient and flexible as we make our way through these seasons during a pandemic. Our number one priority will be student safety."

During this pandemic, Troubie athletics has persevered through cancellations, restrictions, and modifications. This season will be even more unique and challenging than the last. Good luck to all of the Troubie athletes this year! We cannot wait to see what you accomplish.

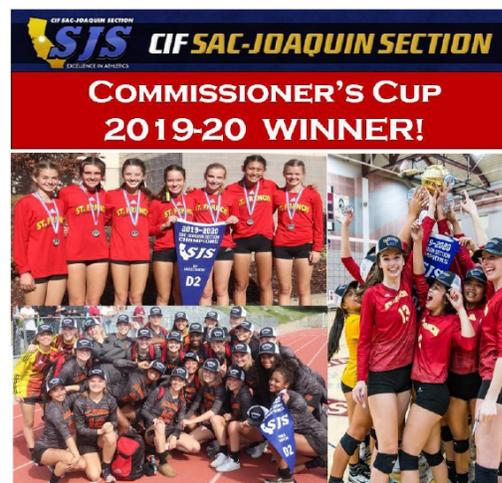


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SF Day

BY MAY CONLIN '24

As a freshman at St. Francis, I have never experienced an event quite like this year's St. Francis Day! For many freshmen, it is sort of a legend, something you hear about from alumni and look forward to having the opportunity to celebrate. I will admit that there was a sense of nervousness going into this year because of the situation we have been in. Several doubts began to arise. Will it be as fun as people have said it is? Can we have an awesome St. Francis Day during a global pandemic? Without skipping a beat, a plan for a reimagined St. Francis Day was put out and excitement took hold in the hearts of every student. The tradition would continue, just as it has every year since Mr. Norman's debut in 1977. And despite our unconventional start of the school year, this year's St. Francis Day certainly did not disappoint!

Students started their refreshing

day off by participating in the costume contest: donning their best animal onesies and zookeeper uniforms. Then, a beautiful prayer service led by the CSLs allowed everyone to center themselves in the presence of God before the celebration began. Several students had the opportunity to be featured in an inspirational video highlighting all the great service work Troubies have been up to in their communities. Next, it was time to decorate cars. Students certainly went all out for this aspect of the day. Flamingos topped rooftops and SUVs were transformed into zoo cages. A line of spirited vehicles drove into the St. Francis parking lot and embarked on a maze of activity! Troubies were welcomed with the gift of a sticker and a raffle ticket for a chance at winning prizes. Then, they made their way to receive some traditional St. Francis Day snacks like kettle corn and cotton candy while being photographed. Handmade rosary bracelets were next, complete with positive notes of affirmation written by

students to provide encouragement in these challenging times. Troubies were even given coloring books to relieve some stress! The drive was rounded out with a pet blessing for all our four-legged companions, an opportunity to support our sister school in Ghana, information about the upcoming Thankful Thursday fundraising event, and even more sweet treats! Dedicated CSLs, SBOs, faculty, and staff were out in full force, bringing tons of excitement and energy to the very welcoming environment. Troubies were even directed to a radio station playing all the necessary throwbacks to top off a successful day. The energy of the entire event was amazing! It showed just what St. Francis is capable of despite being in a global pandemic, with over 400 students making their way through the celebration. As a freshman St. Francis Day attendee, I can say with absolute certainty that this day deserves all the excitement it gets!

Student-led Movement Challenges Social Norms**

BY JULIA ZARA '21

The United States simply refused to listen to twenty-three-year-old motivational speaker Kylie Jenner when she deemed 2016, "the year of realizing stuff," and now it's reaping the consequences. From the coronavirus pandemic, to the Western climate crisis, to voter suppression, to systemic racism, the United States had several social and political agenda items that it refused to "realize" in the past, as Jenner had suggested. When experts in Washington were confronted about this issue, they replied, "We thought it would be better to realize these things in a more appropriate year. 2016, 2017, 2018--they just didn't make the cut. But 2020 on the other hand, now *that's* a realization-worthy year. It's got a fun pattern to its numbers and everything!" Now, as the country struggles to confront its deeply rooted faults, Gen Z student activists decided to join the fight, creating a movement of their own.

For seven long months, students have been imprisoned in a box of four lonely walls, never permitted to leave and interact with the rest of their family in the living

room. They say it's time for a change: "The flashing mode on my TikTok lights is the only movement I see all day," claims one student, "and I'm tired of it. I decided that I couldn't just sit here and do nothing. I have to make a difference, you know?"

In a brave effort to combat the daunting social expectation of tending to one's physical appearance, this student has sparked an overwhelming wave of activism in schools nationwide. Cleverly deeming it, "Whateverism," or "Whatever's" for short, the student explains that teenagers feel "like, totally, way too pressured" by society to make themselves look presentable. Followers, who have begun calling themselves "lazy potatoes," claim to find a personal connection to the movement's three guiding principles: One, wake up 3 minutes before class starts--1 minute if you're advanced. Two, if you're not wearing sweatpants and an oversized hoodie and/or t-shirt, then you're doing something wrong. Three, turn off your Zoom camera as often as possible for maximum comfort.

According to the lazy potatoes, the benefits of "Whateverism" greatly outweigh the consequences. "Sure, I feel kind

of crusty and groggy during class, but you have no idea how liberating it is to just wake up and start your day. I don't have to worry about people judging me for my looks. Just throw on Zoom's face-smoothing filter, and no one will even notice the residue from last night's toothpaste that's stuck to your chin."

When pushed for further comment, said-student simply shrugged her shoulders, yawning, "Um, I don't know. It's 'whatever's,' you know?" Clearly, the United States of America has a lot to learn from these inspiring students. Our country should be proud to have its fate in their un-manicured, un-moisturized hands.

(NOTE: This satirical article is 100% fictitious and is purely for entertainment. Now more than ever, students across the U.S. have joined the fight to battle issues that have plagued our country for far too long. From advocating for the Black Lives Matter Movement, to educating ourselves and our families on the importance of voting, to calling attention to global climate change, Gen Z is making massive strides to better our nation and the world***)**

Halloween in Quarantine

BY ALYANNA ASUNCION '21

With the COVID-19 pandemic changing everyone's plans, many are asking the question: "What are fun and safe activities we can do during this time?" With Halloween just around the corner and millions of people being confined to their homes, this year's Halloween celebration will look immensely different. The cancellation of numerous Halloween parties and smaller number of trick-or-treaters could be a few changes on the horizon. However, as modified Easter celebrations in April proved, there are still exciting yet cautious ways to celebrate our beloved holidays.

One activity that could help welcome the Halloween season is having a movie marathon of Halloween classics. From Disney's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" to Columbia Pictures' "Ghostbusters," there is a plethora of entertainment options available to watch on October 31st that could be found on Netflix, Hulu and Disney+. Don't forget TV shows! Watching the Halloween specials from all your favorite television series could lift your Halloween spirits and give you a good snicker or scare. Having a Halloween movie marathon doesn't have to be an activity done all by yourself either. You could gather all your broom-mates around the tele-

vision screen to watch, or host your own Teleparty with your friends so you can all view the same screen, chat, and stay in the comforts of your own homes.

If you're feeling extra crafty, you could take on one of the following projects. The first, being decorating your very own Halloween themed face mask, which is creative and will help keep you and others safe and healthy. With thousands of do-it-yourself face mask tutorials on the internet, what better way to celebrate Halloween than to sew a mask using fall fabrics. If you don't know how to sew, don't worry! You could decorate a mask you have at home with felt, markers and a little hot glue. Plus, it could go perfectly with the Halloween costume you have picked out for this year! One craft that hasn't ghosted away is pumpkin carving. You could stock up on a few pumpkins from your local grocery store or pick the best ones from a nearby pumpkin patch and carve away with your favorite designs. If you have a few pumpkins left to spare, you could make a homemade and fresh pumpkin pie or roast the pumpkin seeds to snack on while you watch your favorite frightening films.

For those who love to cook, bake or all of the above, putting a Halloween twist on your favorite meals and treats is perfect for you. There's recipes for savo-

ries, sweets and everything in between. Try making a seven-layer spiderweb chip dip or mummy pizza bites. If you have a sweet tooth, white chocolate covered strawberry ghosts and Frankenstein pretzels are for you. Even a caramel apple in all its simplicity could be designed with a little melted chocolate and candy molds to resemble mummies and monsters. Your batty bites are sure to win everyone's favor.

Staying inside doesn't mean you can't dress up. Put together a thrilling costume, schedule a Zoom meeting with your friends and family, plan a few games to play, and you have your very own Halloween party! If you're stumped on what games you can play, try scavenger hunts, charades or bingo with a terrifying twist. Don't forget to give a peculiar prize to the person with the best costume!

After you've done all your tricks and eaten all your treats, take a drive around town and check out all the frightening Halloween decorations. You could even decorate your own haunted house for other ghouls and goblins to check out.

Even though it's a Halloween in quarantine, there are still so many ways to make it fang-tastic. Guaranteed, your homemade Halloween treats will be eerie-sistible, your movies spook-tacular and your costume wicked awesome!

Halloween Movie Poll

Thank you to everyone who took our poll, and we hope you all had a great Halloween! Here are the results from our poll:

The Nightmare Before Christmas: 22.5%
 Hocus Pocus: 19.8%
 Coraline: 16.9%
 It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown: 12.9%
 Ghostbusters: 9.7%
 Beetlejuice: 5.9%
 Twiches: 5.1%
 The Addams Family: 3.8%
 E.T.: 3.5%

