

How religious are Jesuit schools anyway?

Hello again and hope everyone is settling in to a nice rhythm with the new school year.

For this column I wanted to shed some light on a subset of colleges and universities that often cause confusion and therefore may not get the consideration they deserve when putting together college lists: the Jesuit colleges and universities.

Sometimes students think, "I'm not Catholic so I will not feel comfortable at that school." Or, "I'm not religious so I won't fit in." Well, that may be the case, but here is some food for thought.

Consider that only about half of the students at many Jesuit colleges and universities are Catholic. At Santa Clara University for example, while about half the students are Catholic, the other half are Protestants, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, agnostic and more. At Gonzaga University in Washington, there are 27 different faiths represented.

So what does it actually mean to attend a Jesuit school? For starters, while



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Jesuit colleges and universities are always Catholic, the reverse is not true. Essentially, the Jesuit schools are under the umbrella of the Catholic schools, but they are their own branch.

The education philosophy of these schools, according to the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, follows this model: "Our institutions are committed to the pursuit of social justice, and teaching students how to become men and women for and with others." In general, a college/university that is Jesuit tends to be more open-minded than traditional Catholic schools, with some exceptions, of course.

Something that might surprise potential students is that Jesuit colleges and universities have safe

spaces for students who self-identify within the wide spectrum of sexual and gender orientations. At University of San Francisco, for instance, there is the

Gender and Sexual Equality Center; at Santa Clara University there is the Rainbow Resource Center; and, at Georgetown the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, just to highlight a few examples.

Having said that, there are two main differences between Jesuit schools compared to state schools and secular private schools:

1. Usually they have some type of course requirement to take classes in religion or faith. For example, Loyola Marymount University has a core curriculum that includes a requirement for all students to take one course each of theological inquiry and faith and reason. And at Boston College, the 15-course core curriculum requires that

all students take two courses in theology. Also, keep in mind that unlike other traditional Catholic or religious schools, there is usually no requirement to attend church.

2. There is more of a religious presence on campus. It is also not uncommon at Jesuit colleges and universities to have classes taught by priests and a church in the middle of the campus, such as in the case at Santa Clara University.

If this doesn't sound appealing to you, maybe it's not worth applying. On the other hand, you may appreciate these aspects and/or find that the upsides of the Jesuit education philosophy outweigh the downsides.

How can you decide if a Jesuit school is right for you? A great way to get a feel for the Jesuit schools is to visit them, research them online and/or attend college fairs. Another option is to participate in the Jesuit Excellence Tour, or JET, which is a way for admission representatives from Jesuit schools and potential applicants to connect. Check <http://www.ajcunet.edu/jet-tour/>

Some stats

There are 28 Jesuit colleges/universities in the US in 18 different states. Here's a link to a map of where these schools are located: www.ajcunet.edu/institutions/.

All are private and range in size from small to medium. Boston College is one of the largest with about 10,000 students.

In terms of academics, they cover the spectrum from liberal arts to professional schools to research-focused. With respect to acceptance rates, there is a wide range from "likely" schools such as Marquette University in Milwaukee (89 percent) and Seattle University (74 percent) to "far reach" schools like Georgetown (16 percent) and Boston College (32 percent). Tuition is commensurate with other private schools, so check each college's net price calculator to get an estimate of what your net price would be.

for locations and dates.

If these schools do make your college list, almost all of them are on the Common Application and some are also on the Coalition Application. Most offer early action deadlines as well, which maximize chances of acceptance and merit money. Note: Georgetown has its own application process, so go to its website and apply directly at <https://uadmissions.georgetown.edu/>

first-year/application.

Regardless of whether you apply to Jesuit colleges and universities or not, isn't it just nice to know about more options?

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Learn what you can work with and what to dump

The current hearing of the Senate Judicial Committee into the fitness of a candidate for a lifelong appointment to the nation's highest court is in shambles. I am now bereft of any confidence that those old white men can lead this country with a scintilla of competence.

In such case I ask myself, by way of guidance, what brewers would do.

Big breweries produce as many as 16 large batches of wort (to be fermented into beer) per day every day of the year. Once in a while an aberrant batch appears; it's no one's fault usually, it's just the gremlins of the brewery having a little fun with the brewers. But it instantly raises the problem of what to do with the faulty batch that costs many thousands of dollars to produce and would cost more money to dispose of if dumped in the sewer.

Unlike senators, brewers are rational people and want information upon which to base a decision. There are two basic steps: first, the questionable batch is isolated and put on hold



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A POINT OF BREW

and, second, brewers identify the problem.

The problem will likely prove to be one of two general sorts: either 1) There has been some minor hitch, e.g. in the addition of hops or of malts or of temperature control; such problems are organic to the process and such a batch can usually be blended off into the vast bulk of many batches being produced. Or 2) The problem might prove to be a contamination of beer with e.g. cleaning fluids such as caustic soda or chlorine or acid or worse, and such a beer must be unceremoniously dumped — with great regret, of course, but unhesitatingly dumped.

The assessment of the candidate for the Supreme Court was progressing normally, with the

candidate slithering through a series of questions with vagaries and diversions and evasions and equivocations and obfuscations. The Sunday edition of the failing New York Times documented a litany of such unanswered or deflected questions; but that means, by today's standards of transparency, batch by batch the candidate was advancing steadily to a court appointment.

And then bingo — a bad batch — an unexpected accusation of sexual misconduct. As brewers would have handled a bad batch, so the senators should have handled the accusation: they should have instantly isolated the candidate and put his nomination on hold while the accusations were properly evaluated. However, so anxious were they to exercise the power of one-vote majority, they forged ahead and held a hearing on Thursday that they called a "she said, he said" event.

Not really. That "she said, he said" event happened the minute the accuser leveled her accusation and the candidate denied it. The Thursday hearing merely wasted a week that could have been used

for a proper investigation of what eventually amounted to multiple accusations of improper behavior by the candidate.

At the Thursday hearing we saw two people, accuser and accused, with different approaches. She was emotional but calm and trying to give complete and honest answers to frank questions.

He was angry, belligerent and combative, confrontational to the point of deflecting a question back onto a senator, asking if she had ever blacked out from excess drink! For me that was a key moment, among many, because it showed insulting disrespect for a woman, that, in a larger sense, was what the hearing was all about.

A little humor might have worked better in slight Virginia drawl: "Well, Senator, I can't honestly answer that question because, as I understand it, blacking out renders a feller unconscious and so when he wakes he don't have much detailed recollection of what happened." Well, maybe not.

Instead, we saw a man

self-destruct, consumed by his own vitriol; sniveling; affronted by a challenge to his own sense of privilege, position and patronage; uncompromising in his indignation at the accusation that he could be less-than-righteous and above criticism; and yet unable to admit a proper investigation was appropriate in the circumstances. His violent rant and the partisan tenor of it must surely have persuaded many that his temperament was unsuited for the highest court.

He is a batch contaminated with caustic and chlorine and vitriol if ever I saw one whose poisonous effect cannot be blended away. We do not need two justices with bitterness and deep antipathy towards women.

I am content that elections have consequences and I don't begrudge the winners the spoils of their victory — another conservative justice on the court.

But please: not this man, not now.

— Michael Lewis is a longtime Davis resident; his column is published every other week. Reach him at cymro@sbcglobal.net.

Award-winning photos capture the healing power of music

Enterprise staff

Julia Serat, a Woodland photographer at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Northern California, was recognized for her outstanding work at BIOCOMM 2018, the annual meeting of the BioCommunications Association that took place June 19-22 in Savannah, Georgia. Serat's photograph of cellist Eunghee Cho, a graduate from Davis High School, received the Award of Excellence in the Still

Media Portraiture category of the BioImages visual media competition.

"Music to Heal By" is the title of the portrait that was inspired by the healing power of music. Shriners Hospital provides opportunities for musical expression through music therapy for patients and the Atrium Series, a volunteer program in which both amateur and professional musicians enhance the hospital's family-friendly environment by performing in the lobby.

"After listening to the beautiful classical music performed in the atrium by accomplished musicians Eunghee Cho and his colleagues, I envisioned

NAME DROPPERS

creating an image that would illustrate the healing power of music through live performance," said Serat. "In the photo studio, I created a setting that would depict a low key and dramatic image, using dark tones and high-contrast lighting. The term 'low-key' in music also relates to quiet sound or deep musical tone, thus inspiring this visual interpretation," she added.

Serat began her career at Shriners Hospital in 1994 as a clinical photographer and has worked as manager of the Medical Media department since 1997. She has received numerous professional awards in photographic competitions and has had photos published in textbooks, scientific journals and photo annals. Several of Serat's photographs have been selected for display in the Children's Hospital Association's biannual, juried exhibits that tour nationally. Her professional affiliations include the BioCommunications Association, where she currently is a member of the Endowment Fund for



JULIA SERAT/ COURTESY PHOTO

Julia Serat's photograph of cellist Eunghee Cho earned the Award of Excellence in the Still Media Portraiture category of the BioImages visual media competition.

Education Committee.

Trishna Kantamneni joined the UC Davis Department of Neurology as director of pediatric epilepsy on July 1.

Kantamneni is a pediatric epileptologist, offering care for infants, children

and adolescents with various seizure disorders, with an emphasis on difficult-to-treat epilepsy and evaluation for epilepsy surgery. She will lead the new four-bed pediatric epilepsy monitoring unit (EMU) at UC Davis Children's Hospital, which will open this

summer. This new unit, in combination with the Department of Neurology's adult EMU, will provide comprehensive assessment, medical and neurosurgical treatments for patients of all ages with seizure disorders in Northern California.

Kantamneni received her medical degree from the Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, India. She completed her internship in pediatrics, her residency in child neurology and her fellowship in epilepsy at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio.

"The Department of Neurology is very pleased to announce that Dr. Trishna Kantamneni has joined our team of pediatric neurologists as a pediatric epileptologist," said Fredric Gorin, professor and chair of the Department of Neurology.

R. Lor Randall, an internationally recognized sarcoma surgeon and scientist, became chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and the David Linn Endowed Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery at UC Davis Health on Aug. 1. Randall comes to UC

Davis from the University of Utah, where he founded cutting-edge teams to treat and study cancers of connective tissue in children and adults. He also launched and led the Huntsman-Intermountain Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Care Program, the first program of its kind in Utah, and advanced methods for salvaging limbs of patients with bone tumors.

As a scientist, Randall built the team that developed a genetically engineered mouse that researchers worldwide can use to study the molecular mechanisms of sarcomas. As an educator, he created the Sarcoma Advanced Research and Clinical Fellowship.

Randall now leads 70 UC Davis surgeons, physicians, researchers and trainees who provide the full spectrum of specialty care for musculoskeletal injuries and disease.

— Do you know of someone who has won an award or accomplished something noteworthy? Email it to newsroom@davisenterprise.net or send it to Name Droppers, The Davis Enterprise, P.O. Box 1470, Davis, CA 95617.