

VOLUME LVI



HILLTOPICS

NEWS IN ISOLATION
ISSUE TWO

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SPECTRAL SPOTLIGHT

Kiet Do ('22)



NICHOLAS DEAN

Ethnicity: Italian

Hometown: Sturgeon Bay,
Wisconsin

Grade: 10

Favorite Aspect of SLS:

"I enjoy living as a close
community here, at SLS."

Found out about SLS:

"A recruiting team came
to my old school and
introduced me to SLS."

Hobby: Playing sports



NOEL CHOI

Ethnicity: Korean

Hometown: Katy, Texas

Grade: 10

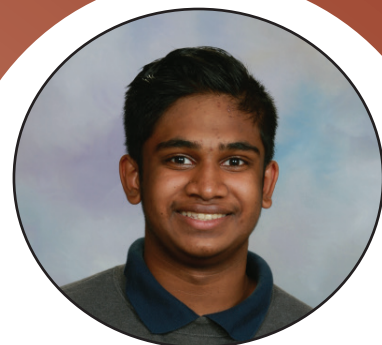
Favorite Aspect of SLS:

"The school helps me a lot
by changing my time."

Found out about SLS:

"Mac Kim ('23) introduced
me to this school."

Hobby: Playing basketball



MATTHEW COORAY

Ethnicity: Sri Lankan

Hometown: Boston,
Massachusetts

Grade: 10

Favorite Aspect of SLS:

"Living in a boarding
school with my friends."

Found out about SLS:

"My parents heard
about SLS."

Hobby: Building Model
Architecture



Rector's *Corner*

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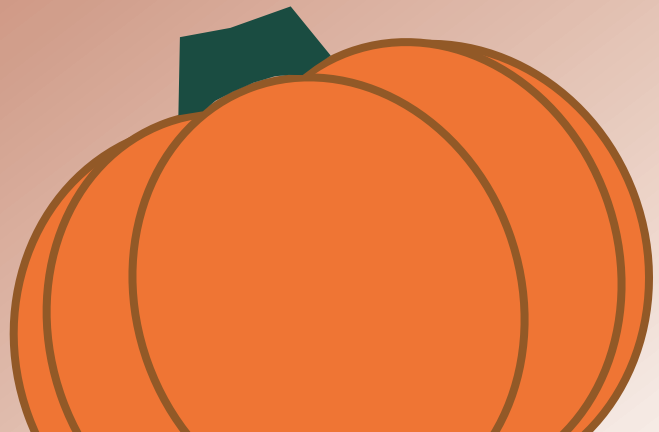
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Deann Sippel

In the Philippines, the country of my birth, All Souls Day is a time-honored and a most-revered tradition. In the days leading up to the feast, my family would visit the Catholic cemetery bringing brooms, brushes, and buckets of water, in order to clean the area and wash the tombs of our deceased ancestors. On the feast of All Saints, we return to the cemetery, this time bringing candles and flowers. We would light the candles, place them on the tomb, and offer prayers for our beloved dead. The cemetery would be packed with people and radiant with light from the burning candles all over the place. It is a sight to behold.

Remembrance of the dead is an ancient Christian custom. Even in the earliest days of the Church, people remember their dead and pray for them so that they may “rest in peace.” To understand the significance of this feast, we turn to readings proper to this feast. The first reading, from the book of Wisdom, assures us that “the souls of the just are in the hands of God,” that “no torment shall touch them,” and that “they are in peace.” Their chastisement is merely a way for them to be purified, as gold is purified in fire. And yet, they will be greatly blessed because God will find them worthy and “they shall shine.” Psalm 23 speaks of the Lord giving repose and refreshment to the soul. The second reading from the Letter to the Romans and the Gospel from John speak of the promise of the resurrection to those who were baptized into Christ. St. Paul reminds us that those who believe in Jesus Christ and were baptized into him, were also baptized into his death. And if we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him. For just as Christ was raised from the dead, so shall we be united with him in the resurrection.

The Feast of All Souls is, in my humble opinion, one of the most beautiful celebrations in the Church because it points to our fundamental Christian belief in the hope of the resurrection of the body and the promise of eternal life. And so, this month, as we remember all those who have gone before us in this life, I invite you to pray for all the dead. Let us pray that God will grant them eternal rest and lead them to life everlasting. Let us also ask the faithful departed to intercede for us, the living, that we may be steadfast in faith, fervent in hope, and perfect in charity; so that we too may merit the promise that awaits all the faithful ones in God's kingdom in heaven. 🍊



Spooky, Scary Spirit Week

Joseph Hall ('22)

As the leaves changed and the weather turned cooler, students at St. Lawrence began to prepare for a much-anticipated event: Spirit Week, a time-honored event that everyone agreed needed to go on in spite of the pandemic. Filled with dress up days and fun events, climaxing with the haunted house prepared by the seniors, Spirit Week was a time for students to forget about their daily tasks on the Hill and lose themselves in the season of fall.

This year's Spirit Week began on Monday October 26th, with friendly games of both kickball and capture the flag taking place after school. "The games were thrilling and provided me a great chance to bond with my frat-mates," said junior Ekin Her after his events. On Wednesday, teachers were greeted with the sight of students wearing clothes displaying their favorite teams. On Thursday, the students wore an array of ridiculous outfits. Each fraternity also participated in a pumpkin carving contest. On Friday, they showed off their Halloween costumes, some of which were gorilla costumes, a giant inflatable T-Rex suit, or many people's favorite, the low budget Avengers.

Thankfully for all the students, despite the recent pandemic, there was an opportunity for trick or treating. The students ran around campus after school on Friday to collect candy from many teachers and staff members who generously donated their time to help with this event. That evening all students were invited to play a game of infection (a variant of tag) spread all throughout the campus, then they headed to the upper ball diamond for a donut social and a bonfire.

Saturday was filled with scary movies in the auditorium and time spent preparing for that night's haunted house and party. At 7:15 the students gathered in the refectory and were brought, frat-by-frat, to the gym to go through the haunted house. "It was a really terrifying but fun experience. It seemed like everyone was having a lot of fun," said sophomore Eugenio Tinoco. Students were then directed to the refectory for another hour of events and games. Some of the games included an egg smashing guessing game, a push-up contest, and a game of ninja.

A time-honored tradition, Spirit Week provided students a chance to relax and enjoy a week of dress up days, movies, and good scares. Spirit Week helped the students to get through a time of the year where homesickness can often hit hard, almost all they can think about is the upcoming Thanksgiving break. Thankfully, in a time when it seems that everything is rapidly changing around us, Spirit Week remained the same. 🍊



SOCIALLY DISTANT SCARES

Harvey Nguyen ('22)



The pandemic has forced many changes, including the ministries students used to do, like visiting the elderly, as well as, the Special Olympians. It has been a concern on how the students could fulfill their ministry hours since these events are a part of the longstanding tradition at St. Lawrence Seminary, to serve other people. This problem caught Dr. Michael Donahou's attention. As a theology teacher and the ministry coordinator, he was tasked with finding a solution to the situation. He asked himself, "Is there any way we could bring joy and love to other people while still keeping us safe from this horrible disease which is continually rising?"

After thinking on this for a while, he came up with a solution. Dr. Donahou thought it would be wonderful to invite children up the Hill for a "Trick or Treat" event. As the father of two, he thought it would be acceptable, in the time of the coronavirus, drive his kids around the neighborhood to hunt for candy while still sitting in the car. "We could do the same thing at school," he thought to himself. After putting the idea together, Dr. Donahou created the Halloween Drive-Through project. The fraternities would come up with skits inspired by scenes from the Bible to act out during the drive-through. After receiving approval from Fr. Zoy, he worked with the Student Council to announce the project to the students.

The event took place on October 24th. Parents drove their children up to the Hill to participate in this special event. The students felt happy and proud that they made someone's day by putting a smile on their face. The first Halloween Drive-Through ended successfully and Dr. Donahou was more than pleased with the result and more than proud of the students. In his opinion, the event should become a tradition in years to come. "I am looking forward to this event happening again next year, and hopefully the staff members and students realized how meaningful this event was." Fr. Zoy more than agreed with Dr. Donahou when it comes to teaching students to serve others. "We are called to love God and serve one another, for that is part of our call of being Catholic," Father Zoy said.

St. Lawrence Seminary's students have a long tradition of participating in ministry opportunities. Even though there will be times – like now – when it is difficult to perform these services. SLS students are trying to make sure they can still keep up this noble tradition. "It was fun that the people in our frat got to bond!" Chueyee Lor said. When students look back at 2020, years from now, one of the most unique moments for them may be the Halloween Drive-Through. 🍊

IMPROVISE, ADAPT, OVERCOME

Nathan Fernandes ('22)

Throughout Saint Lawrence Seminary's history, soccer has been a successful program. Amid COVID-19, the Hilltoppers had to adapt their play. The WIAA issued new rules around mandatory wearing of a mask during games and a temperature check before games was required for all the players. Players also had to observe social distancing at games and practices to prevent the spread of the virus. The team adapted well to these changes in their pursuit of victory.

The team, led by coaches Mr. David Bartel and Mr. Sebastian Vervaeck, worked hard. While speaking about the seniors Coach Bartel said, "Last spring the seniors wrote to me, they were not happy with the way the season ended the year before. They wanted to be pushed harder this year." So, the seniors led the rest of the team as they began their last season.

They finished the regular season with a record of seven wins, one loss, and two draws. The team beat Howard's Grove in the regional finals 4-0. In the sectional tournament, the Hilltoppers defeated Kiel and Menasha St. Mary Catholic. This was St. Lawrence Seminary's first appearance at the State Tournament since 1997.

The team defeated University Milwaukee School to advance to the state finals. In a tough fight against the Prairie School, the Hilltoppers fell 0-4. Reflecting on his final season, Isidro Vargas said, "My goal was to win state, even though we didn't, I'm still proud of myself and my teammates for having such a successful season. It's more than I could have ever asked for." The team took home the conference championship, regional championship, sectional championship, and were the state-runner ups. This season was truly one to remember. 🍊

RESULTS

S	9/15: SLS-Oostburg 0-3	9/24: SLS-CWC 0-4	S
L	9/18: SLS-Omro 4-0	9/28: SLS-Kohler 4-4	L
S	9/24: SLS-CWC 4-2	10/5: SLS-Sheb. Christian 4-1	S
V	9/28: SLS-Stockbridge 4-0	10/15: SLS-Stockbridge 2-3	J
A	10/5: SLS-Sheb. Christian 1-1	1-2-1	V
R	10/8: SLS-Lourdes 5-0		
S	10/12: SLS-Kiel 2-0		
I	10/13: SLS-CWC 1-1		
T	10/15: SLS-Omro 1-0		
Y	10/24: SLS-Howards Grove 4-0		

11-2-2

6

Sectional Tournament

10/29: SLS-Kiel 1-0
10/31: SLS-St. Mary Catholic 5-1

State Tournament

11/7: SLS-USM 4-2
11/7: SLS-Prairie School 0-4



Weekend visits have reflected the school's COVID-19 protocols. They have been reduced to Friday and Saturday, maintaining the main components of the school for the visitors to experience such as Friday afternoon classes, nightly ice breaking activities, and witness talks from current students. Mr. Francisco Saucedo, one of the admissions staff members, says, "We, the Admissions Office, know the importance a weekend visit can play in a prospective family's decision to enroll at St. Lawrence. So, making sure we had a weekend visit, even a shortened one, was an important goal for us this year." COVID-19 hasn't stopped SLS from having in person weekend tours for upcoming visitors. 🍊

Kids Today.

HILLTOPPERS TOMORROW

Peter Lim ('21)



Seven Gifts, Six Feet Apart

Ellison Juern ('21)



The sacrament of confirmation is a defining moment in a young Catholic person's life, as they become a fully-fledged member in the church. Confirmation is when the gifts of the Holy Spirit come down on the confirmandi and they become an adult in the Church. On September 27th, the senior class received the sacrament. After months of preparation, a cancellation; due to COVID-19 and quarantine, and being rescheduled for the new school year, the seniors were excited and ready to receive their initiation into the Church.

With all of the coronavirus precautions in place this year, it was understood that the confirmation Mass would have some as well. This year, the confirmation Mass was only celebrated with the confirmandi, their sponsors and their parents, rather than with the student body present as well. The confirmandi were also spread out in the chapel, with one row of open seating between each group, to ensure social distancing. Masks were worn during the Mass and the Bishop blessed the confirmandi as a whole, instead of individually, to reduce contact. On his confirmation, senior Howxeng Lor said, "Even though we had to wait a while, confirmation was well worth it, and I am excited to grow as an adult in the church." Confirmation has a profound impact on those in the Church, and although the coronavirus delayed the Mass, nothing can stop the Holy Spirit. 🍊



READY, SET, SOLES WALK!

Thomas Nguyen ('21)



Catholic education provides students the resources and support to develop a strong religious foundation through fundraisers. Each year, Saint Lawrence Seminary participates in the Soles for Catholic Education Walk to raise awareness of Catholic schools and support their fundraising efforts. Due to the pandemic, the entire event went virtual this year.

The Soles Walk happened on Saturday, October 17th. The day started with rising at 9:45 A.M. when students headed to the refectory for donuts and other snacks before the walk. Students and staff gathered in their respective fraternities on the upper ball diamond for morning prayer and pictures. This year, in order to save costs, T-shirts were not provided for the Soles for Catholic Education Walk. However, Saint Lawrence Seminary provided each fraternity with their own virtual Soles Walk T-shirts.

After the photos, participants began the on-campus event. Each fraternity started on the upper ball diamond and walked a perimeter around campus. Participants this year were encouraged to share photos and videos using the hashtag #SolesWalk. Freshman Xavier Saucedá stated, "It was a very fun day; I am very happy that I was able to participate in the Soles Walk for a good cause. I just wish the weather wasn't so chilly."

After the walk, students and staff had a cook out at noon and continued the day with afternoon events which included: ultimate frisbee, floor hockey, and dodge ball. Students then had dinner and prepared for the Mass of Anticipation. Through this exciting and eventful day, St. Lawrence Seminary was able to participate in the Soles Walk virtually and celebrate the important mission of Catholic schools: to provide a meaningful education, guided by the teachings of Christ. 🍊





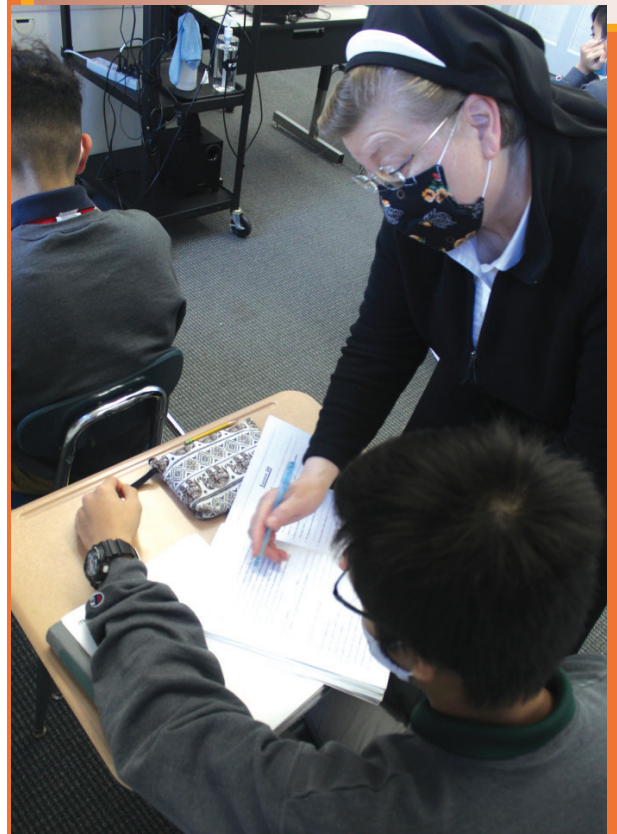
Texas Born, Latin Raised

Earl D'Souza ('22)

This academic year is the first at Saint Lawrence Seminary for Sister Marie Kolbe Zamora. She is a new Spiritual Life Director and teaches Latin and Religion. She was attending college in Houston when she was 22 years old when she met three religious sisters from Wisconsin and felt that God wanted her to join them. So, she first became a Sister at the age of 26, and then taught high school. However, her order asked her to go to Rome to get an advanced degree. This led her to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where she received her Bachelor of Sacred Theology (STB), Licentiate of Sacred Theology (STL) and Doctor of Sacred Theology (STD) degrees. She then returned to Wisconsin, where she spent nine years teaching theology at Silver Lake College.

In May 2020, the college announced that it would be closing permanently, due in part to the pandemic. Sr. Marie Kolbe then found out about St. Lawrence from a sister in her order. She was initially apprehensive about teaching high school again, but explained she loves the St. Lawrence community that binds the school together. She said, "One thing that I find different about Saint Lawrence is that the students here are interested in learning. Even though they might not always show it, they are usually willing to listen and understand what I'm teaching."

Born and raised in Houston, an extremely diverse city, Sr. Marie Kolbe remarks that she knew God was looking out for her when he helped her find this diverse, multi-ethnic community in the heart of rural Wisconsin. She is a first-generation Mexican-American, her father from Mexico City and mother from San Antonio, Texas. She said that her parents taught her "to love God, food, music and language." She hopes to share these loves with her students as she embarks on a new and daunting journey. 🍊



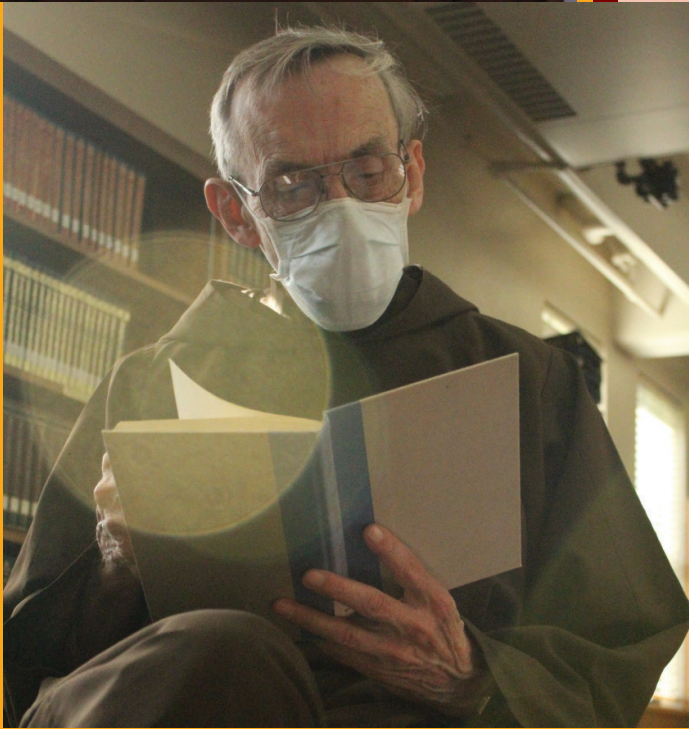
The Capuchin Bookworm

Ricky Conlin ('22)



It's a trope in every form of media: a kind, old librarian that seems to have memorized every book in the archives and can tell you exactly where they are. St. Lawrence Seminary may have one of the most realized versions of this caricature in the form of Fr. Oliver Bambenek, one of the seminary's librarians. Fr. Oliver has some of the most deep-reaching roots in St. Lawrence Seminary of anyone on campus, being a 1957 alumnus. After becoming a Capuchin, he returned to SLS as a librarian in 1970. But St. Lawrence Seminary's library—or rather, lack of a library—looked much different back then from what it does now. After his 13-year hiatus, Fr. Oliver was welcomed back to campus by a mountain of roughly 5,000 books strewn across study hall desks in what would become the computer lab that all needed to be organized and cataloged: a warm welcome, to be sure. After that was finished, the next school year started and Fr. Oliver's job as a librarian officially began. "The student librarians showed me how to do things," Fr. Oliver reminisced.

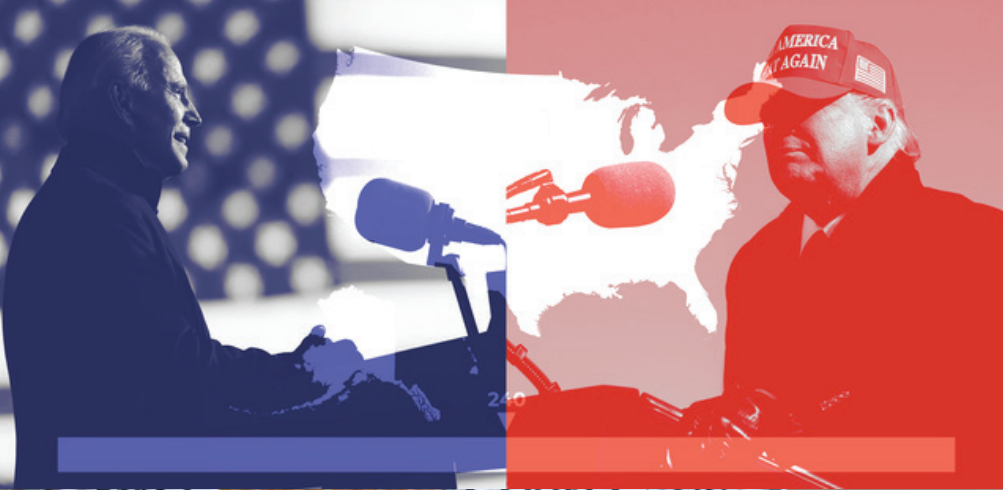
Aside from being a librarian, Fr. Oliver was also the Seminary's assistant president from 1987 to 1993. The assistant president was a former position in administration that handled off-campus relations. "I asked the president what I was supposed to do," and he responded with, 'You do what I tell you to do.' As assistant president, Fr. Oliver helped digitize St. Lawrence Seminary's files for the first time, as well as acting as the Seminary's alumni coordinator. In more recent days, Fr. Oliver can be seen in his office coordinating spiritual direction, reading a magazine in the updated library, or organizing the books in the library. He presides over Mass every day at the Villa Loreto, and he also acts as a substitute priest for the nearby parishes. For decades, he has helped SLS's students find the exact book they were looking for, and undoubtedly saved many students' last-minute projects. He has also introduced an equal number of students to what would become one of their favorite books. 🍊



Chapter 46:

Oliver's Fun Facts

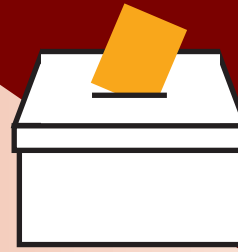
- Fr. Oliver was a part of a barbershop quartet with Fr. Keith Clark and Mr. David Gritt.
- Fr. Oliver played softball and volleyball while he was a student at SLS.
- He attended the Saint Lawrence Seminary college for a year.



Tuesday Night

FRIGHTS

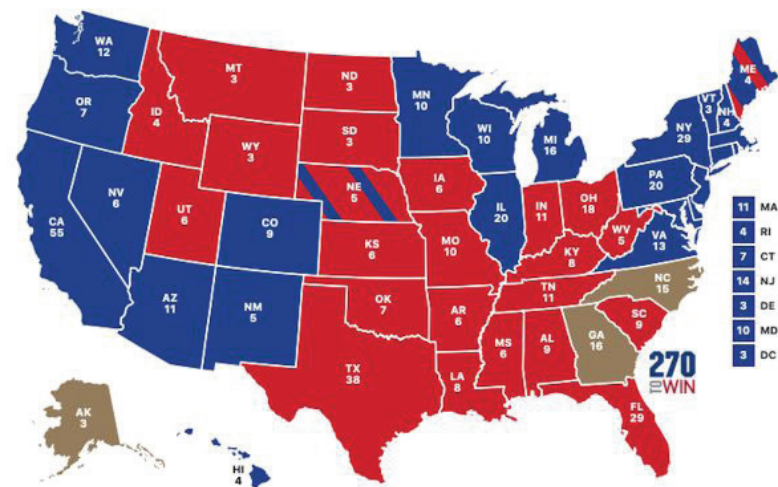
Benjamin Bartlett ('21)



In an unprecedented, capricious year, the last thing the United States needed was an election. Of course, this was the case for the Red, White and Blue nation. The candidate list began with a whopping 29 Democrats versus the Republican's 4 – those 4 amounting to 3 candidates versus Donald Trump. Over the course of a year and 5 months and 11 party debates, the Democrats whittled their list down to Joe Biden, who accepted his nomination virtually on August 20th. The Republicans chose to not hold a primary. The 45th President accepted his nomination on August 28th. There were two in-person debates between Biden and Trump, both subject to interruptions and off-topic arguments, preparing the nation for a tense November 3rd.

On Election Day, Trump took the early lead against his opponent, racking up much of the South and the Great Plains. However, Biden soon surged, wiping out the Republican's lead by taking the Northeast, flipping Michigan and Wisconsin from last year's election. This was due to the sheer number of mail-in ballots; many people voted early or by mail because of the coronavirus. At the end of that week, Biden's projected presidency was announced. Wisconsin and Georgia, however, are awaiting recount, possibly flipping the election to the incumbent. Trump did not take this well: he pressed lawsuits the day after the election which were subsequently thrown out of court for having no merit. Mr. Schultz, when asked what the nation's best-case aftermath was, said, "The country will do as it always does: it will move on and move forward, and planning will begin for the next election."

The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave can only hope that more rioting and unrest doesn't result from this contested election. Midst the pandemic and as the Black Lives Matter strikes, another resistance to the country's already controversial government would further needlessly impede its ability to function. 🍊



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Editors' *Quotidian Remarks*

ANDREW

The fall season at St. Lawrence is always busy and full of events. The first quarter passed by in a blur. Luckily, I haven't been buried with all the work!

My final cross country season wrapped up and I couldn't have asked for a better team to finish it with. Spirit Week was a blast and I had a ton of fun with my fraternity. I was able to watch the soccer team go to state while they made a historic run. With schoolwork, college applications, and other extracurriculars, there have been many things I need to balance. However, I really enjoy working on Hilltopics with Benjamin. I hope you enjoy issue two!



The year is heating up as the temperature drops. With my term paper and book projects on the horizon, I'm beginning to feel the pressure of bearing the high title of "Senior." However, I feel confident that I can

cap off the first quarter on a positive note. I'm chugging along in my college applications and I hope to have finished all of them by our next publication.

Andrew and I have devoted a lot of time to this publication, and we hope every issue will be better than the previous one. We hope you enjoyed the previous bit of "News in Isolation," and we hope that this one does nothing but excite you!



BENJAMIN