

RELIGION, POLITICS... WHO CARES?

by Russell Gottwaldt

In the last week of the fall semester, *F News* surveyed SAIC students, asking about their religion, spiritual beliefs, and politics, and when it comes to religion, many art students are undecided. Asking someone what religion they belong to can prompt a response that begins with, "Well, I was raised Christian, but..." or "I don't belong to a religion, but I'm not an atheist per se..."

When it comes to politics, students at SAIC are even more skittish, especially regarding party loyalty. Most students who identified themselves as liberal did not identify themselves as Democrats. No student who identified him/herself as conservative also identified him/herself as a Republican. And many students surveyed were uncomfortable with identifying themselves as having any political orientation at all. **f**

What religion are you?

No Religion: 38%	Atheist: 13%	Agnostic: 10.5%	Catholic: 6.5%	Buddhist: 4%	Jewish: 3.5%	Non-denominational Christian: 9%
Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), Baptist, Muslim Each 2.5%			Christian Orthodox, Jewish/Episcopalian, Pentecostal Apostolic, Yogini, Lutheran, Bible Presbyterian, Presbyterian, Zoroastrian Each 1%			

How do you observe your faith?

Is the concept of right and wrong...

Varying: 75%	Absolute: 15%	Both: 1%	No answer: 9%
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How do you think of fate?

Free will: 53%	Predestined: 5%	Both (limited free will): 35%	No answer: 7%
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Is science incompatible with faith?

No: 77.5%	Yes: 15%	Both: 2.5%	No answer: 5%
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Organized religion was created by...

People: 71%	God: 8%	Both God & people: 16%	No answer: 5%
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Is it important for religious people to have a place to worship and pray?

Yes: 83%	No: 14%	No answer: 3%
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Do you identify yourself as:

Not belonging to any political party: 64%	Libertarian: 4%	Refuse to answer: 1%
Democratic: 30%	Any third party: 1%	Republican: 0%

Are you a:

Liberal: 33%	No political orientation: 17%	Conservative: 5%
Moderate: 21%	Progressive: 10.5%	Both Moderate and Progressive: 1.5%
	Radical: 10.5%	Both Liberal and Progressive: 1.5%

Faith and art at SAIC:

Should SAIC provide space for religious observance?

Yes: 49%	No: 45%	No answer: 6%
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Do religious beliefs influence your art?

Yes: 47.5%	No: 46.5%	No answer: 5%	Yes and No: 1%
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Do you make devotional artwork in the service of your religion?

No: 81%	Yes: 14%	Yes and No: 4%	No answer: 1%
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In your opinion, how much of the student body is religious?

Half or more: 32.5%	Less than half: 62%	Don't know: 7%	Don't care: 5%
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Do you think that religious, devotional artwork is taken seriously?

No: 52.5%	Yes: 32.5%	Don't know: 9%	Yes and No: 5%	No answer: 1%
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Has your religious orientation changed since you came to SAIC?

No: 81%

- Strengthened existing faith/more involved in church:
7%
- More tolerant of religions:
4%
- Lessened existing faith/lessened church involvement:
3%
- No longer religious, confused, less tolerant of religions, adopted elements of many religions:
EACH 1%

This survey was conducted in the 112 S. Michigan Building lobby on December 17 and 18, between the hours of 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Percentages are based on the answers of 80 SAIC students.

