

Opinion

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



Eugene McAllister
Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK – Minn.

Faith-based universities: An American treasure

There are many great and wonderful things in the United States, and one of the best is American higher education.

Our system offers a possibility for everyone: large public universities, elite universities committed to cutting-edge research, community colleges specializing in technical education and online providers offering everything from certificates to PhDs.

This remarkable system isn't the result of some great plan. Rather it is the sum of individual dedication and purpose, men and women who believe deeply in knowledge, learning and the virtue of teaching.

One of the very "American" aspects of higher education is the extraordinary presence of private faith-based universities. They are everywhere, from the great cities to small towns, and have been part of the landscape since before the American Revolution. Harvard and Yale, for instance, were founded to prepare clergy for the colonies.

There are many more faith-based universities than you might first guess. For instance, there are over 250 Catholic colleges. Most everyone has heard of Notre Dame, but how about Presentation College in Aberdeen, South Dakota? Methodists have also built a large number of colleges, as have Lutherans, Baptists and Presbyterians. And we can't leave out places like Guilford College (Quakers) and Yeshiva University (Jewish).

Some universities founded by religious denominations have moved away from their origins, but most haven't. Some have succeeded in breaking into the top 50 rankings like Notre Dame, Boston College and Villanova, but most haven't. And some have moments of national recognition because of a distinguished alumnus or an amazing athletic achievement.

But regardless of fame, the men and women of these hundreds of faith-based universities and colleges show up every day, intent on doing something important and good.

Faith-based universities are important to the fabric of American life. They produce good citizens, good employees and good neighbors, like many other universities. But faith-based universities are distinctive in a number of ways.

These universities were founded to serve God by serving students. That means they look at students differently. Many religions believe men and women "are made in the image and likeness of God." So, these universities see students as possessing a God-given dignity, and their purpose is to help students see that dignity in themselves and others.

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OUR VIEW



People gather for conversation during a Dine and Dialogue event July 20 at the St. Cloud Public Library. DAVE SCHWARZ, DSCHWARZ@STCLOUDTIMES.COM

HOPE & FEAR

Why we did it, what you'll find

Today, we invite you to read the opening installment of "Hope & Fear," a four-part series exploring the state of relations between long-time Central Minnesota residents and newer Somali neighbors, more than 15 years on.

After a summer of discord, community self-examination and conversation spurred by a national spotlight on St. Cloud, we decided to step back and take a new, measured look at the topic we've been covering day by day and week by week since the early 2000s.

The series launched Tuesday on our digital platforms; it starts today and runs through Wednesday in the print editions.

Here's what we hope you'll glean from this series, which is the product of several months of reporting, interviews, research and fact-checking:

A new perspective on the range of opinions that drive the white-hot emotion surrounding this topic.

A better understanding of exactly who is working to build bridges, and how.

A better understanding of the very real fears that drive people on both sides of the discussion.

Perspective and understanding. That's it.

What you won't find in the series: Definitive answers about how many people of Somali descent live in the St. Cloud area, for instance, although we do explain (again) why the range of estimates is broad, and why anyone who says they know the correct number almost certainly doesn't.

You won't find reshapes of previous reporting about what cities and counties say the influx is costing taxpayers, although we do provide information about where to get the answers on your own.

The Editorial Board

Our View represents the Times Editorial Board, whose members seek to provide opinion, information and leadership that promote public discussion and build a better community.

BOARD MEMBERS

- **Lisa Schwarz**, News Director
- **Randy Krebs**, Engagement Editor
- **Anna Haecherl**, Content Coach

You won't find any bombshell new proposals to "fix" the "problem," whatever the problem is from your perspective.

What you *will* find are stories from people in our community. Some of those stories stem from generations-deep roots in Stearns County, others sprouted in refugee camps on another continent. Each one is telling.

You will meet people whose words drip with optimism and praise for the efforts so far to become one community with many facets. You'll meet others who are full of despair that it will ever happen, or fear what trying for that goal might bring about.

The most compelling stories you'll hear are those of the changes wrought in individuals since St. Cloud

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Sickness of toxic masculinity is turning into an epidemic



Ben Ament
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My summer reading coupled with the evening news has convinced me we are faced with an epidemic. Men are dying and killing, and we are not only letting it happen, we are encouraging it with unreasonable expectations of what it means to be a man.

Jared Yates Sexton's recent book, "The Man They Wanted Me to Be: Toxic Masculinity and a Crisis of Our Own Making," exposes toxic masculinity as a system of impossible expectations imposed on men through emotional and physical abuse that we see as normal. Boys are not allowed to show emotions. They are encouraged to be tough

and unrelenting and physically in control.

Sexton presents a picture of masculinity using the example of Tom Brokaw's so-called "Greatest Generation." We revere these men who grew up in poverty, won a war and returned home to provide for their families. These primarily white men were able to buy everything they needed with one job. They worked hard and they did it without complaining. They supposedly did it without help from spouses or community.

The stoic male of the species is legendary and impossible to emulate given the lack of opportunity available to 21st-century men. The reality is it has never been possible to survive as fully human as detached and unemotional

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Gov. Walz wishes you good hunting as season opens

Your Turn

Tim Walz
Guest columnist

Minnesota doesn't close up shop as the leaves change colors – there is so much to be done as temperatures cool and the days grow shorter.

Many Minnesotans across the state have been counting down the days to when they could break the blaze orange gear out of the closet, map out the good hunting spots and plan a weekend (or two) with friends and family to get out in the fields.

It was my great honor to be in Austin recently to host my first Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener.

As a lifelong pheasant hunter and member of Pheasants Forever, I was looking forward to this weekend for a long time. It is a great opportunity to



Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz participated in the 2019 Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener in Austin. OFFICE OF GOVERNOR WALZ

highlight Minnesota's strong outdoor heritage. And I'm happy to say we had a successful hunt, with 170 hunters tak-

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