

PRANK SANK PRANK SANK PRANK SANK

- In his absence Mr. Carey has asked me to announce that there will be no senior prank this year. He cited loss of class time and difficulty of gaining compliance with the alcohol policy as the reasons. In its place seniors are planning an All-College dinner and party.
- Sent from Assistant Dean Cook's office on Tuesday, April 16.

S.I.C. MINUTES

April 14, 1991

Attending: Mary Welliver, Jr., Taeko Onishi, Jr., Matt Kelty Jr., Aaron Mason, So., Ron Scroggum, So.

The Committee asked the Assistant Dean to inquire regarding our request for math assistants for next year. A decision is still pending consideration by the Faculty Instruction Committee. A guerilla seminar on Rabelais will be held Friday, May 3, at 4:00 p.m. The seminar will be led by the Starrs, and the reading will consist of Book I of *Gargantua and Pantagruel*. The S.I.C. will sponsor a guerilla seminar Saturday, April 27, at 4:00 p.m. on Edwin Strauss', *On Upright Posture*. The Committee is currently speaking with tutors who may be interested in assisting student tutors. This assistance would consist of instruction regarding effective tutoring. The charter for the S.I.C. is undergoing revision and a proposed charter will be presented at the Polity meeting, April 21.

The S.I.C. will meet Sunday, April 21, at 2:30 p.m. in the hallway outside the dining hall. All are welcome to attend.

Senior Orals

Monday, April 22

12:30 Alan Wilson *The Development of Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory of the Instincts*

2:45 Theresa Duncan "The fact is," said Rabbit "we've missed our way somehow." *An Exploration of Ivan's Delusion.*

4:15 Lisa Hopkins *Truth and Simplicity: Resolving the Conflict Between Form and Substance in 'War and Peace.'*

Tuesday, April 23

1:00 Sarah Keating *On the Razor's Edge*

by Chad Hadraba '93

There are few things in life I enjoy more than roasting weenies. The warm air, sun, roasting coals, and my Webber power pro grill, are some of the numerous factors contributing to this true American pastime.

However, in addition to the aforementioned factors, the three most important ones to consider are the meat that you use, the charcoal, and the presentation of the final product. Neglect of one or all of these factors will result in dogs that are less than could be. Moreover, the words, "Ah! what a hot dog!" and the never ending train of relatives desiring to obtain the next weenie will never be an occurrence for your bar-b-queing experience.

The first factor for better weenie cooking is the meat. Clearly, regardless of the preparation, or the skill in which the weiner was barbecued. Often, when in the process of purchasing the meat, one is tempted by the no name brand or the osco cheepies merely for the price. Bad move. Though cost effective, one loses the quality and satisfaction that can only come from roasting a higher quality product. Dubuque, Oscar Myer, Armor, and Tennessee Pride are all excellent brands, yet none can surpass Ball Park Franks. For not only do Ball Park franks use only the finest quality meat but they use only the finest in cereal fillers, too. And no other hot dog plumps when you cook it. This hot dog is also the favorite of Chicago White Sox player, Ron Kittle who is here to tell us about Ball Park Franks.

"I have eaten lots of weenies and beaten up many too, but when I can't be back in Wisconsin sampling some of my father's home

2:45 Carol Childers *sans disgust: a discussion of Baudelaire's new aesthetic*

4:15 Roland Sonnenburg *Confounding Reason Passion and Intellect in 'Othello.'*

Wednesday, April 24

1:00 Kenneth Geter *My How Time Flies*

made franks, I go for the same quality and tradition which is most strongly represented by Ball Park Franks." Ron adds, "They taste so good some times I just can't wait and eat 'em straight from the pack, but when I can wait I wait only for the frank that plumps when you cook it, Ball Park Franks."

In addition to the fine quality represented by Ball Park Franks, one must also use fine charcoal. As with hot dogs, there are several brands to choose from, ranging in price and quality. It is also just as important to choose only the finest in charcoal, but not as important as buying Ball Park Franks.

-Isn't that right, Ron?

-Yes Bob, charcoal is not as important as buying Ball Park Franks, the only hot dog that plumps when you cook it."

-Well, Ron when you are purchasing charcoal, what do you look for?

-Well, Bob usually, I look for a red bag and one that's real big so I can show off my muscles as I carry it to the counter.

-Thanks Ron.

-The final factor for better dog cooking, for once you have cooked the Ball Park Frank, nothing goes better than smooth relish, juicy tomato, onion, sour kraut, mustard, ketchup, and a big fluffy bun.

- What do you think, Ron?

-Well Bob I usually make sure all my guests have had about ten beers before eating so no matter how bad it is they can't tell.

Well, Ron thanks for the advice.

And always remember that Ball park Franks are the only franks that plump when you cook 'em.

4:15 Frances Daniels *The Geometries of Einstein, Poincare and Minkowski*

Friday, April 26

2:45 James Perriguy *Freedom's Just Another Word for Nothing Left to Lose*

4:15 Eric Olsson *'For they are actions that a man might play, but I ahve that within which passeth show' (Hamlet I.ii 84-85)*

PRANK SANK

by Simon G. Bone '92

The news came on Friday afternoon as I was given this assignment. Julia Goldberg screamed at me from the staff parking lot. "They've cancelled Prank!" Who are they? "The administration!"

My first reaction was incredulity: *It's a conspiracy among the seniors. No administrator in his right mind would cancel a hallowed school tradition like Senior Prank. No doubt Julia's pulling my leg, so I'll write a lengthy Moon article about this latest administrative injustice, then they'll have Prank, people will be surprised, and I'll look stupid. What's more, it's after business hours so I'm at the mercy of the seniors, not the elders, for information.*

There was something eerily believable about the story, though. Supposedly Dean Carey had met with a number of seniors on Thursday afternoon to discuss, or at least inform them of, his decision that Senior Prank was not going to be sanctioned this year, and that the seniors should host an all-college banquet in its place. Among those students was Steve Zell, whom I found at Nabla. He was able to supply more detail: "Well, as far as I know, Dean Carey thinks that Prank isn't really a prank anymore, the kind of thing that everyone can point at and laugh. He wants to prevent just another monster party, you know, with a lot of drinking. Of course, this is the man who threw two burning mattresses out of a second floor window in Annapolis, or at least that's the myth."

Dean Carey was unavailable for

comment at presstime, which means he wasn't in his office, didn't answer the telephone, and didn't happen to run into me. Nevertheless, his secretary Sue Lerner did tell me that although she knew nothing of the ruling, or for that matter the dean's mattress-tossing proclivities, it was true that he had conferred with a group of students the previous day. Of course, that could've just as easily been the St John's Hole Punchers for Free Kurdistan Coalition. I still had only circumstantial evidence.

Even if I couldn't get in touch with the dean, it was clearly necessary to consult with the higher-ups to get the official word on the story. I waited outside Assistant Dean Don Cook's office. And waited. It turns out he was at an oral. At 17.20, I gave up and hoped he'd be proctoring the French test the next day.

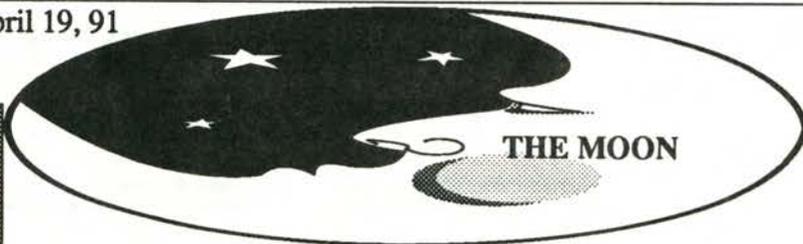
Mr Cook, who was indeed proctoring the French test, was able to confirm the spirit, if not the letter, of the decision: "Yeah, I spoke to the dean." And what did he say, Mr Cook? "He said pretty much what you did." Any further details? "Not really, no."

What would prompt Dean Carey to kill Senior Prank at the last minute in such a furtive manner? His concern over student alcohol use is well-known; in 1989 he even objected to students drinking Yukon Jack after Mass. There doesn't seem to be any conflict between Prank and the current alcohol policy, so long as alcoholic beverages aren't served to minors and "non-alcoholic beverages and food are

made available by those who are hosting the party." The experience of the sophomore enabling-essay party, which was held off-campus and ended with the intervention of the Santa Fe Police Department, shows that students who are determined to drink will do so regardless of the administration's edicts, and they will do so without supervision. It is inconceivable that ending Prank would have any tangible effect in reducing alcohol consumption. The dean's apparent belief that Prank is "just another monster party" is far removed from experience. The point of Prank is to provide an invaluable break from the rigid formality of the St John's routine; the secrecy enshrouding its date and theme ensure its spontaneity at a time of the year when the Program is at its most overwhelming. Most of all, Prank is *fun*, which has nothing to do with drinking and everything to do with eliminating second-semester tension. The weekend banquet hosted by the seniors that Mr Carey envisions as an alternative is none of these things.

The response of the student body to the news was uniform. While not a single student doubted Mr Carey's good intentions, there was a widespread belief that banning Prank bordered on sacrilege. Most students I asked expressed similar ideas: "Is Prank Mr Carey's to take from us?" "Does he really think he's going to stop us drinking by taking away something that keeps us from going nuts?" "I don't see the point . . . St John's isn't what I'd call a big party school" and perhaps the most common criticism: "Prank is a St John's tradition . . . if it's banned, what's next? Reality?" Many students were concerned that this was just the latest in a series of administrative actions to reinstate the long-dead *in loco parentis* doctrine. As one junior remarked, "Hell, my parents were more lenient to me when I was in high school, and they're not what I'd call liberal." Others objected to what they saw as the attempted imposition of a staid and imaginary St John's ideal of being undistracted from the great books.

April 19, 91



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Please send your submissions to *The Moon* via campus mail, over the weekend, or drop by in person to ESL 115. They must be typed or on disk.

LETTERS
CONTINUED

IT HAPPENED HERE

Sinclair Lewis wrote a novel in 1935 entitled *It Can't Happen Here*. Set in the 1930's when fascism was on the rise in Europe, was about how America, thinking it was immune to fascism, became a fascist state: a "what if..." fairy-tale by today's standards.

I thought of that book Friday morning, April 12th, when I entered the game room of Upper Commons. Funny how some people will react (or overreact) to an image. On the floor of the game room, someone had scattered the burned pages of a book. I found the cover. It used to be a copy of Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, a Penguin paperback costing four or five dollars. Someone had paid money for the book. It was their property. They could do anything they wanted to do with it... right?

So what was I getting pissed off for?

I'll go out on a limb and assume that it was a senior who burned the book, seeing that Thursday night ended the seminars on Nietzsche. If the person who burned the book was not a senior, then I offer my apologies to the senior class. Either way, is it due to the fact that I am a freshman, and haven't read *Zarathustra* in seminar, that I'm missing out on something here? Does this place compel someone— for whatever reason—to take a book, burn it, and then scatter the remains in a public area?

Perhaps I'm overreacting. Perhaps I've read *Fahrenheit 451* one too many times. Perhaps I take Heinrich Heine's quotation

"Where books are burned, human beings will be burned too," more seriously than other people do.

I'm not going to launch into a long sermon on "Why burning books disturbs me and why it should disturb you too, etc". I'd just like to know why the book was burned. I'd like the person who burned the book to send me a short anonymous note telling me why they did it. I'd like them to tell me why I shouldn't be disturbed by this action.

Naively enough, I thought this kind of thing couldn't happen here. I was wrong.

Wallace Witkowski '94

Mots Apropos

Freshmen

But as for plunging in deeper, or gnawing my nails over the study of Aristotle... I have never done it.

—Montaigne

Sophomores

I am, therefore I think.

—Bernard Shaw

I ought, therefore I can.

—I. Kant

I think I think, therefore I think I am.

— Ambrose Bierce

Juniors

He was the most absent man in company that I ever saw— moving his lips and talking to himself, and smiling in the midst of large companies. If you awakened him from his reverie, and made him attend to the subject of the conversation, he immediately began a harangue, and never stopped till he told you all he knew about it.

—Alexander Carlyle on Adam Smith

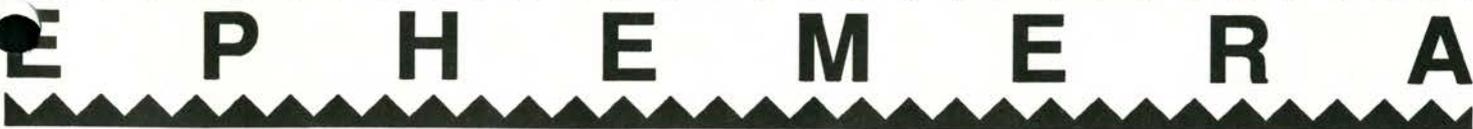
Seniors

Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?

—Ernest Hemingway

**WANT TO SEE YOUR FAVORITE
MOVIE ON THE BIG SCREEN NEXT YEAR?
FILM CATALOGS ARE ON RESERVE IN THE
LIBRARY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE
SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S FILM
SOCIETY PROGRAM PLEASE FILL OUT
THE SUGGESTION FORMS AND PUT THEM
IN THE FILM SOCIETY BOX (BOTH LO-
CATED AT THE LIBRARY CHECK-OUT
DESK).**



E P H E M E R A


Friday, April 19

Great Hall, 8:00 pm Sequentia Concert: Ensemble for Medieval Music (Cologne) The Singer of Tales

Saturday, April 20

Great Hall, 7:00 and 9:15 pm Films in the Great Hall. Battle of the Sexes, The Lavender Hill Mob.

Sunday, April 21

Junior Common Room, 11:30 pm Women's Literature study group

Private Dining Room, 4:00 pm Student Polity Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 23

Thorpe room, 5:00 pm Vespers

Junior Common Room, 8:00 pm Charles Bell's Symbolic History. A Review of Period Styles:
Phases of Western Incarnation

Wednesday, April 24

Lecture: Alvy Ray Smith. Co-founder and Executive Vice President, PIXAR, San Rafael, California.
Computer Graphics, Personal Computers and Complexity.

Seniors whose art packets did not include Giotto's Kiss of Judas may obtain a copy for their packets at the Library. Those who wish for a more complete copy of the Botticelli may get one for their packets also. These must both be returned with the packets at the year's end.

Collegium will be May 7, all members of the Community interested should contact William Edelglass through campus mail.

Residents on Duty: April 19-21: The Starrs 988-7316 Erator. April 22-25: Beinder-Houser 983-1457 Paine House

Friday, April 26th, The Laurentian String Quartet will perform. Haydn Quartet, Op. 20, #4; Beethoven Quartet, Op. 18, #4; Brahms Quintet with Peter Pesic, pianist, Op. 34.



STORAGE LOCKERS

Please empty ALL STORAGE CAGES in the lower storage area during the week of April 29, 1991 through Friday May 3, 1991. Items remaining in storage cages on Monday May 6th will be discarded. Locks left on full or empty cages will be cut off.

Mrs. Vigil will be in lowers to reassign storage cages from 4 pm to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 10th.

Seventy-six 3'x4' storage cages are available; one per student. Students must bring their own locks when signing up. Do not store items for students who are not coming back. This is the only storage space available on campus. It will not be opened during the summer. If you are planning on storing your things in a commercial unit off campus, CALL EARLY.

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Special note for January Freshmen: Do not make yourself responsible for anyone else's things. The only room available for J.F. storage will be ESL 22. See Mrs. Vigil at the B&G office when your storage items are ready. Please box your belongings and clearly mark them with your name. There will be a \$50 fine for anyone storing things for others.



S.A.T.B.

—If your voice falls within any of these ranges (or any other, for that matter) you are encouraged to sing with the choir at the **BACCALAUREATE SERVICE** (part of the CONVOCATION celebrations on Sunday, May 19th).

—Interested? Choir rehearsals will take place every Tuesday, 4-5 pm in FAB 206.

— All members of the College are invited to take part in this musical offering. See Mr. Kirby (ESL 101) for further details.

OPENINGS FOR STUDENT GUIDES

The Admissions Office has openings for student guide positions for the 1991-92 school year. If you are interested in a campus job that is both rewarding and challenging, pick up an application in the admissions office. Interviews will be held the second week of May and positions will be filled before school ends. If you have any questions, contact Susan Svetich or stop by admissions.

PRANK SANK

To: The College Community
Re: The cancellation of Senior Prank

What is this bullshit? Is this a college or a fascist regime? They are not even being subtle about it. Next thing you know, the incoming freshmen will have to have their student ID numbers tattooed on their foreheads, and everyone will have to pass not only the French Test and the Algebra Test, but a drug test as well, before coming back for the following semester.

Any thinking individual must consider this latest decision of the Administration to be ludicrous. Senior Prank is more than a party; it is a long-standing tradition, sanctified by memory, hallowed by the customs and inclinations of the student body, and ratified by the will of the people. Why cancel it?

What is the reasoning behind this decision? It is hard to get a straight answer. First, we have been told that it is largely due to the faculty concern about parties interfering with classes. Secondly, we have been told that there have been too many liberties taken by the students with regards to illegal consumption of alcohol this year. Incidents at Lola's were cited. It has even been pointed out that the new alcohol policy expressly states that parties will not be allowed on school nights, and therefore the decision to cancel Prank was made a long time ago. Bullshit.

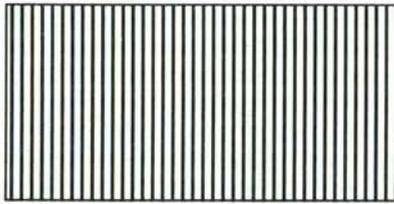
The first charge, that of Prank interfering with classes, is not at all a valid reason to cancel it, and can hardly even be considered a good excuse. Prank has been happening for a long time. I doubt that anyone who has graduated from St. John's has felt a great lack in his education resulting from having missed one day of classes, and I doubt that anyone has ever dropped out of school for that reason either. If the tutors are the ones who find this one day of classes to be so important, why don't they change the academic calendar so as to make up for this time being missed?

Secondly, in response to the alcohol policy, it should be pointed out that cancelling Prank seems more like a petty punishment than a valid method of protecting the college's legal interests. But it is more than a slap on the wrist; it is a slap on the face of that vast majority of students

who drink responsibly. This "solution" accomplishes little towards solving the potential problem of alcohol-related incidents; rather, it worsens the problem already existing: the problem of increasing distance between the students and the administration.

An administration (or faculty) which does not have respect for the students does not deserve respect. If the administration had any interest, or any insight, into the needs and desires of the students, they would not cancel Prank. I urge the administration to reconsider this decision.

Chuck Cohen, senior



To the College Community:

The Senior class wishes to express its sadness and anger over the administration's most recent crack-down on parties and social gatherings on campus. This year sees the end of a tradition which has always come as a much needed release from the hell of second semester. We are displeased with the administration's decision to group senior prank with the many other parties that are thrown on campus. Senior prank is one of the few occasions we are able to laugh at ourselves and the program. Prank serves as an opportunity for the seniors to throw a final party and to say farewell to the school. The Class of '91 hopes that next year's Senior class will have better luck with the administration regarding this matter.

**Eric Selekman
Heather Miller
Shani Leonards
Joshua Isaac
John Carle
Amanda Fuller
Steve Zell**

I applaud Dean Carey's courageous decision to cancel senior prank. Many may lament the loss of prank, which has passed into a St. John's "tradition". But Prank is a tradition which has lost its meaning, hence it has become a ritual. Prank, as the name implies, was originally a surprise of a humorous nature. Past pranks consisted of running pirate flags up the flagpole, attacking seminar with water balloons and similar frivolities.

But in recent years prank has devolved into a predictable and unsurprising patterns which begins with the interruption of seminar, followed by a long, dull and unedifying parody of the Great Books, and culminates in widespread besottedness, rapine and vandalism. The whole affair resembles a gang of Liverpool football hooligans given an incomplete education.

Why should we continue to subject ourselves to this time-wearied escapade? Dean Carey has magnanimously offered us an alternative: An evening banquet with students and tutors catered by Marriott. (Those of who have sampled Thomas fine food will not want to miss this!) I understand that it might even include wine and a keg of beer for those who are of age. Surely this will be an event where tutors and students can get to know each other, and I hope that it will become a tradition we can all enjoy. At the very least it will be a pleasant alternative to typical senior prank bestiality.

We students have demonstrated a disappointing lack of self-control (one only had to witness what happened at Lola's to see the truth in that!), so we should welcome this exercise of authority. It will tend to make us better and more moderate students.

Here is a quotation from Aristotle, that ancient champion of moderation, which establishes my point conclusively:

"The lover of amusement, too, is thought to be self indulgent, but is really soft. For amusement is a relaxation, since it is a rest from work; and the lover of amusement is one of the people who go to excess in this."

Nicomachean Ethics, bk VII, ch 7

Let us not go to excess in amusement. Let us not go soft. Rather, let us be firm.

**Yours Truly,
Elliott Tulloch**



POLITY MINUTES

OFFICERS Chair: Matt Kelty Vice Chair: Aaron Mason Treasurer: Greg Brown Secretary: Julia Goldberg **VOTING/CLASS REPS**
Lila Kerns (JR) Chuck Cohen (SR) Raoul Slavin (JF) Matt DeMattei Don Labenski Michelle Griest (JR) Steve Bloom Amy
Wuebbels (FR) Simon Bone
HERE Ron Scrogam Mary Welliver Maura Donnely Corbett Riner Taeko Onishi Josh Draper Keri Lamphere Eric Olsson Don
Cook

First of all, I tell the 22 people in the room that MIKE TAYLOR is still interested in buying our old amp (the one we're replacing for the FET 1000), but seeing as how we blew it up, he would like it if we got an estimate on it, to see how much it will cost to fix it.

Then Matt Kelty would like the \$500 budgeted for theatre. Specifically for Agnes of God, his next production, and for some things to be used forever in the Great Hall. For Agnes, the major expense will be renting habits. I suggest mugging nuns as an expense-saving alternative. It's not funny, I know. We give a unanimous vote. (on the \$500, not the nun-mugging).

The HIV people need \$100 to pay off condoms. Greg's grandma is broke for supplying condoms for the whole school. So think about that the next time you

Earth Day, next on the agenda, and also in Greg's domain. (I see, at the very least, a nature theme) Greg, Siofra, and Eric Selekmann want to plant flowers. Some money considerations. We ask him to check with the Campus planning people and the treasurer office. It is possible we could buy flowers with money left over from buying the benches. Everyone would be welcome to plant.

Josh Draper would like money for Fast Eddie's "Pool tournament." The money of which will benefit either Prank or Reality, he says. The total amount needed is \$150, which will go to some new sticks, light beams, food, non-alcoholic drinks and decorations. We vote 11 in favor, 2 abstaining.

The Student Political Coalition is here about something that I didn't write down, I think they read us their charter. No, I know they read us their charter. But, it doesn't matter, since they never picked up their check for their party anyway. I mean, it does matter, it's very considerate, but it's not necessary, since they never picked up their check.

Mr. Eric Olsson is here to get \$1,000 for this big banquet we seniors are now throwing since we can't throw Prank. A conversation seems to want to exist about this matter, but since all Eric is here for is the money, he would rather not discuss it. We vote 12 in favor, 1 abstaining to give the seniors money to cook dinner for everyone.

Next the S.I.C. is here to discuss amending their Charter with respect to the membership requirements, which are unrealistic. (Having a certain amount of reps from each class.) They operate now on a come if you like basis, which works fine. Ms. Griest suggests they come back with a clarification of exactly what they want. Mr. Bloom brings up some issues concerning what the S.I.C. is actually doing, such as having a guerilla seminar on The White Album, but Mary Welliver suggests that it would be more appropriate to discuss that in their meeting, rather than ours. We unanimously vote to table this discussion.

AV group is next. Don Labenski proposes his short term plan be put into effect. A list of authorized uses and a clamp down consisting of a \$50 fine for non-users using equipment and damage due to negligence being paid for by the negligent one. A brief conversation about whether or not we have the right to impose fines. How do we determine negligence? Spilling a coke into the equipment is negligent. This needs to be in effect before Reality, we say.

Matt says, again, suggestions about Freshmen Orientation should be directed towards Larry Clendenin or himself.

The once-loved, and almost forgotten idea of Liasons is here again. Should we discuss it next week and get it going before school ends, or start it next year. We vote 11 in favor to start it this year, 1 abstaining, and myself opposed, because after all, if we started it next year I wouldn't have to worry about it. Well, until next week...j.g.

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