

"I was attached to this city by the god—though it seems a ridiculous thing to say—as upon a great and noble horse which was somewhat sluggish because of its size and needed to be stirred up by a kind of gadfly. It is to fulfill some such function that I believe the god has placed me in the city. I never cease to rouse each and every one of you, to persuade and reproach you all day long and everywhere I find myself in your company."

- Plato, *Apology*

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER
OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

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Founded in 1980, the *Gadfly* is the student newsmagazine distributed to over 600 students, faculty, and staff of the Annapolis campus.

Opinions expressed within are the sole responsibility of the author(s). The *Gadfly* reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit submissions in any way necessary to publish a professional, informative, and thought-provoking newsmagazine.

The next *Gadfly* meeting will take place Sunday, Aug 31, at 7 PM in Room 109 on the first lower level of the Barr-Buchanan Center.

Articles should be submitted by Friday, Sep 5, at 11:59 PM to sjca.gadfly@gmail.com.

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From the Editors:

Welcome, Johnnies, to the first issue of the new year! We're excited to be taking over the reigns for the *Gadfly*, and we expect that the flow of inspiration and insight will continue to bite at the flank of the Polity, egging it ever onward to glorious wisdom. We'd like to invite all members of the community—students, staff, faculty, and alumni—to contribute these pages.

This issue focuses on those new to our community. We hope the words for newcomers will not only serve those who have just arrived, but every Johnnie-in-development. Best wishes in the coming year.

From the President:

Christopher Nelson A'70

Dear Freshmen,

I took great joy in welcoming you to St. John's last week. And what a glorious gift of song from our returning students! The energy and enthusiasm in the room were palpable, and I hope they carried forward into your first classes.

I still remember my first days as a freshman in Annapolis (nearly 50 years ago!!) I remember the friends I made in my first core group, with whom I still visit or correspond. We studied together a lot that year, practicing our Euclidian propositions together on community black boards and testing outrageous translations of Greek fragments. I imagine that many of you will be doing the same. Our community of learning flourishes because of the enthusiasm of our students, their desire to know, and their commitment to talking with one another, sharing their ideas, seeking help from their fellow students, knowing that this sharing and seeking will be returned over and over again.

Of course, it helps encourage such conversation to have good subjects to talk about, and of those we have no lack at St. John's. There are the books, of course. There too are the protagonists we meet in many of them, those who move the spirit to imitate or reject them as good or bad examples of human character and behavior. And then there are the endless questions, the ones we come back to over and over in each new reading: What does it mean to be human? What kind of world am I living in? What is my place in it, and how can I contribute something to it that is worthy of my humanity? In short, how should I live the one life that I have?

The good news is that you have the time here to reflect on these questions before acting on them, and this is important. It takes time to get to know yourself well enough to know what will feed the soul that belongs to you and you alone. And often it will be your friends who know you better than you know yourself, who can take you outside yourself to help you look in and discover the big mystery that is you.

All this is a way of saying that we are an intentional community designed to encourage learning, perhaps most particularly self-learning. And we rely on each of our community members to maintain and support that learning. I speak of our tutors, of course, but also of our staff, who are here to provide the services that support your principle undertaking. Then there are your fellow students, including the sophomores, juniors and seniors who have all read the same books that you will be reading and who have struggled with the same questions you will be asking. And finally, there are all those invisible souls among our alumni and friends, governors and donors, who care enough about your learning that they give what they can to help us realize most of our hopes for this community and to help you realize the dreams you will be shaping while you are here.

We invite you to share in the spirit of community, to undertake the friendships that will support you in your time here, to allow yourselves the pleasure and release of the club activities that call to you (leaving time for your studies too!), and to provide your own kind of nourishment to this community with the special gifts that are yours to give.

Welcome to St. John's College! We look forward to having you with us for the next four year and for a lifetime thereafter.

Sincerely Yours,
Christopher B. Nelson
President

From Career Services:

The Career Services Office would like to let you know that we are here to assist you with your career-related questions. Our office is happy to help you explore your interests and options, learn about different careers, find ways to get practical experience, and conduct a successful job search. As Freshmen we know your biggest job is adapting to life at St. John's, so remember that when you're ready to begin exploring your many options for the future—we're here to help. You can find us in Pinkney on the 1st floor.

Here are a few of the things we offer that you might consider this year: personal appointments, part-time jobs board, monthly newsletters that are delivered to your campus e-mail box, announcements for forums with visiting alumni and organizations, and our Hodson Internship Information forum in October. We look forward to meeting you soon!

Standing Out During Freshman Year

Sebastian Barajas A'17



Photo from: zanacco.com

At the beginning of my freshman year at St. John's, an upper-classman gave us this advice: "Don't be the guy/girl who..."

The end of this sentence can be filled by a near infinite number of different horrible things. For example,

Don't be the guy/girl who...

... threw up on his/her Seminar tutor.

... peed in the pendulum pit.

... accused his/her Seminar tutor of being complicit with the Nazis.

... threw up in the pendulum pit.

... lit his/her Seminar tutor on fire.

And so on.

The advice is good as far as it goes; these certainly should not be anyone's aspirations. However, I think most incoming freshmen are probably more in danger of the opposite: of not being "the guy/girl who" anything—not even "the guy/girl who is amazingly good at Greek."

That's not to say that standing out should mean that all your uniqueness is reducible to a single sentence. There is still a certain pathetic quality in titles like, "the guy with the polka-dotted dreadlocks," or "the girl who only wears David Bowie outfits." Not that either polka-dotted dreadlocks or David Bowie fashion is inherently ridiculous, but to have them constitute one's identity would be unfortunate.

There is a definite art to standing out in the right ways, especially during freshman year. I would say the biggest failures in that art come from the following myths:

Myth 1: It's worthwhile to stand out for its own sake. Dressing like David Bowie just to be noticed may accomplish its goal, but it won't make people respect you. Personally, I would respect someone who dressed like David Bowie if the song *Fashion* were the soundtrack of his/her life, and any other clothes felt soul-destroyingly dull.

Myth 2: There's something wrong with you if you don't stand out. True uniqueness is usually harder to see than dreadlocks or David Bowie clothes. If people don't see your uniqueness, then it's most likely because they haven't looked too closely at you. If you can't get someone to look closely at you, then your mom was right: they're not worth bothering with.

Myth 3: There is something wrong with you if you stand out for the wrong reasons. Granted, if you throw up on your Seminar tutor in the first week of class, you should probably examine why this happened, and—if possible—try to prevent it happening again. But even if you never completely live it down, keep in mind that the pages of history are full of great men and women throwing up on one another, and the world has carried on just the same.

Realize that the Johnnie Bubble tends to amplify gossip to the point where you think your history of freshman peccadillos is etched on your forehead permanently. And while it's true that a few obnoxious or spiteful people might gossip about your scandals for a while, most of the school doesn't care nearly as much or as long as you think they do. They have their own problems.

Few, if any, people ever walk the perfect path in life, and especially not as college freshmen. Things will go wrong and explode in your face. People will throw up and be thrown up on. Homework may not get done on time.

It's much more worthwhile to focus on the valuable moments: midnight conversations about Aristotle, rainy afternoons under the McDowell awning, classes where you stop believing in reality for a few minutes and then find it again.

The advice I got as a freshman wasn't wrong, just inverted. I say, focus on what you want to be and to do, rather than what you don't. Find creative new ways to end the sentence "I'm glad to be the guy/girl who..."

For example:

I'm glad to be the guy/girl who...

... saved the pendulum pit from the indignity of being peed on.

... learned to waltz.

... started the first yodeling club at St. John's.

... made vomit and fire proof ponchos for his/her seminar tutors.

... was able to coherently explain Parmenides to his/her Seminar.

... singlehandedly beat the entire Naval Academy team at croquet.

The field is wide open, fellow Johnnies. ♦

The Sacred Temple

Jason Yarber A'17

I know that feeling. You've had it your entire life. Perhaps it's so pervasive that you don't even know it's there, but it is. It's the feeling of spiritual emptiness that comes from not being swole as hell. But fret not, ladies and gentlemen—St. John's has a solution for your body that will ease the suffering in your soul.

Come to the temple. Temple Iglehart.

At Temple Iglehart (officially: Iglehart Hall) you will kneel at the altar of the bench press. You will clasp dumbbells in your hands and raise them in praise. You will soar above the basketball court like Hermes as you traverse the elevated and slightly scary track. While all the college seeks to build your mind, only The Temple seeks to build your body, and should you be willing to undergo the task of working out a couple days a week, it will fulfill its sacred and eternal promise to cut fat away and stack lean muscle onto your physique until you are a force worthy of the Gods!!

The gym also has a ping pong table.

So if you're like me, and you thirst for the adrenaline of good exercise or just a good game of soccer or basketball (or ping pong), Iglehart Hall is a good place to start. ♦

Good Eats in Annapolis

Emily Grazier A'16

Dear Freshmen,

As much as we all love our dining hall, at times one desires a bit of a change. Also, in case you haven't heard, it's important to support the local economy—and there's no better way to do so than food (at least, that's one of my favorite lines for condoning all my food purchases). So, here's my top picks of places to snag something tasty in Annapolis:

For Ice cream:

Don't be fooled. Kilwin's will try to woo you, but their ice cream is vastly inferior to the new **Firenze's Gelato** in the Market House. Scrumptious, creamy gelato, made with local milk in unusual flavors—try the lucuma. It's made with a tropical fruit that tastes something like butterscotch. The only downside is that the shop is rather pricey for small servings. If you're after more of a bargain, check out the **Annapolis Ice Cream Company**. They make all their own ice cream on the premises, have tons of flavors, and are open late. They also have an unusually large amount of flavors with oreos, so if you're enamored of the little sandwich cookie this place has the perfect ice cream for you.

Market House: 25 Market St

Annapolis Ice Cream Company: 196 Main St

For Coffee:

I beg of you, please, please, please do not go to either City Dock or Hardbean. Unfortunately, I did not figure this out my freshman year, and wasted time, money, and tastebuds on some truly wretched beverages. Just a hop, skip, and a jump away from campus sits the **Annapolis Bookstore**, which serves both a quirky collection of books (including a section devoted to program works) and some very tasty coffee and espresso shots.

49 West also has good espresso, and an excellent and decadent mocha—as well as being a popular Johnnie brunch spot.

Annapolis Bookstore: 35 Maryland Ave

For Bread:

Even if you're not as bread-obsessed as I, **Bakers & Co.** is worth the moderately long walk into Eastport. When I walked by the first time and saw someone sitting outside waiting for it to open, I figured whatever the shop served had to be delicious. An accurate supposition. I don't think I've had anything I don't like from them. Fantastic pastries, including scones with seasonally changing flavors, scrumptious croissants, and slightly tangy, chewy natural-levain loaves—which are best eaten immediately after purchasing, ripping off large hunks while seeds and cornmeal fly everywhere. Oh, and they serve great coffee. **The Great Harvest Bread Company**, in the opposite direction from campus, bakes bread in a completely different style—earthy, more home-baked loaves, but equally delicious.

Great Harvest Bread Company: 208 Ridgely Ave

Bakers & Co: 618 Chesapeake Ave

Dining Out:

Lemongrass, the faux-Thai restaurant up on West Street, is always a good dinner pick, and moderately priced. Their drunken noodles are particularly tasty. But if you have the energy to walk up to Lemongrass, muster up a bit more for the few extra blocks to **India's**. From chai to tandoor-baked breads, to main dishes (with a healthy dose of vegetarian options) and fantastic desserts (go for the halwah. Yes, it's a dessert made with carrots. And yes, it's delicious), India's has an extensive menu and good service. At the opposite end of the spectrum is **Sofi's Crepes**, a bit closer to campus and an ever-popular Johnnie pick, with quite the lineup of sweet and savory crepes. My favorite is the BATS, their take on a California BLT. Plenty of bacon and avocado stuffed into a tender crepe.

Lemongrass: 167 West St

India's: 257 West St

Sofi's Crepes: 1 Craig St

Miscellaneous:

I also have to make a pitch for the **farmer's market**, down by the docks on Sundays at nine-to-noon until November. Fantastic local milk, yogurts, and butter; apples; breads and pastries; cheeses; fresh veggies; meats; and seafood. And of course, friendly farmers. If you're buying produce at Whole Foods, switch to this venue within walking distance and with equal or lower prices.

Farmer's Market: Donnor parking lot, Compromise St

Now get out there and eat something! Heaven knows you'll need it—after all, Plato will be looming on seminar's horizon before you know it. ♦

Annual Sail Picnic

Join Annapolis Skippers on a joy ride of the Chesapeake Bay!

No previous sailing experience required with a chance to ride either a sailboat or powerboat.



On Saturday, September 20, at 10:00 AM

Meet at the foot of Prince George St. at the Annapolis City Dock.

Box lunches will be provided by Bon Appetit and charged to your meal plan.

Please dress appropriately rain or shine: tennis shoes, jacket/sweater

Registration is required by September 8

RSVP to Anna.Perry@sjc.edu

It's Just Around the Corner!

Sebastian Abella A'15

It's no surprise to hear that a Johnnie is going into teaching. It's in the very nature of the school to place great emphasis in learning and what is actually taking place in the classroom, both as a personal sentiment and as a matter of public policy. It's these thoughts that have often motivated students to attend St. John's, and for a significant number of them, to go into teaching afterwards. Some of the incoming freshman may already have these considerations. Others may feel uneasy even thinking about doing such a thing. "I came to St. John's to escape the traditional education system," they may think to themselves.

Johnnies are in a unique position to think deeply about the act of learning and the role of education in their lives and in others'. Freshman year is ripe with readings that raise questions concerning the nature of knowledge, the purpose of education for society, among many other similarly formulated questions. It's a curious feature of philosophy that requires thinking about the pursuit itself. As similar as one could ask "What is philosophy?" one could consider "What is education or learning?"

But Johnnies are in another very unique position. It's easy to voluntarily trap yourself into the "Johnnie Bubble." If you don't know what that is yet, just ask someone to your left. It's fine to do so for a bit—I'd even argue it's a part of what makes this sort of education work—but if you're serious about pursuing the questions concerning the nature and purpose of education, you ought to get off campus, because there are many opportunities a walking distance from the campus to learn just that.

To highlight a few, there is West Annapolis Elementary, which has an after school tutoring opportunities and work study positions available every semester. It is across the bridge over College Creek by back campus and on a scenic road.

There is the After School Homework Club in the Stanton Center from Monday to Thursday that begins every year around mid-September through the end of the academic year, where children from several local schools to seek help with basic math and reading skills.

And there is the Bloomsbury Square Community Center, where every Tuesday afternoon Midshipmen and Johnnies can be found offering their tutoring services.

I can personally attest to how welcoming these places are and how grateful they are to have the help. And the children really respond to having young college students spend time with them. To have so many opportunities closer to campus than Main Street is an opportunity I urge anyone with any interest to take advantage of. From my experience, the reality is that it gets difficult to make it a habit to continue attending. I worked at West Annapolis my Sophomore year and thought it was a wonderful learning environment, it was difficult to balance my own classes with a morning work schedule. The Program can be taxing. In addition to extra curriculars, work, and having a social life, taking up another responsibility, a volunteer one no less may appear out of the question.

So what I want to urge anyone interested is to make a modest commitment. Heck, even if you're not interested, go just once with an open mind. Tutor somewhere once a week. Bring a friend. I know how tempting an after class nap can be, but it is literally one hour out of your week. And I promise that if it's something you'd enjoy, you'll never regret having gone. This is a time to interact with the community in a meaningful way and apply your St. John's education. You'll learn what works, what doesn't. How different kids respond to different teaching approaches is an invaluable experience. Don't worry about the subject matter. I worried and then realized that I knew basic math and reading. So do you. Don't be shy if you have to miss it on occasion because the staffs running these programs are flexible and understanding. You may even find out that it's not the thing for you, but at least you've exposed yourself to a new experience and hopefully have a more informed respect for what teachers do. That is a part of the St. John's experience, to expand one's horizons and have the confidence to try something new. ♦

“Johnnies are in a unique position to think deeply about the act of learning and the role of education in their lives and in others’.”

Introducing the Senior Residents!



T.J. Thigpen

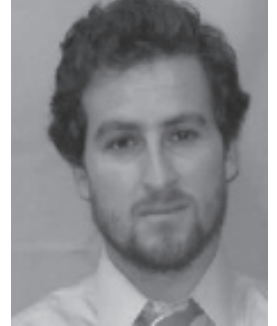
Senior Resident for Outdoor Activities

Hi! My name is T.J. Thigpen, and I am pleased to serve St. John's as a Senior Resident and Director of Outdoor Activities. Before moving Annapolis for the Graduate Institute, I spent time living in Gainesville, GA; Smolensk, Russia; Columbia, SC; and Taipei, Taiwan. In all of those places, I have enjoyed being outdoors, and I hope you will join me on one of our excursions this year. Along with my wife Shuey and our new son Owen, I live above the Harrison Health Center. We look forward to getting to know you all better!

Enrique Pallares

Senior Resident for Special Events

My name is Enrique Pallares and I am the Senior Resident for Special Events. I am from Quito, Ecuador and live with wife, Laura, in Spector Hall. I am a PhD student of Political Philosophy and a Teaching Assistant at The Catholic University of America in DC. In addition to being on call with the other Senior Residents, I will be organizing some events and parties throughout the year and look forward to seeing you there! Please always feel free to stop by or reach out if you want to talk about ideas, play fútbol or music.



Brady Lee

Senior Resident for International Student Services

My name is Brady Lee and I live in Gilliam Hall with my wife Lynn. We are expecting our first child, a daughter, in November. Last spring I completed the St. John's graduate program, including Greek and badminton. I will be organizing International Student Services events and potlucks, but even if you're American please feel free to stop by and share our lovely view of College Creek. Welcome to St. John's College!

Katie Matlack

Senior Resident

Hi! I'm Katie Matlack. I live in the Health Center Apartment B with my husband Samuel and new daughter Naomi, born in May! I've been a Senior Resident since 2010, and my duties include taking groups of students out to fun events off campus to get a break from the Bubble now and then. I grew up in a small town outside of Eugene, Oregon, and I lived in Okinawa, Japan with my grandmother's family for two and a half years before I moved to Annapolis and got married. I do miss the West Coast, with its evergreen trees, high mountains, and dry summers, but Annapolis feels more and more like home each year.



Frannie Johnson

Senior Resident for Canine Companionship

My name is Frannie Johnson and I am senior resident of dog duties and residing in the Campbell apartment. When not out enjoying Annapolis with Cadie, I am either studying for a nursing exam or cooking up something savory in the kitchen. You may see her in yoga or sitting out by the water. Please reach out or come by and say hello anytime- our door is across from the FSK auditorium.

Wednesday Night Seminar Questions?

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to have Aristophanes as your Seminar tutor? Instead of getting to poke merciless fun at only a few readings (Republic, Bacchae, Poetics, etc.) you would get to poke merciless fun all year!

But let's face it: a reincarnated Aristophanes would probably not be offered a teaching position at St. John's, no matter how good his Greek was. So it's up to us (you and me, polity) to keep a satirical perspective alive all year. And what night more fitting for an unofficial Aristophanes seminar than Wednesday night New Year's?



Starting this year, every issue (or whenever possible) the Gadfly will publish a Wednesday Night Seminar Question in the spirit of Aristophanes. These can be taken seriously, or not, as you prefer. Feel free to send us a question for the next issue, or a short answer to a question from a previous issue!

Keeping levity alive,
-The Gadfly Team

Q: If the Trojans had a cloning machine, would they make another Helen, or would they just make 1000 Hectors to send at the Greeks? ♦

A Letter of Advice

Jessica Benya A'17

Dear Freshmen,

I went around to multiple members of the polity to asking, "what would be the best advice you could give to the freshmen?" I've heard to take everything that anyone says with a grain of salt. That's something most people learned rather early on, some in more harsh circumstances than others. Check your sources. The freshmen winter is incredibly hard. Everyone who lived in the same dorms magically became much closer in the winter. A few close friends are better than a bunch of acquaintances. Saying that, I do not mean to find a few close friends and exclude yourself from the world. Try to reach out to meet new people as well, but finding that friend group of close friends that can support you will help. Friends change, especially in the first year. That's not a bad thing.

Everyone is coming from different places around the world. Maintain friendships that would be healthy for yourself to maintain, be there if someone needs you, but do not be taken advantage of. Reach out to not only your class, but the other three. It's a small campus, don't feel confined to people who are in your year. And etcetera. So many great pieces of advice that all came from one thing: experience. Everyone I talked to found out those gems somehow. Some of the best advice I would offer would be to have no regrets. Not to go off the deep end, but being able to go to your next year and gather from what happened in the previous year. It's all a learning experience. Stick to your morals and people here will learn to respect them. Keep an open mind, and you should be fine. ♦

How Not To Be A Moron (Like Me)

Jonathan Gordon A'17

Advice to freshman: "It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick."

I once went to a doctor convinced I had strep throat. I'm not sure why I went. If she had said I had strep, I was right all along. When my doctor said I didn't, I didn't believe her. In retrospect, although I was convinced of my diagnosis, some part of me recognized that I had no medical training, and should probably have listened to her.

I once went to a college convinced I was educated. I'm not sure why I went. If my college had said I was educated, I was right all along. When she said I wasn't, I didn't believe her. In retrospect, although I was convinced of my education, some part of me recognized that I went to college for a reason, and should probably have listened to her.

See, your admissions essays probably read something like mine: "Dear St. Johns, I've achieved these grades, accomplished those things, and mastered these books; won't you let me in?" Today, I regret those words. I regret trying to convince the college dedicated to educating me, that I was already educated. I wish I had come to St. Johns not to heal, but to be healed; not to educate, but to be educated.

I came to St. Johns thinking that I understood what it meant to be educated. I went to my first seminar with my own opening question. I assumed that I would astound my tutors, and lead my class into a new understanding of the Iliad. I guessed that St. Johns would teach me something—just don't ask me what exactly "something" was. I now begin to see how learning happens.

I didn't learn much in my first seminars. I couldn't listen to people except to disprove them. Since I wasn't willing to be wrong, I regularly learned that I was right. When you're always right, you begin to wonder why you bother with seminar.

Early in the year, one of my tutors changed my perspective. She told me that she learned the most when rather than arguing with people, she worked to see their point from the text. This tutor showed me what she meant over the year. Whenever she spoke, she assumed that the other person had a good point to make. When I argued truly idiotic ideas, she ended her rebuttal with "Mr. Gordon, I'm just not sure I'm understanding you." My advice to you, freshmen, is to imitate her in learning from others.

When I started listening to other people, I began to see new perspectives on the text, and suddenly I began to interact with strange, beautiful ideas. I would leave seminar in happy confusion, wondering about the new perspectives on the text I had seen. I'd talk to the tutors about their opinions on the text, just for the delight of seeing the text put together as a whole.

They don't put me or you in a seminar to teach your classmates, but to learn from them. Come to seminar not to enlighten your peers on the correct interpretation of the Iliad, but to really understand the Iliad, by listening to your peers. If you leave seminar convinced that you were right, what have you learned? But if you leave seminar understanding how wrong you were, you will have stumbled upon new truth.

Don't neglect your own ideas. Do your seminar readings twice so that you have better ideas about the text. Do two drafts of your papers so that you grow better in expressing your ideas. Rather, stop looking at seminar as a battle of who's right. See the text from each other's perspective, so that you both can see more of the text. If you must take pride in something, take pride in being wrong, because when you're wrong, you have learned. Being educated is not being always right: it is being eager to listen and be wrong.

Freshmen, join me in being hopelessly wrong. Join me in considering the ideas of others. Join me in the journey of learning together. It is not the educated that need education; it is us. ♦

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 8/27

Frisbee

Hustlers vs. Druids

Guardians vs. Spartans

St. John's Chorus,

McDowell Great Hall

7 PM

Friday 8/29

Kunai Soccer

4 PM

All College Seminar

McDowell Great Hall

8:00 PM

Saturday 8/30

Frisbee

Spartans vs. Greenwaves

Guardians vs. Hustlers

S&C,

Great Hall

10 PM

Sunday 8/31

Soccer

Hustlers vs. Druids

Greenwaves vs. Spartans

If you would like to see your event on the weekly schedule, please email sjca.gadfly@gmail.com.



Freshman Bodies, Freshman Souls

This reprinted article first appeared in the Gadfly on September 2, 1982, and appears annually in our first issue. Without a doubt our athletic director, Mr. McQuarrie, is willing to stand in for the first person voice used in this article—and to answer any questions about our athletic program. -Ed.

Bryce Jacobsen A'42

The reasons, both physical and metaphysical, why everyone ought to join in our sports program are many. I list a few:

1. We have the best athletic program of any college in the country.
2. Exercise is good for the body...unless you sprain an ankle or something like that.
3. Most of us feel better, are more alert, and can get more work done if our bodies are healthy and our souls are relaxed.
4. Friendly competition is one of the really fun things in life. It is good for your soul.
5. Your circle of acquaintances will be greatly enlarged. This is good for the soul, provided you can separate the wheat from the chaff.
6. You will learn to accept, and bear with, thousands of split-second decisions from the officials, a few of which are wrong. This is very good for the soul.
7. Do you like to strive for, and achieve, specific goals? If so, consider our college blazers. They are much sought after, and the pathway is clearly laid out. Striving for goals is good for your soul.
8. It is probably true that the more pure fun occurs in the athletic program than in any other area of the college. Fun is good for your soul.
9. If you get involved in team sports, and become a "good team player," you have realized that there are things in the universe that are more important than your own ego. This is a great good for your soul.
10. The benefits of exercise and friendly competition, learned while one is young, should be maintained for the rest of your life...i.e, they should become habitual. For virtue, as the Philosopher said, is a habit.
11. You will get to know numerous alumni, tutors, and staff members who participate in the program. This is good for your soul, or ought to be...provided that they are the proper sort of role models.
12. Our showers are the best at the college; always plenty of hot water.
13. Are you bothered by, or worried by, tobacco fumes in the air? Come to the gym. The whole building is a nicotine-free zone.
14. If you perform some sort of heroic deed on the athletic field, your name will be mentioned in our weekly column. Heroes are always acclaimed. But do not be carried away by this. Remember that "the paths of glory lead but to the grave."
15. A high percentage of our best students are active participants in our program.
16. Those who play, stay.
17. The gym is not particularly well-equipped, as gyms go. But it has washers and dryers, and a coke machine...and I will explain to you, if you ask me, how you can get yourself in tip-top physical shape, without any equipment at all.
18. You can sit in an old-time barber's chair in my office...you can pump yourself up and down, and adjust the slope high or low. Where else can you do that?
19. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
20. It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

So there you have it: twenty good reasons why you should participate in our athletic program. If you are not convinced by all of this, come and talk to me. I can probably think of some more good reasons. Or better yet, talk with the upperclassmen. They will tell you all sorts of strange, interesting, and wondrous things. ♦