



FROM THE POLITY

CSL Report: Forum on the Alcohol on Campus

Last Wednesday, March 27th, the CSL hosted a forum on alcohol consumption and how it impacts our community. The focus was on consumption on campus. The use of other recreational drugs was not taken into consideration. Mr. Huntley, Chair of the CSL, started the meeting with a question pertaining to the culture around alcohol on campus asking the participants to share their assessment on whether it is a healthy relationship.

Participants considered different occasions in which alcohol is being consumed: college parties and events as well as regular private consumption. Students shared their personal reasons for drinking. The main reason cited was that alcohol helps the consumer to relax and socialize more easily. Regarding private consumption, the question and concern of writing essays under the influence of alcohol was raised. There seemed to be disagreement among the attendees on whether this is a widespread issue but if it was this would be indicative of a dangerous relationship to alcohol. Participants also argued that having an alcohol problem is highly subjective and personal. Most alcoholics self-diagnose. But a college environment can facilitate a blurring of the lines especially if one has a narrow understanding of alcoholism. Many students might not be binge drinkers but sometimes scheduled (binge) drinking could be considered problematic too. Pertaining to alcoholism among the student body, there were different interpretations of whether college life causes the problems or just intensifies already existing addictions. It would be helpful to have accessible campus specific data about this.

Regarding campus events, the conversation was mostly centered around the Achilles Rager. Students shared the feeling that this event seems like the most unsafe of the year, particularly in terms of Title IX violations and physical health. The main factor contributing to this seems to be the lack of experience with safe drinking among the incoming first year students who use the occasion to try out new things and might go further than they ought to. This issue is further exacerbated by the fact that they do not yet have a strong social safety net. While some participants called for a cancellation or postponement for the event, others suggested a preventative approach. This approach would include training and raising awareness among returning students about first aid and safe partying. This might also reduce the strain on the RAs (*Cont. on p. 2*)

MAYOR PRESENTS ON BIKE PATH

Spoke to Students and Staff

Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley attended a meeting in the Conversation Room on Wednesday, April 27th to present plans for the bike path on back campus. Along with him was Brian Cahalan, one of the mayor's advisors, Eric Leshinsky, of planning and zoning, and representatives of the firm Meade and Hunte, who are responsible for making the plans for the bike path. Student and faculty attendance was limited, with only six students present and one faculty member, who left relatively early on. There were a few St. John's staff members present as well.

Buckley began the meeting by talking about adopting Dutch cycling infrastructure models to help address Annapolis' contribution to global climate change. "The simplest climate solution is right in front of us," explained Buckley, "We need to walk again, we need to bike again. And we're not going to be able to do that without separated bike paths." He claimed that the College Creek Connector would fill a major gap in the regional trail network, which would enable people to not only get more easily to Parole via the West East Express but would also connect to the B&A trail, forming a link all the way to Baltimore.

The path, if approved, will meet campus property on the water by the Rowe Boulevard Bridge, which will have widened sidewalks to make it easier and safer for students and downtown residents to get to Graul's. It will continue along the water until just before the small dock and boat launch, where it will join the dirt path running parallel to the creek for only about 50 feet, and then curve around behind the boathouse and up to Prince George Street. The slope behind the boathouse would be stabilized against erosion and receive better landscaping, while the living shoreline along the creek would be cleared of invasive species and replanted with native ones. A new boatshed would be built to house sailboats, and steps might be taken to improve boathouse accessibility. This would be in conjunction with other projects in the area, like a gateway park in the patch of woods off Rowe Boulevard and watercraft infrastructure at the end of Northwest Street, which are aimed at improving access to College Creek.

Buckley emphasized that this plan will not happen without the College's support and called on students to voice their opinions. "It's not just an ask for the College, he said, "it's an ask for the future."
El'ad Nichols-Kaufman

THEATER REVIEW:

Much Ado About *Much Ado About Nothing*

Last weekend the King William's Players 2024 Season opened with a groovy production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Sophomores Eden Kammeyer and Ari David. Decked out with disco balls, flare pants, outrageous polyester shirts, and feather boas, the supremely talented cast boogied and jived their way through the two-hour show.

Much Ado About Nothing concerns itself primarily with the relationships between its two main couples, Beatrice and Benedick, and Hero and Claudio, and how those relationships form and fall apart due to the deceptions of the other characters. Kammeyer and David set up this intrigue in a brilliantly colorful and campy 1970's version of the Italian city of Messina, and they clearly told their actors to have fun with it.

Full of cheeky physical comedy, sassy looks, fully committed characterization, and punchy line delivery, it was a riot from start to finish. Highlights include Ms. Rachel Hauben's entire performance as Beatrice, her second to date, and by her own admission much superior to the first online version. Messrs. Charles Dang, Angus Preston, Ian Rossomundo, and M. Ned Haynie brought hilarious energy and impeccable comedic timing to the constabulary and watchmen. Ms. Katharine Bates played Don John delightfully cold and furious, styled to the nines in bold black and white patterns. And M. Z Larson and Ms. Sadie Lewin fell in and out of love as Hero and Claudio with heart wrenching sincerity.

All in all, it was a delightful show and a fresh and funny take on Shakespeare's classic comedy. Keep your eyes peeled for posters going up for the KWP's upcoming shows, the Shakespeare Showcase directed by Dolan Polglaze and Jordan Kammeyer, and *Moby Dick*, adapted for the stage and directed by Ranger Kasdorf.

Andy Manne

Aphorism of the Week:

Silence is everywhere, yet no one has heard it so far.

This Week in Seminar

Freshman:

- 4/4: Aristotle: Physics. I (A): 1 (184a10-184b16); II (B): (192b8-200b11)
- 4/8: Aristotle: Physics. III (I): 1-3 (200b12-202b29); IV (Δ): 10-14 (217b30-224a16)

Sophomores:

- 4/4: Shakespeare: Hamlet
- 4/8: Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book I, Chapters 1-6; 15

Juniors:

- 4/4: Mozart: Don Giovanni
- 4/8: Kant: Foundation of Metaphysics of Morals. See official list for selections

Seniors:

- 4/4: The Federalist, 78, 81 (selection); Supreme Court Opinions; Constitution, Articles III and VI
- 4/8: Dred Scott Decision and Dissenting Opinion, selected speeches of A. Lincoln and F. Douglas

Friday Night Lecture

All College Seminar on "How Should One Read A Book?" by Virginia Woolf, 7:30 P.M., Great Hall

Upcoming Events:

Friday-Monday, 4/5-7

- Junior and Freshmen writing lounge. Opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Monday 7 am. Mellon 141 and 144.

Friday-Saturday, 4/5-6

- Graduate Institute Convening Weekend

Saturday, 4/6:

- Admitted Students Day, Club Fair at 3:30 in the Great Hall

DC President Ali Shawamreh Overthrown, Evil Alter-Ego Crowned

The Delegate Council meeting last Tuesday, the first meeting in April, ended in chaos as DC President Ali Shawamreh mysteriously disappeared. He noted that the agenda had been “hijacked” to feature an item labeled “The Magnificent Coronation of His Majesty Olive Shawarma, Righteous Regent of the St. John’s College Polity, in the Year 2024 of Our Common Era,” got up and disappeared behind one of the wooden barriers in the conversation room.

In his place emerged Olive Shawarma (pictured, right) who ordered a proclamation to be read announcing him as King of St. John’s College in Annapolis, in Santa Fe, in Cambridge, in Australia, in Canada, in India, and in all other places in which there is a St. John’s College to be king of; Archduke of the Paca Tub Room, etc. Lord Protector of the Delegate Council, and Defender of the Transcendental Idealism, as well as a variety of other titles. He was then crowned in a lavish ceremony and recited a coronation sonnet.

El’ad Nichols-Kaufman



Photo Courtesy of Helen Felbek

Mitchell Museum Report

The current exhibition in the Mitchell Museum only displays one piece. Entitled “Sampling a Sampler Sampling,” Polly Apfelbaum’s work challenges the viewer’s perspective. The piece is made of several different fabrics purchased in New York City’s Garment District arranged on the floor. Many of the fabric samples feature raw edges, and some of the patterns clash with each other. The originality of the piece prompts the audience to reconsider the place of textiles in the world of art. What is art really made of? Does it change when we change our point of view? The exhibition runs until April 21

Natalie Goldman

CSL Report Cont.

(Cont. from p. 2) during that particular night. Some course similar to the “Get inclusive” course that all new and returning students have to finish every year for first aid and practical knowledge surrounding alcohol consumption could be part of this. The tenor was that the burden should not be placed on the new students who already have a busy and overwhelming orientation schedule but that it should be considered a community responsibility.

Overall, students seemed to agree that in such a small community like St. John’s we need to look out for an help each other. As sophomore representative Camilla Lopez put it “what hurts the individual, hurts the whole polity.” To that end, Ms. Lico and Ms. Silver are hosting an event on addiction in general on Thursday, April 18th, during lunch in the Hodson room. Food will be provided.

If you are interested in attending a CSL forum, please join us in the dining hall at 11.45 pm on Wednesday. We also appreciate student input on forum topics. Just talk to or email Mr. Huntley or me.

Helen Felbek

COME FOR ME VOL. 2

Continued Conversation on Orgasms

Editor’s Note: This article is the second part of a series first appearing in The Gadfly.

In my last article I settled some of the basics of orgasms with Annelise. However, I still had questions. I find that much like every person’s orgasm is different, every conversation about orgasm has new insights. This friend has chosen to stay anonymous.

Before getting into the conversation, I would like to address questions I’ve heard about whether everything I wrote in the last article was true. I swear in this column to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

AB: How easy is it for you to orgasm?

Anonymous Interviewee: I would say it’s pretty easy, especially on my own, but with more experience it has also gotten easier with a partner.

How long does it take you to orgasm? How long do your orgasms last?

Approximately 8-10 minutes, the length of the orgasm depends on factors I am unaware of, but it is usually not the sort of thing that is constricted to time.

What allows you to orgasm with ease?

Not only just practice and experience, but increased ability to let go of my self-consciousness surrounding it.

Is there anything in particular you’ve found that has helped you with that?

Anon: Mechanically, and I won’t get into too much detail—for propriety’s sake—but I’ve developed the theory of The Rule of Two; being, you can’t just be doing one thing in order to have an orgasm. You must be stimulated in at least two areas. Diversity in

performance is key to success. There’s that one episode of Friends where Monica is showing Chandler how to please a woman: it’s kind of just like that.

I know you said you don’t want to get into too much detail, but is this stimulation purely physical or mental as well?

I would say mental for sure, it’s good to be in a comfortable environment where you don’t feel inhibited to explore what turns you on.

Do you feel that your orgasms with a partner are essentially different than the ones you have on your own?

Orgasms with a partner are fundamentally different because it is no longer solely your environment that you need to feel comfortable with, but with another person seeing you completely uninhibited. Reaching that state with someone else is an extremely intimate and vulnerable position to be in. I think our modern discussions surrounding sex often disregards that it takes practice and self-knowledge to be able to do this with someone.

Do you think anyone is likely to have an orgasm with a partner without having one on their own?

I think it’s possible. We all have our own anatomies, and some people are able to explore that with someone else first.

Why do people say “When you have an orgasm you’ll just know” with such certainty?

I think it has to do with the thing I said earlier about time. When you enter into an experience that exists so outside of time, that the question “Am I having an orgasm?” just isn’t on the table, and then you’ll know.

Allyson Brink

ABOUT THE ST. JOHN’S COLLEGIAN

The St. John’s Collegian is the weekly newspaper of St. John’s College Annapolis. We work to bring quick and timely coverage of important events going on, to help develop a more informed student body. If you’re searching for more in-depth investigations and reporting, as well as essays, art and culture, check out the Gadfly, our affiliated publication, which is published once every three weeks.

Want to submit an article? We always need more writers, whether for opinion or reporting! Submissions for news articles should be between 400-600 words, while opinion should be kept short at 350 words. Just email anicholskaufman@sjc.edu with your article, and we will work to get it in print! Longer form articles and more in-depth exploration of ideas should go to the Gadfly, which accepts submissions at lbriner@sjc.edu.

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