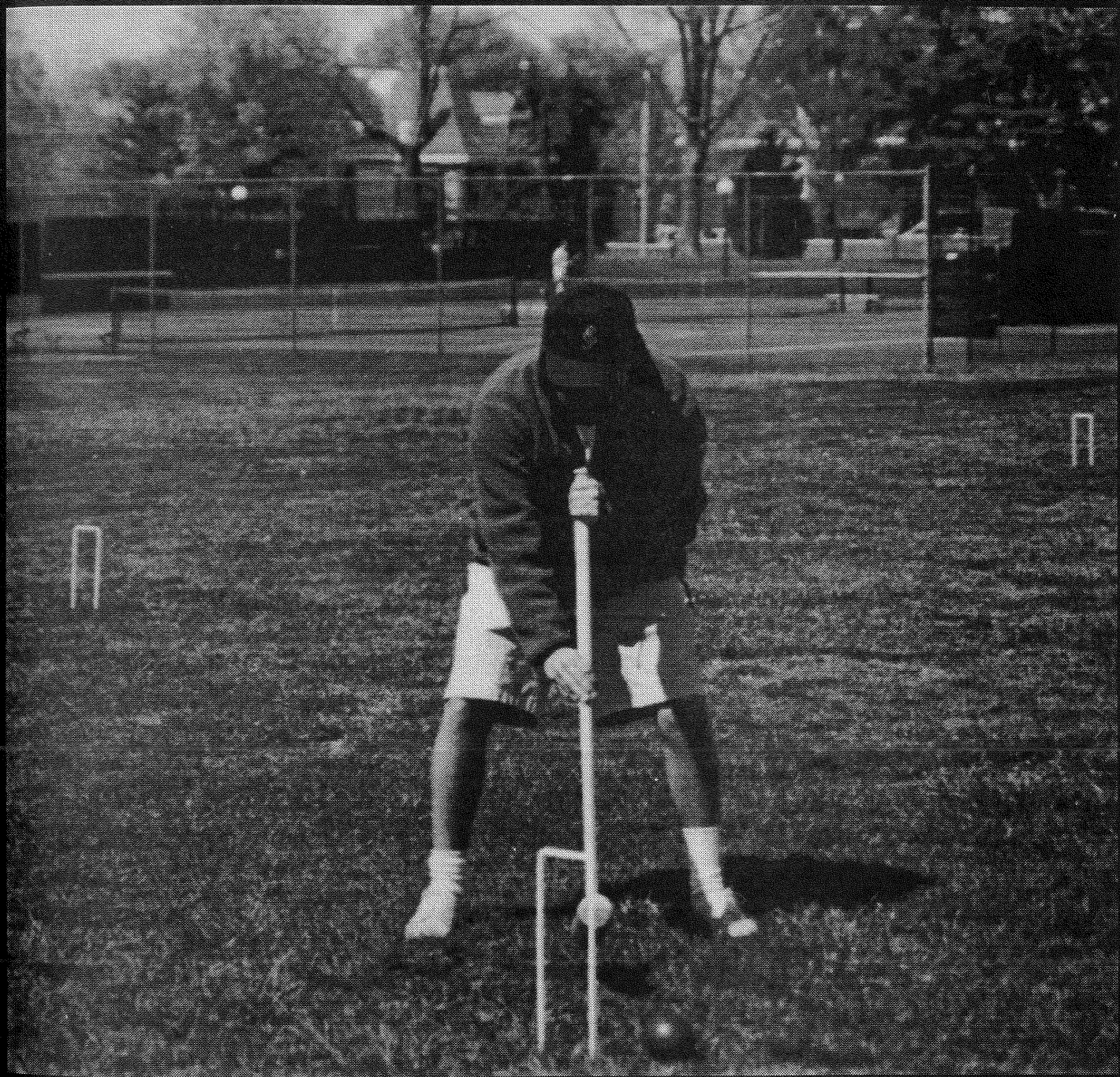


the Gadfly

The St. John's College Student Weekly
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CROQUET DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

A special 8-page pull-out with all the information you need for a great Croquet Weekend

LETTERS

Restore Senior Prank

Dear Editor:

I must concur with John Verdi's nostalgia for the golden days of Senior Prank, but I disagree most strongly with his suggested remedy for the current situation. To state that we "cannot look forward to the past" is to deny the very basis of the St. John's method of education and the belief that the "golden days will not be recaptured" smacks of defeatism at best.

I agree that recently Senior Prank has become a pale imitation of its former self. Perhaps its downfall was heralded by the oh-so-ironic 'LiberoTech' prank of the class of

'89. For those readers who were not here, the LiberoTech prank was based around the concept of a hostile takeover of St. John's by corporate raiders. Seminars were interrupted by two yuppies in suits bearing copies of the prospectus of the company. Students and faculty were then taken to FSK to witness the 'Board Meeting' which included scenes of watering down the reading list to accommodate modern tastes and the firing of controversial faculty members. That was perhaps the last time the Senior Prank was used for the kind of commentary it was designed to provide, the final warning from the Seniors regarding the dangers facing the underclassmen and the faculty. Now, more often than not, the Prank is just another excuse to drink (assuming you are of age), smoke (assuming you are outdoors) and relax (assuming you still have some Prozac left).

Mr. Verdi's letter seems to imply that the decline of the Prank tradition is the fault of the students. Though they might well be censured for a certain "lack of vision" regarding their noble purpose in this regard, it must be admitted that the main contributor to the downfall of Prank has been the increasing number of administrative restrictions placed upon it. Much of the mystery of Prank was the result of its uncertain timing. Mr. Verdi laments the fact that the anticipation of Prank destroys seminars, yet that seems more a complaint against attendees than against the institution of Prank. In the late 80's we too would anticipate Prank, and any noise outside the classroom would make our hearts jump like those of 8-year-olds on Christmas Eve, but we would never have let that interfere with our class performance. If classes these days are being affected unduly by 'Prank Fever' then perhaps they need to be reminded of proper class etiquette and protocol. That, however, is the responsibility of the class tutor and not the Prank committee. As far as the sacrifice of a seminar goes, you must be quite

aware that the Administration has restricted Prank to taking place at 9:30 pm or later, and itself monitors which seminars will be disturbed. The Seniors are left with a very small window of possible dates and they must inform the Administration well in advance of their choice. Offices here being as leaky as sieves with info of this sort (and some tutors being simply bent on destroying the ambiance), Prank ends up being the campus' most open secret. So Mr. Verdi's objection about anticipation fades away and is simply due to the rambunctiousness of uncontrolled youth. The loss of a seminar becomes the loss of only 1/2 hour for underclassmen and of one seminar for the Seniors. Neither loss seems extreme to me.

As for the messages we send to the guests to campus and the wider political body, this never used to be a problem because, frankly, we never really cared what they thought of us. Time was when we paraded through their city with togas and torches. Have we become so desirous of their regard that we feel we must cater to their whims and mores? If so, we might as well scrap the program and become an extension campus of Anne Arundel Community College.

Mr. Verdi's objection about the use and necessity of Prank still holds water, however, and is an issue I myself might raise. If the senior class cannot take it upon itself to return to the former glory of a Prank that acted as our moral anchor, then Prank might well be canceled, but until the discussion of the proper use and meaning of Prank is

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters of 200 words or less have a better chance of being published than those longer. Letters submitted will be edited for grammar, punctuation and spelling in most cases. The Gadfly is not obligated to publish all submissions, and will not print anonymous submissions except under special circumstances.

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taken up the discussion of its demise is presumptive. So many of the old traditions have been swept by the wayside due to incursions upon our campus by the demands of outsiders. Prank may be a relic, but it is one of the few we have left. I agree it is badly in need of rejuvenation, but if it can possibly be saved it must be.

In an Aristophanean sense, Prank showed the folly of cherishing our core beliefs too strongly. If we hold them too tightly we shall surely suffocate them and be left embracing a lifeless, joyless corpse.

Chris Gillen, '90

We ought to laugh a little

Dear Editor:

With all respect to Messrs. Tuck and Verdi, their letters in last week's *Gadfly* showed a weakness common enough to our community to warrant discussion: the inability to laugh at ourselves. This laughter is healthy and good, it gives us shared experience and, more importantly, motivates self-examination. Mr. Verdi fears Senior Prank partly because it "mocks all that we hold dear." I wonder, what else are we to do with those things that we do hold dear? Paraphrasing C.S. Lewis, no one finds us more absurd than our lovers. It is in what we hold most dear that blemishes are most painful, and laughter, even when mocking, is often the first step to clearing those blemishes. This should not be a foreign idea to the community of St. John's; Cervantes and Swift mock those things we hold most dear: books and the intellectual community. From them we learn, (or should learn) not to take ourselves too seriously. And while it may be difficult to argue that this year's Senior Prank play will be of the caliber of Swift or Cervantes, let us not fear some laughter, even at our own expense.

The existence of Overheards in the *Gadfly* should be even less threatening to us, since their intent is not to ridicule, but to amuse. I would be quite surprised if, when Mr. Alexander proposed a situation in which he is a Brazilian wife-beater, he did not realize the humor of what he was say-

ing. We also, as well as his seminar, want to appreciate his wit. This sharing of laughter helps to build the community as a dynamic existence. We laugh not to ridicule; we do not think that Mr. Alexander is stupid (quite the contrary), but because we know his upstanding character, and the picture of him as a Brazilian wife-beater is surprising and absurd, therefore funny. Mr. Alexander is right in not being threatened by our laughter. (Although I think we do all see the sense in obtaining someone's permission before printing their words.)

Even if this were not so, even if the laughter at the Overheards was in ridicule, pointing out absurdities in our thought, I wonder at Mr. Tuck's objection that this violates the "safe haven" of seminar. Only if the purpose of seminar were to speak without fear of being challenged or corrected would this violate our trust. But instead, our trust is that we will be challenged, made to see our mistakes, and corrected in a constructive manner. Opposition is central to learning at St. John's. I am not denying the existence of cruel, derisive laughter, and that we must all take great care that this is not our attitude to our fellows in this community. This is not, however, the nature of the laughter we share at Senior Prank or at the Overheards in the *Gadfly*.

Lura Groen, '98

Alexander the Non-Jerk

To the St. John's Community:

Elsewhere in this issue there occurs a fairly serious editorial of mine on Dean Carey's Statement on the school and Moral Education. Let me mix this sweet with that sour.

I've realized recently that I'm a bad person. I knew it before, but now I really know it. The instrument of my self-realization: the Febbie Class. This sweet, gentle, kind, loving posse of persons have been subjected to such a torrent of gossip and sophism from me that I hardly know how to make it up to them. Moreover, I further realized that I have also been mean to them to boot, too, what's more. Take the other night for ex-

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A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

You are holding a truly massive issue of the *Gadfly*. We thought Croquet deserved to be covered in grandiose style, so we devoted eight pages to it. There are interviews with the players from both teams, the rules and everything you wanted to know about the day's offerings. But that was not enough. We thought it might be a neat thing if there were an interview with the Imperial Wicket from the original Croquet Day in 1983, fifteen years ago. So we found the fellow and he contributed an article, the crown jewel to an already-slick section.

But that isn't all we've brought you. We received a flood of articles for this week's issue. Letters, opinions, news, they all poured into the *Gadfly* office. Rather than resisting the force of nature that is the St. John's polity (and particularly the croquet team, one would hope), we expanded the issue to admit even more than we had expected. More work? No, it is a pleasure to have so many people volunteer to write stories.

And I heartily thank everyone who contributed this week for helping make it happen. Not just the writers and the copy editors, either. The Print Shop people who drove staples through this beast, the photographers, the film developers, the interviewees, the providers of encouragement and our advertisers who help grease the presses.

One more thing: Many did not get copies of last week's issue, due to an unfortunate snafu. If you would like a copy of it, send your name to the *Gadfly* office by campus mail. We will reprint the issue if we receive enough requests.

Nelson Hernandez, Editor



An opinion on the Santa Fe dean's morality letter

by Tim Carney, '00

"Every art and every inquiry, and similarly every action and every intention is thought to aim at some good."

—Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

James Carey, Dean of the Santa Fe campus, began his annual Statement of Educational Policy and Program with a passage from the St. John's charter which states that St. John's seeks "to develop the moral and intellectual powers of men." I have chosen to begin with a passage from a more philosophical work and ask, while reading Mr. Carey's statement and thinking about the way things are at SJC, what is that good at which the college and her students should be aiming.

Mr. Carey, in his statement, points out that the faculty has shown itself to be dedicated to the intellectual development of the students, but there is no consensus on if and how the college works for the moral development of her students.

Mr. Carey begins by explaining the extent to and ways in which the school does provide behavioral guidelines.

"One might say, then, that the College does have a moral center insofar as we are opposed to actions that the law of the land proscribes... In this way, and in dissuading them from practices that might have a deleterious effect on their work, we do, after all, help them develop their moral powers. It is not much, but it is something. Perhaps it is all we can do."

It is interesting that Mr. Carey states that these two concerns—preventing what is illegal and harmful to studies—are concerns with the moral character of the students. The first is a concern with the law, and Mr. Carey suggests that underage drinking is discouraged not primarily because it is seen as wrong, but "inasmuch as liability is an issue." The second is a concern with the intellectual virtues, which do not seem to be the subject matter of his letter.

It is also interesting that he cites two examples of compulsion on the part of the school when looking for ways in which the

school helps students "develop their moral powers." My understanding, which may be distorted by too much Aristotle (if there is such a thing), is that moral development happens when one has a choice between right and wrong free of outside compulsion.

Mr. Carey mentions repeatedly that "one reason that the College does not have a firm moral center is that it does not have a religious center." He goes on to say that St. John's College "plainly cannot have a religious center and still be St. John's College," because "religious piety and liberal education have... little to do with each other."

Although he agrees that any sort of dogma is antithetical to the entire foundation of the program and any liberal education, he seems to indicate in his statement that there must be something which someone can do to assist the moral development of the students.

Much discussion ensued when members of the SCI and the D.C. received copies of Mr. Carey's statement. Three main questions were asked and addressed at an SCI meeting two weeks ago and at a meeting of these groups with the Board of Visitors and Governors on Friday. First, should a liberal arts school, especially St. John's, expect moral development on the part of the students? Second, what can be done by whom to aid this development? Third, is there a lack of moral development at the College?

The first question gets at the heart of what I asked at the beginning of this article, namely: what is the good of a St. John's education? It is said that it will neither get you a good job nor admission into a good graduate school. Philosophy and dialectical skill are not as marketable as one might hope, I am told. Perhaps the Books, and the way to which we are habituated to talk about them, do something to help us live better.

Neither Plato nor Aristotle lays out explicit codes for moral behavior, other than urgings towards moderation, and accepting any sort of moral code would be contrary to the entire spirit of the College. However, Socrates stresses the importance of living "with an eye to what is best." What Mr.

Carey may be suggesting is that the College has a moral problem if students are not asking themselves what is best. If students are not asking the same questions out of class about themselves that they are asking in class about Socrates, the magnanimous man or Orestes, then they are missing what may be the most important part of the program. If students come here to develop intellectually but not morally, they are not letting the books affect the way they live, and, it seems, they are wasting their time.

Whose responsibility is it, though, to foster the moral character of SJC students? Mr. Carey's suggestion is that "exhortation to virtue coming from the faculty as a whole" might be the way to foster such growth. One wonders what form this exhortation would take, though. Mr. Carey did not offer an answer to this, and most students were at a loss as to how the faculty could effectively do so.

It is not easy to answer whether or not there is a lack of moral development at St. John's, but at Friday's meeting, a majority of students answered no. They pointed to the fact that there is minimal vandalism and general respect for others. Some students disagreed, and Mr. Carey also cites moral problems when he mentions "heavy drinking and recreational sex, including such things as public sexual intercourse at drunken parties." The feeling of many Annapolis students is that such problems are found primarily at the Santa Fe campus and not here.

Mr. Carey ends his statement by proposing two options. The first is that the school cease making claims, as it does in the charter, to developing the moral character of students. The second is that the College "proceed to undertake a sustained and concentrated study" of how the College can better provide moral guidance. The course of action which many students at Annapolis seem to propose is to do neither, and look at the fact that the school already does plenty to develop moral character.

Copies of Dean Carey's letter are available from the Delegate Council or the SCI.

Do we need imperfection to make the Great Books work?

by Derek Alexander, '99

I received, not long ago, Dean Carey's Statement of Educational Policy and Program. I found myself agreeing with the sentiment behind some of it, but unsettled by the substance in most of it.

Dean Carey recalls that our Polity (the governing document of the college) calls for the development of "the moral and intellectual powers" of students. He worries that we hardly train students morally. For while, he says, the school has "an intellectual center" around the idea that "knowledge is possible", we have no comparable "moral center." He indicates that he is looking beyond the basic moral prohibitions that underpin the intellectual process ("do not plagiarize," "be honest," "be courteous" and the like). He also indicates that we cannot look to religion for our morality: "Religious piety and liberal education have so little to do with each other, and in some respects are so inimicable to each other, that it is a tribute to the civility reigning at the College that religion is tolerated and not more frequently mocked here." Dean Carey then brings up what I take to be the crux of his Statement: "At this point, if not sooner, someone will ask why we do not just drop this unpleasant subject and leave well enough alone. My answer is that the situation is not well enough. The oldest and most frequently occurring criticism students make of the College is that there is an astonishing discrepancy between what is read and talked about in class, on the one hand, and what happens outside of class in the dormitories and at parties, on the other. The fact that social life of students bears so little relation to their academic life troubles many if not all of them, and it troubles them a lot. It certainly troubles them by and large more than it troubles the faculty, who after all do not live in their midst and are thereby able to maintain illusions about the ennobling effects of liberal education, or to shrug off what happens in the private lives of the students as none of their business."

Here, and elsewhere, I believe Dean Carey allows himself to exaggerate the

goodness of what happens in class and the difference of what happens outside of class. There is any amount of bad action going on in the dorms, it is true, from medically dangerous drunkenness to rudeness to excessive television-watching to laziness to back-stabbing gossip to careless sex to self-indulgent oversleeping. But, in the class, we hardly do better intellectually. There, we find any amount of cavalier reading of texts, rudeness, excessive talking, logical fallaciousness, verbal sloppiness, back-stabbing sarcasm. I believe that the notion that there is a disparity between classes and life indicates, for an individual, that they are themselves creating that disparity by behaving differently in and out of class, or by looking at class through tinted lenses. Other differences exist, but they tend to be ones based on the greater simplicity of classes when compared to lives—which do not occur seated at a rectangular table with a chalkboard nearby.

We make mistakes in class, and one of the beauties of St. John's is that we are so often allowed to watch the mistakes—our wind-egg children—grow into obvious fallaciousness. They are not cut off at the start, unless time or conversational safety prevails. This interest in mistakes—which should never become a love for making them on purpose (for then, truly, they are not mistakes, but rather deceptions)—I say, this interest in mistakes is one of the hallmarks and successes of the Program in action. It is marvelous: I need never advocate an error (even one of my own) but I can reap all the didactic benefits of watching them occur. (Note in passing the biblical analogue.)

This happens outside of class, too. I can watch mistakes happen (often my own—some of you recall the more public of them) without having to become a partisan of them. That never means I encourage them, for then the mistake becomes evil. I can also see others do deliberate harm to themselves and others. This is both unpleasant and evil, and, I fear, part of life. We do what we can to stop it, and a proper love for others means that we will dare very much indeed for the

wrongdoer's sake. I am very happy to study many disparate but related real books in a disparate but related dorm setting.

Put differently: Imagine that dorm life was perfectly moral (whatever that might mean). Imagine, moreover, that classroom behavior was impeccable. I say that the Books themselves would suffer from the unreality of the situation. They were written, I dare say all of them (even Epictetus), with imperfect man in mind, usually an imperfect readership, too.

It is the religious books (and here I return to the earlier contention of Dean Carey) that most anticipate this sort of reader. The Bible finds all people everywhere to be sinners. Now, do we then sin freely, that curricular relevance may abound? God forbid. Rather, we put the situation in which we live to work in our education, using it to think about what the books mean, to consider whether there is any such thing as sin, condemnation or salvation.

This does not mean that there are no rules. It does mean that our rules should not reflect a prim concern for the viability of these books in a real, vice-ridden situation—a description, we recall, that befits the whole of human history, not just St. John's.

In sum, the problem of morality and real behavior is a permanent problem, probably a Great Problem. As such, it fits well, when properly examined, with our studies here. Rules will not hinder, if they are made for an achievable purpose. Discouragement of vice can only help, and people should indeed do right, and shun wrong. But the books present conflicting ways of going about doing right, and the school, and Dean Carey, knows that.

Dean Carey points out examples of bad behavior (public sex, sleep-study violation, etc.) from real life. But these can be dealt with without invoking a moral crisis. Rather, a degree of arbitrariness should prevail—we have no need to discourse on the matter. We have better things to talk about, and we have better things to do than to talk about talking about that.



Blood Drive nearly doubles goal of 19 units

by Abigail Gibbs, '99

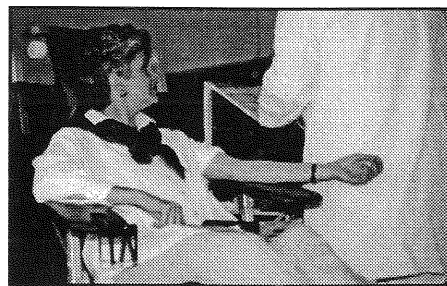
Last Tuesday, Red Cross volunteers in FSK lobby collected 37 units of blood from students, tutors and staff members. This was almost twice the number of pints the Red Cross expected to be donated, 19. More than 37 people participated on Tuesday, but some would-be donors were rejected due to illness or low iron levels.

A blood drive is usually held twice during the academic year; the drive scheduled last October was cancelled due to lack of donors. After an informal survey of the community, the on-campus nurses and jun-

ior Heather Miller, who helped coordinate the drive, decided to hold future drives on Tuesdays, in hopes of better attendance.

Anyone over 17 and over a certain weight can donate blood six times a year, every 56 days. Before anyone is allowed to donate, he must pass a routine but thorough screening, including iron levels checks and relevant questions about medical history, recent travel and current health.

Anyone interested in donating blood should contact the Health Center at x253 or the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE BLOOD (1-800-448-2566).



ABIGAIL GIBBS

Donna Jay of the Placement Office waits to donate blood. Ms. Jay's was one of the 37 pints donated last Wednesday during the biannual drive.

Food Committee meets again

by Marc Reiner, '99

On Monday April 14, the Food Committee held a meeting. Mr. Schoener, Mr. Pickens, Mrs. Sterling and several students met with John Gallagher, Marriott Food Service Director, to discuss the current dining situation for students.

Students discussed their concerns about the taste of the food, as well as health concerns. However, it was also noted that Marriott has made some improvements in the recent past.

The main item on the agenda was whether or not Marriott should post a nutritional breakdown of their entrees. The nutritional breakdown would include a listing of calories, protein and carbohydrates.

In terms of new dishes, Mr. Gallagher stated that "several new vegetarian dishes are being introduced." Among the dishes is an eggplant-zucchini casserole which was on the dinner menu on Wednesday, April 16. These new dishes are an attempt to better cater to the needs of our campus herbivores, who generally feel that they are slighted by Marriott's meat-filled entrees.

Also of issue was the Healthy Choice juice machine. While the juices that flow from that machine are of interesting color (such as florescent blue), their nutritional value is questionable. Marriott is, however, looking to introduce a new juice machine for the upcoming year.

Aside from the run-of-the-mill fare, Marriott will also treat us to some upcoming special dinners. They are planning on having a larger-than-usual special dinner. This dinner will not be limited to the usual single-line buffet with ticketed entrees at the end

of the table, but would have various food stations, such as a meat carving station. As an added bonus, they will provide us with a "cocktail hour" that offers sodas and cheese.

Food Committee continued on page 24

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Speaking of Lecture: chaos theory

by Gary Temple, '99

There is a question in my mind as to what people want from a lecture review, or if they even want a lecture review at all. I suspect that my opinions about chaos theory are sought by none, but that an informative summation is desired by some who did not attend. Perhaps a mini Q and A paraphrasing our questions and my understanding of Mr. Kellert's answers will be of some use. I will give direct quotes where it is possible.

Q. What is chaos theory?

A. It is the study of unpredictable behavior (short term or long term) in simple or complex systems.

Q. What does chaos theory seek to do, and does it enable us to predict outcomes of randomly behaving systems?

A. Chaos theory tries to give us a qualitative understanding of random behavior. It does not enable us to predict the exact location of a particle in a pressure cooker, but it might enable us to describe what kind of behavior the system will manifest. This qualitative description often comes in the form of a fractal image, that is, an image self similar and infinitely detailed.

Q. What is a point attractor?

A. "It is not a thing, and it does not pull." It is a zone around which plotted coordinate data coagulate in state space to form a fractal picture.

Q. Will chaotic systems, i.e., those with unpredictable behavior always have a strange attractor?

A. No, "chaos does not imply a strange attractor, but a strange attractor does imply chaos."

Q. What ramifications does chaos have for modern science, specifically, is it a challenge to Newtonian physics and does it spell the end of our ability to predict outcomes?

A. Chaos theory does not spell the end of predictability. "We have tiled the universe with clocks" (clocks are systems that are linear) and chaos theory shows that you need more than one kind of tile to continue the job. There is, "no challenge to Newton's forces." " $F=ma$ is healthy, the law of gravity is also safe, but $F=-mx$ is on its way out." $F=-mx$ dictates a universe free of chaos, and the existence of chaos undermines its essential operating philosophy.

Q. How big a deal is chaos theory; is it as big a revolution as quantum physics?

A. Chaos theory is not as big a deal as quantum mechanics. "Chaos is more akin to integral calculus than to quantum mechanics." "Chaos theory is like statistics," but statistics is a very powerful mathematical tool that has changed our view of the universe.

Q. Is chaos theory anti-reductionist?

A. Yes, in that it does not seek to find equations for the parts of a system such as the randomly moving particles in a pressure cooker, but rather it seeks to understand the pattern that the particles might describe. On the other hand, it is still reductionist in that we still cordon off a system from the universe, distill and filter it for noise, and

then we put it into the abstract mathematical construct of state space to plot points and uncover pictures. It is not a science of wholes.

Q. What are the potential ramifications for the long term? Will chaos theory eventually enable us to finish tiling the universe or to predict any outcome?

A. "On the one hand it's a deep methodological challenge; on the other hand it's a new way of playing the same old game." As to the ability to predict any outcome: "Chaotic systems are deterministic," but you need infinite specificity concerning position, and the ability to store and mathematically manipulate the infinitely specific data in a finite time period. Oh yes, and at the very same moment, you need to do the same for velocity (it is currently thought impossible to know position and velocity at the same time for any system).

On the whole, I thought Mr. Kellert's lecture was excellent. He was dynamic, informative, and effective in his presentation and was patient and thorough in answering our questions. Most of the people I spoke to agreed with the sentiments above, but I did get the sense, especially from our more gifted mathematicians, that Mr. Kellert was just too sensible. More than a few of us secretly hoped that Mr. Kellert would pronounce Newton dead or tell us how chaos can teach virtue. Mr. Kellert's even-tempered lecture put our restless souls to bed with the simple sentiment: Chaos theory is nice, but don't lose any sleep over it.

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ample.

I was eating dinner, talking to a Febbie, let's call him Dan (not his real last name). I pointed out, boorishly, that nobody famous came from my home town, Greer, South Carolina. 'Dan' said, quite generously: "You come from Greer, and that should count for something." I replied, cruelly: "My coming from Greer has nothing to do with their ability to count, you clearly have no idea of the distinction between quantitative and

qualitative." Well, I don't remember quite what I said, but it was at least that mean and not very funny. 'Dan' made an attempt at laughter, and the rest of the table did the same.

Now, this laughter has been hot coals heaped on my head for a while now. What I said was not funny, but they laughed anyway. Worse, I went on, making unfunny joke after unfunny joke. I told an anecdote about a bad class I had one morning last year, in the process driving them further and further into the belief, I feel sure, that St.

John's is the Great Jerks School.

But with your help, no more. I invite you, nay, beseech, nay, implore you right heartily to upbraid me every time I tell a lousy joke, gossip, or exaggerate. I want to be Derek The Nice Guy Who Does The Mail and Never Acts Like a Jerk. I want to ooze love onto everyone I meet. I want to hug you all. I love you guys. Y'all the best. Yay for you.

You're special to me,
Derek Alexander, ex-Jerk



An encounter with democracy in Annapolis

by Mark Alznauer, '00

Procrastinating taxpayers mailing in their returns last Tuesday were met with a festival of sorts on the lawn of the Annapolis branch of the United States Post Office. The "Tax Relief Celebration" was underway.

Sponsored by WANN (AM 1190), the festivities included a Papa John's pizza give-away, a full-service disc jockey and a dunking booth. The normally distinguished brick front of the post office had to compete for visibility with balloons of red, white and blue and a sign that advertised that the post office would be open until midnight for last-minute filers.

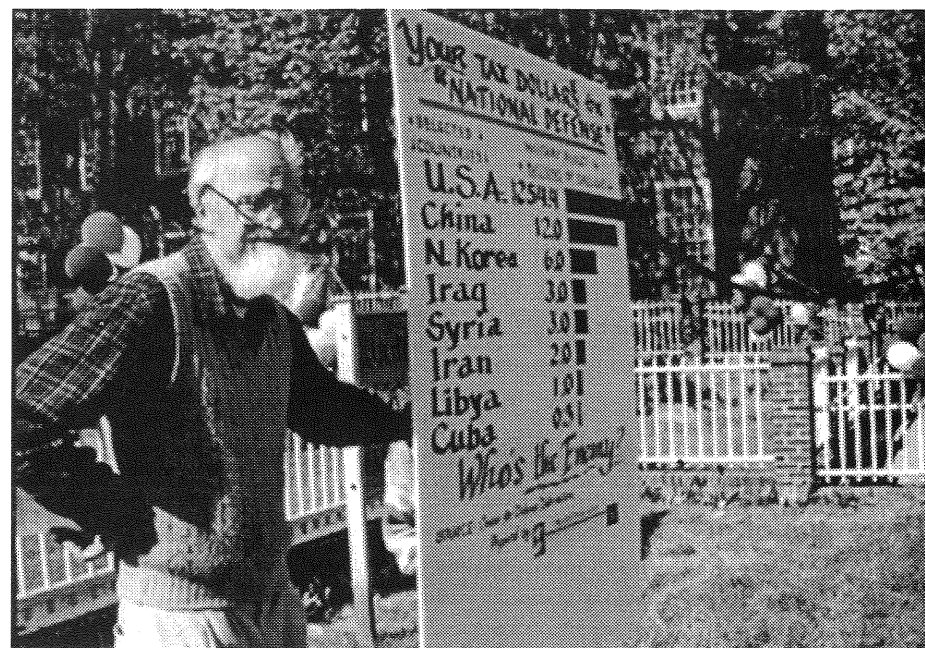
Inside, things were a little less exciting. The only visible reminder that today was not just another day were a few balloons tied here and there and a sign indicating that no tax forms were available at the post office. But the music played outside was heard clearly by all customers and employees within. Forms were sent and stamps were bought to the music of Aretha Franklin and Gloria Estefan, among others.

When the music stopped, the deejay al-

For a moment, everything seemed incomprehensible to me. Had I truly seen a dunking booth in front of the post office? Did no one think this strange?

ternated between making tax-related jokes to passing cars and making pitches for the dunking booth. Two dollars bought three shots, and the proceeds went to charity. The unfortunate man in the booth was Annapolis Postmaster Barry Riggins, who, as a government official, represented the I.R.S. He was dressed in the colors of the American flag with a blue top hat, and jokingly referred to by the deejay as "Uncle Sam."

Directly in front of the post office, in what at first sight appeared to be just part of the celebration, an older man in a gray sweater stood by a sign that represented the defense spending of the United States ver-



COLBY COWHERD

An Annapolitan protests U.S. defense spending outside the Post Office as local citizens mail in their tax forms. The quiet protest took place alongside an Uncle Sam dunking booth, loud music by WANN, and free pizza from Papa John's.

sus other nations. For dramatic emphasis the American total, which would have stretched off the chart, was continued with a red ribbon which was tied, several feet away, to a stake. After depicting the disproportionality of American defense spending the sign asked the question: "Who's the enemy?" The chart was sponsored by Maryland Peace Action. The man smiled and drank from a bottle of Mountain Dew.

My first impression when I went to mail my tax return and stumbled upon this celebration was one of confusion. The solemnity of the act of paying my taxes seemed violated by the party atmosphere. Hearing "Johnny B. Good" blasted down Main Street as I waited in line for a stamp was almost surreal. For a moment, everything seemed incomprehensible to me. Had I truly seen a dunking booth in front of the post office? Did no one else think this strange?

When I returned to the lawn, my vertigo subsided. Two small children, oblivious to the music, chased each other in and out of the shade of an overhanging elm tree. Slowly everything about the way we view government faded into the background of

my mind with every additional detail I saw. This was just another marketing ploy, and the radio station had just seized an opportunity to get some cheap advertising. The mock "Uncle Sam" I was invited to "dunk in the drink" would get paid at the end of the day and go home. The mild-mannered protester, too, would fold up his belongings and return to his wife. Everything was as it should be.

But this calm was equally disturbing. Government, business and dissent were all peacefully co-existing with each other. Both the quiet man with the sign and the loud man with the microphone seemed to be criticizing the government, but the one politely and the other half-heartedly and with ulterior motives. Even the crowd seemed less upset at paying their taxes than amused at the man dressed like Uncle Sam in the dunking booth. Is this harmony between groups which should have wildly conflicting interests a wonder of our commercial democracy? Or is it, perhaps, the most frightening thing about it? My thoughts return to the sign. "Who's the enemy?" Perhaps even great questions go stale.

CROQUET XV

A Croquet Weekend supplement from the GADFLY



LOUVENIA MAGEE

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Croquet team member Remington Korper makes a move on the next wicket. The team roster was announced last Friday afternoon, and the members have been practicing constantly since then in order to be ready for Croquet Day.

THE GADFLY

CROQUET WEEKEND—St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland

FRIDAY, 4/25

- Croquet courts closed in preparation for the matches
- Palestrina Concert: "From Easter to Ascension"—8:15 pm in the FSK Auditorium
- 4, 5, 6 and 8-voice motets performed by the Palestrina Choir

SATURDAY, 4/26

- Croquet matches begin—1 pm under the Liberty Tree
- Champagne (\$10), stemware (\$7.50) and sandwiches will be on sale. Copies of the Gadfly will also be available.
- Croquet Waltz—10 pm to 2 am in The Great Hall hosted by the Waltz Committee



What it was like in the old days: croquet memories

by John B. Ertle Jr., '84

The editor of the *Gadfly* has asked me to write a few words and share some memories of the croquet matches with you and I am honored to have the opportunity.

By way of introduction, let me tell you that by an official act of the 1984 Student Polity, I have been given the title Imperial Wicket Emeritus, following our dramatic victory at the 1984 match. (I peeled one of our other balls through the last wicket and into the stake to end the match. The Middie whose turn was next needed only to hit the stake to win and he was about five feet away from it on the boundary line.)

I need to correct one mistake that has appeared over the years: I was not the first Imperial Wicket. The Croquet Club was actually chartered as the Lawn Tennis, Croquet and Archery Club by several members of the Class of 1981. (To the best of my knowledge, there was never any Lawn Tennis or Archery equipment). The founders

I don't think any of us who were involved in creating this thing had any idea how successful and how wonderful it would become.

included John Schiavo (the first Imperial Wicket as we know it), Noel Blyler, David Nau, Matt Hartzell, Evan Canter and Tim Ficco. Buffy Bowser, Marion Sharp and the O'Malley sisters, Anne and Kate, were also involved and the Croquet Club has always had a fair number of women members.

I succeeded to the title following John Schiavo's graduation in 1982 under the divine right of succession afforded to Imperial Wickets. Each Imperial Wicket has had absolute authority to hand-pick his successor.

I played in the first two matches against the Naval Academy, in 1983 and 1984. With the exception of 1992, I have come back every year for the matches. I don't think any of us who were involved in creating this thing had any idea how successful and how



Croquet Day, 1983. Imperial Wicket John Ertle is in the third row from the bottom, second from the right, carrying the Cup. Kevin Heyburn, orchestrator and true founder of the first Croquet Day, is in the lower left corner, wearing suit and tie.

wonderful it would become. It started as a lark and is now 15 years old and going strong.

That is not to say that I think everything is fine. I think "no drinking" rules by which participants are forbidden to imbibe until they are through playing their matches is a complete violation of all that we hold sacred and holy. Seriously though, the purpose of the croquet match is to create social contact between individuals from two seemingly opposite institutions. Some years there has been too much of an emphasis on winning, which has impeded the social aspects of the game.

I also have some nostalgia for the earlier games. We originally played with "backyard" sets, rather than the "tournament" sets currently used. It's something of a personal preference and comfort level, but then I also prefer a car with a stick shift. For the first matches, I wrote up rules which we used (based on local rules), some of which varied from the official United States Croquet Association rules that have been adopted. However, seeing as the record stands at 11-3 in our favor, I guess we don't really need to invite the Middies over to come play by our rules.

There is no truth to the rumor that someone (either a Johnnie or a Middie, de-

pending on the version) was killed in a bar fight, which evolved into the Little Campus sponsoring the croquet match as a way to resolve disputes civilly. Nevertheless, their sponsorship was essential in obtaining the trophy and storing it between matches.

Kevin Heyburn '86 is the one who deserves full credit for the croquet match, since he was the one who set the whole thing up. Before that, the Croquet Club had no formal membership other than the Imperial Wicket and all meetings were strictly on a pick-up basis.

The first year, the Middies had no idea what to expect. They merely accepted a challenge based on their "can do" attitude and we completely demolished them. In fact, it got so bad that Drew Parker '83 and I were fighting against each other to be rover. All three of our players were done before any of the Middies had even gotten halfway. After that, the Middies were better prepared, but it is clear that they cannot hold a mallet to us.

It is very difficult to have an institutional memory where every four years you are supposed to have a completely new group of people. I am very happy and proud that the croquet match has survived and prospered over the years and I look forward to it every year. Go St. John's, Beat Navy!

A spectator's guide to the rules of croquet

by Annemarie Catania, '97

As you sit in the sun, eating, drinking and possibly burning on Saturday, you may discuss the game of croquet. "Ah, yes, fabulous game. Skill, strategy... yes, fabulous." Stroll from court to court, commenting on the matches. "Excellent play... I say, good shot!" Dance, then return your attention to the games. "Great team we have this year. Ms. Catania is an excellent player, I hear."

Perhaps you may take a seat on the lawn in order to eat. In the midst of this community picnic, your attention may turn to the game. Just in case this happens, you may be interested in the rules of croquet.

Saturday's game will be traditional

to the right of the direction of play.

As you watch, you may notice that some players have very short turns. We hope that these turns will happen more often for the Midshipmen, since we hope to allow them no other option than to **set up** for their wickets. A long turn is more advantageous. You may hear someone asking, "How long has this Johnnie been playing this turn?" This question would indicate that the St. John's player has been using every opportunity for **continuation** quite successfully, and probably also means that the Johnnie player has **run** many wickets. You may find yourself with the desire to say, "A fine turn," or "Excellent run."

Two types of **shots** result in continuation. One is **running a wicket** (or **scoring a wicket**, as the USCA calls pushing one's ball through the metal structure.) This results in one more shot. Although going through the wicket is always the goal in mind, **hitting a ball** with one's own ball may be more immediately beneficial, as this type of shot results in two continuation shots.

Our friends from town may ask you about these two shots. As an articulate liberal arts student, you will provide them with the terminology for these turns, which even the players do not bother to remember. The proper name for hitting another ball is "roquet." (You may say, "She has roqueted his ball.") Upon hitting another ball, the striking ball becomes **cloaked**, which means whatever happens to it before it stops rolling is **incidental**, and does not count. Impress your friends by telling them that it **does not exist**. The official USCA term for this is a **ball in hand**. The player places the ball in hand next to the roqueted ball and shoots. This is called the **croquet shot**. The second shot is called continuation.

Continuation is not **cumulative**. This means that a ball which runs a wicket on a croquet shot does not receive that continuation *in addition* to the continuation gained by completion of the **wicket shot**.

Scoring a wicket erases whatever effects the player may have incurred by hitting balls previous to going through it. Although hitting a ball has the advantage of two continu-

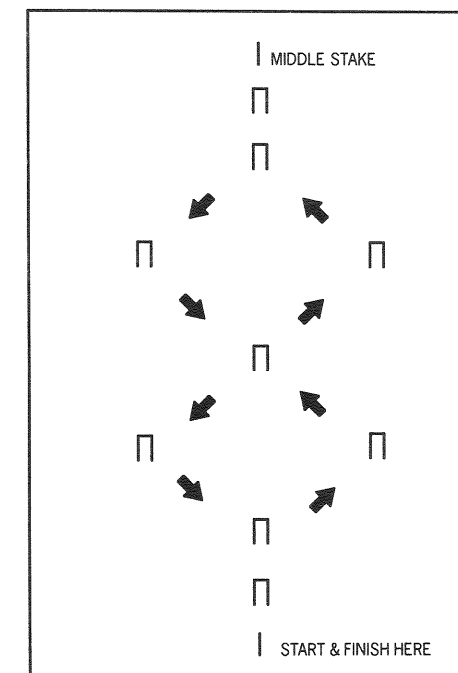


Fig. 1-1: Map of a Croquet court.

ation shots from that ball, it also means **going dead** on that ball. This means the ball struck cannot be hit again before the striking ball goes through another wicket.

Lest the rules become too complicated for your relaxing brain, take a sip of your drink of choice, sit back, and observe the **deadness board**. This scoreboard of sorts keeps track of which balls have already been hit. Each ball has its own row with three spaces which indicate which ball it is dead on. At the beginning of the game, every ball is dead on every other ball for the first shot. Any contact between balls on this turn is incidental. After this shot, every ball becomes **live on** every other ball. Through the course of a game, going through a wicket restores **liveness**. The deadness board assists the memories of those enjoying too much of their drinks of choice.

This much knowledge of croquet will suffice for following most of the game. The basic strategy is to advance one's own ball and one's partner's ball through as many wickets as possible while deterring the other team's balls as much as possible. You may hear the players politely referring to **mess-**

The point of the game is to hit both balls of one team through all the wickets, hitting one stake in the middle of the game, and the other stake at the end.

American nine-wicket croquet, essentially following the rules of the **United States Croquet Association**. Each of the five matches will consist of two Johnnies versus two Middies. One team will play with the red and yellow balls, and the other will use black and blue. The order of play will follow the colors painted on the **stakes**.

The point of the game is to hit both balls of one team through all the **wickets**, hitting one stake in the middle of the game, and the other stake at the end. Ask a friend to point out the order of the wickets, if you can't tell what it is. The pattern zig-zags through the center wickets and the wickets

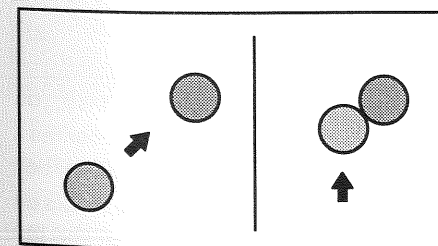
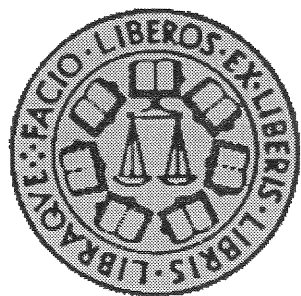


Fig. 1-2: Roquet, then croquet shot.

Croquet Rules continued on page 16



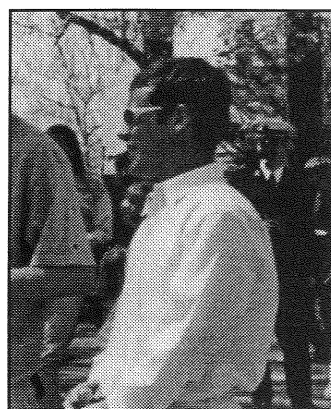


ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

St. John's is counting once again on her veteran Croquet team to hold off Navy's onslaught and drive them back into the sea.

Biographies of the Johnnie Croquet team by Lori Freeman, '97, and Jen Coonce, '97

KIT "WHOA HORSEY" LINTON

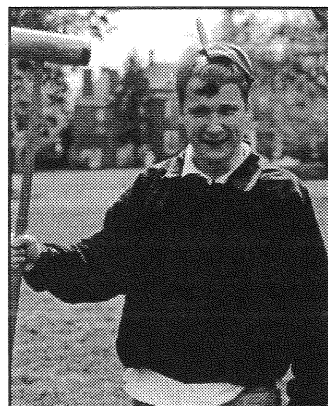


Senior Kit Linton is the Imperial Wicket of the Croquet team. Manassas, Virginia is where he hangs his hat. And what a hat it is! Kit manifests his huge obsession for the game in his ostentatious behavior on the court. He wears a huge sombrero and poncho on the croquet court, running maniacally around the court, spontaneously yelling "Arriba, arriba, andale, andale!"

when he feels a team member could use a little encouragement. His team members don't mind. They think Kit is a hoot. Though Kit can be a barrel of monkeys, he also has his serious side. He hand-picked this team, he says, "to create just the right blend of personalities and playing styles that will win us a game." He insists that all team members be up at 5:30 every morning to do what he calls "Croquet Drills." Anyone who misses is staked to the ground for an entire day. We give Kit the award for Best Neck.

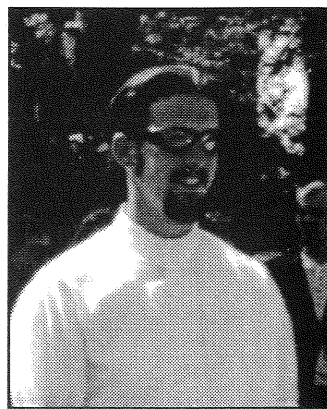
HARDISON "HELLFIRE" WOOD

Hailing from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, this 21-year old Junior claims that he is the "spiritual advisor, organizer, simplifier and energizer" of the team. Decked out in an "Our God Is An Awesome God" t-shirt, Hardison explains his croquet philosophy: "My good friend Jerry once told me this—if you want something badly enough, and you promise God that you'll



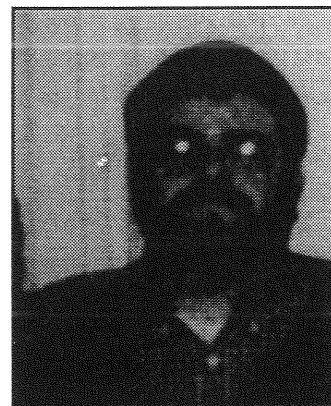
be really, really good for a while, things will usually work out. If not, do a mass mailing and ask for money. I'm not sure if that's what you mean by 'philosophy' and 'strategy,' but that's my story and I'm sticking by it." In the fiery debate over whether or not to bless the croquet match this year, Mr. Wood was heard to say, "We'll G.D. the commie bastards!" His award is for Reddest Back Hair.

JON "PEACH FUZZ" ANDREWS



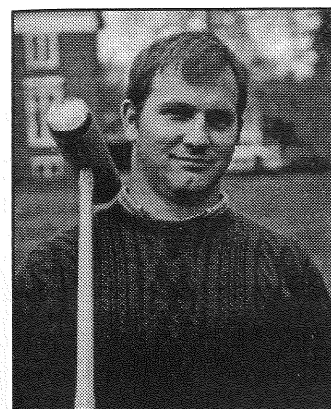
This Co-Imperial Wicket's mild-mannered attitude seems to be rather a departure from the pugnacious approach of the rest of the team. "My responsibility is one of nurturing the team, I think; if someone is having a bad day, they're just not going to play good croquet. I carry around a pocket full of lollipops for just that reason," Jon says, grinning. "Everyone has a favorite flavor, you know, and I try to keep them all around. I mean, what would happen if Hardison had a rough class and I happened to be out of Lime? I'd feel like I'd really let him down." Hmmm. Jon is a senior from Ocean City, Maryland. He lets his partner devise the strategies for the most part, unless he feels Kit is "getting a little overzealous—you don't want the Midshipmen to feel bad about losing. Remember: if everybody held croquet mallets, nobody could hold a gun." Jon's award is Best Big Toenail.

JOSH "GIOVANNI" ROGERS



Once a simple farm boy from Kansas, this mid-twenty-something Junior says that St. John's has really "changed my perspective on a lot of things. I discovered about two years ago that croquet is a great way to meet chicks. I mean, check it out!" he says as he gestures to the side of the court, "there are at least four hotties right there! And more are coming!" He worries at times that his flirting gets in the way of the game, but "Man, you gotta have priorities." His strategy consists of "Khaki shorts and a white button-up shirt with a tie; the babes love that fraternity-boy look." On his relationship with his partner, Hardison, he makes no comment, except, "We keep our distance. He's bad for the image." Josh's award is for the Best Arm Hair.

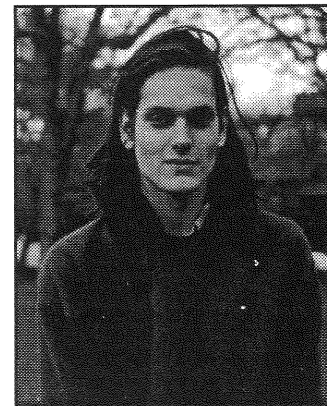
AARON "OLD IRONSIDES" PEASE



Aaron, from Stubenville, Ohio, is a "tie-dye wearin', sandal sportin', peace lovin' hippy-freak" according to his partner, Rich. Sometimes seen on the court decked out in a mu-mu, Aaron says that the best way to win is with love. "When you really love your opponent, they can really feel it and then the love starts flowing around the court and the force is really strong, man. You transfer that force of love to the ball." When he's not playing, this Junior paints watercolors of his teammates on the court and passes out hugs. "Hugs are really important," he says, "because you don't know it, but sometimes you just really need some lovin'." We give Aaron the award for Best Elbows.

REMINGTON "STOGSDILL" KORPER

Hailing from New York City, Remington is the loose-cannon rookie of the croquet team. He has been known to hurl his mallet at innocent bystanders and to hurl himself at innocent mid-dies. Underneath the rough exterior, however, Remington shows a weakness for his partner Drew. The Senior blushing says of his on-the-court comrade, "I really love him. I would do anything for that fella!" On strategy, Remington suggests war-paint and machetes. "Then they won't stake you out as often," he said. We give Remington the award for Best Tummy.

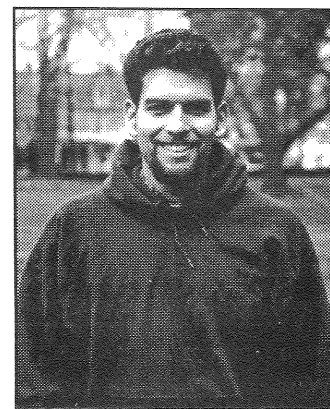


ANNEMARIE "REBORN" CATANIA



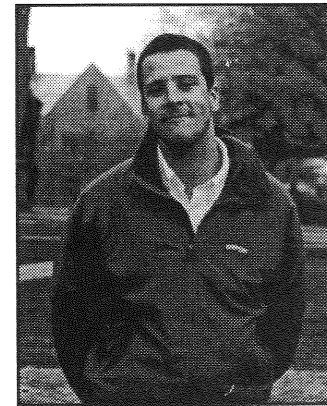
"Annie" is from Chicago, Illinois. She is a Senior this year and it has taken her a record ten years to get through the program because of her insane love of croquet—"that game with the colored balls and little metal loops." Playing on the St. John's croquet team had been her dream since the first time she heard two balls clack together. She refers to that first moment as her "rebirth." When asked about her strategy on the court, Annie began murmuring and swaying back and forth. We could only glean that she intends to "kick Navy's ass." Annie feels that her relationship with her partner, Todd, is promising, yet he seems a bit intimidated by her love of the game. We give Annemarie the award for Best Legs.

RICHARD "HOT PANTS" BRAVO



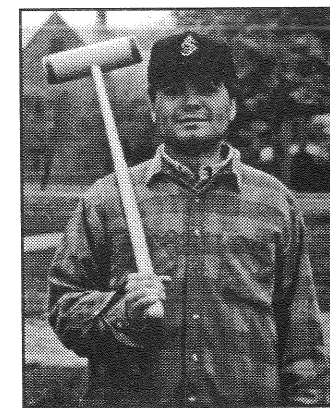
Junior Rich Bravo is a fashion czar straight out of Bethesda, Maryland. "If I hadn't come to St. John's, I would have gone to Bloomingdales," he says. Rich feels that Aaron's blatant ignorance of fashion faux-pas is sometimes a detriment to his playing. "Sometimes, frankly, he is an eyesore. How can I play well under these conditions?" But underneath it all, Rich can't help liking Aaron. We see him accepting those hugs just as much as the rest of the team. Rich feels that his love for fashion is helpful in his croquet playing. "Admit it, croquet is a fashionable game. Fashion has rules, and so does croquet. That is why I flourish on the court." We give Rich the award for Best Booty.

DREW "*" KEENAN



Salisbury, Maryland is the home of this whiz-kid member of the team. Now a Senior at the tender age of 13, Drew thinks his age does affect his relationship with his teammates: "I like hanging out with the big kids, but they won't take me to bars with them." In his free time, Drew chases girls devoid of the "Cooty shot" around the court, blows up G.I. Joe action figures and plays with his little rat "Stinky." Drew has mixed feelings about his partner. "He's kind of mean, but he gives me beers when no one is looking." We give him the award for Best Two-O'Clock Shadow.

TODD "OLD YELLER" STREGIEL



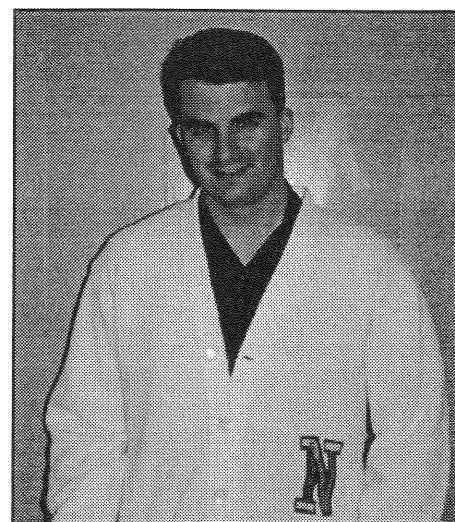
Mr. Stregiel is a 20-something senior with five and a half years of St. John's life under his belt. He claims the extra time here has "helped produce the mentality of anger and aggression one needs to encourage a winning croquet mind-set." He was born a poor black child in Skinneatilis, New York, where he bought his first croquet set with proceeds from a "lucrative venture in lemon beverages." His passion for the sport has grown to maniacal proportions. This month, the Croquet Room at his house holds an exhibition entitled "Croquet Through the Ages: A Retrospective." His partner says Todd's style is "serious, but not unyielding. But the show tunes have to go." Todd's award is Best Left Earlobe.





U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

An elite squad of mallet-toting Middies is trying to extract the Annapolis Cup currently held captive by a rabble of unkempt philosophers.



JUSTIN LONG
MIDN. 1/C (CAPTAIN)

- Hometown: Honolulu, HI
- Major: English
- First played croquet 4 years ago, when he caddied for his squad leader, who was then team captain of the croquet team. He played for two years before becoming captain of the team.

...

- Hometown: White Fish, MT
- Major: Chemistry
- First played croquet 1 year ago

JON FORSBERG
MIDN. 1/C

CHRISTIAN MAHLER
MIDN. 1/C (ALTERNATE)

- Hometown: Davenport, IA
- Major: Systems Engineering

DREW KELLOGG
MIDN. 3/C

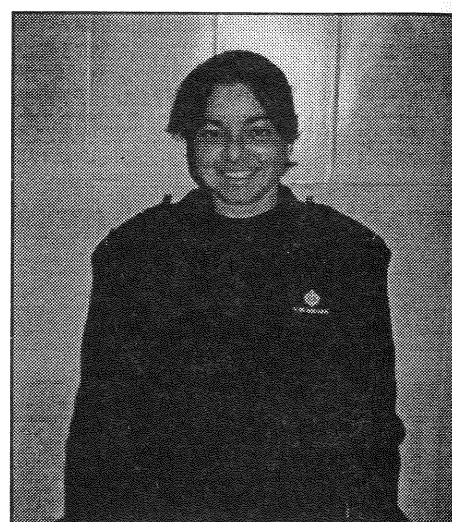
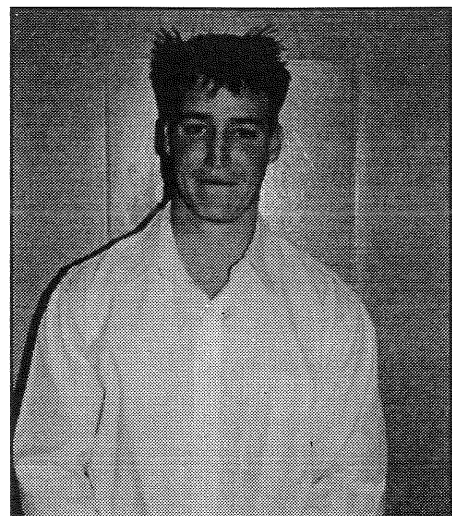
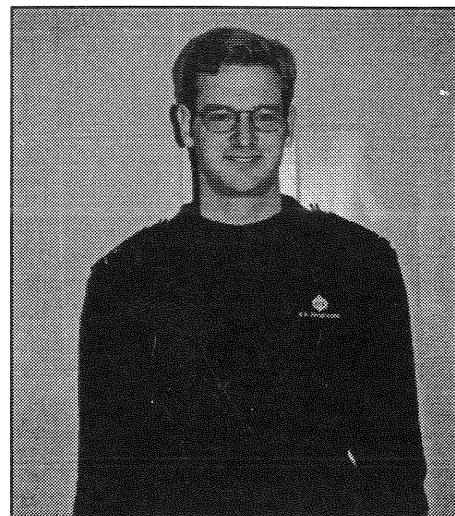
- Hometown: Olympia, WA
- Major: Political Science

BRIAN ENGESSER
MIDN. 1/C

- Hometown: Omaha, NE
- Major: Mechanical Engineering
- "I play croquet to reincarnate the spirit of F. Scott Fitzgerald."

ANDY HUNT
MIDN. 1/C

- Hometown: Sarasota, FL
- Major: Systems Engineering
- "I play croquet for the social environment and for the exercise."

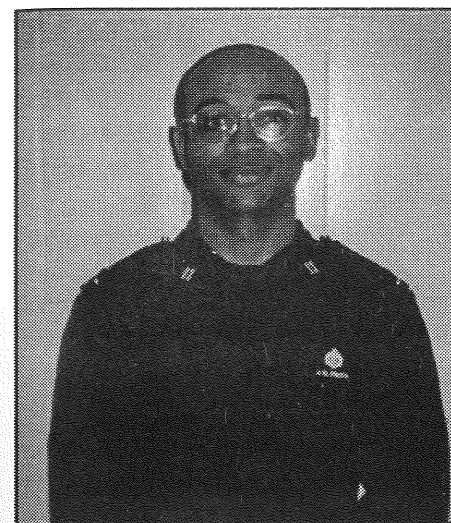
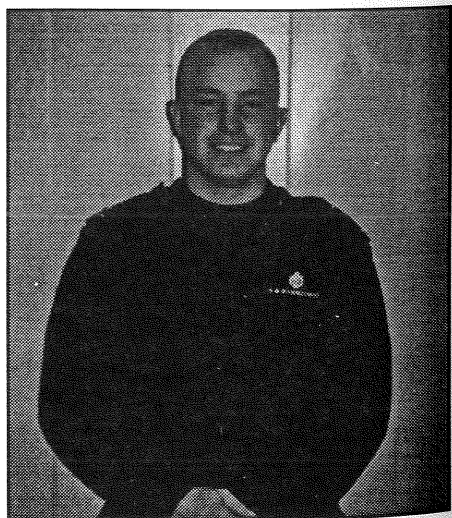


GINA MCCAINE
MIDN. 1/C

- Hometown: Rancho Cucamonga, CA
- Major: Astronautical Engineering
- "I play croquet because it's not just a sport, it's an adventure"

- ...
- Hometown: Detroit, MI
 - Major: Political Science
 - First played croquet 1 year ago

SCOTT WAWRZYNIAK
MIDN. 1/C



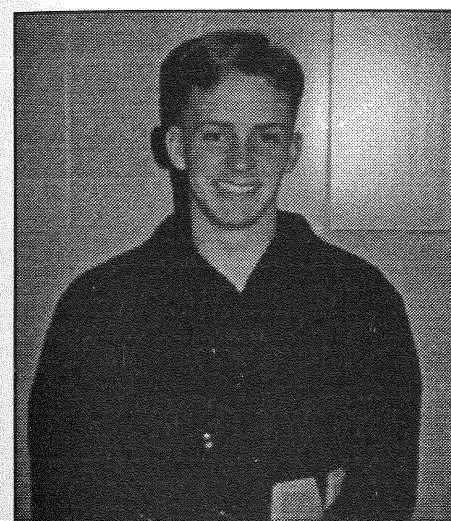
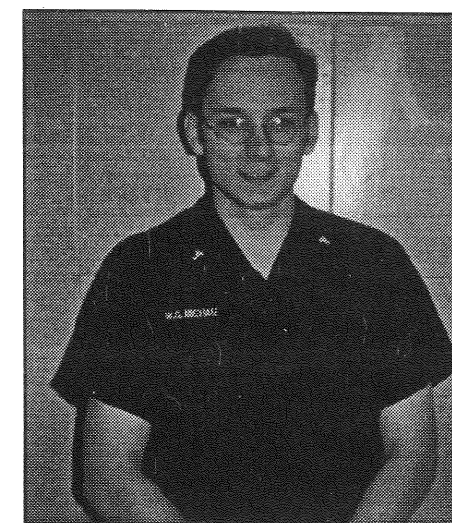
JOSES FIKES
MIDN. 1/C

- Hometown: Atlanta, GA
- Major: English
- First played croquet 1 year ago

...

- Hometown: Hotsprings, AK
- Major: Systems Engineering
- First played croquet 6 weeks ago

WILL MICHAU
MIDN. 1/C
(ALTERNATE)



BEN JONES
MIDN. 1/C

- Hometown: Oakridge, TN
- Major: Marine Engineering
- "I play croquet, therefore I am."

...

- Hometown: Louisville, KY
- Major: English
- First played croquet 2 years ago
- "I play croquet because it takes you back to a gilded age of pomp and circumstance."

BEAU BAKER
MIDN. 1/C



ABIGAIL GIBBS

The Naval Academy team—first row (L-R): Ben Jones, Gina Weissen, Scott Wawrzyniak, Jose Fikes; second row: Will Michau, Justin Long, Andy Hunt, Brian Engesser; not pictured: Beau Baker, Jon Forsberg, Drew Kellogg, Christian Mahler.

THE MIDDIE TEAM

The Academy's team is drawn from the ranks of the 28th Company of the Brigade of Midshipmen. This limiting of recruitment to a unit of company size (about 100 cadets) gives St. John's an advantage in that we have a larger talent pool of about 400 students upon which to draw.

Team captain Justin Long is the most experienced Midshipman on the 12-member team. He caddied for the croquet team his first year at the Academy and has played on the team the other three years. He is the only returning player from last year.

Midn. Long reported that there were 26 seniors in the 28th. As team captain, he chose 11 seniors and one sophomore. Two of those members are alternates.

"It is a great experience," Midn. Long said. "The two schools don't know each other and this is their only interaction. This goes a long way to blowing up stereotypes."

Commenting on the game, Long said "They have more experience. This is a long-awaited victory for us. But if we can get together and get to understand each other a little better, then we've both won." ♯



the Gadfly / Croquet Supplement

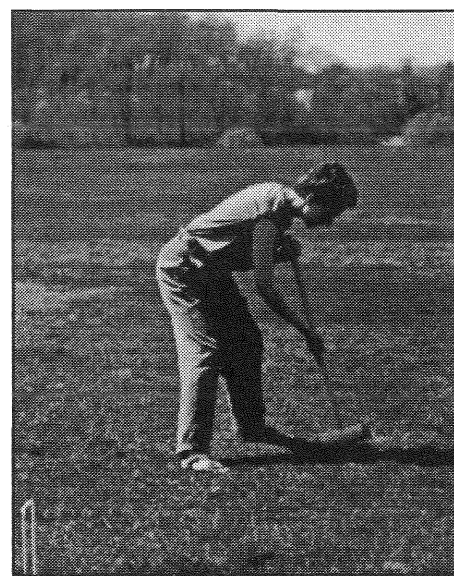
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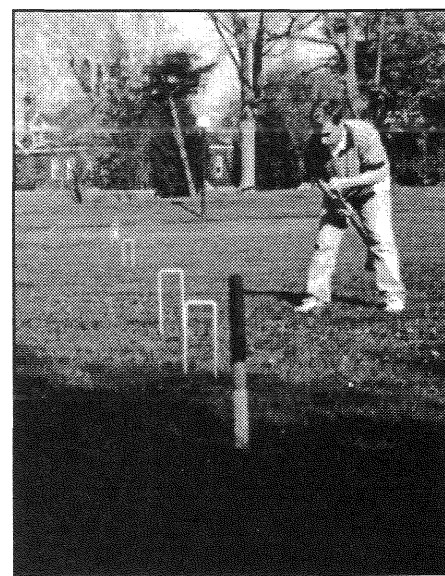
LOUVENIA MAGEE

Navy at play. A group of three Midshipmen get some practice on the uneven surface of the front lawn as Johnnie Aaron Pease watches, estimating the abilities of the foe. The St. John's team has been playing there the entire year and their knowledge of every bump and divot may make the difference on Croquet Day.



LOUVENIA MAGEE

Catania shoots. Out to prevent Navy from doing anything on the court, she has spent years in training for this day.



LOUVENIA MAGEE

The Wooden Wall. Navy will have a difficult time dealing with Hardison Wood, a croquet assassin and rock-steady player.

Croquet Rules continued from page 11

ing with the other team by taking them off their sets, using **stop shots** to shoot them away from their wickets and taking advantage of them with **split shots**.

You will not see an imitation of the scene in *Heathers* where one Heather puts her foot on another Heather's ball to viciously shoot her ball out of bounds. This is called **toeing**, or **footing the ball**, and is not considered acceptable in the Annapolis Cup games.

The most cruelty you will see in this most civilized of croquet matches will be in **blocking**, or in **staking out the rover**. The first of these is a simple defensive move. If a player's opponent is dead on her ball, and the opponent is set up for his wicket, she may shoot her ball into a place directly between his ball and the wicket. This will obstruct his shot unless he is able to execute a **jump shot** over her ball.

Staking out the rover is the most detrimental type of play, and occurs in the **end game**. When a ball has completed all the wickets, and has not yet hit the final stake, it is called a **rover**. An opponent has the opportunity to hit that ball into the stake on a croquet shot. The staked-out ball must sit out for two turns, and hit the stake at the other end of the field before coming back into play. A rover still in play may go through wickets in any direction to gain continuation as long as it is dead on two balls (or **two-ball dead**). After going through a wicket, the rover remains temporarily dead on the ball it last hit before going through the wicket until it hits another ball.

Have a fine time sunning yourself, eating and drinking. Wander off to chat with friends and strangers. If you find yourself with further questions on more complicated strategy or minor rules, ask someone who often plays croquet to expound on the game's intricacies. If all else fails, ask Jesse Berney. He knows everything.

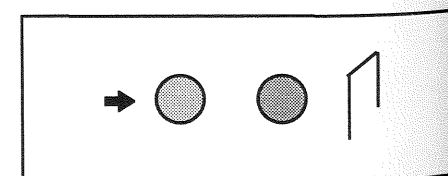


Fig. 1-3: If light gray is dead on dark gray, then the wicket is effectively blocked.

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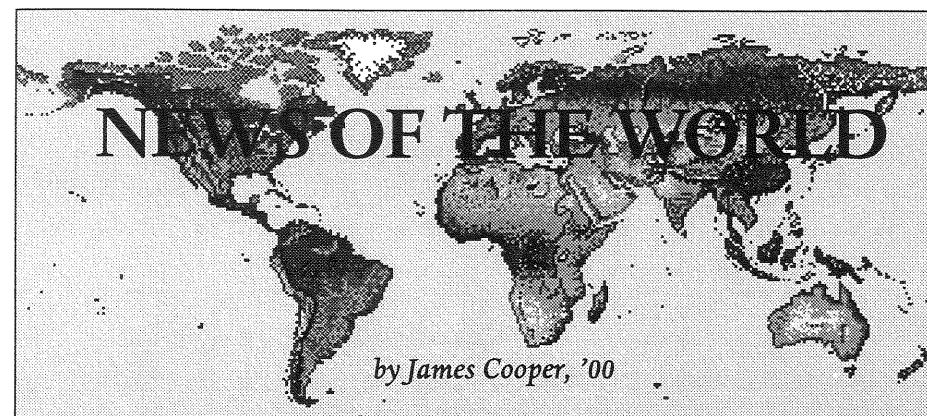
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Flood forces evacuation of 50,000

RESIDENTS of Grand Forks, North Dakota lost their battle with the Red River, as its waters began to break through emergency sand bag dikes and wreak destruction in nearby neighborhoods on Saturday.

Officials say that sixty per cent of the ten-and-a-half square mile city was underwater as most of the 50,000 residents of the city evacuated. Police and the state National Guard went door-to-door in flooded neighborhoods threatening to arrest the remaining residents because of their refusal to obey the evacuation order.

Grand Forks Air Base, ten miles west of town, was set Saturday to take in up to 5,000 evacuees.

Black history museum opens

IN ITS FIRST THREE DAYS of operation this week in Detroit, the Museum of African American History attracted 30,000 visitors who came to see a variety of artifacts ranging from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birmingham jailhouse door to a ballot box marked for "colored people."

The museum's main exhibit, "Of the People: The African American Experience" is an attempt to tell the story of African-American slavery and struggle, beginning with a walk-through replica of a slave ship and ending with a montage of photos and text panels. The display described African-American community aspirations, addressing modern-day issues with panels entitled "Expressing Our Creativity" and "Linking

Saturday afternoon, local firefighters could not reach submerged fire hydrants with their hoses to extinguish a downtown fire which continued to burn Sunday morning until U.S. Air Force personnel and aircraft arrived with water pumping equipment specially designed to assist with the blaze.

Across the river in East Grand Forks, residents were also evacuated Saturday as an eight-foot dike burst, leaving 3,000 residents unable to cross into the rest of the city. The Red River was at 53 feet as of noon Saturday and was expected to rise another foot over the course of the next few days. Flood stage at that point on the river is considered to be 28 feet.

the Diaspora on the Internet."

The \$38.4 million museum also contains a 317-seat theater, an amphitheater, three classrooms and a research library, funded largely through the sale of city bonds.

Vice President Al Gore visited the museum last week. He said that it had "a healing power that's quite dramatic."

Museum designer Ralph Applebaum, whose firm also planned the Holocaust Memorial Museum as well as the Newseum in Arlington, Virginia which also opened last week, says that new museums like these are less important for the collections that they house than for being a "trigger for moral discourse" and a "service to the community."

Elsewhere in the world news...

Former Senator and Presidential Candidate Bob Dole bailed out House Speaker and fellow Republican revolutionary Newt Gingrich last week, promising to loan him the \$300,000 necessary to pay the House of Representatives for ethics violations. Gingrich's wife, Marianne, agreed to put up family assets as collateral for the loan, which does not require repayment before the year 2005.

Rebels in Zaire refused to allow the United Nations to airlift 100,000 Rwandan refugees from camps in Eastern Zaire, urging that the evacuation be made by local roads. Those roads need major repairs which could delay the evacuation for several months.

North Korea asked for more time for consultation before deciding whether to join peace talks with the U.S. and South Korea this week. They did, however, agree to more "low level" discussions. South Korean officials believe that the North is stalling to increase pressure on the U.S. to provide greater amounts of food aid to the impoverished country, which has been suffering from a famine.

India's Coalition government stabilized itself Saturday with the selection of present Foreign Minister Inder K. Gujral as their new Prime Minister. Promising a cleaner Indian Government attendant to the problems of that country, Gujral has the backing of the Congress Party which had withdrawn its support from the governing United Front Coalition government of H.D. Deve Gowda two weeks ago.

A.D. NOTES

"For an ordinary day's work, I would suggest getting up at seven and taking a stroll for half an hour and a sprint of about 50 yards. Run your fastest without breathing until forced to breath. This clears the cobwebs out of the lungs. If a crew is getting plenty of work in the boat, I don't believe in any other hard or fast work; but plenty of quiet walking is a good thing. I have been told that the Japanese say breathing exercises are all that is necessary to keep one fit..."

—Steve Fairbairn, legendary Oxford crew coach

In men's team handball action, the Guardians defeated the Greenwaves, 9-6. Mr. Speakmon is picking up the game for the Guardians, and scored a couple of goals. But the guy who played truly awesome in goal is the tough surfer boy Mr. Manheim, who endured quite a bit of punishment making tons of saves. **For his true cool grit under pressure, Mr. Manheim is named Athlete of the Week.**

In the Spartans vs. Hustlers game, both teams traded goals and the lead seesawed back and forth. It was just a question of who would get the last shot in with time running out. This turned out to be veteran handballer Mr. Carter, who, with 25 seconds left, threaded through the red defense and made a pretty shot on goal for the win. Mr. Harris played a fine game for the Hustlers.

In class soccer action, the Sophomores picked up a victory after two tough overtime shoot out defeats. The Sophs defeated the Juniors 2-1, with some determined play by Messrs. Austin, Hendrix, Bakallbashi, and Kashiwa. But the prettiest bit of soccer during the game was a Schoener through-ball to Bravo, and a Bravo shot for a goal.

In the second match-up, the Seniors upset the previously undefeated Frosh, 1-0. I believe it was Mr. Smoll who scored for the Seniors. Messrs. Urlich, Bojaxhi, Whissler

and Brennig played some pretty hellacious dee on Mr. Arnold and pretty much nullified the Frosh offense.

The Temple was host to yet another fencing tournament this weekend, as Messrs. Holbrook and Richardson strive to prove to the world and the St. John's community that fencing is actually a sport. There were two events, morning and afternoon, with a total of 29 participants. Mr. Richardson pulled himself out of a slump with a first place win over the members of several Maryland clubs including Chevy Chase and Virginia Academy of Fencing. Also participating in the morning's event was Miss Anderton. Reports on the afternoon's event are forthcoming, with Mr. Holbrook expected to finish well.

And in the other intercollegiate sport, the crewbees showed up ready to fight at the Washington College Regatta but were foiled by the forces of nature. 25-35 mile-per-hour winds, with gusts as high as 45,

caused a boat skippered by Mr. Hernandez to be swamped by waves. A nearby beach saved the boat and the crew of Messrs. McNeely, Baisch, Speakmon and Spradley, but the regatta was cancelled, depriving our other eager warriors the chance to send Hopkins home in disgrace.

A word on what is to come in class soccer: this Friday, we'll begin playing a mini-class soccer tournament. At 4 pm, the Frosh will play the Sophs; at 5 pm, the Juniors will take on the Seniors. The losers of this Friday's games will play the early game the following Friday. And in the final game, the two winners of this Friday's match ups will play for the class championship.

She shows up day in day out, no matter what the sport—be it soccer, basketball or lacrosse—and plays hard with a great attitude. She is, in my mind, the paradigmatic St. John's intramural athlete. **Her name is Rana Choi, and for her year-long efforts, she is named Athlete of the Week.**

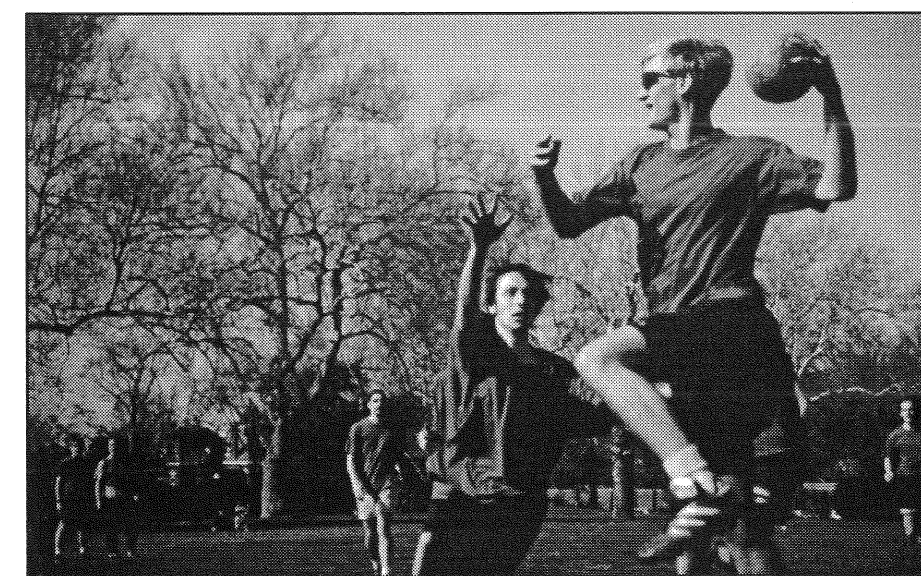
SPORTS WIRE

Class Soccer:

Sophs vs. Juniors	2-1
Seniors vs. Freshmen	1-0

Men's Team Handball:

Spartans vs. Hustlers	15-14
Guardians vs. Waves	9-6



ABIGAIL GIBBS

Spartan handballer Matt Carter whips a goal past freshman Ryan Stepanian during the Spartan defeat of the Hustlers last Wednesday. The Spartans won, 15-14.



A Black Tie Affair successful venture for gym

by Andrew Baisch, '00

This past Saturday evening at 9 pm, "A Black Tie Affair" was held in the Great Hall. The event was hosted by **Brian Good** (known by most of us as B. Good) and the ball was a benefit for the St. John's College weight room.

The weight room is a special and important part of the college community. In the April 8 issue of the *Gadfly*, Mr. Good put it so well when he said, "The major reason that our weight room is so special is that it is the one facility used by the greatest cross-section of the entire college community. On any given day you will find students, faculty, staff, their children, Marriott employees, alumni and towns people in our weight room".

Many people were in attendance including staff, faculty, students, midshipmen, townies and even some people from out of town.

Athletic Director **Leo Pickens** was in attendance with his wife, **Valerie Pawlewicz**, and had a good time. When asked why he had come, Mr. Pickens responded, "For one thing, it is a benefit for the SJC weight room; of course I'm going to come. Secondly, B. Good is famous for his parties. He throws great parties and after the disappointment of today's regatta, I needed to blow it off." He also said that he was enjoying the party very much and that he was looking forward not only to many more dances, like the one he had shared with **Maura Tennor**, and but also looking forward to many more beers.

Taylor Waters, who works in the SJC bookstore, said that she had come to "shake her booty" and because she uses the weight room and is in love with the Stair

Master.

Tutor **Katherine Heines** was one of several tutors present and said that she had come because she loves Marvin Gaye and is a charter member of the Weight Lifting Society.

Among the many students present was senior **Chris Stevens**. "I came because I use the weight room on occasion and I took this opportunity to support it—and I need to get out more often." Mr. Stevens had a good time at the dance saying "It was a lot of fun".

Sophomore **Ben Closs** was also in attendance. He gave several reasons for coming to the dance: "It is another excuse to wear a tuxedo; I wanted to hear the band; I get to see B. Good dance; and it supports the weight room." He also had a good time at the ball.

Most of midshipmen in attendance were members of the boxing team at the Naval Academy, which is coached by Mr. Good. I spoke with midshipmen **Todd Alexander**, **Lewis Cooper** and **Nic Wisecarver**. Mr. Wisecarver told me that the reason they had come was that they "are boxers and one of our trainers (B. Good) put it on."

While I didn't get the chance to talk to any townies, I did talk to two people from out of town who were at the ball: **Maureen MacIntyre**, from New York, and **John Heckmen**, from California. They are good

friends of Mr. Good's and came to support him.

Joseph "Sugarfoot" Simms and his band played the music during the majority of the ball and a deejay, **Robert George** (A'86), filled in for several songs while they took breaks. The band had eight members (including a trombone, a bass, drums, mixer, two vocalists) and played mostly soul and R&B music. The band played hits from such great performers as Gladys Knight, The Temptations, Cole Porter, The Coasters, Natalie Cole, Joe Porterman, James Brown and "Down Home Blues" by B. B. King.

Mr. Good also put on quite a spread as far as food and drink was concerned. Champagne and wine were available, as were soda and coffee. The food was great and included such things as angel food cake, pound cake, chocolate fondue, fresh strawberries, several kinds of cheese and French bread.

All in all, the dance was a great success for the college community, providing both a good time and needed funds for the weight room. The money raised will help purchase new equipment for the weight room, which was in a poor state of affairs when Mr. Good was a student, and is again in need of rejuvenation. The weight room is used, at one time or another, by a majority of the student body, for a variety of purposes.

A Black Tie Affair

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Porism: Croissants and Chaos

by Oksana Lassowsky, Tutor

In his excellent Friday-night lecture, Dr. Kellert referred to a surface being stretched and folded onto itself, exhibiting chaos. This sort of chaos can be seen in the distribution of butter that occurs in the preparation of croissants or puff pastry. Let me explain this mathematical phenomenon to you, but first let me explain how to make puff pastry (this is the pastry used to make turnovers, the sort that flakes so nicely because of all of the layers of butter that have been created in the preparation of the dough.) The puff pastry method that I will describe is based on the method described in Jacques Pepin's cookbook *The Art of Cooking*. Some minor modifications are made for the sake of simplicity, but none are contrived for the sake of chaos.

We start with a shiny dough (called the *detrempe*) rolled out into a 12" square. Cover the square completely with pats of butter. Now fold the dough with the butter in half horizontally, then again in half vertically. Rotate this smaller square of dough 90 degrees clockwise, then roll it back out to a 12" square. (This is a really neat coincidence: the rotation is important both mathematically and culinarily! Without the rotation, we might not see chaos, because, depending on the manner of rolling out the dough, one of the corners of the original square of dough might remain in the same area throughout the whole process. From a baker's perspective, if the dough were not rotated, then all of the rolling would occur along the same axis, leading to a tough pastry.)

Now we repeat this process of folding, rotating, and rolling. After six repetitions, you have created a dough separated by 2048 layers of butter. This system remains a deterministic one as long as the process is repeated identically each time, satisfying one of the requirements needed to qualify for chaos.

The chaotic behavior is exhibited by the sequence of positions in the 12" square that the points of butter (each one having no part) land on after each round of folding, rolling and turning. (Note that two points of butter may land on the same position of the square. That's fine.) Two points of butter close to each other may or not may remain close to each other as the dough is made. We have to follow each pair separately to see if they stay near each other, and if so, for how long. No generalizations can be made from one pair of points to other points nearby.

Amidst this chaotic behavior, some surprising things happen. For example, I can absolutely promise you that throughout this process there is at least one point of butter that, after each round, lands back exactly where it started. Really. (This is known as the Brouwer Fixed-Point Theorem, another piece of beautiful mathematics.) As a result, no matter how often you fold, rotate and roll, when you are done, this point is in the same position it was when you first laid the butter out on the original square of dough.

I do not know what the attractor of this iteration looks like. It seems that one way to find it would be to plan on apple strudels, and flavor the dough with cinnamon.

If a teaspoon of cinnamon is sifted over one spot of the dough, then as we apply this process, perhaps we will see an attractor by noticing a pattern emerge in the cinnamon. Unfortunately the attractor may not become apparent within five iterations, and if we overwork the dough by rolling it out too often, it will develop too much gluten for us to be able to continue to roll it out. I would be inclined to abort the experiment and enjoy the strudel, so I am not sure how likely it is that this experiment would be carried out to some sort of workable conclusion.

(I have to mention another consequence of the fixed-point theorem, as I am not sure when the opportunity might arise again. Toss a map of the United States onto a larger map of the United States so that the smaller map lies entirely within the boundaries of the larger map. The smaller map may land either upside-down or right-side up, folded, or rotated, as long as it is flat when it lands. Then there will be exactly one point on the smaller map that will land on top of its corresponding point in the larger map. This truth is not dependent on mathematical precision. In fact, one of the maps may be slightly inaccurate. For example, a given city might be represented five miles west of where it ought to be. Then you are still guaranteed a fixed point, and there might even be more than one fixed point in this case. However, the inaccuracy cannot consist of a mislabeling, that is, you cannot just trade two cities to make the map inaccurate. In that case the theorem will not apply, and you may or may not get a fixed point.)



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THE BUZZ

by Valerie Pawlewicz, "Mrs. P." Student Activities (x254)

Thanks to all those tree planters and College Creek clean-upers who worked so hard last Saturday. We planted 20 trees and shrubs around our campus, and collected many bags of garbage from our banks. Those involved included Karina Hean, Andrei Israel, Gjergji Bojaxhi, two JFs whose names I never got, Heather Deutsch, Karen Holland, Terra Barnes, Donna Jay, Blythe Woods (and her two children) and myself. Check out the fruits of our Herculean labors on the King George side of the tennis courts.

The May Basket Brainstorm meeting was yesterday, Monday, 4/21. By now we should have a theme and a plan. Want to find out more or join in the fun? Call me at ext. 254.

Have too much of some stuff but need a lot of other stuff? Want to get something for nothing? Participate in the St. John's College community lawn sale on Sunday, May 4, from 10 am to 3 pm. Any and all are invited to cart their belongings under the big tree behind Randall. Bring a blanket or table, plenty of change and all riddable goods. This event will be advertised in local papers so prepare for big sales. In case of rain, we'll be in FSK lobby.

As you prepare for taking off for the summer, pick up the handy travel reference available at Switchboard called "How to Get There From Here: Getting To and From Annapolis on Your Own." It lists the costs, travel times and optimal means of transportation necessary in order to get to local destinations (e.g., BWI, Washington, New Carrollton). You can't miss it; it's bright yellow.

Mats for sale! 2' by 5', 1/4" cushion mats. Available in blue or purple. \$10 apiece. Save your back, buy a mat!



Emack & Bolio's

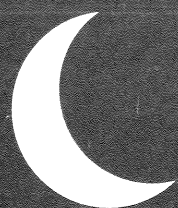
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPENINGS

WEDNESDAY 4/23 • Men's Handball
D vs. S 4 pm
H vs. W 5 pm
Back Campus
• Plato in the Springtime 7:30 pm
Room 22

FRIDAY 4/25 • Class soccer
So vs. Fr 4 pm
Jr vs. Sr 5 pm
Back Campus
• Concert:
Palestrina Choir
8:15 pm FSK

SATURDAY 4/26 • Croquet Match
1 pm Liberty Tree
• Film: Trainspotting
8:15 pm FSK
• Croquet Waltz
10 pm Great Hall

SUNDAY 4/27 • Lacrosse 2 pm
Back Campus
• Film: Trainspotting
8:15 pm FSK

TUESDAY 4/29 • Room drawing
4:30 pm Rm 103
• Women's soccer
4 pm Back Campus

LOT & ROOM DRAWING

The Lot and Room drawings to determine next year's on-campus room assignments take place during the next two weeks. Draw a lot in the Assistant Dean's Office during the week of April 21 to 25 from 8:30 am to 12 pm or 1 pm to 4:30 pm. If you have not drawn a lot by 3:30 pm on Friday, April 25, a lot will be drawn for you.

Room drawing will be April 29 and 30 in Mellon Room 103.

Men:

Rising Seniors—April 29, 4:30 pm
Rising Juniors—April 29, 5 pm
Rising Sophomores—April 30, 4:30 pm

Women:

Rising Seniors—April 29, 4:45 pm
Rising Juniors—April 29, 5:30 pm
Rising Sophomores—April 30, 5:15 pm

Please be punctual. If you are not present when your lot number is called, a room will be chosen for you.

MAY BASKET MAKING

May Day is swiftly approaching and May Basket making (an Annapolis tradition) is in the works. If you are interested in inventing a theme, suggesting flowers, figuring out a plan of action or simply arranging the flower basket which will represent the College on May 1, contact Valerie Pawlewicz at x254.

ARCHITECTURE TALK

You are invited to attend "Body and World: Architecture Beyond Vision," a Mitchell Art Gallery talk and slide presentation given by Susan Saurwein on Wednesday April 23 at 7:00 pm in the Conversation Room. Ms. Saurwein's lecture, discussing the role of the senses in experiencing architecture, is based on her master's thesis in architecture. Contact Hydee Schaller at the Mitchell Art Gallery, 626-2556 or x256, with any questions.

VOLUNTEERING IN APRIL

On April 26, Project Polite volunteers can participate in Christmas in April, a one-day blitz to renovate and repair the homes of elderly, low-income and handicapped homeowners, enabling them to live in warmth, safety and independence, with dignity. Lunches will be provided on all trips. If you have any questions, or wish to sign up for the event, please contact the Placement Office at x200 or Heather Deutsch at 216-9379.

SCANNER AVAILABLE

The Gadfly has acquired a Macintosh color scanner, courtesy of the Delegate Council. It has a scanning resolution of 4800 dpi. We thought it might be nice to allow the college community to use it for web authoring and other neat stuff during weekdays only. If you would like to use the scanner, please contact Nelson Hernandez at x288.

STOP THE VIOLENCE

The Gadfly is extending its "Stop the Violence" Tutor's Bad Handwriting Contest until Friday, April 25. Mr. Schoener has left the bad-handwriting crowd sputtering in the wake of his cruel and unusually illegible comments, but we know there are equally evil-handed tutors out there. We want to see their work. Submit cut-outs or good-quality xeroxes with your interpretations. \$20 to the best (worst?) entry. Refer questions to the Gadfly at x320.

PLATO IN THE SPRINGTIME

a study group hosted by the SCI

- 1 Because it's spring and everyone should be happy in the spring
- 2 Because everyone loves Plato, so it should make everyone happy

Wednesdays • McDowell 22 • 7:30 pm



the Gadfly

St. John's College
P.O. Box 2800
Annapolis, MD 21404

the Gadfly

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Production Manager: Abigail Gibbs
Circulation Manager: Luke Trares
Online Editor: Jesse Berney
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Ben Closs, Louvenia Magee, Sheena Otto, Jodi Schneider, Ben Speakmon

Printing by the St. John's College Print Shop

Cover Photo: Senior Todd Stregiel takes a shot
in preparation for Croquet. **See page 9.**

Founded in 1980, the *Gadfly* is the student weekly distributed free to students, faculty and staff of the Annapolis campus as well as tutors emeriti, members of the Board of Visitors and Governors and the offices at the St. John's Santa Fe campus. All opinions expressed within are the sole responsibility of the author(s). The *Gadfly* reserves the right to accept, reject and edit all submissions in any way necessary to publish the most professional, informative and thought-provoking newspaper which circumstances at St. John's permit.

Tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to the *Gadfly*.

For display advertisement prices and information, call (410) 263-2371, ext. 320.

Deadline: Friday at 5:30 pm unless permission for a delay is granted in advance. Submissions will be accepted in any Macintosh or RTF format on a 3 1/2" floppy disk along with a typed copy. Typed submissions only.

film corner

A hard day's night in hell: *Trainspotting*

by Mike Goodrum, '00

Theft, dirty sheets, a doomed baby, kitchen-wench romances, and the worst toilet in Scotland. The subject of *Trainspotting*, this week's Film Club flick, may be heroin, but the pace is pure adrenaline. Danny Boyle has brought Irvine Welsh's novel of Edinburgh junk users to the screen with such energy that the film demands to be seen more than once.

Trainspotting is the story of Mark Renton (Ewan MacGregor, star of Danny Boyle's 1994 film, *Shallow Grave*) who is trying to shed his addiction to heroin. The sordid cast of characters with whom he congregates make his recovery a difficult journey: there's Sick Boy, a Sean Connery aficionado who is trying to get clean just to spite Renton, Spud, the worst job interviewee in the world, Begbie, a sociopathic alcoholic with a fuse as short as a dwarf's pinky and Tommy, who is clean but is curious about

heroin. Their respective girlfriends (with whom they engage in the previously mentioned "kitchen-wench romances," as H.L. Mencken would put it), round out the bunch.

With an insistent soundtrack featuring Iggy Pop, Lou Reed, and Brian Eno, and frenetically paced music-video style jump-cutting passed down from Richard Lester, *Trainspotting* is reminiscent of the style of Mr. Lester's Beatles films, *A Hard Day's Night* (1964, shown last semester) and *Help* (1965). *Trainspotting* is shot in vivid color to counteract the bleakness of its subject matter. The film has been chided by critics for being pro-drug use, but this argument doesn't hold: it is simply a document of the march of nihilism, which often seems to be fun and energetic, but is ultimately just plain crazy.

Will Renton kick his habit and choose life? Come to FSK Saturday and Sunday at 8:15 p.m. and find out.

Food Committee continued from page 6

and cheese. The tentative date is Tuesday, May 6, and would be limited to students on the meal plan.

Overall, the Food Committee meeting was a success. Mr. Gallagher seems to hon-

estly want to help improve the quality of our meals. However, more students are needed to help the Food Committee work on solutions to any current feasting unrest, instead of hurling ambiguous and negative comments at Marriott. The future for our dining experience is within our control.

