

GADFLY

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Photo By Rose S. Pelham

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

Opinions expressed within are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not reflect the official opinions of St. John's College. The *Gadfly* reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit submissions in any way necessary to publish a professional, informative, and thought-provoking newsmagazine.

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The *Gadfly* meets every other Sunday at 7 PM in the BBC. We always need editors, layout designers, illustrators, and organizers. Contact us at sjca.gadfly@gmail.com for more information.

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From the Editors:

It's 2:20 A.M. and the Gadfly is tired from a long day of putting this issue together. We hope you will all enjoy the Annapolis Cup & drink in moderation, consuming equal parts water to equal parts alcohol.

On a more sober note, we would like to express our firm belief that trans rights are human rights, and that no person should face discrimination for being trans and/or gender non-conforming. - The Gadfly

A Spectator's Guide to the Rules of Croquet

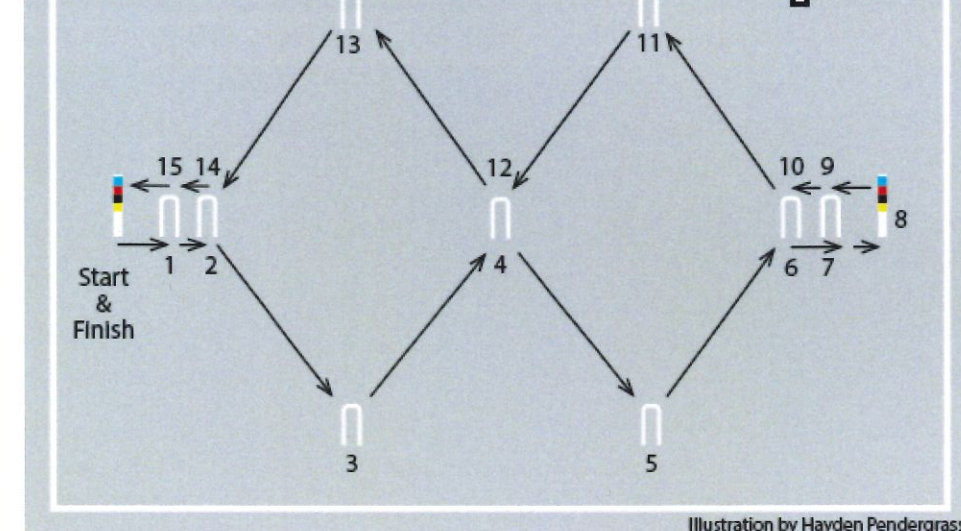


Illustration by Hayden Pendergrass

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with minor edits from a '90s-era Croquet Issue of the *Gadfly*.]

Annemarie Catania A'97

As you sit in the sun, eating, drinking, and possibly burning, you may discuss the game of croquet. 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.

Today's game is traditional American nine-wicket croquet, essentially following the rules of the United States Croquet Association. Each of the five matches consists of two Johnnies versus two Middies. One team plays with the red and yellow balls, and the other uses black and blue. The order of play follows 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. The pattern zig-zags through the center wickets and the wickets 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 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 indicates 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.

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, since 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 the 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 that 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 prior to going through it. Although hitting a ball has the advantage of two continuation 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 that 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 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 messing 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.

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.

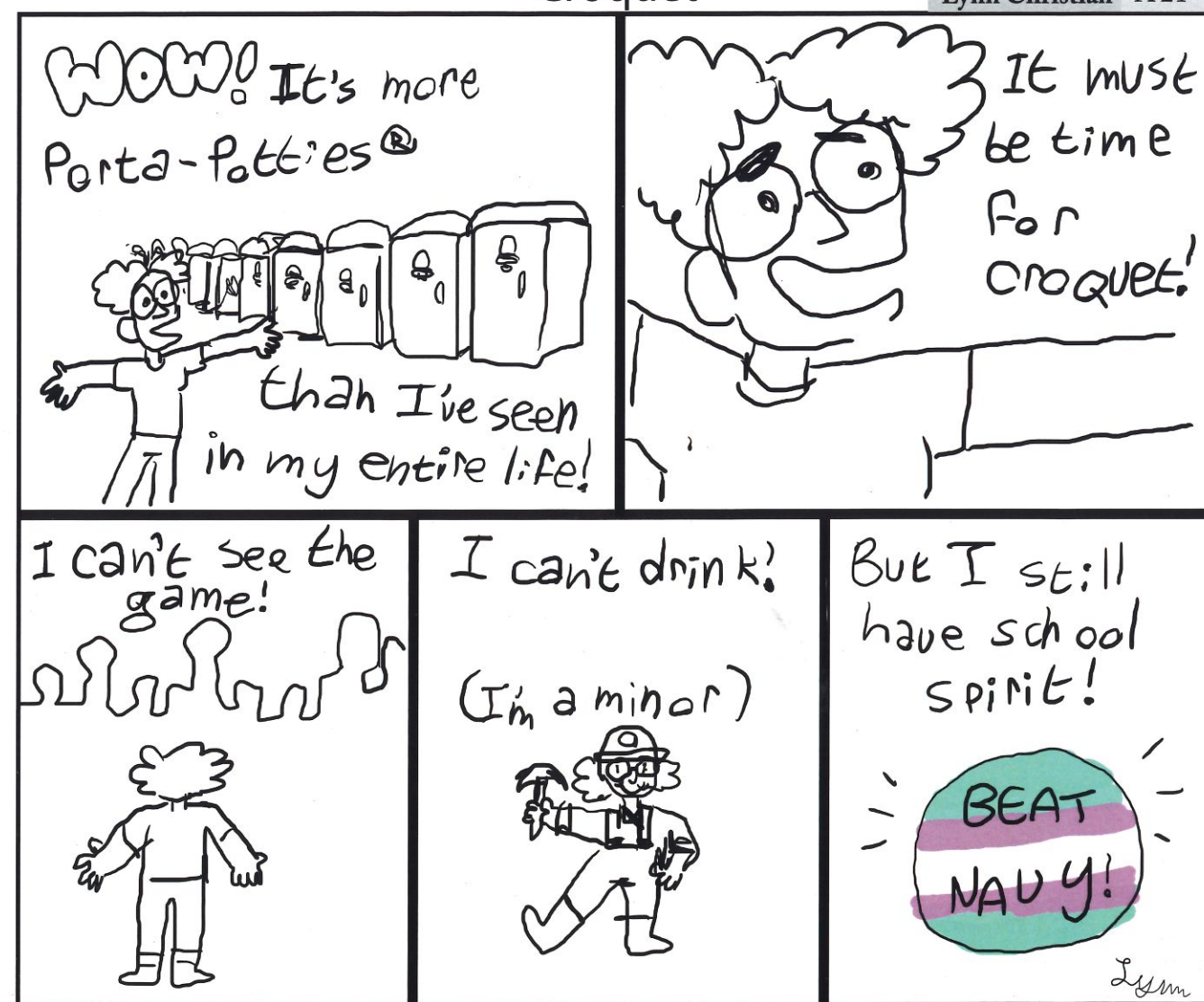
Staking out the rover is the most detrimental type of play, and occurs in the end game. When a ball has completed all the wickets and has not yet hit the final stake, it is called a rover. An opponent has the opportunity to hit that ball

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. ♦

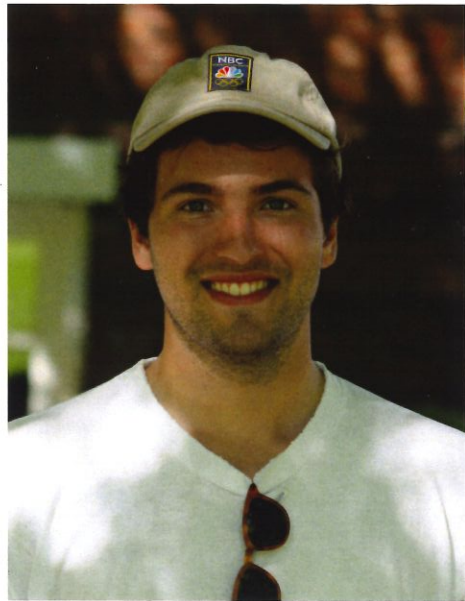
"Croquet"

Lynn Christian A'21



St. John's College Croquet Team

These twelve players are the best that St. John's College has to offer to the world of croquet. In order to get to know them a little better, we asked them the following questions: 1. Would you rather be a mallet or a ball and why? 2. Which of the Heathers are you, really? 3. What occult rituals do you practice before the tournament? Their answers may surprise you...



Alexander Muradian

- 1) bonobo (Mallet)
- 2) Heather Dubrow
- 3) coconut monkey shrimp

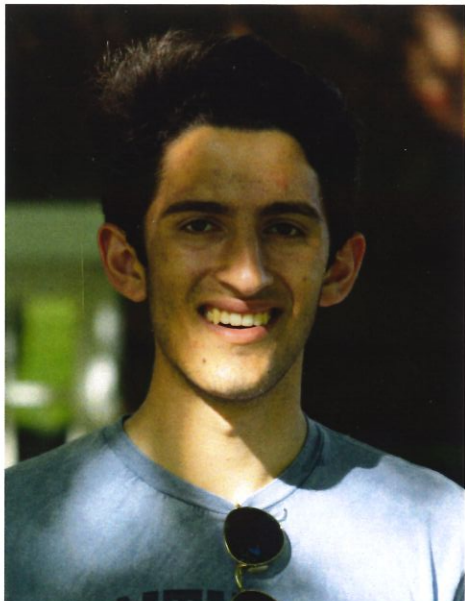


Angelika Alberstadt



Tom Balding

1. A ball, cuz they see me rollin', and they hatin'.
2. Heather Alcorn, professional poker player and poker dealer of the WSOP main event final table for 5 consecutive years.
3. Hit that sparkling ice to channel the Coriolis Effect



Jared Bassman

1. A Mallet, but only if it's fashioned by the master craftsman himself, Gary Dunkelberger
2. I would be Wynona Rider, I hope...
3. "We play too much to practice" -Micah Beck A'09



Charlie Carpenter



Sam Cooper

St. John's College Croquet Team

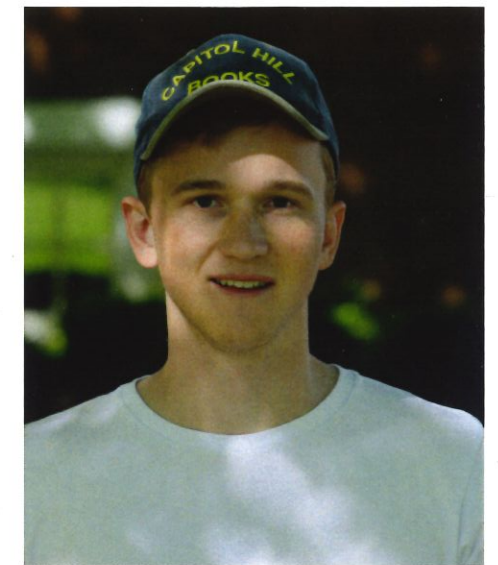


Rhys Davis

1. Ball
2. Not Christian Bale. He's a lil ratty in that movie.
3. Lutheranism



Mitchell Harris



Alexander Brock Kwilinski

1. Hah...easy question.
2. This semester I've been more of a Ferris Bueller
3. The team ties down a Johnnie and forces them to eat a hotdog with ketchup.



"Mack" McGowen

1. Mallet. Always better to be the mover than the moved.
2. Heather McNamara. According to Buzzfeed I'm totally normal, friendly, and agreeable, if not fraught with the same insecurities everyone else has. With the right hair, I'd probably make a good news anchor.
3. I avoid everyone, like most days.



Sean Miller

1. I'd rather be a wicket...
2. Sarah says I'm Veronica.
3. Cleaning my feet so my toes can grip the ground properly while I'm doing full rolls.



Val Pehrson

1. Lavar Ball, Big Baller Brand Baby
2. Mr. Heather Locklear (Tommy Lee from Motley Crue)
3. Watching the Bride of Chucky

Protest Statement

About ten days before the Annapolis cup croquet game, The Department of Defense confirmed that United States Naval Academy (USNA) will follow the Trump administration's ban on transgender troops, forbidding transgender people who have received treatment for gender dysphoria from attending USNA. Seeing a Facebook post about this issue posted by a St. John's College croquet team member, I decided to organize a demonstration and fundraising event to support current transgender midshipmen at USNA and transgender people who wish to attend the academy.

Many other students at SJC, agreeing that respecting transgender rights is an important community value on campus, joined the organization to

help planning for the event. After some discussions, we have listed some important principles of the event, presented as the following statements:

1. We are individuals grouped together for common ideas and beliefs; we are not affiliated to any organization, and we do not represent any host, organizer, sponsor, and participant of the Annapolis cup. We respect the Annapolis cup, and do not intend to disrupt it.
2. We consider the policy of banning transgender people from attending military institutions an infringement of transgender rights, which are human rights.
3. We support the rights of transgender midshipmen attending USNA and transgender people who wish to attend USNA, including but not limited to their

Simon Gao A'22

rights to receive education from USNA under fair, non-discriminatory admissions process.

4. We promise open access to our records of fundraising and spending. All funds would be used for transgender midshipmen's lawsuit against the policy, their healthcare regarding treatment of gender dysphoria, and cost in organizing the event.

Given the statement, I hope you would like to join us to improve the provision of transgender rights in USNA. The donation link is:

<https://www.gofundme.com/usna-transrights>.

Thank you for your support, and I wish our efforts would make the world better. ♦

Reckoning with the Transgender Ban & Croquet

R. S. Pelham A'20

I have never had any interest in joining the military, and at times have actively protested against it. In high school, I tore up military recruiting brochures in protest and pressed navy representatives with barbed questions. I considered it unethical to recruit teenagers for wars then, and I still do now. The ubiquitous argument that the only way to ensure global peace is with the threat of global violence does nothing to change my mind. So you can imagine that when Trump announced his ban on transgender people in the military, it seemed distant from me. My personal disinterest in joining the military, however, is irrelevant to the

very real and very negative effect the ban has on the entire trans community, myself included.

The Trump Administration's exclusion of trans people from the military sends a clear message that it views trans people as second class citizens, without right to an equal share in government institutions. This message is amplified by the fact that the military has been the most consistently popular government institution for at least the last half century, according to Gallup and the Associated Press. It is also made all the more disparaging by the context in which it is being implemented. Since its inception, the Trump administration has sought to sys-

tematically rollback LGBTQ rights in general. It has, to that end, complicated the process for trans people to obtain and renew passports, eliminated federal protections for LGBTQ students and workers, sided with businesses seeking to deny service to LGBTQ people, made it easier for doctors to deny medical care to LGBTQ patients, appointed homophobic supreme court justices, and more.

The ban will have a significant economic impact on the transgender community. According to The Palm Center, the military is the largest employer of trans people in the country, with a trans workforce of approxi-

mately 15,000. Of these 15,000, at least 13,700 are estimated to lose their jobs, though the employment of every trans person in the military is threatened. Additionally, the approximately 1,300 who might remain will face much more uncertain prospects for promotion and job security than their cisgender co-workers. They will also no longer have access to healthcare related to their needs as trans people, unless they sought it prior to the ban, under threat of discharge. Less than a thousand are expected to have their medical care grandfathered in under this last condition. And, those who remain in the military without meeting this requirement will be required to go back into the closet while at work, under threat of discharge. In other words, the trans people remaining in the military will be subject to every condition legally possible to induce misery and discourage future trans applicants.

Transgender people are already twice as likely to be unemployed as their cisgender counterparts, and four times as likely to make less than \$10,000 a year. It is estimated that eighteen percent of trans people have worked in the military at some point. The ban will increase trans unemployment and underemployment further exacerbating wealth inequality between trans and cisgender people. It will also further constrict the economic opportunities available to trans people. The vast majority of trans people have faced workplace discrimination of some kind, and more than a quarter have been fired due to prejudice. It is commonly known that the military recruits in areas with few job opportunities, in rural communities, and in the south east. In all of these areas trans people face particularly few job prospects, largely due to a lack of protections against employment discrimination and a scarcity of accepting employers. For trans people living in the rural south, the military ban may have dire economic consequences. Some, no doubt, will join the military despite the onerous restrictions enumerated above, simply because it will be their best chance at employment. There they will face an almost unimaginably hostile environment designed to force them out.

The economic impact is not all. The government's rationale for the ban is designed appeal to, and provide justification for, transphobic rhetoric. The Pentagon's central argument for the expulsion of trans personnel is that being trans is an incurable illness resulting in mental and physical disability, which cannot be treated. This argument is directly counter to the consensus of the American Psychological and Psychiatric associations, both of which have issued statements in opposition to the ban. Nonetheless, the government's use of the argument, no matter how ill reasoned and unsupported by the evidence base, will lend it a semblance of credibility. If the ban survives its current legal challenges, it is entirely possible that its reasoning could be applied as a blanket justification for legalized discrimination. Even if the ban proves temporary, the power of the transphobic ideas behind it will have repercussions for decades. There will be children bullied for their gender nonconformity. There will be people who will feel as if their whole being is wrong. There will be suicides. These horrors are real enough already...

A couple weeks ago, the Naval Academy announced it would not accept transgender students starting next academic year. In a few days from the time I am writing this, thousands of people will descend on St. John's College for the spectacle of the Annapolis cup. For most, it will be nothing more than an entertainment. For the trans students of St. John's it will be an encounter with an institution that has only just declared itself inhospitable to people like ourselves. How could we not feel uneasy about it? How could we not feel alienated from this event?

If you look from the campus of St. John's College towards the Naval Academy, you will see a brick wall. On this side of it, I am, more or less, free. On the other side of it there are, no doubt, trans people, not wholly unlike myself, facing an intensity of oppression I am utterly unfamiliar with. I may visit the other side, but I may not go there. I am free until I reach the wall.

I will stand in solidarity with the trans midshipmen. Will the Naval Academy do the same?

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TRANS RIGHTS

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