



THE GOOLDFLY

I Bought the Gadfly Party Pack: An Alphabet

By Anna Goold

What am I supposed to do with an issue of the Gadfly? It's sort of one of those things that is really exciting to buy, but then maybe doesn't make as much as sense as you thought it did. I think at Meet Market when I was running up a storm of a tab I was having an "If I Ran the Circus" kind of moment. If I were in charge I'd do things my way! But I don't want to run the Gadfly. However, I've purchased it and it's mine so I'll use the space to give the polity my thoughts on various topics that seem to have arisen on campus over my time here. Of course it's indulgent, but if that's not what I was paying for then I've lost faith in Adam Smith. So here is an alphabetical list of my thoughts on stuff. Enjoy.

ANNAPOLIS

With such a close-knit campus, sometimes it is easy to overlook the fact that we are also part of a larger community. Despite it's overwhelming abundance of kitsch and crabs, it's quite a lovely town. I would encourage everyone to live in it. Go for walks, eat out occasionally, meet the people who live and work here permanently. Most of you came from somewhere else and will head somewhere else when you finish here. Spend your four years here not only experiencing St. John's life but also the life of the town.

B6 VITAMINS

They'll help with the hangover.

CORE GROUP

Your core group is like a family. Treat them well, probably don't date them, also probably don't hate them. Sometimes it seems unclear why the College even thinks core groups are necessary. Sometimes they can really drive you up a wall, but you can learn from them. Pay attention to how their minds work, let them teach you patience if you feel there is nothing else to gain. It is an important bonding experience.

DELEGATE COUNCIL

Everyone is going to do a better job than the guys before them. Ok, I believe you.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AT ST. JOHNS

Would everyone mind turning those lamps off in the coffee-shop when you get up?

FRIENDSHIP

Is it just me, or is it hard to keep friends here? I read the Ethics but I'm still usually fucking it up. That being said, I have

the greatest friends in the entire universe. Thanks, guys.

GENDER:

...IS IMPORTANT.

HEGEL

Since freshman year, the Seniors have been telling me how hard and miserable Hegel is. One, maybe I had the wrong sorts of Senior friends. But two, he's incredible. So for everyone not a senior, don't freak out and don't write him off. Hegel is just the paradigmatic example, but this sort of dread is built up a few times at St. John's - Kant, Aristotle, Junior Lab, Calculus - it's just too hard, you'll never get it, it doesn't matter how many times you read it... This is false, you will undoubtedly get a better understanding of these challenges in the program if you fling yourself at them wholeheartedly and ignore their reputations.

IMPERIAL WICKET

Aren't we all excited that it's almost time for Croquet?!

JUNIOR YEAR

This year is hard. Everybody will tell you that. It is also extremely rewarding and it is this year that you are most entrenched in the program. I like Eliot better than Austen, Leibniz better than Newton and everyone better than Rousseau. Also, good luck on your essays. Also, I eagerly await Reality Weekend.

KINEMATICS

When do I graduate?

LUNCH

This is what you should eat with your tutors.

MONOLOGUES

When they're great: On stage, expressing the human condition.

When they're uncalled for: In seminar.

NO

Pajama pants in class
snitchin'
smoking in doorways
pain no gain
decaf coffee
writing in library books
scrubs

OOPS

College is full of mistakes. Apologize and forgive.

PARENTS

They shape who we are, they contribute financially and emotionally to our education and all they get is one measly weekend in November. We should all call our parents more.

QUA:

...or you could just say as.

REALITY

Please refer to my second article.

SKIRTS

Wear 'em. Or don't.

TALKING

This is what you're supposed to do in class.

UNDERRATED

Sophomore music

Lecture

Calvin

VAGINA

As some of you may know, my lovely roommate Kathryn Lewis and I are putting together a collection of monologues dealing with women. We were inspired by The Vagina Monologues which was put on our Freshman Year. We decided to go for a title that was less...er... loud. But since we don't mention the word vagina in any of the monologues, I'm going to write the word vagina here so that you don't forget about the word vagina.

WINGIN' IT

Present that prop even if you're not sure you're ready.

Pick exciting essay topics

Tell them how you feel

Take the road trip.

XI

Learn the Greek Alphabet and then remember it so you can pronounce them all when they come up in lab.

YOUTH

We are young and vibrant and beautiful and we can do anything we set our minds to. Incidentally this is also what I'm going to use as my excuse if this Gadfly issue resurfaces when I'm forty.

ZEUS

God help us all.



Women, and Truth

"At any rate, when a subject is highly controversial – and any question about sex is that – one cannot hope to tell the truth. One can only show how one came to hold whatever opinion one does hold." So, in writing about sex, "Lies will flow from my lips, but there may perhaps be some truth mixed up with them; it is for you to seek out this truth and decide whether any part of it is worth keeping."¹

Four years ago, I was a freshman navigating Philosophy, Truth, and other Nouns-with-a-capital-N, and saw an unusual word on a flyer: Vagina, with a capital V. The Vagina Monologues made a much-needed (or was it dreaded?) appearance at St. John's. As part of the cast, I was highly aware of all the controversy it created. Men and women alike were excited, nervous, hesitant, embarrassed, and captivated by the existence of the production.

But despite all of the discussion of gender, and all of the discussing we did in class, there never seemed to be any discussion of gender in class. It is not for lack of appropriate texts. The Timeaus, Antigone, the Bible, the Canterbury Tales, Paradise Lost, Middlemarch, War and Peace, and Beyond Good and Evil all provide excellent opportunities to discuss the one question we, as a community, cannot seem to address deeply or maturely: what does it mean to be man and woman?

We talk about our place as Man in relation to God, to animals, to space, to atoms... we talk about ways to interact as citizens, as a species in nature, as friends, and as academic colleagues. In a constant search for the best way to live, I have been asked to challenge and explore almost every aspect of my identities and values. I have not been asked nor encouraged to explore gender.

I feel very fortunate that I live in a country where I cannot legally be discriminated against or enslaved because of my gender. But the fact of the matter is that women are routinely victimized strictly because of their gender everyday in this country and around the world. Women have historically been denied education, denied literacy, and in many instances denied what little money they have been able to earn. They are not granted political rights, and in many cases, they are not even allowed the basic ability to choose what they wear each day. Young girls are sold into slavery and vaginally mutilated; women are beaten and raped.²

These are issues that, like poverty, child abuse, and genocide, we cannot hope to "solve" from our ivory tower. But when considering what it means to be part of the human race, or part of the female or male gender, I feel it is important to recognize what we are capable of enduring, and what crimes we are capable of committing. What grants a group of people the right, duty, or power to treat another group in a certain way?

My gender is not the only thing that defines me. I am a unique person (whatever that means) with a unique set of values, opinions, interests, skills, etc. One aspect of myself that I cannot change is that I am a woman. Regardless of how an individual chooses to express or identify his or her gender, it is there, and it fundamentally affects the way he or she interacts with the world. There are little things – whether your bathroom has a skirt or pants on the door, and big things – societal expectations, biological differences; they all matter, because we deal with them every day. "Why do we need to talk about what the bathroom door looks like?" You might be wondering. And rightly so. We don't. But we do need to talk about some other things.

My roommate (your gadfly patron), Anna Goold, and I are hoping to provide this community with a venue for such discussions. TRUTH|a woman is a monologue project that celebrates women – the obstacles they have overcome, the beauty they display, the art they create and inspire. Because "formative" thought took place so many years ago, before women were able to take part in the formation, we feel it is important to give a voice to those women who have influenced and inspired us, and the artists and characters who have influenced them. I hope I have successfully shown you why I feel such a project is necessary. I am glad that you are reading this article, and I hope you will continue or begin an interest in gender studies by attending the performance of our monologue project in April. If you have ever been a woman, in love with a woman, inspired by a woman, challenged by a woman, or born of one, I would encourage you to come and celebrate with us. TRUTH|a woman will be performed Saturday, April 16th and Sunday, April 17th in the boathouse.

1: Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

2: For statistics or information, or for information about how to help, please consult UNFOA, Say NO – Unite, NCADV, and UNICEF

By: Kathryn Lewis

An Introduction to "The Ten Highlights of College, in List Form"

When Anna Goold bought the Gadfly and asked me to contribute an article, I found myself suddenly without anything to say. Those who know me may be as surprised as I am about this.

I think part of the problem is that now, as a senior, I felt compelled to give some insightful advice to the underclassman via Gadfly article. Thinking back to the seniors I knew when I was a freshman, or even a sophomore, I remember thinking they were literally the coolest people in the entire world (second only to Ben Gibbard). They all lived off campus, they were all old enough to drink. Their sordid affairs and tribulations were celebrity gossip for me, and I wanted to BE them, as soon as possible. And they did know more about the world than me, so I took them pretty seriously.

But then I thought, "ABrown, who do you think you are kidding?" I'm twenty, the age of Alexei Karamazov at the time of his father's murder. Half the sophomores are the same age as me, and most of the juniors are older. As graduation looms before me I am struck by how important everything is becoming, and how frightened my fellow seniors sound about their futures.

So after worrying about this Gadfly article for a month, the only things I could think of to leave to my fellow members of the Polity were lists of odd things: my ten favorite Program books (too pretentious), my ten least favorite things people do in class (too bitchy), five biggest college regrets (too personal), ten bests/worsts of living off campus (boring).

Most of you probably remember the late great Kirstie Dodd (still alive), who like me was young for her year and who unlike me made herself famous as a sophomore by writing wit, observant and politically neutral weekly Gadfly articles. It also helped that she owned the world's most ridiculous snowsuit. When I was a freshman, she was my favorite member of the Gadfly staff, possibly tied with the other great columnist Jennifer Wright. Dodd on the Quad was the bee's knees, whether it was about the potential benefits of a soft-serve ice-cream machine or calling out the various "Johnnie mariages" on campus (which still exist). KDodd just wrote whatever she felt like writing, and I appreciated that. The Gadfly writers in those days didn't seem to take themselves all that seriously-- they just wrote about whatever was on their minds.

There have been some pretty catty articles written this year (and last) in the Gadfly, both anonymously and not. The thing is, I think we are all taking the whole thing WAY too seriously. In November I wrote an article in angry response to the "Rules for Social Acceptance," an anonymous submission which still (I gotta say it) irritates me to no end. When I showed it to a friend, he told me that we Johnnies already get enough of people telling us how to live our lives in seminar. And you know what? He was right, and as my junior lab tutor once told me, none of us are any competition for Aristotle. But we do not get enough convincing arguments

for the installation of a soft-serve ice cream machine. We do not get enough accounts of the miserable camaraderie of the SJC winter smokers, who huddle with their backs pressed to the giant doors to Randall and perfect the art of the in-coat cigarette light. I want to hear about that again.

The soft-serve ice cream article wasn't really about how people OUGHT to do anything, it was mostly about the fact that Kirstie Dodd likes soft-serve. That is something I think we can all get behind. So please: tell me about it. After Tocqueville, Einstein, Bergson and Tolstoy sometimes I just to read David Sedaris. The Gadfly used to be more like that. I love hearing the juniors banter in the coffeeshop booths; they're hilarious. I could quickly name 3 sophomores who crack me up every time I talk to them. I just wish you guys would write it down and publish it in the Gadfly every week, so that next year when I'm gone I can subscribe and still remember what it's like here. Sometimes sitting on the Druids bench (especially during basketball games), I feel like I'm living in the middle of a sitcom, and to be honest that is why I play intramural sports. Play to your strengths! Pan thumos, etc! Here I am writing a Gadfly article and I don't even have a good argument about soft-serve ice cream. If I can do it, so can you.

But to come to the point, which I fear I have nearly forgotten-- after a month's contemplation, I simply decided to write a list of things I have enjoyed about my excellent, excellent 3.75 years here. Perhaps I have bored the readers too much already by excessively lengthy introduction: "I quite agree that it is superfluous, but since it is already written, let it stand."

The Ten Highlights of College, in List Form

- my apartment
- my friends
- senior writing period
- the boathouse
- druids
- freshman lab
- all four years of math, especially lobachevski and apollo-nius
- road trips
- the day after senior prank
- preceptorials

By: Alexandra Fernandez

SCI MINUTES

#1

This article will attempt to outline the points made in the March 3 meeting of the SCI on the study of language at St. John's.

The conversation focused on whether the language tutorial succeeds in studying language as language. Linguistic analysis of texts can take a backseat to concerns pertinent to learning a language. Students more often try to extract meaning of text without looking at the way the text is written. While this task is easier to accomplish with poetry than with prose, the linguistic purpose behind each sentence does not always come to the forefront of the conversation.

Some students suggested that linguistics should be emphasized more on the program, since it does not appear that each tutorial treats the subject equally. Students saw an opportunity in the French tutorial to begin looking at linguistic questions, namely because French is easier to learn than Greek and is also similar to English grammar. Authors like La Rochefoucauld, Descartes, and Pascal can call our attention to larger linguistic structures, especially since we can translate more than in the Greek tutorial. A linguistic analysis can also help students to interpret the works according to its original language, as opposed to "thinking In English."

Another concern with the language tutorial is that classes often student single works or authors for long periods, creating a "sub-seminar" class; moreover, students can lose a sense of the whole work because the class itself emphasizes small parts. Between learning a language and treating the texts with a seminar mentality, students often fail to reflect on language as language, which is the primary goal of the language tutorial. Translation should force us to look at the irreconcilable differences between languages, which in itself a reflection of the nature of language.

Students offered some potential solutions to the concerns mentioned above. The language tutorial should relate to almost every other class on the program, yet students do not always recognize its holistic nature. If students read more English prose and rhetoric, they could student language in detail through their own. In addition, more emphasis on the logic segment in the second semester of sophomore year would be incredibly helpful for almost every class on the program.

While non-SCI members attended the forum, we always want to hear more from the polity. The entire polity is invited to attend all SCI forums, to write to the Gadfly on these issues posed, or to tell any member of the SCI what is on your mind. The SCI meets with the Instruction Committee to represent *you*, so don't be shy.

#2

This last Thursday, March 24, the Student Committee on Instruction held an open forum for students on a proposal from tutors Ms. Eva Brann and Ms. Lise van Boxel, which would change the seminar time from its traditional 8-10 pm slot to 4:30-6:30. This article, based on the minutes from the meeting, will explain the advantages of the time change, as well as the objections that students raised against it.

The primary issue with the current 8-10 pm seminar is that the time obstructs after seminar conversations, since students need to prepare for the next day's tutorials and, in some cases, get enough sleep before a 9 am class. By moving the seminar time to the afternoon, these conversations can naturally move to the dining hall, while still providing adequate time for students to prepare for their other classes. The current time of seminar guarantees that students and tutors who commute will be traveling after dark, which does raise some safety concerns; moreover, the seminar time can be particularly difficult for tutors who commute from the DC metro area or Virginia. Ms. Brann and Ms. van Boxel also mentioned that many tutors have young children, which means they cannot spend seminar nights with their families.

Students did offer several disadvantages to the change. Evening seminar possesses a certain austerity that originates from being off-set from other classes. In addition, students benefit from the considerable time between classes and seminar to prepare their readings. While the registrar could arrange the schedule so that no students had long lab or classes after 2:10, students were still concerned that their Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday schedules would suffer.

Ms. van Boxel did offer this observation: a good student will still be a good student, no matter when their seminar is. Having taught a 4:30 seminar in Santa Fe, Ms. van Boxel explained that students could transition from their tutorials to seminar.

The group agreed that the real repercussions of this change will be subtle. Some of the advantages and disadvantage of both times have been outlined above, but the SCI would like to turn over the discussion to the polity. Are early seminars a good idea?

REALITY

All that Glitters is not Goold

I am Reality's biggest fan. So when I woke up the morning after Meet Market this past November, while my first thought was "Yes, yes I did bid \$800 on the Reality Party and Gadfly Party Pack last night, well shit." My second thought was "I do love Reality. Money well-spent." I am not frivolous with my spending, I assure you. I just really love Reality.

To give any of you who may need it the background, I was the Reality Archon last year, but that's not what this is about. If you ask me why I became Reality Archon, I will avoid answering you - I could tell you could tell you some painful personal details about myself and how I desire the approval of my peers, or how I have a maddeningly strong propensity for self-sacrifice, or I could just tell you that beer and dancing are two of my favorite things. If you don't like Reality (or me I guess) no sincere answer to that question will turn you. Anyway, it has been a blessing not being archon anymore but I am happy to sign a check that goes to them.

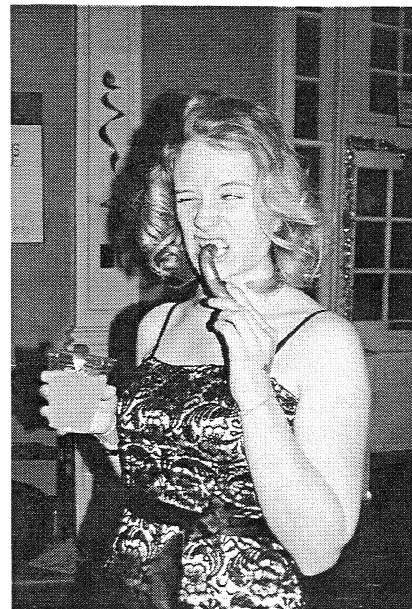
My first purchase (the party which I perhaps somewhat egotistically made my 21 and 11/12 birthday party) went off without a hitch. I mean that metaphorically speaking of course, because literally there were a couple hitches. So thank you all who attended (especially the Reality Archons who made me a throne and ordered balloons with my name on it), I had a wonderful time. And so now you hold in your hands my other Meet Market purchase - my own issue of the Gadfly. And so I take this opportunity to write about Reality (and specifically the complaints I have heard against it) because it has so profoundly affected my life at St. John's.

I am clearly not the only supporter of loud, dark, disconcerting dance parties but Reality's opponents always make

me a little bit sad. Lately the anti-Realityists seem to be cropping up more than usual. They are of noble stock more often than not. They sometimes have great aspirations of shutting down or exposing this corrupt organization (taking issue with the budget), others take the form of meeker protesters more akin to the WCTU that object to the moral implications of a school party serving alcohol, and other groups heartily embrace Reality but critique the

room-temperature food that they stumble upon at quarter after one, or the sub-par decorations. Everyone would do it better, safer, more honestly. Everyone has such novel ideas. Reality has its problems but it doesn't make us into thieves and drunks. What, may you ask, do you have to say in it's defense? Good question. I asked myself this when I was standing in the middle of an empty (save a floor quite drenched in beer) FSK Lobby holding a mop and crying my little eyes out after Meet Market '09. What could be possibly be good in all of this? Despite it all, I like us all in one room. We are a small school and I like cramming as many of us as possible into one room and dancing. I like that so much. Even when there's vomit, even if there's blood. Of course, you may argue that far from the entirety of the polity attends. And of course it's not everyone's cup of tea. But as for me, it is without a doubt, my solo-cup of beer. Thanks for such a fantastic four years. Reality, I've had a fucking blast.

By: Anna Goold



Jock o' the Week

Anna Goold does not play sports.

Disgrace Falls Upon St. John's

I am writing to voice my objections to the controversial article published in the last edition of The Gadfly. I normally don't write replies to articles I dislike, but I found this one so distasteful that I am compelled to speak out. The offensive nature of this piece shows poorly on both this individual, the College, and human decency. I, personally, am surprised that it got past the editors of this publication—much less the administration. But, lo and behold, we have witnessed a blight spread over the reputation of our college. I only hope our funding is not put in jeopardy by this oversight. I mean, who is so ignorant of the history of our college that they are oblivious to our sources of financial support? Furthermore, I find their comments unfounded and ill-supported. Do we really want to jeopardize the continuous flow of money we receive from our Kentuckian constituents?—not to mention the Preakness. Slandering our equestrian roots is an abasement of everything St. John's stands for. Many of our dormitories derive their very names from old triumphants of the tracks---Pink Knee, Camp Belle, Gilly Ham, and innumerable others. We might as well take the Triple Crown out of its hermetically sealed case in the McDowell Cupola and dash it to the ground! It's not like Francis Scott Key isn't already turning in his grave alongside his favorite horse Hump Free. If we forget where we came from, how can we remember the proper way to make a mint julep? Shame, shame, shame!

By: Blake Myers

Thanks

**In closing, I would like to thank the following people for
having made the GOOLDFLY possible:**

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THE GOOLDFLY

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Founded in 2011, THE GOOLDFLY is the student newspaper distributed to over 600 students, faculty, and staff of the Annapolis campus.

Opinions expressed within are the sole responsibility of Anna Goold. THE GOOLDFLY reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit submissions in any way necessary to publish the most professional, informative, and thought-provoking newspaper which circumstances at St. John's College permit.

-Anna Goold