

THE GADFLY

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

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

The *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.

Articles should be submitted to sjca.gadfly@gmail.com.

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From the Editors:

Tis not yet the season, Polity, and don't let no one tell ya different. We're here, and we mean business. That means no laughing, no joking, and certainly no singing *Jingle Bell Rock* in a tinny voice while grinding your plastic hips. We're here on a... wait, what's that? No. It can't be. Christmas is still four weeks away, for the love of Pete, have you no decency? At long last sir, have... No, I don't want to put on a Santa hat. If it were up to me, Christmas would consist of the first fifteen minutes of *A Muppet Christmas Carol* and a large dram of eggnog, and then that'd be it. It, I say! I refuse to believe it's Christmas yet, and you should too!

-The *Gadfly*

Pangaea Presents:

Prabesh Froyo Experience



To promote cultural exploration, Pangaea is exposing international students to food and activities from other cultures. Prabesh is an international student from Nepal in the class of 2019. This is his first time trying frozen yogurt, but not his first time seeing *Despicable Me 2*, which was playing in Tutti Frutti during our interview.

What kind of desserts do you like normally, in your culture or otherwise?
I prefer spicy food that's very hot and I prefer food which has a lot of soup.

Are there any spicy, soupy desserts that you really like? Or is that more for main dishes?

Most of the time I enjoy eating the soupy chicken my mom prepares for me.

Most of the time?

Most of the time. (Prabesh laughs) And, yeah, I also like traditional food that we have in our country.

What do you like to eat in America?

Til now? I think the roast is pretty good. I think that's the best thing that I ever had here.

So what do you think of frozen yogurt?

I think it's very delicious. I'm very thankful that I got mango. It's really just so good.

What do you think of your toppings? Would you do anything different next time?

Yeah definitely. I would like to try something different that I haven't tried yet.

Oh you like trying new foods?

Absolutely, yeah.

Pangaea is the St John's College International Student Club. Meetings are every Tuesday at 6:00 P.M. in the Private Dining Room. All are welcome! Contact Lizi Akhvlediani if you have any questions or would like to volunteer for a segment, and find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SJCAPangaea>

Wastelands

◆ Ivan Romanovich Syritysyn A'19

Great many wastes must men in life endure
Different kinds whose shadows here are seen
No man in end escapes these wastes forever
Yet through them rarified wisdom he will glean

Cross blizzards pose to him a frightful danger
Encased alive by layers abounding wide
No friend to give a fire and to save him
How long can he remain alive inside?

The scorching desert shows no lighter fury
A thirst which tortures but yet never kills
With whips of hot sand hovering around him
It won't be long before to them he yields

An ancient growth is always ever present
Once rooted in it burrows far and wide
To tear them out it is always unpleasant
For it feels like you cut yourself inside

So shall these toils uncover hidden treasure?
Will seeming death bring forth a greater life?
Is fleeting pain worth abounding pleasure?
Is there no hope for innocence inside?

Scribbles Inspired by Seminar Reading of Newton Concurrent with Preceptorial Study of Ancient Greek

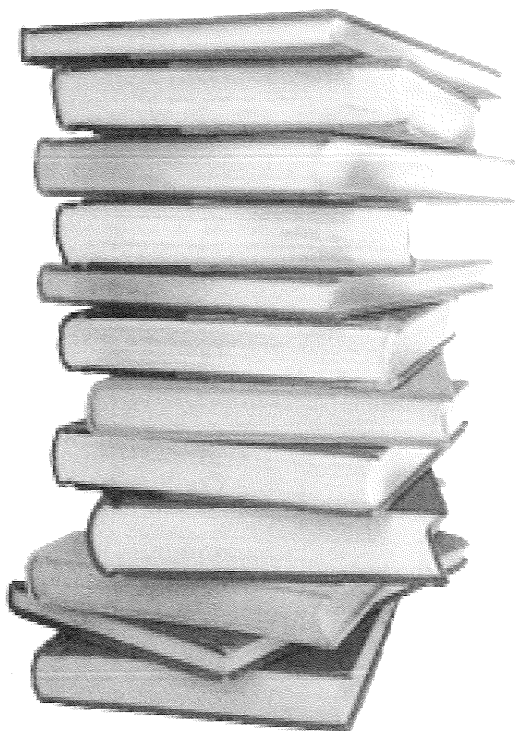
Michael Van Wie G.I.

Blackboard grammar and modern physics are similar endeavors, and similarly doomed. The former attempts to capture the fleeting, dappled things of language in paradigms, grammar, and, when these fail, idioms memorized by rote. This results in an approximation of language, and a useful way for the novice to enter into the study of one or the other tongue, or for the scholar to taxidermy it and hang it inside the interlacing walls which one might call a book—but the language itself cannot be captured. Failure to recognize this is rampant today, diluted as modern grammarians are by the physics of Newton. And what is Newtonian physics, but the blackboard grammar of the natural world? What are the “laws of nature,” but representations of that which can be compared to language in the natural world? It would seem far more honest for the physicist to acknowledge that, while his models approximate the functioning of the physical world, they break down beyond a certain point of specificity. It would seem far more honest for the grammarian and the physicist alike to recognize—and the philosopher too, for that matter—that nature speaks languages just as humans do. The unified field theory is a hope of the same type as universal grammar is. And both of these hopes, even if they could possibly be fulfilled, would merely be approximations necessarily beholden to innumerable exceptions and special rules (or, as one might more honestly call them, patches and *pourquoi* stories). This is to say that, just like learning a target language necessitates a mastery of its rhythms which cannot be expressed but only felt, understanding nature cannot be done by poring over hermetic books or physics tracts but by intuitions inexpressible and yet blindingly obvious on some level and on every level indispensable. Intellectualizing anything perfectly, thus, is impossible, if the test of intellectualizing is the ability to express it in language subject to grammatical rules.

—Michael Van Wie, November 21, 2015 ◆

Spotlight on the Greenfield Library

Introducing: 5th Annual Book Collecting Contest



Dear Polity,

I know many of you have been impatiently waiting for this time of the year when your beloved Greenfield Library announces submissions for the annual Book Collecting Contest. Are you collecting books? Do you have a story to share on how you started a collection and why it is significant for you? Then, this is your chance to get awarded for your collection! St. John's College Greenfield Library gives you a chance to win a cash prize and have your book collection exhibited for public view in the Library: 1st Prize - \$300 and 30% off Shopping Spree at the College Bookstore; 2nd Prize - \$150.

Collections should include 10-50 books based on a unifying principle. Themes can be diverse encompassing any topic or can be broad or narrow. Any topic that shows passion for book collecting is welcome. Collection will not be judged according to the dollar value, size, or rarity of the material.

Last year's 1st prize winner was Chris Hutter (A'16) with the collection of 10 books, named: "I didn't Learn That in High School: Books on Obscure American History;" followed by the 2nd prize winner Brady Lee (Web Specialist; SRA - International Student Services) with the collection of 14 books, named: "Legos and Greek."

Current students, faculty members, and staff are eligible to participate in the contest. To participate in the contest fill out the book collecting contest submission form and submit it to Cara Sabolcik, Associate Library Director, at cara.sabolcik@sjc.edu. Print forms are available at the Greenfield Library and at the College Bookstore. Submission deadline is January 21st, 2016. You can get detailed guidelines and the submission form on the 5th Annual Book Collecting Contest at www.tinyurl.com/sjcbookcollecting.

We look forward to receiving your submissions!

Elizabeth Akhvlediani (A'17)
Greenfield Library Student Assistant

Busting the King William's School Myth

Morgan Anastasi A'18

One of the most iconic landmarks on the St. John's campus is the sign which hangs on the corner of King George Street and College Avenue, proudly declaring that St. John's was "founded in 1696 as King William's School". Yet the nature of that institution and its relation to our beloved college remain shrouded in mystery for many on campus.

The earliest reference to King William's School appears to be in a piece of legislation from 1694 entitled "An Act for the Advancement of Learning". The act itself is no longer extant, but we can infer from the rapidity with which it was passed the earnestness of the old Maryland clergymen to establish the nation's first public free school. Soon after in 1696, the Maryland General Assembly convened and officially chartered King William's School, declaring its purpose to be "the propagation of the Gospel and the education of the youth of the province in good letters and manners." Funds were raised and in 1701 a modest brick schoolhouse, containing schoolrooms and apartments for the headmaster and his family, was erected on the South side of the State House.

Records of the first several decades of this institution's existence are few and incidental in nature, and what does remain is in the form of correspondence between Maryland clergy and their ecclesiastical superiors back in Britain or passing references in Maryland newspapers. We are able to discern through the fog of history that this school was a grammar school, that a certain Rev. Ralph Higgenbotham was likely on the faculty and later joined the St. John's faculty, that a few books found their way from the school to the college and remain in the college collection, and that a certain William Pinkney (a relative of the namesake of Pinkney Hall) was a likely alumnus, but there is little else that we are able to ascertain with any degree of certainty.

The first of these assertions, that King William's School was in fact a grammar school, deserves slightly closer attention. Grammar schools in that age educated young students in the rudiments of Latin and arithmetic in preparation for entrance to college. It is then clear that the college could not possibly have been created out of the school, any more than a contemporary elementary or middle school could be converted into a college - especially one which occupies an entirely separate site!

Indeed, the relationship between King William's School and St.

John's appears not to be one of direct descent, but rather of organic absorption during the early period of the College's growth. When St. John's was chartered in the 1780s, the school was already fully operational and the two institutions co-existed from 1785 to 1786.

The notion of St. John's having a direct descent from the school doesn't appear in the historical record until the 1860s, and early references to St. John's directly contradict the theory of direct descent. Consider the letter sent by St. John's faculty to President George Washington on the occasion of his visit to Annapolis in 1791: "...that it [the college] dates its birth from this grand era, which has placed you at the head of fifteen distinct sovereign states..."

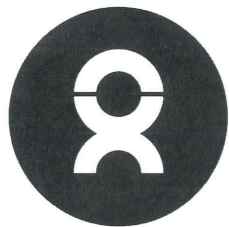
In a speech at the laying of the cornerstone of Humphreys Hall in 1835, it was remarked, "It [the college] was built up by the purchasers of our freedom, while the storms of the revolution were yet rocking the battlements of the republic."

It is clear, then, that the founders and early leaders of St. John's considered it to be an institution thoroughly distinct from the grammar school down the street. It is not until 1868 that the Board of St. John's states, "St. John's is but a continuation and enlargement of an earlier institution of learning, founded at Annapolis towards the end of the 17th century." Prior to this, no one ever claimed that King William's School was the ancestor of the college. St. John's President Thomas Fell seems to have latched onto this dubious link between the institutions, declaring that the small grammar school was "reorganized" into the college and that 1894 was the true bicentennial of the college. Soon after, the Board of the college latched onto the myth for what appear to be essentially marketing purposes. The myth of King William's School has been attached to St. John's ever since, and today the sign still waves in the wind, proudly proclaiming the mythical ancestry. ♦

Sources:

The Early History of St. John's College in Annapolis, Francis Tilghman, St. John's College Press

Some Historical Accounts Of The Founding Of King William's School And Its Subsequent Establishment As St. John's College, Dr. Thomas Fell, 1894



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Thank you to everyone who joined
in the *Fast for a World Harvest*
143 meals were skipped
out of **51** total participants
Remember to join us next year!

Happy Thanksgiving!

9th Annual | St. John's College

HOLIDAY AGORA



Saturday, December 5 — 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

McDowell Hall

60 College Avenue, Annapolis MD

Come to the SJC Craft Sale and purchase hand-crafted silver and copper jewelry, watercolors, graphic art prints, sculptures, pottery, ornaments, knitted mittens, baked goods, and many more unique gifts made by the talented students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends & family of St. John's College.

Free Admission