

The Gadfly

St. John's College Independent Weekly
Volume X, Issue 21

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April 25, 1989



Time running out for pendulum

To the Delegate Council,
Faculty, Students, and Staff:

Either the college community starts acquiescing to my demands, or what was once our proud pendulum, valiantly slicing through ether and making clear the universal and eternal laws, will be melted down into cheap nautical knick-knacks and paperweights.

Please inform the community that the pendulum ball is not yet found-- nor will it be returned until it can be restored to working condition. Its ransom must be raised. To that end, I call for volunteers to help throw the Pendulum Ball to raise money. The previously suggested date, April 22nd, is no longer available, but May 6th is still open.

The restoration of the pendulum is a very worthwhile project! Donations may be left in Mr. Verdi's (Asst. Dean's) office.

Here is the second clue:

O my wandering children, how fares the Great Trek? Finding your way through the riddling maze? Seven days have now passed and up anchor you must and sail away! But remember the wise Ovid: Medio tutissimus ibis.

Pass by now on your starboard beam wise and mighty Nestor's bright cave. Onward sail past the land of Artist's Dreams and into a vast sea, sprinkled with many a dark walnut covered isle. There a happy race of speechful people dwell; there bright sun and pale moon always shine; there Priapus plows the fruitful furrows and mighty Zeus is well pleased with the smell of many a burnt offering.

Go, then, swift mariners to the *Wall* that *Sings*: unfurl your sails and anchor there for seven more days. Ho- ho- ho.

There will be a cash prize for anyone daring enough to discover the pendulum!

Have fun!

--Jean Foucault

Of foreign affairs and Mids

by Theodore Merz '89

Last week, Blaise Bechtel and I attended a four-day conference on foreign affairs at the Naval Academy. This was the 29th year of the conference, known as NAFAC, which convenes student delegates from all over the world to discuss a different aspect of foreign affairs every Spring. This year's topic was "Alliances in Turmoil? Adapting to a Changing World."

The term alliance was defined in a broad way to include military, economic, and political alliances. The conference was structured such that each delegate was assigned to a particular group which would discuss one topic during the four days of seminar-type meetings. The NATO alliance was, predictably, the dominant grouping with five delegate groups of 14 students each meeting to discuss the changes occurring in NATO and the possible future of the Western alliance in light of such developments as Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union, the INF treaty, and U.S. budgetary constraints. Other "alliances" which were discussed included two roundtable groups on the Warsaw Pact, two groups discussing Inter-American Relations, one on Asia and the Pacific Basin, two on Economic Integration and Cooperation, two on Africa, and finally two on the Middle East.

The nucleus of the conference was a series of five round table discussions which followed a St. John's seminar-type format. Before arriving at the conference, each delegate had been requested to write a 10 page paper on some specific issue within the broad topic to be discussed by the group. In that way each member would have a particular area of expertise to contribute to the group. Blaise and I participated in separate NATO groups; he wrote a paper on Turkey's position in the NATO alliance and I wrote about the implications of the Spanish-American Base negotiations of last year.

Although I felt somewhat at a disadvantage compared to the other delegates who were mostly poli-sci and international affairs majors, I was probably more comfortable with the format of the discussions. My group talked primarily about the relationship between the U.S. and its European allies. The NATO alliance has been held together by the common perception of a Soviet military threat. Many of the moves instituted by Mikhail Gorbachev, which seek to diminish U.S.-Soviet tensions, also have had

the result of undermining the unity of the Atlantic alliance.

It was widely agreed that the NATO alliance has had a contributory effect on preserving the 40 years of peace Europe has experienced since World War II. U.S. efforts to lower the budget deficit will, however, probably mean cutting military spending. The question arises whether the U.S. will, in an attempt to save money, withdraw some of its 300,000 troops stationed in Europe and whether the Europeans would be willing to pay more for the common defense of the continent.

In the light of these pressures, we agreed that the alliance would be forced to adapt by either fragmenting into bilateral agreements or strengthening to become a political, economic and military alliance. Most of the dangers encountered by Western democratic countries will arise in the third world, not the East Bloc. Given the fact that the U.S. can no longer exercise a hegemonic control over third world countries, many felt that NATO would need to evolve into an organization which developed a common

continued on page 11

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News from the outside

by Theodore Merz '89

Disaster at Sea

An explosion in a gun turret aboard the USS Iowa last Wednesday killed 47 American sailors. The explosion occurred when the crew was firing the 16 inch guns during routine exercises off the coast of Puerto Rico. An investigation has been launched to determine the cause of the explosion but so far it is not clear what caused the disaster. Some speculate the age of the ship may have played a factor. President Bush will attend a memorial service for the dead soldiers this week.

China

The death of former Communist Party Chief Hu Yabang on April 15 set off a week of protests by students demanding basic political reforms in China. Mr. Hu, who was 73 when he died, was a proponent of liberal reforms within China, frequently encouraging the Chinese to adopt Western-style changes. The students, primarily from Beijing University, used the death of Mr. Hu to call for more democracy and freedom. Up to 40,000 gathered for several large demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing last week and the army used force on a

number of occasions to disperse the protestors.

Jordan's Hussein in D.C.

Jordan's leader King Hussein came to Washington last week to meet with President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker and discuss the Middle East peace process and U.S. relations with Jordan. Hussein is concerned about the lessening of U.S. support for Jordan which is dramatically illustrated by the decrease in U.S. economic aid. In 1987 the U.S. gave Jordan \$111 million while in 1988 Jordan received only \$15 million in economic aid and no military aid. The revenues are important since Jordan has lost much of the subsidies it used to receive from the oil rich Arab states after the drop in the price of oil.

James Wright

Last Monday the House ethics committee issued their report on James Wright (D-Tx.) and, as expected, they accused him of 69 violations of House ethics rules. The 12 man panel made their unanimous vote public and Wright responded by waiving his right to a 21 day waiting period in which to respond to the allegations thus setting the stage for a jury-like trial of the House Speaker in which a Chicago lawyer, Richard Phelan has been appointed to "prosecute" Wright in front of the same committee before they formally declare his guilt or innocence and decide whether disciplinary measures will be taken.

Articles indicating that Wright's relation to Texas real estate developer George Mallick might constitute a conflict of interest first began appearing in the media in October 1986 but it took two years before Congress decided to investigate the issue. The committee report represents the findings of a 10 month investigation into Wright's financial dealings. One of the most serious charges is that he attempted to avoid the limitations placed on Congressmen from earning outside income.

North Trial

The 12 week old trial of former National Security Council aide Oliver North concluded at the end of last week with both the prosecutor and defense attorney making their final arguments and the judge Gerhard Gesell giving the charge to the jury. Many had predicted that the trial would be a dull rehashing of what was presented before the Congressional investigation two years ago but that assumption proved false. The biggest revelation was that former President Reagan and then Vice-President Bush played larger roles than previously acknowledged.

Sources: *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*

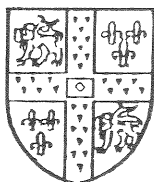
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Adler lecture recalls elations and flaws of program

by Tequila Brooks '91

Mr. Adler ended the question period to his lecture Friday evening by saying that art and music are not appropriate to seminar discussion because they are not written in language. They should be discussed by artists and musicians, not by neophytes at liberal arts colleges. He said that the great books are full of errors and that it is through the analysis of these errors that we find small bits of truth.

My response to Mr. Adler's lecture is to recall E. M. Forster's short story "The Celestial Omnibus."

Apart from being a fantastical journey into the magical and unimagined, "The Celestial Omnibus" gives its readers an indication of the wonders which are contained in books. It intimates that going into a room or a dark alley to read a poem is like having a free ticket on a "celestial omnibus"; it is like having free reign over the imagination with the aid of writers who create life in the black squiggly marks and points on paper.

"The Celestial Omnibus" beseeches its readers to love the black marks on paper as they love themselves and their families. As the little boy said, "Before when I read this poem, it was only verses with rhyme...but now that I read it, it is me!" We must become a part of the books we read in order to understand. We can sit quietly, like mice, watching attentively everything that goes on around us.

"The Celestial Omnibus" also gives as person insights into how books should be viewed. We must explore books and ask them questions. We must tiptoe warily in the realms of a book to find what it means. We cannot say that we are intimate with a book because it sits on our shelves and we can postulate about it and quote it word for word, verse for verse.

A reader cannot say she knows everything about a work of literature or art because that work has so many facets for so many people at so many times that it is an eternal, wonderful enigma. We must want to drink and bathe in everything that exists, that can exist, that can't exist. We must learn to have the voracious curiosity of small children so that we are able to see everything that is great and beautiful in the world. We must also be humble the way children are; we must have the knowledge that we do not know everything there is to know; we must have the knowledge that in fact, we do not know *anything* of everything there is to know.

In "The Celestial Omnibus", the innocent curious little boy is open to all the wonders of the world. The bombastic, pedantic, vain old scholar is closed and only looks at the wonders with a harsh cruelty. He will only go certain places. He will believe only certain

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things. He studies and expostulates and thinks that he knows everything there is to know.

The little boy is taken up into the magic of "The Celestial Omnibus". He is loved by, and loves, everything and every person he meets in his travels. The scholar snoots his nose at and pooh-poohs this or that author; he knows all of the names of the characters in the stories, but does not understand who they are. He does not love them. The scholar is thrown out of "The Celestial Omnibus" and is splatted on the pavement because he uses the bus as an end, and not the means. The old scholar is too vain to have the special wonder a person should have in order to appreciate what books really are.

Mr. Adler's lectures and the pranks bring us to the grandeur and elegance of days when there were heavy maroon curtains in McDowell and our college was new and idealistic and revolutionary. In this way, he reminds us how much

of a celestial omnibus our college is. We arrive and are shown the wonders of the minds of the authors we read. Mr. Adler expostulates that there is only one way to truth -- reading books and discussing them. He claimed in his lecture that we have not read a book well until we have discussed it, omitting that sometimes the simplest way to come to truth is to stop looking for it in others but to look for it in ourselves.

As students, we are like the little boy in "The Celestial Omnibus." We start out believing that in order to understand a book, we must know all of the names and authors and years of publication. But it is imperative that we remember to retain our childlike wonder while still studying, discussing and writing. We can express our questions to the universe and offer small thoughts as to what the answers may be.

As Albert Einstein wrote, "The most beautiful and the most profound sensation we can experience is the sensation of the mystical. He who can no longer stand rapt in awe is as good as dead."

It is this we must recall throughout our studies here, of books as well as of works of music and art. By studying works of music and art, I think we come closer to studying the unspeakable parts of our souls, and reach a compromise between those parts of us which we express through language and those which we cannot express through language.

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Harner treasures SJC

by Theresa Klunk '92

Robert Harner, our new treasurer, is still trying to clean his office. He's been here since March and has made himself busy by jumping right into the business of the St. John's budget. Being a member of every college committee keeps him extra busy.

Mr. Harner came to us from Philadelphia, although he's not a native. He worked as the vice-president of finance for Germantown Hospital and Medical Center for 15 years and, before that, was a member of a large accounting firm. Now he's handling the total financial business for St. John's including receiving and dispersing funds and budget preparation. He sees his biggest challenge as improving our facilities and buildings, continuing with the renovations, and improving the tutors' salaries while working within the dollars available. He says, "There's a lot I want to see done."

Coming from Franklin and Marshall, a small liberal arts college of 2000 students where he is still involved as a member of the executive alumni development committee, he feels right at home here. He had heard of our program through a friend and finds it unusual. But he likes it, saying "a diversified education in today's times is important."

Not only does he like the college, he also loves Annapolis. He is also impressed by us plain folk that make up the college. Mr. Harner feels the students' lives are well-rounded and the tutors are dedicated and concerned with the future of St. John's.

And the next time you see Mr. Harner catching a Marriott lunch, go ahead and say hi. He's a great new treasurer and a swell guy all around. And remember--he's the fellow who really knows where the money goes.

Community art inaugurates gallery

by Theresa Klunk '92

Well, you've read Theresa's articles and you've seen Theresa's art; now, for the first time, Theresa writes about art. If you haven't seen the community art show in the new Mitchell Art Gallery, you should.

There were numerous mediums represented in this first show in the new art gallery--black and white and also color photographs, water colors, oils, acrylics, collages, etchings, monoprints, charcoals, oil pastels, pencils, and more.

Something I've never had any experience with was exhibited--Raku firing. There is a poster up, explaining the technique and showing pictures of the process but what I can tell you now is that it was developed in the 16th century by Japanese potters. Learn something new!

It doesn't matter whether you look for line or color in art, there's lots for you

to look at and admire. "Nude", a collage by Lydia Sparrow, impressed me, as did her watercolors, but the "Nude" was alive!

The pastels by Ellie Lotz Dietrich beautifully combined color and line and Marshall McMillan seemed very successful with his exhibits in using line.

Also, don't miss Jennifer A. Lapham's "Bird Vessel II", "Sandstone Summit", an oil by Janet Gartrell, Tara Beall's innovative cubist photography, and the two pieces by Kent Bailey, "Luxury Liner" and "Hoppity-Copter," skillfully executed primarily with brass and wood.

Stop by and see the show. You might see something you like, and since most pieces are for sale, well, there you go! And to the artists who contributed--nice work, it's a great way to open our new gallery.

EDO at CBGB's

by Eliot Duhan '90

Ok. EDO, Saint John's so called "Contribution to the Underground Music Scene", will be playing at the world renowned New York City Night Club and Rock and Roll Mecca CBGB/OMFUG. We're going to play a single animal-flawless and sparkling hour long set, scheduled for midnight on Sunday, May Seventh. The entire band, full orchestral strength will be there; Yanni, Rockin' Marshall, Eliot, George Rush, Gentleman John Jolles, and all the way from Ghent, Terry Simpkins. Our man at CBGB's informs us that although 12:00 midnight on a club schedule usually means 3:00 am, there is a reasonable probability that we will go on not much later than 12:30. Now, far be it from me to try and seduce hard working students away from school on a night before a morning which will see many of us in 9:00 classes, EDO heartily invites each and every member of the College Community to come and see us play.

Tomorrow night, Wednesday April 26th, the world-famous guy from Greensboro, North Carolina (cf Aaron "Hoover" Hoover), EUGENE CHADBOURNE, will be making his first and, most likely, final appearance at Saint John's College at 8:30 pm in the dining hall. Dr. Chadbourne, whose credits include founding the much lamented SHOCKABILLY and the Camper Van Beethoven album "CAMPER VAN CHADBOURNE" has heard of Wildman Fischer. This event is being widely touted as the Reality fundraiser most likely to lose a criminally big wad on something really silly and generally incomprehensible. For Pat O'Donnell fans, this show will have a little something special because it will be the first area appearance of the much lamented O'Donnell Public Address system since Frank got a hold of some soap and cold cream long about last May. This will be a free show, free to all students, staff, faculty, alumni and werewolves. If anyone else shows up, we're gonna charge them five or six bucks unless they are with Karl Straub or they are Karl Straub. If you attend only one (one more) Reality fundraiser this year, this should be the one. We mean it. No fooling.

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The Relation of Church and State with

by Fritz Hinrichs '90

The morality of abortion is a question that can only be answered on the basis of one's own personal belief. So for any one group of people with a particular belief to try to force the rest of society, through law, to act on their beliefs at the expense of the freedom of all differing ones and is wrong because of our separation of church and state.

This line of argument is often made in the presently raging abortion controversy and I would like to explain why I think it is undemocratic in nature. I would not disagree with it on the basis that abortion can be argued outside the realm of belief but rather that to exclude belief, from public debate and policy making is not according to the best principles of our country.

Concerning the church, the first amendment says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...." Understanding the meaning of an "establishment of religion" is obviously the pivotal phrase in interpreting this amendment. Would it be government funding the construction of church buildings, or allowing a church to use public facilities, or having a Christian legislator, or allowing Christian beliefs to influence legislation? There are many arenas in which this relationship needs to be worked out; however, most crucial to the abortion controversy is the place of religious beliefs in the direction of legislation. Before directly attempting to answer this question, I would like to set out the abortion controversy as an area that begs for a proper understanding of this relationship.

Often it is argued that law is only to protect one individual from another and outside of this condition each individual should be given as much freedom as possible (the corollary to this being the right to privacy) and so, because abortion is essentially a question concerning a woman's own body, she should not be compelled to one action. There is no second party involved that needs to be protected from her actions, so she should be allowed to act as she wills. However, this argument is only valid if one grants the position that there actually is no second party involved and this is precisely the point of disagreement between two sides. If both sides agreed that abortion was just a question between "a woman and her doctor" it would not anything deeper than a privacy issue.

Because the pro-life position¹ condemns abortion on the ground that there is another party involved, to respond to its accusation one must first address whether the fetus actually deserves the right to life. The core disagreement between the two sides comes down to their conceptions of the fetus and until this question is resolved there can be no agreement on what the law should be.²

In such a controversy, one is often tempted to think that we should abandon debate and let each individual personally decide. However, this only grants the pro-choice position. It disallows pro-lifers being able to forward their position that there actually is an injustice being committed that no one should be allowed to commit no matter what their beliefs. It would be equivalent to telling an abolitionist that because there was such a disagreement concerning slavery that each land-owner should be able to decide individually how to see slavery. The pro-life movement is not forwarding a preferential moral precept but rather is giving grounds for seeing abortion as a perpetuation of injustice on an innocent human and therefore having it absolutely prohibited.³ A public answer to this question must be given for there is no way to legislate a neutral position; legislation will either condemn or condone abortion. Any prohibition will be seen by pro-choicers as an infringement on privacy and any laxity will be seen by pro-lifers as allowing injustice. Neither side can be at all tolerant, for the law must side with one to the exclusion of the other.

With this explanation of the abortion controversy, the importance of the relation between law and belief can be seen. Our country must decide whose conception of the fetus it will build its law upon; presently it has opted for the pro-choice position. But on what basis can it decide which to choose? If we lived in a theocracy, we would look in the holy writings.

If we had a monarchy, we would ask our king. If we thought that it was the correct use of reason that was our guide in matters of law, we would ask the aristocracy who had been trained in its proper use. However, we have a democracy, where the people, each person seeking his or her own authority, must decide as a body what the law will be. But if we are to ask the people what the law is to be, they will give a multitude of answers (around 250 million) and yet, we must still act as a body. For a democracy, the only authority is consensus, or when we come to vote, the majority. Because we do not entrust ourselves to some higher authority to guide our lives, we have only ourselves to trust. The only thing that guides our government is the conglomeration of all our opinions. What forms each individual's opinions will be his own world view--whatever that may be. What place do beliefs have in the formation of law? What else has any place?

Thus, the way to change the law is to change what people think. Does this mean that anyone who can influence enough people with his thinking can direct the course of law? Yes, for it is impossible for it to be otherwise in a democracy. Someone might think that we could ban certain ideas from the political arena but any such decree would have to be derived from the consent of the people and therefore, once again, subject to the consensus of opinion. Ultimately, if we are to be truly democratic, anything goes.

However, it is true that we have laid down certain beliefs about what type of beliefs should be allowed to influence law. The principle that law is only to protect one person from another is one of these. (Even though a majority of people think over-eating is bad, the majority of people also think this sort of belief is not to be legislated, so it never becomes law).

Because I agree with this precept



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reference to the abortion conflict

about law and think that any cause that tries to go against it will most likely not succeed, I tried to show the pro-life position is not challenging it, but that the nature of the abortion question transcends it. The precept I disagree with is the idea that personal, especially religious, beliefs should be excluded from the public arena. If this idea is universally applied, we will have no source from which to draw our laws; if, as is more likely, it is used against the beliefs of certain groups, it will be undemocratic and lead to ideological tyranny. The first amendment prohibits the mingling of church and state but not the opinions of those who participate in them.

At this point, some may object that what I have said makes justice merely the product of majorities and contrary to this is the fact that our country does have absolute principles that are unchanging no matter what the prevailing opinions are. I do not think consensus creates what is right, but I do not believe this because I am an American citizen but rather because I am a Christian and consider God to be the absolute standard of all morality. I look to an unchanging God for what I think is just, but in my country the ever changing consensus determines the justice law will be based upon. Often it is thought our country does have absolute principles that can never be changed, but these are only guiding principles that have such wide support that their consensus is never contested. When the Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" are we to think these principles are absolute and beyond the consent of "the governed?" They are meant to stand as the highest principles of our government, but they only have that position because they are given it by

the people -- they would not be held to if no one consented to them. The principles are only as absolute as this consensus is.

Some may also object that as a matter of fact consensus does not control our countries legislation, but that it is really controlled by a small group of opinions that have been able to gain influence. Not as a principle of democracy, but as a matter of fact, this is partially true. Because we do not want to be continually bothered by all the decisions that need to be made in order to run our government, we entrust ourselves to a body that is supposed to represent our interests; however, our legislators often listen to voices other than those of their constituents and when they do, it is often only to those who speak the loudest. Also, another source of disagreement between law and consensus that is more closely tied to abortion is the Supreme Court. This body is given laws by the consensus, but the interpretations it derives from them might not carry a majority if they had to stand by themselves. A good example of this is *Roe v. Wade* itself, which at the time of its passage did not enjoy majority support. Now, a majority would probably be against its total overturn and there is a slight possibility with the Webster case that just this thing might happen. There are certainly many foibles in our government that make it the victim of sectarian interest, but the infractions that these allow will usually only be small. For if they become too obtrusive, public opinion will be awakened and take vengeance.

In a democracy, the opinions of the people are the sole source of law. Therefore, the greatest threat to an individual's status as a citizen will be when his or her opinions can be kept from having their rightful influence on the political process. The pro-lifer has just as much right to try to influence society with his or her beliefs concerning the fetus as the pro-

choicer, no matter what he or she may be -- Jew, Christian, atheist, deist, etc. Those who hold what seem to us incorrect ideas have a right to fight in the public arena and influence law, and the only way to stop them is by using ideas to persuade the public consciousness against them. Unless we are to make an absolute ideology the foundation for our laws, we must struggle within the context of pluralism to shape our democracy's principles if we desire them to be our own. Pro-lifers are making a frontal attack on our country's conception of what justice is on the abortion issue and with that attempting to influence the law regardless of who disagree with them. What defense does the status-quo have to hold its position? If it is to be democratic, its only battle ground is in people's minds -- its only weapon, words, and its strategy, persuasion.

A democracy is a very unsafe place. Often we like to comfort ourselves thinking that our government will always be dedicated to its principles, but these are only a result of the people who have formed them. Having the burden of self-government, we will have to struggle if these principles are to continue as they are or to change for the better.

Inflammatory footnotes

¹Because the designation "anti-life" is almost as offensive as "anti-choice," I will use the common euphemisms granting their particular focus.

²I can not help but see the attempts of pro-choice forces to portray the abortion controversy as essentially a privacy issue as anything but sophistical, for they refuse to acknowledge the true point of disagreement between the pro-life and choice positions. It is difficult not to see this as an attempt to cover for their own inability to prove the point that is central to their position.

³Recently pro-choicers have tried to define the abortion controversy as a social rather than moral issue; however, as most social issues are moral and most moral issue social, it is very difficult to see what they mean by saying this besides the notion that we should only consider the pain of the woman rather than what right the fetus may have.



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Polity hostess slip slides away

My Dear Gentle Readers,

As expected, spring has sprung. Miss Polity Hostess hesitates to be critical in any way of her beloved polity members, but she has noticed several completely unacceptable breaches of decorum that cannot be allowed to continue.

First and foremost is one of the more common mistakes made by several ladies in the college community -- the absence

of slips worn under lightweight summer dresses and skirts.

From infancy, Miss Polity Hostess was taught by her dear mother that a lightweight skirt worn

without a slip is indecent and gives one the appearance of an unprincipled lady of the evening. If one is attempting to appear meretricious, ladies, then by all means continue such atrocious behavior, but consider that by so doing, one's reputation for grace and virtue is being sullied. Miss Polity Hostess cannot express strongly enough the severity of such a faux pas. If some plead an ignorance of the visual spectacle they have provided for the enjoyment of the college gentlemen, they are forgiven for past sins. But ladies, please, no longer allow to be displayed what should not be discovered by anyone but one's husband, and even then not until one's wedding night.

Although she realizes that the weather has become occasionally warm enough for her fellow polity members to don bathing suits and skimpy attire in hopes of reaching the perfect shade of bronze (though Miss Polity Hostess's mother always told her to ignore such attempts and aspire to maintain the soft, virginal shade of ivory white), in the last few weeks Miss Polity Hostess has seen entirely too much flesh on display around campus. Miss Polity Hostess has always considered that such a display, both by ladies and gentlemen, is to be reserved for the delight of one's spouse. Gentle readers, please make an attempt to maintain some level of decency on our beloved lawns, and even if one's peers insist on parading around like members of some kind of strip show from Atlantic City, resist the pressure to join them and set an example for others to follow.

Though Miss Polity Hostess is loath to harp on what one should save for one's wedding night, there is one more topic she feels compelled to address. Since for

one's entire married life one will be expected to wear a ring on the fourth finger of one's left hand, it is completely unacceptable to wear any other ring on that finger until it is a wedding ring. Marriage is a sacred thing that should only happen once in one's life. Thus, every effort must be made to retain the respect for such a monumental union. Please, gentle readers, keep the sanctity

of marriage by keeping the aforementioned finger pristine and unadorned.

Finally, though Miss Polity Hostess is hesitant even to bring the subject before her

beloved and trusting gentle readers, because mention of it gives it more prominence than it deserves when it should simply be regarded as the trash that it is, a certain 'Nick Danger' has brought into question the honor and reputation of your Miss Polity Hostess. She is sure that her gentle readers recognized immediately the complete absence of truth in all of his words. And the so-called Mr. Danger should beware. Though many voiced their desire to defend her honor, Miss Polity Hostess wishes her muscular, handsome, strapping fiancé of two years to defend her against such false statements. Beware, Mr. Danger. Though Miss Polity Hostess is disgusted by violence, when she considers the heart-break brought upon her dear mother by the trash he wrote, she has no pity for what he is now faced with from the honorable Mr. Polity Host. Miss Polity Hostess apologizes for bringing up such an unpleasant subject, but honor and reputation are important and to be taken seriously.

Enjoy the spring, gentle readers, but within the bounds of decorum, please.

Pearls and Pumps,
Miss Polity Hostess

Miss Polity Hostess has seen entirely too much flesh on display around campus.

Notes from Santa Fe

French test

As you know, students are required to pass a French Reading Knowledge examination before entering the senior year. Special arrangements for a proctored test off-campus with a \$75 honorarium paid by the student or a test on the Santa Fe campus during the summer can be made with the Assistant Deans. All specially arranged tests must be taken by August 1st and no test will be given at the beginning of the senior year.

Algebra test

In Santa Fe, students are required to pass an algebra test as a condition for entry into the second semester of the sophomore year. Sophomores who have not yet passed it are required to take it each time it is offered. This policy is being enforced and no student who had not passed was allowed into the second semester this year.

For those of you who have not yet passed, I urge you to review through studying a basic text or taking a class.

Georgia S. Knight,
Assistant Dean at Santa Fe

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The A.D. is all wet

by Leo Pickens, AD

■To butter, or not to butter, that was the question going into last week's 1st annual swim meet classic. Which is to say, were there going to be events in the most difficult of strokes-the butterfly. It was undecided until I received the following note from Silk Webner:

Mr. Pickens:

Ooooooooooh Mr. Pickens. We may not be a big sports school. No, we have no football stadium, no boosters club, no cheerleaders. We don't even compete against other schools. But for God's sake, man, LET US SWIM BUTTERFLY! Give us just a little respect. O.K.-we'll play mutant basketball games where you hop on one foot. We will let you trick us into playing badminton before volleyball games. But if you have a swim meet, you must let us swim a swim meet. We love you, know you want us to be happy, and see you come to work pale, baggard, baggy-eyed and unshaven as the result of sleepless weeks of agonizing, brain-racking thought to find ways to keep us loving you and happy. Your knee is healing nicely. Let's keep it that way. Show us your respect; let us swim butterfly.

Sincerely and ever respectfully yours,

Laura Jeanne Webner

P.S. I won't really hurt you, and I'll tell Steve Zell to fix your tampered-with brakes.

Wanting to be able to get home safely, I decided to include some butter in the meet.

■Mr. Gifford, one of the Spartan captains, explained the Spartans last place finish in the meet this way: "Remember Mr. Pickens, the Spartans were always a force on land, not in the water."

■Miss McConnell showed up as the lone Fury. She won the 25 yard freestyle. The Furies (Miss McConnell) placed 3rd in the swim meet for the women. She reminded me of the story about Jim Thorpe. When Pop Warner showed up at a track meet, the opposing coach would ask: "Where's your team?" Warner would point to Thorpe. "There's my team."

■The same could be said of the Guardians. Mr. Gunther took honors as men's individual point leader. Close behind was Mr. Anderson. Anderson and Gunther, the only Guardians to show up, placed third in the meet.

■The Nymphs won the women's meet, even though the Amazons showed up with a hoarde of swimmers, including a ringer, Miss Spidle's sister. Jeanne Duvoisin, with three 1st places, led all individuals, including men; right behind her was Miss Pawlewicz, who placed second in total individual points, including men. Miss Pawlewicz gets my vote for the most grateful stroke.

■The Hustlers squeaked by the Greenwaves to place 1st in the mens' meet. Mr. Silver is quite a swimmer. He is by far the farthest leaping starter, if not a tad bit early. And just who is Mr. Summers anyway? Mr. Summers was one of the standouts among the men. Ditto for Mr. Wardell.

■Max, where were you?

Handball

by Mary Spidle '89

The big question last Wednesday was whether the Furies could keep up their two game winning streak. They had beaten the Maenads and had upset the Amazons in their two last games--Could they beat the Nymphs? The Furies had a bad omen even before the game started: star goalie Shannon Evans ('90) was not able to attend the game and the Furies missed her talent and all-around wonderfulness. Because Ms. Evans was absent, the Furies had to face seven Nymphs with only four players. Nymph Sue Haines ('90) kindly took pity on the Furies and traded herself to their team.

But even with Ms. Haines playing for the Furies, the Nymphs forged far ahead. Maureen Hatch ('92) made the first goal of the game for the Nymphs. Every handball player should aim at Ms. Hatch's technique; she casually made an unexpected, smooth goal right around goalie Erika McConnell's ('92) foot in the first minute of the game. Within the next few minutes, Nymph Gigi Escalante ('92) made another goal for her team. The Furies could not seem to make a goal; when they did get the ball, the Nymphs' excellent defense held them back. Sallie Fine (A'87) managed to get the only goal for the Furies in the first half. The Furies reestrategized but Ms. Hatch, Ms. Escalante and Jeanne Duvoisin ('89) made another three goals for the Nymphs ending the half with the Nymphs-5, the Furies-1.

Fury Vicki Sills ('90) joined the game in the second half and the Furies had hope for a possible comeback. The Furies were playing better the second half; they were able to play better defense against the Nymphs, passing and talking more than they had in the first half. Sharon Moscinski ('92) covered the field especially well. She managed to stay open and to received many good passes. Tamara Wilson ('90) made the second goal for the Furies. Ms. Sills made two shots and Ms. McConnell made one, but for every shot the Furies made, the Nymphs made one to match and maintain their lead. Nymph Christine Barber ('91) made two goals and Ms. Duvoisin and Valerie Pawlewicz ('89) each made a great shot: Ms. Duvoisin, a low shot, and Ms. Pawlewicz, an incredible long distance shot. Ms. Hatch made the last goal of the game leaving a final score of 10 for the Nymphs and 5 for the Furies, effectively ending the Furies' winning streak. But never fear, the Furies will be back!



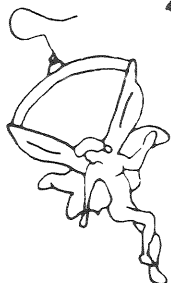
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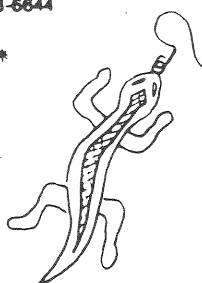
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Crossword

Clues

Across

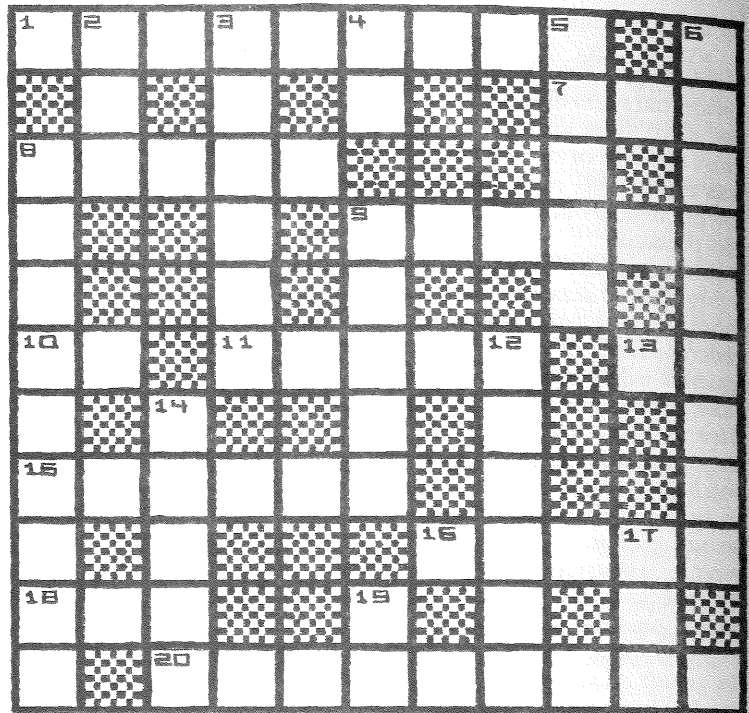
1. Holy building with feline number of faces (9)
7. Heart's heart is part of body (3)
8. Butter swallowed by prosecutor, product of 20 ac. (5)
9. Mounts with a hundred legs (6)
10. Firm snake when wearing bra (abbrev.) (2)
11. Object of attenuated gravity (5)
13. Negative number (2)
15. Artist pulled back for prize (6)
16. Temptress is returning full of holes (5)
17. Age in which regent of Thebes came to an end (3)
20. From him the Bacchae rise up and die in frenzy (9)

Down

2. Element mixed in 6 dn.'s head (3)
3. A little Bacon play (6)
4. Act, could be sung (2)
5. Euclid might produce one, for fifty produced by Jane Austen (5)
6. Rats lie to perverted thinker (9)
8. Scared silly to join set-up -- I think!
9. Offspring found in Germanic *Hildebrandslied* (5)
12. Jewel in one, stars in both (6)
14. One of Circe's guests is new and different! (5)
17. Six eggheads fight (3)
19. Letter 20 ac. devoured (2)

Notes:

This British-style crossword contains outrageous puns, hidden words, anagrams, charades, reversals and other tortures. Every clue contains one trick part and one definition of the actual word (though it may not be a very precise one). Capitalization and punctuation may mislead. A prize will be offered to the submitter of the first correct answer, except for Elliot Zuckerman.



Last Week's Answers

HERMAPHRODITES
ER A E I I
ROCK DIALECTIC
ASHES MD T A O
A IDA SNOW
SIREN G T E A
L I G I HECTOR
AEOLIAN O T D
V TANTALUS A
E SIGHT GAME B
B U EIGHT T I
OTUS NO TYPHON
Y PAN R E D
IBIS DESIRES

Boating

The student advisory committee for the Sailing Picnic May 7 will meet Wednesday, April 26, in the Conversation Room to make crew assignments for the afternoon sailing outing planned by the Friends of St. John's. ppers of 13 yachts over 30 feet long have agreed to take from four to eight students each, according to Dr. Alan Harquail, who is arranging the event

for the Friends.

Jerry Hardesty, owner of Middleton's Tavern, has offered to provide picnic lunches for the flotilla. dents will assemble at 1:30 p.m. to board the boats at Fawcett's Marine Supplies on Compromise St., and will return about 7 p.m.

Students on the wait list may have an opportunity to be included. Students who missed the sign-up and would like to be on the wait list should contact Nancy Osius, room 185 Mellon, ext. 239.

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Foreign affairs

continued from page 2

set of goals for the developing world and urged more international cooperation to limit the threat posed by regional conflicts.

In addition to the roundtable discussions, we heard a number of lecturers, including the West German ambassador to the U.S., former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, and the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs, Rozanne Ridgway.

Some of the lectures were diplomatic policy statements, while others, by experts from John's Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, were predictions for the future of NATO. Most of the speakers overly emphasized the bipolar division between the U.S. and Soviets. The assumption behind the need to change present alliances, it seems, is that such a bi-polar division no longer exists.

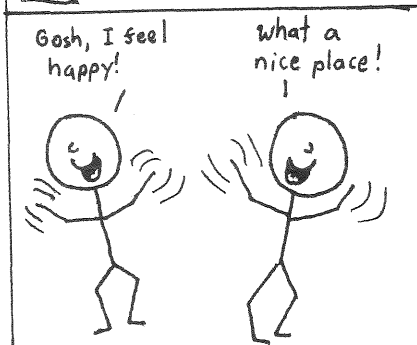
The most remarkable thing about the conference was perhaps the exposure to the academy itself. The only midshipmen I had met was Nugent, who hardly passes as anyone's idea of the average middle. One said to me, "I don't mean to be rude or anything, but you seem pretty normal to be from St. John's." How does one respond to such a statement? I knew what he meant, though. When he asked me where the antagonism lay between our two campuses, I replied that I thought Johnnies viewed the Midshipmen's acceptance of authority as demeaning and somehow indicative of a lack of character. Up close with the midshipmen, such descriptions seem to devolve into mere attempts to account for stereotypes, not real judgments.

Being at the Academy, I was forced to examine some of the cherished Johnnie beliefs, such as our supposed individuality. One of the first things that struck me about the academy was the fact that many of the midshipmen have strong regional accents. Talking further with them, I realized that there was a diversity beneath those identical dark blue suits which we could only pretend to possess. The fact is that most Johnnies come from the comfortable confines of the white, upper-middle class eastern corridor while the Midshipmen come from every state, and every social class.

I was also forced to realize that although we think they may be politically conservative (which they all readily admitted), they are willing to listen to arguments in a way we are not. I didn't find them dogmatic or close-minded and although I thought at times that they lacked a certain imagination to view the

Bob's Quest

Due to severe emotional stress on behalf of the author, this week's Bob's Quest is being replaced by Happy Stick Figures in a Nice Place.

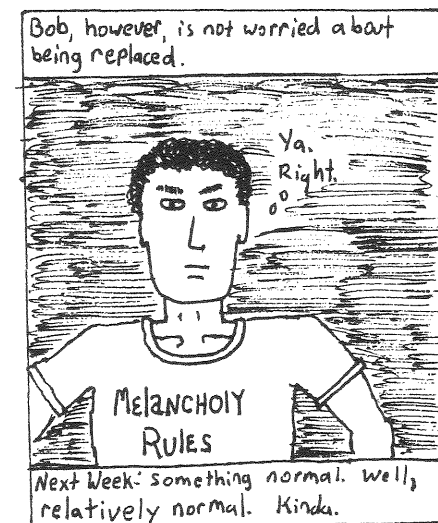
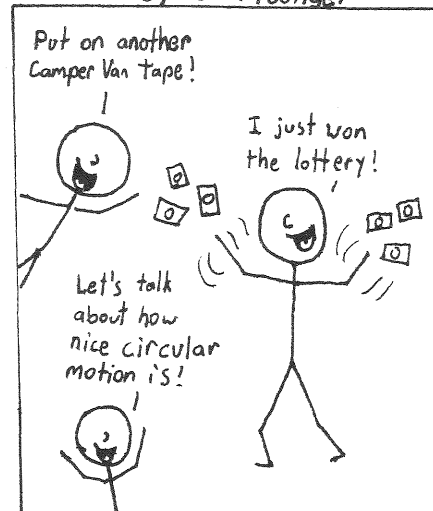


world in a non-bi-polar way, they certainly didn't react in the reactionary manner one might expect. Now I know that St. John's students pride themselves on their openness and willingness to argue until the dialectic brings truth to the surface, but by senior year people in seminar say pretty much what I expect them to say. In a sense we have made up our minds long ago and we simply argue to sharpen our verbal skills or polish our mental prowess.

I was struck by another thing; when I would broach a subject with a midshipman if he or she found it boring they would basically ignore me. As St. John's students, it is near social suicide to show anything simply bores us. We might be willing to admit it in private, but in conversation in the coffee shop we feign interest and ask perfunctory philosophic questions making distinctions purely as a matter of habit. Such behavior seems as tyrannical to me as many of us feel saluting one's superior officer to be.

I will leave you with one final image. It

by S.D. Younger



was raining heavily one evening as we walked from the officer's club to Mahan Hall for a lecture. We were escorted by a group of Midshipmen holding umbrellas but before we could arrive taps began to sound across the campus. Every Midshipman came to attention and saluted a flag pole somewhere in the gloom. Looking around me I could see dozens of young men standing silently in the down-pour while the trumpet continued.

1989-90 'Fly Editors elected

From the editors:

Carin Calabrese and Zoe Beatty have been elected co-editors of the 1989-90 *Gadfly*. We wish them the best of luck and hope they realize what they've gotten themselves into.

--Sara Catania

--Ray Gifford

D.C. Minutes

Munir Hussein President
David Lucas Secretary
Andrew Pietrus Treasurer

Megan Smith	Paca-Carroll	Sapna Gandhi	East Pinkney
Kim Kern	Randall	Shelley Nicoll	Paca-Carroll
Rick Craven	Campbell	Dylan Barth	Humphreys
Paul Speck	Off-Campus	Jim Fallon	Chase Stone
Scott Young	West Pinkney	Kurt Ruzitz-Redfield	Off-Campus

The meeting was held at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, April 18 in the Conversation Room. The delegates listed were in attendance.
The following took place:

1. The treasurer gave his bi-weekly report on the state of the DC checking account. For the last month of the school year, the DC has about \$3,000 to work with. Mr. Pietrus also still needs to collect club budgets for next year so that the DC can plot out its allocation schedule.
2. On behalf of the Senior Class, Anthony Nyberg, Anna Webb, and Grover Bynum requested a \$1,000 grant to be used for the food at prank. Although their financial statement was lacking precision, and questions were raised about why they had had so little success raising money, the grant was approved because no one wants a pathetic prank.
3. Dwayne Rodgers was in attendance to ask for an additional \$50 over what he had already been allocated because he has decided to put on two extra plays with the SJC Repertory Club. The extra \$50 was approved with little discussion.
4. Tristan Forgas presented his plans and a charter for the newly formed Lacrosse Club. He claimed widespread support for, and interest in lacrosse at St. John's, especially during these spring months. He requested \$120 to be used for sticks, balls, nets, and other equipment. The DC approved both the charter and the money.
5. Paul Speck presented the final video game report of the year and, because of the large sums of money involved, the council decided to postpone action until next year. There will be questions about student interest in video games on the DC Survey which will be out before the end of the year.
6. Max Eberts represented the Navy/St. John's Friendship Club(?) in their request for \$340 to pay a debt to Marriot for a dinner they had hosted. Mr. Eberts suffered rough treatment at the hands of the DC, mainly because this "club" seems to be for an elite few, and because Kim Kern remembered that Blaise Bechtel had promised to have public sign-up lists for these dinners, but Max confessed there had been none. With this lack of broad based support, the best Mr. Eberts could get was what became known as the *Fallon Proposal*. The DC will match dollar for dollar any money Max can raise through a fundraiser. However, the total sum will not exceed the DC paying for half of the outstanding debt.
7. Munir concluded the meeting by reading the new letter from Jean Foucault. This time the council agreed with their secretary and decided the College does not need or want an additional waltz party between now and the end of the year. Send your letters elsewhere buddy. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, in the Conversation Room at 7:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

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