



FROM THE POLITY

A Letter to the St. John's College Administration Concerning the Gravel Parking Lot by the Gym

Dear Powers That Be,

One of the great treasures of St. John's College is our back lawn. It is simultaneously one of the most beautiful, and most frequently used parts of our campus. It is where many of us read, play sports, sunbathe, stargaze, watch the sunset, and occasionally oil wrestle or have snowball fights. Front campus is our presentable, outward-facing, hedge-lined yard. It is there we play croquet, and generally put forward our most dignified visage. The quad is half polis agora, half back deck—the place where on Monday and Thursday night post-seminar conversations continue beyond the stamina of the tutors, and where on Friday and Saturday night quad bools continue beyond the stamina of Public Safety. But it is the back lawn which is really the most precious. It is here in the enclosed privacy of our academic cloister that we are allowed the most important condition for the study of the liberal arts—leisure. Why is this so critical? Without leisure, liberal education is impossible. Because it is not in itself a practice directed to some ulterior end—because it is not inherently ordered to being 'useful'—the student of liberal education must have time and space which is free from the necessities of life which demand 'usefulness'. Our lawn is such a space. It is not a place where we do 'useful' things—and even when we do, we could do them elsewhere if we pleased, and with fewer distractions. But because it is the chosen destination for 'useless' activities, it is one of our most used spaces.

For us to continue our devotion to the New Program, the college lawn is indispensable. It is one of a few spaces on campus which—like our education—is primarily delightful, not functional. It is a place of freedom where the *liberos* made *ex liberis libris libraque* can come, as the American revolutionaries who gathered under the shade of the Liberty Tree came to our campus, for their own purposes and not those imposed upon them by others. It is an icon of who we are, what we do. To deny our lawn's central importance is to deny the very essence of St. John's College. *Continued on page 2*

CREATURE FEATURE: LUNA MOTH CATERPILLAR SPOTTED

It was a warm sunny day on Friday when this reporter was walking up to McDowell and an abnormally-large, bright green caterpillar crawled across the path. The caterpillar quickly attracted a small crowd of Mr. Duffy (Tutor), Ms. Sprout (A26), and Mx. Bixby (A25) as we all gawked at the hungriest caterpillar we ever did see.

After a quick, tentative ID from Insect Farming Club Archon, Louis Rosenberg, it appears that this impressive creature—which continually fell on its side due to its corpulence—was a soon-to-be luna moth in its final days as a caterpillar. The luna moth caterpillar goes through five stages as a caterpillar, called "instars"—periods between molting. Judging by the size and coloring of this caterpillar, it seemed likely at its fifth instar and ready to begin pupating—spinning its cocoon. Each instar of a luna moth caterpillar can last 4-10 days which means a caterpillar can spend up to 50 days eating before spending around two weeks in its cocoon. Only after that two weeks is up, will the moth emerge fully formed. All they need to do is inflate their 3-4 inch wings and dry them out before they can take flight.

Luna moths, despite their prehistoric affect and the fact that one feels lucky if they see a moth once a year, are quite common. Their range stretches from Florida to Atlantic Canada and from Louisiana to south-eastern Saskatchewan. The reason they may seem rare to us is because they are nocturnal and only live about a week in their moth form. They take a page out of the cicadas' book and emerge from their cocoons without mouths, their sole purpose to find a mate.

Male luna moths have quite wonderful yellowish feathery antennae while females have slightly more-spindly green antennae. Both sexes sport impressive twin tails that are a deterrent to their main natural predators: bats. Bats hunt by echolocation and the luna moth whips its tail around to scramble the sound signals they receive. Scientists have found that this tactic works about half the time.

We may not see the results of this caterpillar's pupation this year—if at all. When the temperature is cold enough and the days grow short enough, this caterpillar may enter "diapause"—a nine-month period of dormancy in its cocoon. If it does this, it will hatch

after the seniors have graduated and all of us have gone away for the summer. After 50 days of eating and nine months of transformation, a spectacular moth may emerge and live to haunt our silent campus for seven nights.

These moths are commonplace, but not of our realm. To find a moth is to find something special. To find a moth is to perhaps be forced to ask the question "was it all worth it?" To find a moth is to be told by their mouthless faces "yes."

Godspeed, you great, green, and ever-hungry caterpillar. May you soon wheel, in graceful assurance, over the heads of a pupating polity.



The Caterpillar in question (quarter for scale).

Caleb Briggs

BUDGET UPDATE: Club Budgets approved by the DC as of September 17 Meeting

- Bowling Club- \$1158
- Catholic Student Fellowship- \$900
- Folk Life- \$387
- Insect Farming Club- \$325
- Jiu Jitsu- \$1935
- Magic Club - \$719
- Pangaea - \$1765
- Reading Women- \$730.44
- Reality- \$3902
- SCI- \$975
- Shammai- \$815
- Waltz Committee- \$4160
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship- \$ 984.71

Continued on page 2

This Week in Seminar

Freshman:

- Thursday, September 19: Aeschylus: *Agamemnon*
- Monday, September 23: Aeschylus: *Libation Bearers, Eumenides*

Sophomores:

- Thursday, September 19: Bible: *Job*
- Monday, September 23: Lucretius: *De Rerum Natura*, I–III

Juniors:

- Thursday, September 19: Milton: *Paradise Lost*. IX-X; XI to 428; XII 446 to end
- Monday, September 23: Hobbes: *Leviathan*, Frontispiece; Letter of Dedication; Author's Introduction; Chapters 1–11

Seniors:

- Thursday, September 19: Hegel: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, The Beautiful Soul and Forgiveness (659-671); Absolute Knowing, sections 806-808)
- Monday, September 23: Tocqueville: *Democracy in America* (selections)

Friday Night Lecture:

Ryan Shea, "Phenomenology of Nature."

Upcoming Events:

Friday, September 20:

- "Seeing--Reading--Writing: Practicing a Phenomenology of Nature" Nature Institute Workshop with Ryan Shea, 3:45pm, Mellon 134

Saturday, September 21:

- Raffle Trip: Maryland Renaissance Festival
- Sock Hop, 9pm-12am, Great Hall

Thursday, September 26:

- Gadfly II published (no Collegian)

ORGANIC TUTOR INTERVIEWS:
Santa Fe Transfer Tutors

1. *Can you introduce yourself?*
Ms. Dougherty: Hello. My name is Janet Dougherty. I’ve been a tutor at this college since 1992. I started at the Annapolis campus and then moved to Santa Fe. Initially, I planned to stay there for only a year, but I ended up staying longer than expected. Eventually, I returned to Annapolis, and I’m happy to be back. It’s one college and one program. Although there’s a geographic difference, the people in the classroom are the same.
Mr. Pagano: Hi, my name is Mr. Pagano. I’ve been a tutor at the college, starting in Santa Fe, since 1983. This was the premier year for tutors, with 5 new ones in total. The buildings were built much later here, and so there was no library and no gym. The atmosphere is so different across the campuses as well; you don’t think about humidity until you are drenched in sweat here in Annapolis, and the Santa Fe campus is so much more spread out. But when you are in a class, it feels no different – except for the fact that classes are an extra ten minutes longer in Santa Fe. You can tell a lot of jokes in ten minutes. Nonetheless, I am happy to be back in Annapolis with Ms. Dougherty.

2. *Why did you want to become a tutor at St. John’s College?*
Ms. Dougherty: I felt tired reading secondary literature, and I often didn’t feel educated enough. I keep thinking my education is incomplete. The texts we read seem inexhaustible—40 years of reading and I still feel that I am in the process of being educated.

3. *What part of the program do you always come back to?*
Ms. Dougherty: I really enjoy teaching freshman seminars. It’s enjoyable to see the freshmen learn. They have their own way of interpreting questions

and their own attitude in the seminar. They always have some sense of how a seminar works. It’s truly wonderful to observe them and see them get better at working together. Of course, I also love freshman seminar because of my love for freshman seminar books. I especially enjoy Platonic dialogues and Aristotle. I even like advising senior essays on Platonic dialogues, and always enjoy having a study group for close readings of Platonic dialogues.
Mr. Pagano: For me, it really depends on how the class goes. Last year’s sophomore seminar was JUST GREAT. It is striking how students are such nice people, and they force you to level up your level of niceness. Theoretically, classes are for the students... but I want to come out having learned myself, and usually I do. Freshman and junior language can be difficult classes, but still fun if the students are engaged.

4. *Can you improvise on the acrostic poem of your initials?*

The following acrostic poems were created by Ms. Dougherty and Mr. Pagano, although who created which will remain undisclosed information.

Frank N. Pagano = Funny, Not Phony
Janet A. Dougherty = Just And Devoted

Tamar Pinsky and Seohyun Lee

Aphorism of the Week
Οὐκ ἔστι τῷ ποιητῇ ἑαυτὸν ἄδειν.
Tarik Mahmud

INSECT SUBLATES HEGEL SEMINAR
One Injured, None Killed

ANNAPOLIS, MD. Seniors were in the midst of deep contemplation of Hegel on Monday, September 9th, when one seminar participant completely derailed conversation. No, this participant did not interrupt, nor did he bring his personal convictions on Christology to the table. Instead, his mere presence was enough to negate the focus of all members of the seminar.

Who was this distraction, you may ask? Accounts vary, with some claiming it was a “yellowjacket,” “a paper wasp,” or, according to James Reeher, most likely a “European hornet.” After its presence distracted the progress of the class-spirit for long enough, Jordan Kammeyer decided to take action.

“I am one for seminar going on as usual despite all distractions,” she explained. “When the hornet finally landed at a prime spot to be finally dealt with, I gently tried to scoop it up with my scarf.” This prime spot, unfortunately, was the back of her classmate, James Reeher.

“It was more of a squish than a scoop,” opined Sarah Thyer, who also was in the seminar. “I was trying to get at it from all sides, but with minimal pressure,” responded Kammeyer. Alas, the minimal pressure was not enough. The insect, feeling it was in a life-and-death struggle, chose to assert its certainty of being-for-itself and stung the unfortunate Reeher. At this point, the class was entirely negated, and in order to synthesize and move to the next step in the dialectic, the entire class moved rooms.

“After moving, it was a solid 30 to 45 minutes before I could engage in class, because of my guilty conscience,” said Kammeyer. “She looked morose,” concurred Thyer. Still, the class, including the unhappy consciousness of Reeher, admirably continued to soldier onwards, towards the Absolute.

El’ad Nichols-Kaufman

Club Budgets, cont’d

Swim Club-	\$88.44
Baking Club-	\$ 448.72
Gadfly/Collegian-	\$320.00
Coffee Club-	\$165.00
Rock Climbing-	\$3,875.00

Collegian Classifieds:
CALLING ALL SMOKING
(HOT) JOHNNIES
We Have Rabbits AND Ducks On Campus!
And They Find Your Butts A Tasty Treat!
(as do we all)
HOWEVER
They die when they snack on your leftovers, so be cool and throw your butts where they belong.
Sincerely,
PUFF (the M.D.)

Gravel Parking Lot Letter,
cont’d

As we know, like all things which ends in themselves—the very things which make human life delightful—our lawn is the first place which those in need of space are prepared to appropriate for use. Last July, I visited our campus with my good friend, Evan Hamilton. I remember vividly the shock we both experienced upon looking out along the lawn to see it horribly disfigured by a hastily built gravel parking lot. What! When did they...? how could they...? when will it be gone? This last question remains most important to me regarding the scourge of the gravel lot. I recognize that it was a necessary scourge we had to endure while Edensword was under construction last school year. But with the Edensword parking lot now available, I ask again: how long? When will it be gone?

Jackson Green



Original cartoon by Polina Vatralskaia (26)

ABOUT THE ST.
JOHN’S
COLLEGIAN

The St. John’s Collegian is the weekly newspaper of St. John’s College Annapolis. We work to bring quick and timely coverage of important events going on, to help develop a more informed student body. If you’re searching for more in-depth investigations and reporting, as well as essays, art and culture, check out the Gadfly, our affiliated publication, which is published once every three weeks.

Want to submit an article? We always need more writers, whether for opinion or reporting! Submissions for news articles should be between 400-600 words, while opinion should be kept short at 350 words. Just email sjca.collegian@gmail.com with your article, and we will work to get it in print! Longer form articles and more in-depth exploration of ideas should go to the Gadfly, which accepts submissions at gadfly.office@sjc.edu.

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