

THE

GADEFLY

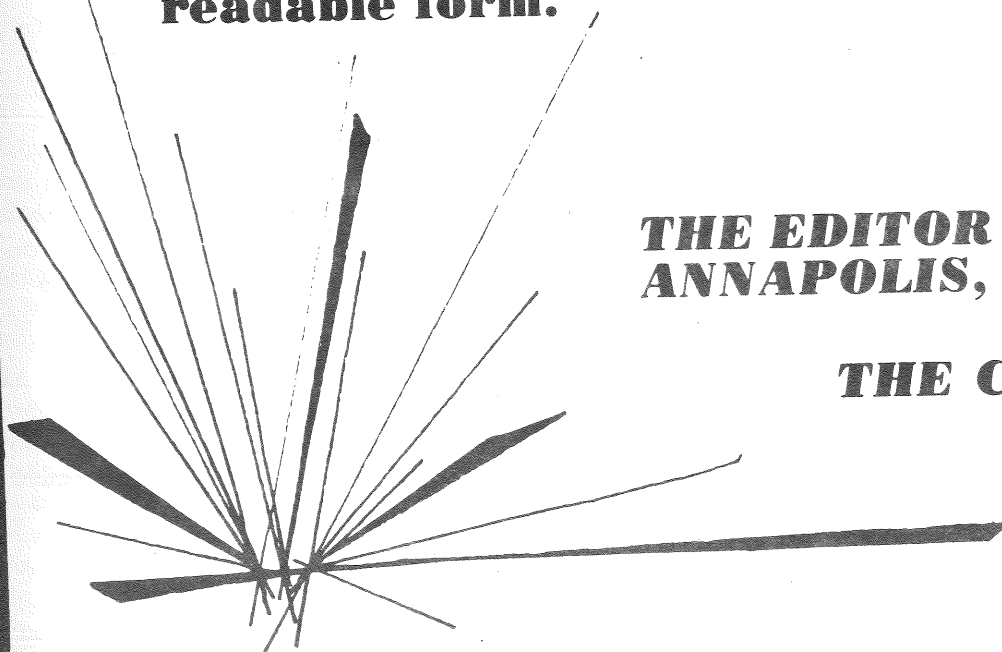
VOL. II ISSUE 1 THE ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SEPT. 5, 1980

THE HECKMAN BINDERY, INC. N. MANCHESTER, INDIANA

Beginning next September this publication will come to you weekly. We hope that it will serve a useful role in the St. John's community. Our policy will be to accept and print, space permitting, all material that is submitted to us by members of the community, regardless of content or quality. We reserve the right to make editorial comment on all material submitted, and intend to utilize this right. We also extend to the community the promise to print all criticism of our publication that is submitted signed and in readable form.

**THE EDITOR AND STAFF
ANNAPOLIS, 31 MAY 1969**

THE COLLEGIAN



A VIEW OF THE NEW

by Rick Campbell

Edwin J. Delattre, the new President of the college, gave his first major address to the college community today at Convocation. Mr. Delattre has had little rest since assuming his new position July 1. He spent the summer at the Santa Fe campus becoming acquainted with the faculty and staff and learning of the problems that need to be addressed.

Mr. Delattre drove cross-country with his family to Annapolis, arriving on Aug. 28. On Aug. 30 he returned to Santa Fe for the convocation, and was back in Annapolis on Sept. 3 in time for a meeting with the faculty that night. The reports from that meeting were full of praise for Mr. Delattre's firmness, his knowledge of the program and his willingness to accept criticism and admit mistakes.

Yesterday Mr. Delattre had lunch with the Delegate Council. Martin Miller, president of the Delegate Council, said he enjoyed Mr. Delattre's openness and the interest he took in student activities.

Mr. Delattre comes to St. John's with a background of leadership, scholarship and teaching experience. He was Director of the National Humanities Faculty from 1976 to 1980. He has published articles on such varied topics as ethics, education, logic and competitive athletics, and has lectured on leadership, citizenship, law and political prisoners. He has taught philosophy, logic, ethics and the philosophy of history.

Mr. Delattre plans to take an avid interest in the community. He will drop in on classes occasionally and will co-lead the alumni seminar with Mr. Bolotin during Homecoming weekend in Annapolis.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

by Harry Zolkower

Goodbye Marriott, hello Saga.

The food service at St. John's has undergone a face-lift with the arrival of Saga Foods Inc. and the departure of Marriott. Saga has a one-year contract, which is common for an institutional food service.

Jim Krysiak, Saga's manager, comes to St. John's after managing Saga's operation at George Washington University in Washington for a year.

About two thirds of the people who worked for Marriott last year will return this year.

According to Mr. Elzey, the reason for terminating Marriott's contract was due to a lack of food quality. Financially, St. John's will neither lose nor gain by the change.

Saga's Menu will differ from Marriott's by providing three entrees at dinner instead of two, and offering meat at breakfast three or four times a week.

"I'll balance the menu to the likes and dislikes of the student", said Mr. Krysiak. "I'll be looking for the vegetarian eaters to give me some feedback."

It costs Saga \$4.00 to feed one student three meals a day. The company promises to try its best to please everyone, within the limitations of its budget.

The saga of Saga Foods, Inc. began in 1948 when three students from Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y. took over the food service. The students soon established a branch at a sister college and since then have expanded to approximately 400 universities, 300 hospitals, 100 businesses, and three chains of restaurants - covering 46 states in all.

Saga was named after a lake near Hobart College. The lake's name was Kanadasaga (Indian for "Geneva"), but since it was so long, the three students kept only the end part of the name.

SHORT TAKES

by H. Zolkower

Freshmen won't be the only new faces on campus this year. Four new tutors, two from Santa Fe will be joining the faculty.

The tutors coming from Santa Fe are Kent H. Taylor and Scott R. Stripling. New St. John's faculty members are physicist Robert B. Raphael and William Mullen, who specializes in Greek and Latin literature.

St. John's tutor Mr. David Starr was named the new director of the Graduate Institute in Santa Fe.

A tombstone was found at Paca-Carroll House by workmen who are renovating and adding on to the historic landmark.

No sign of a grave was seen, which has led some members of the administration to believe that the tombstone might have been placed there by fraternity members back in the 1930's. Paca-Carroll was once a Kappa Alpha fraternity house.

Due to revisions in New York State about standardized tests, the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) Board has temporarily ceased administering GRE Advanced Tests in New York State. New York will be the only state affected by the suspension.

The Advanced Tests are administered to those seeking master's and doctor's degree programs in the Liberal Arts, computer science, engineering and education.

The Board also announced that other testing services, such as those concerning the handicapped, students in need of make-up administrations and Sabbath observers, will be restored at the same time as regular testing.

CAMPUS CLUBS

Despite, or perhaps because of, the no-elective, wearing curriculum at St. John's, students participate lustfully in the various polity-sponsored clubs on campus. Here is a list of club titles, and the people to contact for information:

- King William Players (KWP) - Patty Sowa
- Political Forum - Randy White
- Son of Bacchus (SOB) - Bruce Elliott
- Student Activities Committee - Bruce Dempster
- Waltz Committee - Joe Roach
- Film Club - Matt Davis, Ellen Alers
- Student Committee on Instruction - Jim Melcher
- Darkroom Associate - Leslie Lewis
- Small Chorus - Mr. Zuckerman
- Fencing Club - Alex Cummins
- Astronomy Club - Bruce Dempster
- Student Employment - Bill Ney
- Poker Club - Bill Ney
- Bridge Club - David Stein
- Croquet Club - John Schiavo

EXPATRIATES IN SANTA FE: 8-27-80

with GADFLY correspondent Hazen Hammel

"Since we don't want to hear just yet how great it is to be back in Santa Fe, why don't you tell us what's behind all these theories of education at St. John's?" Well, in the four years you can spend here as a student, it's pretty difficult to make any decisive connections between the superficial quirks of style and the ideals of a liberal education. But the principal is that "learning is the activity of the learner". This can be said another way by telling you that it's impossible to specify what you stand to gain by coming here. It's what you want it to be, and what you can make it. Those who are successful here find the self-responsibility a unique advantage, but those who fail to meet the challenge simply do not learn.

"What does St. John's have to do with real life, then?" Depends on what you mean by real life. Our education passes over the merely historical significance of the past, and it does not even meet the transitory needs of the present, e.g. the need society has for individuals trained in specific technological skills. One might say we study only for the future (about which we know nothing historical or "real") or that we study a "timeless" tradition. The Western Tradition has a definite temporal development, to be sure, but it has itself changed the "times" over and again. It's been revolutionary and radical. And yet the word, "tradition", implies some conservatism, reflecting the desire to elevate what is "eternal" and "unchanging" in contradistinction to what's only relative to times and places. We call this "Radical Conservatism"...the Program's world-view.

The chronological ordering of our studies then reflects this notion of development. What happened to mankind must happen to each of us: we must destroy and create ourselves anew, facing up to the Absolute in the process. "The unexamined life is not worth living"...this is a challenge to one's religious and political beliefs, one's habits of thought and speech, even one's sense of identity

"What if I'm not interested in abstract ideas and generalities, can I still get anything out of it?" First of all, ideas are beautiful, not abstract. Secondly, nothing arrived at through abstraction or generalization is going to be even interesting, let alone an idea. Discovering the ideal is a challenge.

We call this learning, and there are three phases of it (see Plato's Meno). The first two are supposed to happen everyday in St. John's classrooms. We are seduced into expressing all our opinions, and then we unmask them all as mere shadows of what's true. Because we often cannot distinguish between ourselves and our opinions - between "I" and "what I said" - this leads to a confusion called "aporia" in Greek, meaning "no way out". The way out is the third phase of learning: discovering what's true. You often have to simply believe in it.

Our tutors compound our dazed and confused feeling by refusing to supply easy answers, as when we demand: "Why are we doing this? Why don't you just tell us so we can do it right?" (This is the litany of Laboratory). This is how they show that they are no mere professors, professing to know how to do it "right" but it's hard for us not to resent being left at the mercy of our own ignorance. Some even create a heresy around this resentment. They say, "Truth is not happening to me, or if it is, it's not of any use to me." Believers reply, for example: "We aren't studying Euclid so it will be of some use to us, but because Euclid is beautiful." The heretic finds this nonsensical. St. John's, however, is a veritable Inquisition for the heretic, and the most exquisite torture for him is his feeling that everyone else is in fantasy land and talks nonsense.

"Does this mean that even the tutorials are really philosophy courses, as in the Philosophy of Mathematics, etc.?" Philosophy is the love of wisdom, and we approach wisdom by thinking and learning. We practice thinking and learning in the tutorials, as one practices running while one plays soccer. In fact, thinking bears many resemblances to running. It seems to require a natural "talent", though everyone can improve by practice. Some people even learn to love the pain involved in pushing beyond one's limits, and since they are the ones who excel, they are said to have "talent". Others need external incentives, such as the benefits to one's health or the esteem of others, but this changes the activity into work, instead of an end in itself: play.

Scholarship nowadays signifies academic drudgery, but the derivation of the word suggests that "scholars" were once those who had leisure, and studied because they enjoyed study. St. John's strives to revive the kind of scholarship that is pursued for pleasure - a life-long activity. External rewards are de-emphasized, there is no training for lucrative professions, no exams, and no grade competition.

My unexamined life fostered my belief that I had no "talent" for math. Here I've had to study math, but since we are not competing for rewards, and we are all studying the same thing, I've been able to get help when I needed it (like right before class). So I am now no longer a mathematical illiterate, and yet I can't say I've developed a "talent" for it, because I do not enjoy pushing myself beyond the pain barrier, the limit of the familiar. This is the central challenge of the Program: to learn to push through the difficulties instead of faking one's way around them. We practice as many unfamiliar thought processes as we can, each having a pain barrier commensurate with its unfamiliarity. If you learn to enjoy thinking through them, you've had the "St. John's Experience". Elsewise, you've learned the self-destructive techniques of faking it.

I think everyone fakes it to a certain degree, and most are quite aware of how much they are faking it. After awhile, anyone with a shred of integrity has a crisis of despair, when it seems all one can do is fake it. If facing up to the Great Ideas were a football game, you'd punt at that point. Most of us go to parties and commiserate.

"What's the hardest thing to learn at St. John's?", conversation: either learning to listen, or learning to have confidence in one's self, depending on what your habits were before you came here. I loved to argue people down....breaking that habit was a real pain barrier for me.

"Is there a secret to making St. John's worth my while?" First, go to a lot of parties. This doesn't mean, like it seems to at other colleges, that you should seek mere diversions (Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll et al.) since we have tried to improve upon that scene. Our more lasting diversions, for example, this newspaper, are open to everyone who will expend a minimum of effort, and not just journalism majors (and so it goes with drama and sports and more). But what's important for understanding parties at St. John's, is that the unwritten law - Thou shalt not bring academics out of the classroom - just isn't in effect here. So that "partying" doesn't have to signify a deadly dull activity, because it's not an end, but a means toward bringing people together to talk. Note, however, that the means we use aren't all that different from what other students consider ends: this is the "Reality" of St. John's.)

Then, look towards the structure of the Program for guidance. The tutors are not the Program, thus you have something to rely upon when your tutor lacks insight- into his assigned segment. You can even hold classes when he must be absent - which reveals the problem inherent in a standard lecture program. Neither is the Program an anthology of Great Books. Over the years the Program has been constructed from the selected works. There is thus a deviously hidden order that's hardest to see in the tutorials. Look at it as a mystery novel: all details fit somehow...look for clues. Hint: there were other more "historically significant" mathematicians that Ptolemy (Archimedes, et at.) yet we study Ptolemy.

The challenge of this "mystery novel" technique is that the Program is only an outline and some notes...you must write the bulk of the novel yourself.

PINCHPENNY CORNER

by

Kurt Schuler '81

One of the first things a Johnnie must decide upon arriving at school is where he should bank. Some solve this problem by opening the Yellow Pages, closing their eyes, putting a finger down, and depositing their money at the bank it lands on. Those of a more scientific bent walk down Main Street comparing the information painted on the bank windows before making their choices.

As a public service, THE GADFLY presents a comparison of the services that banks and savings and loans near the campus offer. The ignorant can now be spared the effects of their ignorance (one bank, you will notice, has a particularly raw deal on savings accounts), and the scientific need no longer stir from their easy chairs.

The banks and savings and loans listed in the chart below are all located on Main Street except for Farmers' National Bank, which is on West Street at Church Circle. All savings and loans are designated by the abbreviation "S & L". The information is as complete as diligent GADFLY staffers could make it.

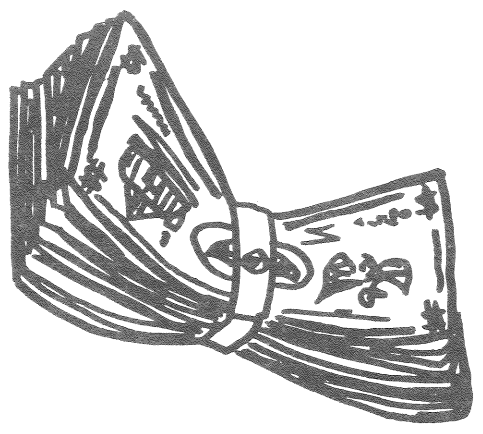
One noteworthy item in the "Remarks" column that requires some explanation is that whereas most savings and loans have their deposits insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, a U.S. government agency, Chesapeake Savings and Loans's deposits are insured by the Maryland Savings Share Corporation, a state government agency. This is no cause for alarm though; the state is financially sound, as its triple-A credit rating demonstrates. Chesapeake Savings can offer higher interest than other local savings and loans because it is not subject to Federal Reserve regulations that limit the amount of interest banks and savings and loans can pay.

In January all the banks and savings & loans will institute N.O.W. accounts. A N.O.W. account is an interest bearing checking account. The maximum amount of interest is mandated by the federal government and will be about 5%. This is something to keep in mind for January. N.O.W. stands for Negotiable Order of Withdrawal.

Bank or S&L	Hours	Interest	Min. checking balance	Checking fees	Returned check chg. charge	Overdraft	Deposited check waiting time
1 Annapolis Banking & Trust	M-F 9-3 F 4-6	5 1/4%	none	under \$ 200 maintenance fee \$.60 fee per check cashed or deposited \$.05 credit per \$ 100 of avg. monthly balance \$.15	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	7-10 days
2 Farmers' Nat'l.		5 1/4%		\$ 0.00-\$99: \$ 3.00/mo. \$ 100-\$199: \$ 2.00 \$ 200-\$299: \$ 1.00 \$ 300 or more: none	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	5-10 days may withdraw 1/2 of check immediately
3 First American	M-F 9-2 F 4-6	5 1/4%		\$ 0.00-\$100: \$ 3.00/mo. \$ 100-\$ 199: \$ 2.00 \$ 200-\$ 299: \$ 1.00 \$ 300 or more: none	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	in-town: 2-3 days out-of-town: 7-10 days
4 Suburban Trust	M-F 9-2 F 4:30-7:30 Sat. 9-12	5 1/4%	\$ 5.00	\$ 0.75/mo + .15/check	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	
5 Annapolis Fed. S&L	M-Th 9-4 F 9-6	5 1/4%	NO CHECKING				
6 Augusta S&L	M-Th 9-4 F 9-6 Sat. 9-12	5 1/4%	NO CHECKING				
7 Chesapeake S&L	M-Th 9-4:30 F 9-6	7%	NO CHECKING				

REMARKS

- 1 Savers lose all interest gained since the end of the last quarter when closing out their savings accounts
One Branch
- 2 Four Branch Offices
- 3 Two Area Branch Offices, including a Parole drive-in, open 7:7:30 Mon.-Fri.
- 4 Two Branch Offices, including a drive-in open 7:30-7:30 Mon.-Fri., and 9-12 Sat.
Has automatic teller.
- 5 Two Area Branch Offices
- 7 Insured by Maryland Savings Share Corporation (a state agency) instead of by federal government.



FROM BED TO WORSE

by James Hyder

Well, finally, my first day at St. John's. After considering it got more than seven years, and actively planning it for a year and a half or so, I was here!

What a relief, I thought. No longer will I have to play that boring tape back to everyone who asked "What are you going to major in?" or "What's the Great Books program?" You know the speech: "Well, you don't major at St. John's, everybody takes the same courses. The seminar is the main method of instruction..." I'm sure you know the speech as well as I do, and you undoubtedly got as tired as I did of having to repeat it dozens of times a week. It was such a relief when I very occasionally found someone who knew about St. John's, to whom I could talk about the Program without half an hour's explanation first!

In the last few weeks and days, I realized that soon I would be there, doing what I'd been laboriously (and often somewhat ineffectually) trying to explain to the Uninitiated for the past seven years. No longer would I be rereunning the old tape, trying desperately to sound interested in a topic I had been explaining superficially to hundreds, thousands, of people who had casually asked, "What are you going to study at St. John's?" (I must confess that at times, either when I was too tired or bored to do otherwise, or when I sensed my questioner really didn't care too much about the answer, I admitted to majoring in philosophy, and let it go at that. This ploy sometimes backfired, and led to further questions about why I was going to St. John's, which necessitated playing the companion tape to "St. John's Explained" i.e. "Why I Am Going To St. John's." Just as boring as the first.)

Soon, I thought, I would be starting a new chapter in my life, and I would be free of this mindless rehashing of my quickie explanation of the Whats and Wherefores of my (then) future College Plans. I never considered that a potentially worse ordeal was in store for me. It didn't take long to realize, though, that I was now among 400-some-odd strangers (and some, I soon saw, were very odd) and that normal introductory conversation, which I could expect to repeat a couple of hundred times in the next few weeks, would be the tapes entitled "Name, Address, Serial Number," and "My Career Since High School, 1973-1980." Horror of horrors!! At least when playing "Future Plans" tapes there was some mild excitement in the anticipation of the unknown, and describing my feelings related to the coming challenge. But this—explaining the past, ancient history, and hundreds of times in a very short period! Why, this wasn't even a new tape, for I had had to explain my job and career ever since I had started working at Howard Community College, and "My Career" had had dozens of revisions down through the years. Old, old old!

I have considered a few alternatives. One is writing out the speech on a piece of paper and handing it to people I've just met. It seems a neat solution, but slightly awkward because, either the person has to read it then and there (rather unlikely) or puts it away and reads it later. If the former, fine, but if the latter, you are left with few good starting points for conversation. Unless, of course, you get the other person to play his or her tapes. But that is rather inconsiderate if your position is that playing tapes is so boring as to require avoiding it by writing them down.

Another alternative is to simply avoid playing tapes by making up a new past every time someone asks. This has much to recommend it. First of all, it is exciting. There is something of a thrill in lying, and it is a unique opportunity to exercise one's imagination and powers of description. There is a fine art in making up, on the spur of the moment, an autobiography which is at once fascinating, unusual, and somewhat incredible, but not so fantastic as to become unbelievable. Naturally, the story must be internally consistent, must come forth naturally, and also be in keeping with one's outward appearance and temperament. All in all, it can be quite a challenging, yet enjoyable method of dealing with one's past. But there are a few drawbacks.

First, in order to get good at this extemporaneous fictionalizing it's more or less necessary to create a new persona for every new person you meet. Otherwise, if you create only

one new past, you'll be back in the position of playing a tape. A new, and perhaps more interesting tape, but a tape, nonetheless. A new story for every person you meet, however, causes its own problems, one being the possible difficulty in remembering who you told which story, and remembering details. Another problem with the multi-history mode is that, almost inevitably, wildly varying accounts of your past will start circulating, probably resulting in a reputation as something of a liar, and a general lowering of your credibility. It was fun while it lasted, but perhaps it's best saved for people you will never meet again. You know what I mean.

I haven't decided on which strategy I will use yet, but I may still use one of these two, or perhaps another one I haven't discovered yet. I may, however, simply follow the pack, endure the boredom, and play the tape over and over...

"I was offered a job as an audio-visual technician just out of high school, and I've been audio taping, video taping, photographing, etc., for the past seven years. I was born on October 17, 1955 at Johns Hopkins Hospital, I've lived in Maryland all my life, my serial number in 218680398...."

HORSEFEATHERS

Starring the Marx Brothers

Sat and Sun at 8:15 p.m.

Admission \$1.00

As most of you know, and as 100 or so of you will discover in the next 48 hours, there is something about a college campus which lowers people's inhibitions, in many cases banishing them completely for a short time. And as we know, or will soon discover, people without inhibitions do funny things.

But what if there were a small group of people who never had inhibitions? And what if they were on a first-name basis with the absurd? And what if they took over a college and released whatever that something-about-a-college-campus is in its pure, uncut form?

Why, then HORSEFEATHERS would be a documentary. Laugh it up, it's the only Marx on this campus that you'll want to see twice.

Sorrentino

P.S. Please tell Matt Davis or Ellen Alers if you want to see PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK.

The Weekend Flick



WEEKLY CALENDAR

<u>Saturday, Sept. 6</u>	Meeting of Board of Visitors and Governors of St. John's College	King William Room
9:00 a.m.		
3:30-7:00	Picnic for Freshmen	President's Lawn 212 Norwood Road FSK Auditorium
8:15 p.m.	Film - HORSEFEATHERS - \$1.00	
<u>Sunday, Sept. 7</u>		
8:15 p.m.	Film - HORSEFEATHERS - \$1.00	FSK Auditorium
<u>Tuesday, Sept. 9</u>		
9:30 p.m.	Student Aide Time Sheets due Delegate Council Meeting	Financial Aid Office McDowell - Room 21
<u>Thursday, Sept. 11</u>		
2:00 p.m.	Meeting of Freshmen, Transfer Students, and College Counseling Staff	Conversation Room
2:15 p.m.	Delegate Council Meeting with Deans and Treasurer	McDowell - Room 23
<u>Friday, Sept. 12</u>		
8:15 p.m.	LECTURE: "What Shall I Do?" Edward G. Sparrow, Dean, St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland	FSK Auditorium
<u>Saturday, Sept. 13</u>		
10:15 p.m.	Film - MURMER OF THE HEART - \$1.00	FSK Auditorium
<u>Sunday, Sept. 14</u>		
8:15 p.m.	Film - MURMER OF THE HEART - \$1.00	FSK Auditorium

**DELEGATE COUNCIL MEETING
(SPECIAL SESSION)
THURSDAY MAY 8, 1980**

Present: Miller, Roach, Van Doren,
Ney, St Amour, Fuller, Cummins, Rosen,
Smith, Stein

Visiting: Dempster, Norton, Bartlett

1. The meeting was a short one, but we managed still to pass a large number of resolutions, all thanks to the organizing efforts of Mr Miller.

First, we considered the electoral units for next year. It is on such basis that we determine how many people will sit on the Delegate Council each year. Ordinarily, the past years units are simply approved for next year, but since we are losing the presence of Paca-Carroll on the Council, it was important that we reconsider the several electoral units, their numbers and interests. Here then is the list approved for next year by a vote of 7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention (Mr Stein had not yet arrived).

<u>Dormitory or Electoral Unit</u>	<u>Number of Units granted</u>
Campbell	2
Humphreys	1
Chase Stone	1
East Pinkney	1
West Pinkney	1
Randall	1
Dorsey House & Reverdy Johnson	1
Off Campus	3
total	11

2. We then approved the following people as Interim Delegates to begin next year's Delegate Council and to be in charge of next year's dorm elections:

Campbell	Bonnie Hoffman
	Honor Bulkley
Humphreys	Kate O'Malley
Dorsey House & RJ	Abraham Schoener
Chase Stone	Chip Melli
East Pinkney	Nathan Rosen
West Pinkney	Ellen Swinford
Randall	David Nau
Off Campus	Eugene Wise
	Michael Franklin
	Ann Kates

Approved unanimously.

Dear Parents, Alumni and Friends;

THE GADFLY begins its second volume with this issue. Last year was a financial success due to your support. We were able to operate without any funds from the college. We think this is of the utmost importance for our independence. This was possible only because of your generous donations.

So, we are again going to be sending the first three issues free of charge in hopes that you will enjoy our publication and what insights into the St John's community it may provide, or at least appreciate our efforts.

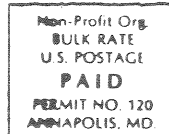
The subscription rate is \$15 for the year. We will also be throwing raffles and parties and hope, space permitting, to gain some advertisers. This year we plan to make our office our working place. We currently use various college offices for typing and layout because we lack the equipment - typewriters, layout tables, etc. But with some aggressive fund-raising we hope to acquire the funds necessary to make these vital purchases and bring all our parts together.

Your checks should be made payable to THE GADFLY, c/o Rick Campbell, St John's College, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing your comments.

Rick Campbell
Managing Editor

THE GADFLY
St John's College
Annapolis, MD 21404



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