Prescribing Pets • 03

Blood in a Beautiful City • 04

Falsification Square • 06

Wanting Better, Missing the Best • 07

St. John's College • 60 College Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401 • Sept. 9, 2014 • Vol. XXXVI • Issue 02



02 The Gadfly

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

60 COLLEGE AVENUE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401 SJCA.GADFLY@GMAIL.COM

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

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

The *Gadfly* meets in the Hodson House. Please use the front door.

Articles should be submitted by Friday at 11:59 PM to sjca.gadfly@gmail.com

STAFF

Sebastian Barajas • Editor-in-Chief Allison Tretina • Editor-in-Chief Sebastian Abella • Layout Editor Noe Jimenez • Layout Editor Kira Anderson • Staff Ryan Gleklin • Staff Jonathan Gordon • Staff Frederick Nesfield • Staff

CONTRIBUTORS

Leslie Howard President Nelson Roger John Robertson Michael Wolfe Frances Webb

From the Editors:

Johnnies: This issue is filled with a host of features, from a guided tour through the streets of Sarajevo to thoughtful reflections on the recent Summer Academy at St. John's. Also, on the right, you will find an informative letter from President Nelson on the college's finances.

This weekend is Homecoming Weekend. Make sure to network, meet new people, and take advantage of the many activites happening on campus. In the meantime, happy reading!

From the President...

President Christopher B. Nelson SF"

Pear Members of the St. John's College Polity,

I am frequently asked how the College's operations are financed and how the money is spent. As our financial model has changed considerably since the economy went into its downturn in the fall of 2008, it seems appropriate to address this question broadly to our community.

What is the principal change in our model? The need for Financial Aid has climbed significantly in the last 5 years. This has caused us to rely more heavily on philanthropic support than ever before. As we are committed to making this education affordable for all who belong at the College, we have also committed ourselves to reducing costs and seeking alternative funding. This is how it looks today:

The Annapolis campus has a budget of nearly \$38 million, of which \$11 million is used for financial aid to students. Of the remaining \$27 million, less than half (@\$11million) is funded by tuition actually paid by our students. Nearly \$1.4 million comes from Federal and State support of financial aid programs. About \$4.7 million comes from auxiliary and other revenue (room, board, and revenue from the book store, print shop, and outreach programs for the community, all of which cover our costs of those operations.) This leaves a balance of \$10 million, more than one-third of our operating revenue that comes from gifts and gift income (i.e., distributions from our endowment). Most of those gifts come from grateful alumni who want to help St. John's continue to offer the education that helped them make happy and fulfilling lives for themselves.

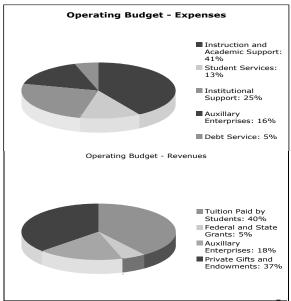
So much for the sources of revenue. How is it spent?

Eleven million dollars, more than 40% of the \$26 million budget, is spent directly on instruction and academic support (tutors, the Dean's, Assistant Dean's and GI offices, laboratory, library and music library). Another \$3.6 million is spent on student services (from the offices of career services, student life, health services, and athletics to student clubs and the admissions and financial aid offices). Nearly \$6.7 million is spent on institutional support (the business office, public safety, personnel, advancement, alumni relations, corporate and foundation relations, communications, information technology, telephones, office services, and the President's office). The College spends \$1.3 million on debt service to pay down a relatively small amount of debt used to finance some of the building construction and renovation. The remaining \$4.2 million supports our auxiliary expenses (dormitories, grounds, food service, book store and print shop.)

We are indeed fortunate that the College has the increased philanthropic support we need to maintain our class sizes, lively campus life, and financial aid program in these more demanding times. And this coming weekend, we welcome home our alumni who are most responsible for this gift of life to our College. Please join me in thanking them for all the good they are doing in the interest of our College and our students.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Nelson President



Pressure Induces Pet Prescription

Leslie Howard A'15

"Pets are not permitted on campus."

This is the saddest thing you've heard all week: I never had a dog.

I never had a dog, but of course that doesn't mean I never wanted one. I remember begging my parents for a puppy. (I finally got a guinea pig. Olivea. The "ea" at the end made a clever wordplay with "guinea". She was great. Looked like a tiny English sheepdog. Everybody should get a guinea pig.) Dogs, though. I had an imaginary dog for a while. His (dogs were all boys back then) name was Woof-Woof—I swear to God. But my dream was to have the real thing! It turns out my mom just isn't an animal person. (She had a bad experience with a family dog as a child with her mom's spoiled poodle, Beau-James.) So, I don't think any number of imaginary dogs would have ever induced her to indulge me with the real thing.

At the end of last spring, as I'm sure most of you remember, the school renewed its dog-less campus policy due to an unfortunate dog bite accident. For B&G, this policy means not having to pick up ungrateful dog owners' dog shit. For me, it just means not seeing that one townie's beautiful blue merle Australian shepherd every day anymore. (You know the one I mean.) For some of you, it means leaving Fido alone in your apartment every weekday and two nights a week while you're in class and having to confine his walks and play to the cruel brick-paved sidewalks of Annapolis. But for all of us, unfortunately, it means restricting our dog interactions on campus to Cadie, the Jack Russell Terror. I mean terrier. The only J.R. terrier I think any of us ever got along with was Wishbone. (Fun fact: the name of the dog that played Wishbone was Soccer. Yes, was. He died in 2001. Not-so-fun fact. I'll attach the counseling center's number below.* More on psychological effects later.)

As with most new school policies, I got mad. Then later that day I saw one of those ungrateful dog owners allow his yellow lab to shit next to a pretty tree on campus right in front of me without picking it up. I almost lost my shit at him. "THIS IS YOUR FAULT. THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT. YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN OWN A DOG YOU MONSTER. YOU DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE!" Almost. Wow, it felt really good to write that. But I just decided to glower at him instead. This is my way of saying that I understand B&G's frustration with the dog shit problem, which, if you think about it, is really just a shitty people problem.

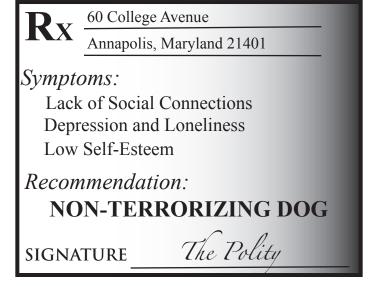
Speaking of people problems, I have one for you. Stress. Recognize it? It's a St. John's student's most constant companion. And while I do think it's gross and annoying to have dog shit lying around on campus, an outrageous number of studies have concluded (not surprisingly) that the presence of domesticated dogs is a terrific reliever of stress. It's therapeutic. A group of researchers from Virginia Commonwealth Univer-

sity did a study on dogs in the workplace and recorded their findings in the International Journal of Workplace Health Management. Some people were allowed to bring their dogs to work while others were not. They found that, although everyone arrived at work with about the same level of stress, the dog-bringers' stress decreased over the course of the day, while the dog-non-bringers' increased. This makes sense to me, but, after all, these were their own dogs they were interacting with, not a stranger's dog.

Other research done by Dr. James Ha of the Department of Psychology at University of Washington touches on this point. He researched the use of dogs in courtrooms to soothe agitated persons during the stressful proceedings (see www. courthousedogs.com). He found that the short-term physical effects of even a strange dog's presence on a stressed human were beneficial: slowed heart rate and decreased blood pressure. My favorite part of Dr. Ha's report (more about dogs generally than merely courtroom dogs, and based on an article by D.L. Wells from the Journal of Social Issues in 2009) is as follows: "There are also well-documented short-term (and long-term) effects on psychological health, including positive effects on social communication and ability to make social contacts, reduction in feelings of loneliness and isolation, and improvements in depression and self-esteem."

Now, I know none of us at St. John's ever struggles with isolation or making social connections. If we did, I'm convinced removing all dogs from campus was a huge mistake. If we were ever depressed or lonely, I hope the administration would care enough about the mental health of the students to consider rescinding the policy. And if we did ever have low self-esteem, I would probably write an article about the dogless issue and put it in the school paper.

*Counseling Center: (410)626-2552



Blood in a Beautiful City A walking tour of Sarajevo

Michael Wolfe A'15

Visiting Sarajevo can be a bizarre experience. I arrive there on a long, scenic bus ride from Montenegro, just as darkness begins to fall. My first night out, I go to dinner with two girls from my hostel; we find a small unassuming restaurant in the Old Town. I order a beer, but the waiter says to me, "I'm sorry. I can't serve beer because of Ramadan." Inexplicably, about twenty minutes later he is not only serving us beer but buying it for us, too. We switch to a table outdoors; he explains that there is a security camera inside, and he doesn't want his boss

to find out he'd been drinking. We spend over an hour with our new friend as he discusses with us everything from the infamous siege in the '90s to what kinds of

women he prefers.

That's my first taste of modern day Sarajevo. The next afternoon, I am ready to step back in time. Some friends and I begin a walking tour in front of a plaque that says, "From this place on June 28, 1914 Gavrilo Princip assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia." Our guide, Tarik (not his real name), a student born and raised in Sarajevo, tells us the epic story of the assassination (too long

to explain here but worth reading about). At the end, a Scottish friend wearing a pro-independence pin on his shirt asks about Princip, "Is it true he was eating a sandwich when he shot Franz Ferdinand?" Tarik laughs, and says, yes, that's one of many details in the story which

are popular but hard to authenticate.

Unsurprisingly, the bulk of the tour is focused on the Bosnian war, and the siege in particular. As we walk around, it's impossible not to notice how many bullet holes are in the pre-war buildings. Very little has been repaired. When we stop in front of the city's Roman Catholic church, Tarik points out what appear to be red splotches of paint on the ground. "This is called a Sarajevo rose," he says. "There are a number of these throughout the city."

I have no idea what I'm looking at until we get more explanation; it looks like some sort of abstract art project. Tarik says: "On this spot where you're standing, twenty-six people were killed by an artillery attack." The red splotches, he explains, are meant to symbolize the blood of the victims.

No big deal. Moving on.

Almost everything related to the siege is horrendous. Between such everyday activities as dodging snipers and starving to death, how could anyone have lived a normal life here during the war? I try to imagine it as best I can, and at once I seem to hear the awful shriek of a mortar shell passing over my head, which could thinkably be the best thing to happen on a given day.

Of course, Sarajevo is now a beautiful, cosmopolitan city, just as it was before the war. It's one of the few places in the world where one can find a mosque, a Catholic church, an Orthodox church, and a synagogue all in the

same neighborhood. But the disunity among the different groups is still apparent. The political system must be one of the most unusual in the world: three presidents—a Bosniak, a Serb, and a Croat—rotate chairmanship every eight months.

Occasionally, the ethnic tensions erupt in ways that are somewhat comical. Tarik tells us a story about a pro-Serb vandal who spray-painted a message onto the front of the city's main post office. It said: "This is Serbia!" The next day, someone spray-painted a reply just

below it: "No dumb-ass, this is the

post office."

Still, Tarik becomes very emotional when speaking about the war and the many ways in which Bosnians have honored and remembered what happened. Some may be familiar with the famous "Cellist of Sarajevo", Vedran Smailović, for example. Two years ago, in memory of the twenty-year anniversary of the siege, the city placed 11,541 empty chairs on Maršala Tita (one of its main thoroughfares), one for each person who was killed. Smaller chairs represented the children who were killed. There is also

a permanent memorial in Sarajevo dedicated to slain children.

happen on a given

The awful shriek

of a mortar shell

passing over my

thinkably be the

head...could

best thing to

day.

But perhaps the most frightening aspect of the whole experience comes at the end, when I learn about the Dayton Accords and the present situation in Bosnia. Tarik tells us that although there is now peace, the conditions are still ripe for a return to open warfare. Bosnia is fortunate to have had relative calm for such a long time, given the obvious bad blood that still exists. And in some ways, Sarajevo in particular seems like it could be a textbook case of how not to memorialize a traumatic history. On numerous historical markers throughout the city, the Serbs are explicitly referred to as criminals. This might be understandable from a Bosniak perspective, but imagine being a young Serb born in the postwar period, walking everyday past a plaque which reminds you that—despite the current peace—your ethnicity as a whole is tied together inexorably with horrific war crimes committed by people you never met.

It's an impossible quandary because, often in such conflicts, what helps one group to integrate its suffering into a national heritage that always remembers what's important about its people and its history, also angers another group. Tarik acknowledges this, and thus talks pessimistically about the future of Bosnia. "Many people see this as only halftime," he says, falling into a long, thoughtful silence. There is something quite shocking about his use of a sports metaphor to describe the situation. If war is understood as a kind of sport, then what kind will it be if it comes to Bosnia again? Will it be a spectator sport? ◆

Alumni Profile:

Roger John Robertson A'll

From carpentry to salmon fishing, Roger John Robertson has made a living as a tradesman. In this profile, he describes how and why he has succeeded in his field.



What is your current job?

Currently I am a carpenter and commercial salmon fisherman. For the first three years after I graduated I was a welder/fabricator.

Did you attend other schools after St. John's?

I went to 6 weeks of welding training soon after graduating St. John's. It was not enough to fully train me as a welder, but it did give me the credentials to get my first job.

Did you know what you wanted to do while attending St. John's?

I knew that I wanted to work with my hands, but I wasn't sure what kind of work I actually wanted to do. I started as a seasonal fisherman immediately after graduating from St. John's and fell in love with the work and environment of southwest Alaska. The fishing season lasts about 2 months, which has always meant I need to find more work during the year. I'm still trying to find the right job to dovetail with my fishing obligations.

Did St. John's help prepare you for work in the field?

In terms of hard skills, no. But my St. John's education gave me great soft skills. Effective communication, work ethic, and a desire to constantly learn new things have all been valuable tools no matter what kind of work I've done. St. John's taught me how to be a polymath, which has made it much easier to switch between trades and rise quickly in companies.

Any specific disadvantages to a St. John's background?

In both of my jobs, having a college degree is relatively uncommon. St. John's sets the bar very high for intellectual engagement and spiritual fulfilment from your endeavors. Work environments are not designed to give these to people. You will fulfill a role deemed financially valuable to a company, and hopefully find engagement and fulfilment along the way.

How did you feel you compared, in graduate school or early jobs, to people from different educational backgrounds, particularly those with field-related degrees?

The trade work that I do values paid experience over credentials. Most people that I have worked with have been plying their trade for 5+ years, some upwards of 40. This vast experience can be daunting because it makes very clear that I am the new guy who doesn't really know what's going on. The benefit is that it levels the playing field for anyone looking to break in. I did not have to compete with people who had more training; we were all acquiring skills from more experienced people starting at the same baseline. It is more important to set yourself apart as a quick learner and hard worker.

Can you describe a general track someone from St. John's might take to get into a career in this field?

If you can make it out to Naknek, AK, you will be able to find work as a commercial fisherman. It is a frontier town, and people are willing to give work off of a firm handshake and a look in the eye. However,

be prepared to work 16-20 hours a day and do all the dirty jobs you can think of. I was lucky to meet a woman through my high school online forum who has been a fisherman for 50 years. Networking such as this is invaluable to finding work wherever you choose to go.

Welding requires the most training out of the three jobs I've had. In order to be considered a well-rounded welder, I believe at least a year of full time training is required. Many community colleges offer these types of programs, depending on where you live. Once you have completed your schooling, the best bet to begin gaining real world experience is a temp agency. I started as a temporary worker at my first welding job, was hired on and eventually promoted to supervise one section of the plant.

Construction is very open ended. I've found work easily by searching craigslist. This industry does require investing in your own tools. It can be as little as owning a shovel and a pick to be a laborer up to have thousands of dollars invested in power tools as a full carpenter. Again, this field values experience, so I have found that you must start at the bottom and work your way up.

Any general advice, especially for an upperclassman who is interested in this field but is not quite sure what to do?

Network, network, network. Make it clear that your St. John's degree does not make you an unfocused student, but rather that you have learned how to communicate effectively in person and on paper. Your broad education speaks to your ability to learn new skills quickly, which all companies desire.

How did you market yourself with a St. John's degree?

My chosen work has not taken my St. John's degree directly into account. It has been something to be discussed at interviews at times, but employers have been more interested in my experience and work ethic, as opposed to my course of study. Having a bachelor's degree does prove that I stuck with a project for four years and completed it.

What was your senior essay topic?

I wrote on Heidegger and the relationship between art, technology, and craftsmanship.

What is your favorite book on the Program?

The first book that comes to mind is Leibniz's Philosophical Essays. I found his philosophy optimistic and sensitive to the beauty of all aspects of our world. It's hard to beat monads.

Do you find that you lead a philosophical life?

Yes. I have tried to merge the rich life of the mind at St. John's with a life of the body in work. I believe that humans must nourish both parts of themselves. My work has allowed me to experience frontiers, both locations and states of mind, that I never thought I would experience. I would encourage all Johnnies to push themselves to do hard things, find strength in spite of rejection or failure, and strive never to settle for good enough. This life is very much what you make of it. ◆

O6 THE GADFLY

Falsification Square

Allison Tretina A'16

In Budapest's Szabadság tér ("Freedom Square") stands a controversial monument of an eagle descending upon the Archangel Gabriel. Prime Minister Viktor Orban erected the monument on July 20 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Nazi-German occupation of Hungary. Yet instead of encouraging celebration of the Hungarian people's liberation from the hands of the Germans, it incited contention. It depicts the nation of Hungary as an innocent victim of Nazi aggression, when in fact Hungary expelled the Jews and supported Germany during World War II.

The Hungarian government initially planned to complete the monument on March 31, the same day Germany invaded Hungary in 1944. But the people protested. The Jewish Federation of Hungary, the largest Hungarian organization representing the Jewish community, refused to participate in any of Hungary's 70th anniversary celebrations that were scheduled to take place over the course of 2014. Protesters, a majority being Jewish, gathered around the designated site of the monument. Construction barriers were torn down more than six times by furious protestors while construction workers continued to replaced the concrete impediments. Protesters also spray-painted objecting messages on the metal walls, pelted eggs at the construction site, and waived inflammatory signs.

At the same time, pacifist protesters, again most Jewish, have worked to remind the public of the history the monument fails to recount. Some have given speeches at Freedom Square — including the president of the Jewish Students of France, Sasha Reingewirtz. Others have made their own memorial display by hanging pictures of Hungarian World War II victims on long wire. Underneath the pictures, lighted candles and personal memorabilia have been placed on the ground.

Many leading voices, local and abroad, have spoken fervently against the monument. The Budapest Beacon reports that assemblyman Csaba Horvath told the press that the monument is "societal provocation on the part of the [Hungarian] government" that "offends the nation's memory... [by] grouping the victims together with the perpetrators." Dr. Agnes Heller, a prominent Hungarian philosopher, told Al Jazeera, "The idea that Hungary suffered under the yolk of Nazi Germany? That's a historical falsification." Even the United States Embassy has expressed disapproval and on April 20 openly condemned the memorial as "a shameful event."

After hearing the public's outcry, Prime Minister Orban postponed the construction until after the national elections on April 6 and cancelled the monument's un-

Editor's Note: This is the first article of a regular column focusing on political and economic affairs in Eastern Europe.

veiling ceremony. Two days after the national elections, construction of the monument began. Instead of an unveiling ceremony, Free Hungary reports that on the night of July 20, 2014, parts of the monument were "smuggled in" under the surveillance and protection of 100 Hungarian police. The monument was erected that night.

This is not the first monument that has caused conten-



tion in Hungary. As Cara Eckholm, graduate of Woodrow Wilson's School of Public and International Affairs, insightfully points out in her essay for Failed Architecture, Freedom Square holds an assortment of controversial monuments. The Red Army Memorial, for example, celebrates Soviet take over in Budapest in 1945 when, according to the Hungarian government, the Soviet Union "liberated" Hungary. For many locals this so called "liberation" marked the beginning of decades of imperial subjugation. Locals vandalized the Red Army Memorial repeatedly in 2006 and insisted that the monument be taken down. The Hungarian government, however, had remembered what happened to Estonia when they removed its own Soviet war monument: Russia berated Estonia with an onslaught of informal sanctions. To prevent losing their gas supply and other natural resources, the Hungarian government quelled public demands with

Wanting Better, Missing the Best

Reading and

amazing

waste.

great texts is an

experience that

we should not

Frances Webb A'16

For those of you who may not know, St John's runs the Summer Academy for high school students every summer. It is an opportunity for teenagers to read the great books and have a "Johnnie-style" seminar discussions that they could not find anywhere else. I have had the privilege of participating both as a student in 2011 (the first year of the Summer Academy) and as a Resident

Assistant this past summer. The past 3 years have brought about many changes, both in myself and in the Academy. In the first year of the Summer Academy, there were a little over 30 of us for one week, but this summer around 100 students participated over 2 weeks. It was heartwarming to see so many teenagers who wanted read difficult books and have genuine discussions about them. The students had such a zeal for inquiry and were excited by every text that was put in front of them.

Watching the Summer Academy students made me realize how much I had changed over the last few years. When I attended the Academy I loved every second of it. I

spent the entire 4 hour car ride home chattering to my parents about everything that I had discovered in the week. The classes were filled with wonder and emotion for me. This summer I saw my students having the same experience I had, walking out of the classes bursting with ideas. But when I observed their classes I was bored and dissatisfied. All I could see were the missed opportunities in the conversations, the strange interpretations of the texts and all of the questions they should have asked. At first I chalked up these observations to the fact they were high school students and therefore not very practiced at good discourse. While there is most likely some truth to that, as I reflected on my reaction I realized that my feelings about their conversations had more to do with my own negativity than the Academy classes themselves. In many ways the students were having the right reaction—they were

inspired by getting to discuss these texts at all. I find that when I evaluate my classes during the year I focus on everydiscussing these thing bad about them. When I ask other students what they thought of class, we often just complain about the class dynamic or the opening question being too vague or about how one student would not let go of an insignificant point. This habit has caused me to lose sight of what I could be getting from my classes.

Looking critically at our conversations is important because we want to better our discussions each time, but we should not miss out on any understanding or idea that we can receive from class even

if it was not the best discussion for whatever reason. Reading and discussing these great texts is an amazing experience that we should not waste. So if you tend to be critical like me, I challenge you to always look for something positive in every one of your classes, even if they might not live up to your standards. Especially as the year goes on and habit and routine take over, keep striving to bring wonder and excitement to each conversation.



O8 THE GADFLY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 9/9

Kunai Soccer 4 PM

Fencing 6 PM

Wednesday 9/10

Ultimate Frisbee W v G, 2:45 PM D v S, 4 PM

St. John's Chorus, Great Hall 7 PM

Friday 9/12

Kunai Soccer 4 PM

Fencing 6 PM

Lecture: On Dostoevsky's The Brother's Karamazov by Mr. Chester Burke FSK Auditorium 8 PM

Homecoming Weekend

Saturday 9/13

Ultimate Frisbee S v G, 1 PM D v H, 2:30 PM

Sunday 9/14

Soccer G v S, 1 PM D v W, 2:45 PM

If you would like to see your event on the weekly schedule, please email sjca.gadfly@gmail.com.

Continued From PG. 06

yet another monument of controversial meaning—a statue of Ronald Reagan.

Much is at stake with Freedom's Square's recent installation. Prime Minister Orban's refusal to listen to the Hungarian people stifles any open and honest conversation about Hungary's history and relationship with Germany. Hungary and Germany had been economic partners since



Q: What would you do if you came home and found a bunch of tiny Greeks eating food out of your kitchen? ◆

the 1920's and become closer partners during former Prime Minister Gyula Gömbös's administration of Hungary in ... date? By 1940 when Felvidék (southern Slovakia), Kárpatalja (eastern Slovakia, now western Ukraine), and northern Transylvania had returned to Hungary, Hungary was "fatally chained to Germany." The nation would soon be allied with Germany—as well as with other Axis Powers, Italy and Japan—by signing the Anti-Comintern pact on November 20, 1940.

During the prime ministry of Miklos Kallay, conflict again arose. Despite Hungary's alliance with Germany, Prime Minister Kallay refused to obey German orders regarding Jewish deportation. Surprisingly, Prime Minister Kallay did join the German war efforts against the Soviet Union in 1941, a gesture of significant political support that Germany neither ordered nor expected Hungary to do. Yet even in this, Prime Minister Kallay proved disloyal and frequently negotiated with Allied Powers, promising to surrender to United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union once their armies reached Hungarian borders.

By March 19, 1944 Germany occupied Hungary. According to Hungarian historian Laszlo Karsai, however, this was not an invasion. "At best," he told the Budapest Beacon, "Hungary lost the appearance of sovereignty." Jewish deportation began in ... date? Hungarian officials in support of German occupation followed orders beyond expectations and deported as many as 15,000 Jews in a single day. Altogether, nearly 600,000 Hungarian Jews were sent to their death. "Most of them died following the Nazi occupation of Hungary," wrote Christopher Adams in the Hungarian Free Press, "but none of these deportations would have been possible without the enthusiastic participation of the Hungarian state."

The only victims of the March 19th invasion were the Jews. Seventy years later, during the year of Hungary's commemoration, there is no better time for the nation of Hungary to seriously reflect on their sensitive and painful history. Instead of erecting misleading monuments and shifting all of the blame at Germany, the Hungarian government needs to take responsibility for their actions and commemorate the true victims of the Germany's invasion. ◆

Next Gadfly: September 23