

The Gadfly

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Rape: Definitions and viewpoints

Campus workshops
successful

Dominic Crapuchettes '95

Prompted by the incidents in our community that many people have called rape, a small group of students have decided to try to find ways of helping our campus address this issue. The main driving force behind their actions are the concerns of Amanda Dulin, who recently attended a two-week-end training which certified her to work on the rape crisis hotline. She would like to "get people at St. John's to examine their own beliefs and learn how to better communicate their boundaries." She thinks this is important because she believes that "if people know where their own boundaries lie, they will less readily transgress them." To accomplish this goal, these students have been working on an effective method of reaching incoming freshmen during the Freshman Orientation which will take place next year. One of the main goals of this orientation is to help facilitate self-respect by emphasizing the importance of taking responsibility for one's own beliefs, and the actions which follow from them. Instead of lecturing to the students about what the administration thinks are responsible beliefs to act upon, they are placing faith in each participant's ability to arrive at their own responsible beliefs. In

this way, these students are hoping not to be viewed as moral policemen pointing their fingers at those who differ from them, but instead, to be viewed as concerned peers who want to help create an atmosphere which is more conducive to everyone's self-respect.

To prepare themselves to reach effectively the incoming freshmen, these students have already organized and conducted meetings for most of the freshman dorms and for anyone else who was interested. Most of these participants have been very pleased with the meetings and many of them have expressed interest in helping with the endeavor. Here are what some of the participants of a recent meeting said:

"I think that it's fantastic that students are willing to organize and run this type of thing for other students. They have done a great job." - Julie Meadows

"I found the rape meeting informative and also enjoyable. I liked the fact that a guy was running the meeting. For me, this implies that men are finding rape just as disturbing as women instead of viewing it as a weapon used against them[m]. I personally think it would also be more helpful to equally stress the issue of emotional rape as well as physical." -Sonia Kamal

"It made a lot of things clearer and it was really helpful to see how other people viewed rape. I think that everyone should participate and that this type of thing is absolutely essential." -Mary Lynch

There seems to be a general tendency for men, though, to have a harder time addressing and exploring this topic in a serious manner. One male who wished to remain anonymous said, "Although I think it's a good start, I think to make it truly a workshop there needs to be more activities other than discussing scenarios. It was too repetitive and began to trivialize." Another report about a male freshman floor meeting was that "it was a blow-off." In response to this meeting Amanda said, "Perhaps I did not make it clear that this is not a class to warn them against anything. It is a time for them to figure out what they believe." She does not want either the men or the women to feel attacked and criticized because this will only lead to non-productive situations with male and female camps working against each other.

Although there is a tendency for the men to be less introspective than women, for the most part they have also found the meetings to be worthwhile. I was lucky enough to interview William Marshall who did not hesitate to speak his mind. I wasn't surprised by this but was pleased to find out that he thinks the meetings will be positive and helpful. When asked about his general impressions he said that they "effectively eradicated the peer pressure element and more timid students were able to speak their mind... that was good." He went on to say that "these meetings will probably help expel some of the dangers of freshmen's first awkward sexual experiences." When I asked him if there was any reason to try and reach to upperclassmen he responded with, "Less reason. Upperclassmen have already been through this awkward stage and have already learned to think for themselves. Not to mention it is probably too late by that time."

Although I agree with most of Will's sentiments, I think these meetings can be beneficial even for upperclassmen. I have now conducted or participated in six different meetings and found each one of them to be not only interesting, but helpful to my understanding of the issue. As the meetings bring out, there are many different aspects to consider and the great spectrum of opinions which our peers hold help elucidate them. Through these meetings I have discovered that people's working definition of rape will fall into one of three categories. First, some feel that a rape has occurred only if the man knows at the time that he is raping someone. Others argue that ignorance is not a justifiable defense and show how this definition leads to problems with extreme men who believe it is not possible to rape an unwilling woman or with men who believe all women want to have sex but struggle in order not to feel like whores. The second category of definition empathizes with the woman's point of view, declaring that if she feels raped, then a rape must have occurred. Those who see flaws in this subjective stance are worried about women who communicate that they want to have sex but later regret their decision to the point where they are willing to say they felt raped. This is a scary point of view for men because their good will could be misinterpreted, especially in awkward

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Culture and statistics Rape in America

Jennifer Coonce '97

When people think of rape, they probably think of the violent rape which occurs in a dark alleyway, or a stranger breaking into a woman's house and waking her from sleep to rape her. Perhaps this comes from the images that are presented on TV which mostly represents this kind of rape. The truth is, about one fourth of women have been raped, and the average age at the time of rape is 18. However, in one survey, 90% of the women raped knew their assailant.

Acquaintance rape is the most common type of rape. This includes date rape and acquaintance gang rapes. Many of the women who experience rape don't tell anyone about it. In a study, more than one third of the women raped did not discuss their experiences with anyone; more than 90 percent did not tell the police. One source describes a woman's feelings after rape as, "shame, guilt, fear, disbelief, lowered self-esteem." Often these women will not talk about the experiences and thus do not recover from the trauma of rape. It's as if, as one St. John's student puts it, they are being "raped over and over again."

At other colleges, gang rapes by acquaintances are happening more and more frequently in fraternities. In some colleges, irats have been closed because of the startling numbers of these rapes. "In fact, in almost all instances the men involved are unaware that their behavior is gang rape; in their minds they are 'only' engaged in group sex with a 'willing' partner. The fact that the woman may be intoxicated (even to the point where she cannot give consent) is viewed by some participants in the gang rape as a meaning that 'she asked for it.' The woman's ineffective protests may be viewed as 'consent;' even if her protests are vigorous, her 'no' is interpreted as 'yes,'" the study found.

Unfortunately, many people feel that in order to take some steps to understand or talk about rape, there must be some accusation involved. One male St. John's student says, "I heard one feminist leader say that every man is a potential rapist. I don't feel that way." Other men have said, "There's no way to have sex anymore without being afraid that you will be accused of rape." However, this myth is a result of the highly publicized and more uncommon cases of

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A community in its cups: Drinking at SJC

John Williams '96

At the *Gadfly* forum on April 13, Dean Brann suggested a few topics that she thought the *Gadfly* might investigate. One of them was what she called our collective "drinking problem." I thought the best way to find out about the drinking habits of St John's College would be to speak to the college itself. During the Croquet Match last weekend I interviewed fifty-seven students out on front campus, asking them how they saw drinking at St John's College. What is it, and why is it done? This article is a collection of opinions gathered from about fifteen percent of the student body, in hopes that it may provide an accurate, if somewhat rudimentary, picture of the college at large.

"Everyone else is doing it."

There was a vague sense of peer pressure in the comments of quite a number of people. It was not so much that people felt like they were doing something to please others, but that everyone does it, and that is why we continue to do it. "We drink is why we drink," said one person. A few people sounded like they experienced something a little more like traditional peer pressure, because they had never drank before they came to college. "I started drinking the very first night I got here. It just seemed like the thing to do."

A few non-drinkers expressed a somewhat negative opinion of something that might also be called a kind of peer pressure. "There are just some groups that you can't be a part of if you don't drink. It's like they don't want you around, like they feel funny about you." Other non-drinkers, on the other hand, found little if any rejection because of their choice not to imbibe. One person said, "I love being around people who are drunk. Most of the time they have no idea that I haven't been drinking." And another person said, "if there weren't people drinking, I probably wouldn't come out to coffee shop parties. Who would be out there on the dance floor?" Someone else noticed a corroborating phenomenon on the nights when there was both a large off-campus party and a no-alcohol coffee shop party. "It's wild. There's like no one out there, you know. Just a couple people kicking it. Then POW, man. It's like this throng, this totally different thing bursts through the door and takes over." So whether or not peer pressure applies to a description of our drinking habits, it seems

clear that it admits strongly of a group dynamic.

"It's more of a social thing than a peer pressure thing."

One of the first people I spoke to swept his arm out over the vast expanse of croquet-goers to draw my attention to all the drinking and said, "drinking is a primary activity in our social life. It's almost needed. A cocktail is the perfect thing to go along with a croquet match." A number of people echoed this sentiment, saying that there are some things in life that are enhanced by the presence of alcohol. Conversation and community were the two things most often mentioned, after social functions. Conversation is enhanced because the inhibitions fall and "the mind is left to wander free of the material." Community is made stronger through the added camaraderie. One said, "the people that drink together, think together."

There were also people who saw that drinking often frustrates what they perceive as the number one priority of a student. That is, to get an education. One observer cited several instances of people showing up to class drunk. He said that he didn't think that a lot of people were guilty of this, but he did attribute to drinking some students' poor attendance records, and also their unpreparedness in class. He said, "I think that alcohol has a great possibility of threatening St. John's."

"It's better than my friend's schools"

The vast majority of the people interviewed, however, did not think that drinking is at all a problem. "It can get out of hand sometimes, but that's true of anything," said one student. Another said, "it's not like the main focus of the weekend is to get as drunk as you can." Many people had some experience with other, mostly larger, colleges and universities. "We have much less of a problem than any place with fraternities or sororities," one student said. Another said, "there's less public vomiting and less public violence here than at most places." Nearly everyone agreed that St John's is a pillar of moderation.

Even so, we do seem to be par for the course in one respect, that most of the damage done, both to property and to people is done under the influence of alcohol. A recent graduate of St John's, Laura Stuart,

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News of the Week

Chris Landers '96

Bosnian Serbs Win While Nato Waits

Bosnian Serbs, during the past few weeks have been the clear winners in attacking Muslim "safe havens" such as the one in Gorazde, and advancing their goal of eradicating Muslim presence from the territory taken in the past few years. Despite NATO threats and airstrikes, Bosnian Serbs have made gains on the areas declared Muslim safe havens, killing hundreds of Muslims in Gorazde, and prompting the British commander of the UN forces in Bosnia to say that the area is "on the edge of a humanitarian catastrophe".

The problem, experts say, is that the West must provide a hugely greater ground force than any government is willing to provide, or get out altogether. These same options have faced the Allies for the past year, but they seem ready to continue with the same policy of compromise, sending humanitarian aid while Bosnian Serbs gradually, but steadily, gain ground.

Over 150 UN personnel remain in the hands of the Serbs.

No More Doomsday

The Pentagon threw out its Doomsday Project, which provided a chain of command in the United States in the event of a nuclear war, declaring the cold war over. The program will be junked in October.

In The Courts

Jury selection began for the trial of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who is charged with breaking state laws forbidding doctors to assist patients commit suicide.

Rodney King was awarded \$3.8 million in damages from

the city of Los Angeles for the beating he suffered at the hands of the LAPD, which contributed to the racial tensions that sparked the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

New PM In Japan

Tsutomu Hata has become the new prime minister of Japan, replacing Morihiro Hosokawa. Hata has in Hosokawa a tough act to follow. Late last years more than 70% said they supported his cabinet in opinion polls.

Mr. Hata's Japan Renewal Party supports increasing Japanese contributions to United Nations peacekeeping efforts, while allies in the Social Democrat Party favor more of an allegiance to Japan's pacifist constitution. Mr. Hata's party also want Japan to put pressure on North Korea to allow nuclear inspections, and their activist foreign policy is more pro-change than more conservative defenders of Japan's post-war order.

African National Congress Expected To Win In South Africa

At the time of this writing, the results are not yet in on South Africa's historic election, the first in which blacks will be allowed to vote, but pre-election polls (somewhat unreliable as this is the first time they have been taken) show that 55% of the citizens will vote for the African National Congress. The ANC, headed by Nelson Mandela, was formed in 1912, with the goal of a non-racial society in South Africa. In the ANC election manifesto, they write "we did not know how long it would take to achieve".

The National Party, inventors of the apartheid system, are expected to come in second with 20% of the vote, and the Inkatha Freedom Party, a Zulu nationalist movement led by Chief Magosuthu Buthelezi, should command 5%, more than the 19 other parties participating in the election. This would leave the ANC to share power with the National Party, who have jailed and outlawed the ANC and its members, and the Inkatha, with which the ANC has been locked in a bloody struggle for the past four years.

Among problems faced by the new government will be a huge economic and social gulf between blacks and whites, the result of 46 years of apartheid. A whole generation of black children have gone unschooled; families have been divided because of imprisonment and exile; and the racially based system of apartheid has not only turned blacks against whites, but against other blacks as well.

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Electric Avenue: the world of the Internet

S. I. Milliken '97

Not too long ago, with Aristotle's discussion of place still resonating in my bewildered mind, I sat down at my computer and idly started exploring the stores of electronic information that I have accumulated over the last few years. Eventually I unearthed an enormous archive, cryptically labeled "Inet.sit". I delicately brushed off the digital dust and carefully cracked it open. I was inundated instantly by a flood of wonderful memories—I had rediscovered a collection of logs from my days on the Internet. Without hesitation, I began sorting through these electronic souvenirs.

On the Internet, I had been part of a community of over twenty million people from approximately one-hundred and thirty-seven countries. From my remote outpost in Appalachia, I spoke daily to people from such distant lands as Sweden, South Africa, Germany, France, England, Switzerland, Australia, and even exotic Iowa. The Internet brings ideas, experiences, cultures and people together. It is impossible to navigate the Internet without learning something new, without encountering an idea that you hadn't considered before.

And it's no wonder. The Internet is a vast macrocosm of both raw and refined information. The Internet is populated by personalities more diverse than any other organization in existence. The possibilities for exploration, investigation, and experimentation are endless; and they are growing exponentially.

The Internet is increasing at dramatic rate. According to Win Treese's Internet Index, a source of Internet statistics, a new network connects to the Internet every ten minutes. Those already connected collectively continue to contribute incomprehensible amounts of news, data, information, and resources to the already expansive wealth of knowledge. Some of these contributions are invaluable, some useful, some fascinating, some convenient—others are just plain fun.

To merely scratch the surface of available services and databases, I'll tell you about some of those that I know. The USENET is a collection of newsgroups organized by subject that covers almost every topic of conversation imaginable. There are newsgroups to

cover each of the sciences, literature, television, music, art, architecture, business, education, sports, weather, Barney, Spam, tasteless jokes, in-laws, non sequiturs, time, nature, sex—the list goes on. If you're interested, you can read from the millions of posted messages and then post messages of your own to be read by the hundreds of thousands of other USENET subscribers.

For the few topics that USENET does not cover, or if you simply desire a more intimate environment for conversation, there is the Internet Relay Chat (IRC) that allows Internet citizens to talk with one another in real time.

The Global Network Navigator is an on-line graphic interface news and information service that allows you to retrieve information

The Internet brings ideas, experiences, cultures and people together. It is impossible to navigate the Internet without learning something new, without encountering an idea that you hadn't considered before.

quickly from all parts of the Internet. The Navigator helps you find everything from stock quotes to book and movie reviews from reports on current issues to scientific abstracts. One of the places the Navigator might check is the Internet Encyclopedia, an on-line depository of frequently updated reference information.

Then there are such things as the databases of state legislative information, electronic lobbying services, and law archives. Supreme Court decisions are put on the Internet less than a day after they have been adjudicated.

Colleges and universities on the Internet are treasures of research information, scholarly studies, and lively debates accessible at the merest flurry of your fingers on the keyboard.

Project Gutenberg is an effort to make classics of literature available electronically. Can't afford that expensive copy of War and Peace? Just hop onto the Internet and download it.

NASA provides a whole slew of data-

bases and services. Where else could you find up-to-date launch schedules, current information on the status of the space program, or about processible polyazometines and the directional solidification of succinonitrile?

Imagine how much fun Ptolemy, Kepler, and Copernicus would be if you could download photographs taken by the Hubble telescope and search through NASA's archives of astronomical data.

Eventually, NASA will include on-line information from the Mission to Planet Earth program, which will make use of a network of satellites, powerful computers, and expert scientists to collect, analyze, and distribute data about every ecological aspect of the world: hydrological, bio-geo-chemical, meteorological—in real time.

If that's not enough for you, in California there is a service from which you can find all the solar information your heart desires. At your fingertips you will find everything from geomagnetic field and storm readings, areas of coronal holes and sun spots, regional flare events, graphic readouts of X-ray data, satellite proton data, and maximum magnetic perturbation statistics.

If you're curious about tectonic activity, how about seismic information from areas all over the globe?

Or if your brain is fried from contemplating the secrets of the universe, maybe you just want to take a break and relax. Head on over to ZenMOO. Here, to ensure your serenity, you are chided for not properly relaxing whenever you begin typing. If you persist in not relaxing, the computer boots you from the system.

If you're traveling through Pittsburgh on your way home and you get thirsty, e-mail a vending machine at Carnegie Mellon to find out if there are any Cokes left. Similar vending machines at the Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Wisconsin will even tell you how cold each soda in the machine is.

In England they do things a little differently. The Cambridge University Computer Laboratory has a camera trained on their departmental coffee pot at all hours of the day,

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SJC Croquet Team Bridges Generation Gap

Josh Goldberg '97

While the Annapolis Cup croquet match receives large amounts of publicity and is a wonderful social event, the real competition takes place for the Generation Gap Croquet Trophy that is awarded annually to the winner of the match held between St. John's and the Ginger Cove Nursing Home. This year's match was held this past Saturday afternoon at Ginger Cove's well maintained croquet court, and unlike last year, St. John's emerged victorious by the score of 2-1.

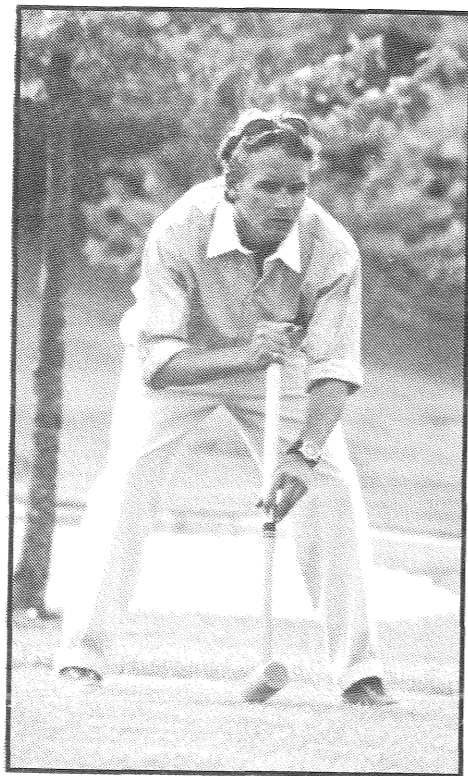
The first match of the day featured Jesse Berney and Craig Sirkin taking on Tom Reed and Bimby Downing of Ginger Cove. The SJC duo opened strongly and nearly had the game in the bag when the tables turned. After several mistakes by Berney and Sirkin and some beautiful play by Reed, the St. John's pair found themselves in a very bad situation. Just a turn or so later, Ginger Cove had claimed their first and what was to be only win of the day in a stunning, come from behind victory. Following the match, Jesse summed it all up: "Craig shot really well. I shot really well. I choked a little near the end. They shot really well and picked up strategically near the end. They know the strategy." On the other side of the coin, "It was exciting," was all Ms. Downing had to say.

From that point on, the SJC team took control. The next game began with Kendall Golladay and Paul Morf taking on the Ginger Cove opposition. Golladay and Morf had the game under control at the first stake when, in rare, tag-team croquet action, Golladay handed off the mallet to Imperial Wicket Ben Power. From there to the end of the game, SJC retained control to tie the score at 1-1. When asked about her game, one member of the pair taking on the SJC trio said "Mine stunk. I don't think that I've ever played worse, but I might have." Her partner gave much of the credit for the victory to Mr. Power, saying, "For the second year in a row, my team was beaten by the ultimate skill of your Imperial Wicket, Ben Power. We tried."

The final game of the day was to decide the match. Jon Crimmins and James Knerr played the final game for St. John's. With the momentum on their side, they finished the match with a win to bring the final score to 2-1 and claim the trophy for St. John's.

Even though we did not win last year, the team from Ginger Cove felt that the advantage was with St. John's. Said one team member, "We felt like we were the underdogs. We had beat St. John's [last year] and we knew that they were out to win." It was by no means a one-sided match, like the one against the Naval Academy. "They gave us a run for our money," said James Knerr, "they stayed with us. They played great defense, tooth and nail."

The croquet match proved to be a good time for one and all. "I had a lot of fun, said Craig Sirkin, "[It was] a great place to play. Nice atmosphere and good fun... It was as much fun as Navy." While it is all in good fun, there is no absence of desire to win. One Ginger Cove player remarked that next year, "We're gonna be out to get that bowl back."



Novice Crewbee spouts Fremont's victory, love of oar

Deirdre O'Shea '97

This Saturday was the second of three regattas we will be racing in this season. Placement in a boat for a race is based on practice attendance, not ability. Everyone is encouraged to compete regardless of skill, keeping with SJC tradition. There are few people who can or will make it every morning, however. This means that in a single boat you will find people of varied commitment. For example, the next regatta takes place on Reality Sunday, and most rowers intend to drink this weekend, while others have threatened physical violence on anyone in their boat who imbibes.

This points to a reality about rowers: everyone has a different reason for why they show up in the morning. Dave Cherry, the novice coach, waxes philosophical about the zen of rowing, the harmony, while Carter Snead, men's varsity four, rows for quickness and form, and in the end for the race. Some, like myself, enjoy the discipline and the swing, the 'group thing', but invariably I realize half way to the starting line that what I really want at that moment is to eat the other boats for lunch. Since we are a small rowing club, and a diverse bunch, we don't do this with any consistency, and it's nice to finish a race near the back of the pack, and still feel great about your row.

This last regatta was a good day for St. John's. We didn't take home many medals. We didn't finish D.F.L. Liz Trice, novice eight power house and woman of great virtue, decided that she doesn't like the race, but loves the row. Even though she wasn't racing that morning, she was at the boat house in a St. John's T-shirt at quarter after seven to lend a hand during the hectic day. We pulled a 'power ten' for her out of respect. The men's eight crossed the finish line in beautiful form, with Maya Johnson as coxswain. Since we don't have uniforms (yet) the woman's novice eight all showed up in our team shirts from various intra-murals, and in a last minute moment of cheese, traded shirts until they looked like a lifesaver roll. Stroke and seven seat in red, seats six and five in yellow, four and three in green; bow pair sported blue. The men's varsity four, who have worked as a consistent team under threat of being thrown in the creek by their teammates for missing practice, wore black. They looked mean. They are mean. Kristin Leake, their coxswain sported her 'fly girl' two-piece. She suffers a cleavage burn as sacrifice for being the hottest cox. present... That's dedication. The men's eight was a rag-tag array of what ever shirt they had, a style I personally approve of.

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"No, we don't do shit for crew. . .except row." Deirdre O'Shea, when asked if the crew team runs together.

"The thrills of joy and those of pain are indistinguishable."

Thoreau

Miss Sager, playing badminton in the mixed doubles finals, had a flawless match. Her deft and strategically placed serves were the key to her team's victory over very tough opposition: Mr. Nelson, and his partner Miss Paduano. Anyone who has played the President knows what a cool and fierce competitor he is; to upend him at his own game is quite an accomplishment for Miss Sager.

On Tuesday, the sophomores defeated the frosh in co-ed class soccer. Quite a day for the wily Miss Cate, who scored twice, and barely missed getting a hat trick. And what about Mr. Bilik? Can this guy play some good soccer, or what? Mr. Bilik's all around ability will make him a high draft choice next year.

On Thursday, Steve Werlin's Dinosaurs defeated the Freshmen on Mr. Schoener's game winning three-pointer. Also playing well against the tough opposition were Messrs. Werlin, Burke, Topper, and Miss Borden. But the **Dinosaur who showed the best hustle** was Mr. Doskow, the center of the Dino defense.

Friday marked some truly heroic accomplishment in the **annual marathon**. The women's team was victorious for the second year in a row, and how could they not be, what with such strong runners as Rock, Burke, Cargas, Trice, Engelman, and Paduano. Miss Paduano

put in the fastest time for the women, with a scorching 1:57. Great to see Miss Calvert out their logging a lap.

Most beautiful runner of the day award goes to Mr. Farelly. Smooth and effortless, just like a gazelle. Mr. Farley helped pace Team Sparta, which once again came in first amongst the men, followed by the Waves, the Guardians, the Druids and the Hustlers respectively. This was the first year in many that all teams completed the Marathon, and this was due to some **truly courageous efforts** on the part of four men in particular. Mr. Brandt, of the Druids, ran 16 laps, Mr. Spooner ran 14 laps for the Hustlers, and Mr. Magitti ran 13 for the Hustlers, and Mr. Brennan ran 12 for the Druids.

And how about the selfless Mr. Reid of Hustlers coming out and **putting in a lap** to spell Spooner and Magitti in their marathon effort.

Keep in mind that the **human dynamo**, Mr. Brandt, raced in the Friday morning tie races that morning for the crew team, and the following day stroked the men's varsity 4 in the Washington Invitational. For his non-stop, lung and leg busting efforts, Mr. Brandt is named Athlete of the Week.

Saturday, our hard working Vice President, Jeff Bishop, in his quest to ride the **Paris-Brest-Paris Randonee**, completed the first of 8

a.d. notes

qualifying brevets, riding 130 miles in brutal Western Maryland's mountains, in a little over 11 hours, including breaks, well under the 14 hour limit.

On Sunday the following Johnnies participated in the **Bay Bridge run**: Cargas, Borden, Rogers, Mangiaracina, Meadows, and Tyson.

Finally, this note from Miss Murphy of the Fencing Union:

It's been two amazing weeks for the **St. John's College Fencing Union**. First, on April 17, Richard Schmechel, Alan Laird, Emily Murphy, and Jan Surer competed in the Epee U tournament held at St. John's. In an exciting last round, Mr. Schmechel beat Mr. Laird by **1 point, thus earning his E ranking**. Mr. Laird, Miss Surer, and Miss Murphy came in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively, making a **sweep for the Johnnies!** Misses Murphy and Surer then acquitted themselves honorably in the D tourney.

Then, on May first, Jan Surer, David Braithwaite, and Henry Povolny competed in the Foil U tourney held at SJC. Mr. Povolny earning his E ranking in third place, while Miss Surer and Mr. Braithwaite **competed valiantly against the stiff competition**. In the afternoon D tourney, Miss Surer was joined by Mike Mangiaracina, both of them doing very well.

"CREWBEE" continued from page 8

Sean Leadem, coxswain for the women's novice eight commented at our last regatta that showing up like a bunch of ragamuffins is great- especially if you beat a team in great looking uniforms. (incidentally- we did this last weekend, taking first over a crew wearing black and green spandex unitards designed to match their oars)

Matt Fremont, who rows a men's varsity single, was our gold medal winner for the day. He was multiple boat lengths ahead of the second place sculler, proving that hard work pays off. Every practice, the silent Fremont takes down the Swift Iris, Mr. Pickens' lavender single and sculls. I don't think I've ever gone into the weight room and not run into him on his way in or out of the erg room. His younger sister, Sarah, may be the next generation St. John's rowing deity- though we have many contenders, men and women, who are huge behind an oar. Two rowing die hards, Kristen Byrne and Rich Bravo gave up Santa Fe transfer spots to row in Annapolis. Erin Monberg is fierce, and Chris Stevens an awesome stroke man who works in perfect unity with Bravo. But none put as much into the actual row as Heather Pool. She could (does?) pull the whole boat some mornings, and has rowed with such intensity that she once threw up six times. The men's varsity four, Rispin, Snead, Brandt, and Nyberg, is made up of four of the most experienced and talented men in the boat house. Their Chuck Mangione cover tunes and stiff competition on the water

keep us on our toes.

At the end of the long day, a group stayed behind to wait for the Annapolis Rowing Club to pick us up on their way back from a regatta they attended in Delaware. During our three hour wait we proved that St. John's College Crew can be great drinking team with a bit of a rowing problem. But this was all well deserved. The spring season is a hard one for endurance athletes (it seems that most of our crew members are) Instead of the head races of the fall season, 3.2 miles at a strong rate, spring races are 2000 meter, balls-to-the-wall sprints. The rumors rowers spread about the hard work and dedication are well founded. Crew is physically demanding in a way unlike many other team sports. It's not passing and positions, but unity that makes a boat beautiful.

Our crew is particularly special. Even with my minimal experience, I see the unique spirit our crew team shares. I love the irreverence- our coxswain smoking on his way to the starting line, and offering us drags to settle us into our 'quiet minds-fast hands'. I love the team for *being* a team, men, women, varsity and novice, even though we row in separate boats, for yelling so loud for each other that the boats can hear our encouragement even when racing in the fifth lane from the shore. The philosophy of a good and skilled boat, over a brawny one without technique, is important as well. Like all sports at St. John's, our attitude is something to be proud of.

Why I hate politics

Straight off: I voted for Bill Clinton and I don't regret it. I think Hillary is wonderful. I hate George Bush, Bob Dole, the religious right(wrong), Pat Buchanan, Pat Robertson, Rush Limbaugh, Dan Quayle, Ted Nugent, and the big man himself, Ronald Reagan. Let me say it again. I HATE RONALD REAGAN.

I'm a registered democrat. My parents are democrats. All of my old friends from high school are democrats. If the lines were drawn, and I was forced to choose, I would stand up for my liberal brothers and sisters right away, casting off my conservative friends to the dogs and feeling no shame. All conservatives could die and I'd feel nothing but joy that the world might finally get in shape and we could attain that utopia that we've all been waiting for. Well, all right, it's not that extreme. In fact, what bothers me most about my politics is that it's not really conservatives I hate, it's liberals. Not to say that I like conservatives; I'm not supposed to. I am, however, supposed to be in line with those with whom I am affiliated: liberals. But as things are now, liberalism is as distasteful to me as conservatism.

If we take an issue such as race relations, we can see the problem, and why I'm torn. The general stereotypical view (and the view which I must assume) of the conservative is this: There is no problem, and if there is, it's not for us to deal with. I imagine a snide remark would follow, i.e., If those blacks would stop doing drugs and get jobs, we wouldn't have any of these problems. This general view, followed by my own interpretive snide remarks turn me off. As a liberal, I think that there is a race relations problem in America and it should be dealt with. However, this is as far as I can consider myself liberal. For when this opinion is established and then combatted, the results prove the ignorance and stupidity of the attempt.

The liberal response is take a legitimate problem like this, and react with an over-sweeping statement of purpose such as: We must take care of everyone. This notion has been extended to absurd proportions, leaving the real problem of discontent unattended and belittled by the excess. For to take care of everyone means to make certain that no one is either hurting themselves or others. As a result, vices such as tobacco and alcohol are immediately regulated for my safety. Drinking is bad for me and may be dangerous, so I must be taken care of. My language is restricted, so that I no longer can say fag or nigger because they are hurtful terms, and gays and blacks must be taken care of. I cannot look at women in a sexual way, because it can be intrusive, and women need to be taken care of.

I choose not to say fag, or nigger, or slut; and I am happier when those around me do not say them either. But I can't stop them; and if our government decides to take action for our well being in this vein, they give foolish glory to those who are linguistically blunt or crass. It's this action which gives Rush Limbaugh, or Howard Stern, or even people saying "fuck" a lot in an article, their substance. By striving for good, we make heroes out of those who betray it and end up mocking the original intention.

Education is not the answer; not when all education means is cramming our minds with the rhetoric of correct conduct. We cannot educate ourselves out of offense and prejudice. Nor can we simply throw us all together with busing, quotas, and forced integration. Forced integration has worked against itself, forcing women's colleges and black colleges to integrate against their will just to fit into the liberal doctrine of equality. There has to be at least a small desire for people to want to interact.

So it would seem that there is nothing we can do. And when I begin to feel that all action is futile, I start to wonder if I'm actually a conservative, because liberalism appears so detrimental. Yet I know that I will never be a conservative. I will always think, no matter what, that there is something we can do, all of us, to make this world a better place. And when I hear the flowery language of the liberal escaping my lips, I know that I will always care, and I will always hope we will figure it out. Because we can be good people sometimes, we just need to figure how to lessen hardship without destroying what little bit of a natural existence we have left. Wouldn't it be wonderful if life and choice weren't in opposition, but could meet somewhere and give us something to look forward to?

These are the last names of everyone who contributed to *The Gadfly* this year. Many thanks to:

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WORDS

by Sam Dillehay

"Drinking" from p. 3

who is working on the Alcohol Policies Project for The Center for Science in the Public Interest says that their statistics show that 75% of all date rapes involve alcohol for either the attacker or the victim. Here at St John's, says the administration, the majority of problems, from vandalism to sexual assault, involve alcohol. Most people interviewed had the opinion that these kinds of problems stem either from negative tendencies in the individual, or from people who do not know how to drink responsibly, or some combination of both. A few people were willing to say that alcohol could be the root of these problems.

"We get all bunged up with tension"

Why do people drink? The number one answer was
continued on p. 16

"Statistics" from p. 3

women wrongly accusing men.

Since most women know the man who has raped them, they often don't want him to be sent to jail. This may be out of fear, or because she doesn't want him to be punished that harshly. Many women just want the rapist to acknowledge that he did something wrong, and other women may not want the issue to turn into an accusation, but only want to be able to overcome the incident.

In some cases, it is not clear whether an incident is rape or not, and if so, who is at fault. Often, it seems, the fault lies with lack of communication or understanding of what rape is. In Maryland, it is defined as vaginal intercourse against the will and without the consent of the woman, but it varies from state to state. In a *MS* magazine study one in every 12 men admitted to having fulfilled the prevailing definition of rape or attempted rape, yet virtually none of those men identified themselves as rapists. Also, of women who were raped almost three quarters did not

identify their experience as rape. These statistics point to one universal problem which is that the definitions of rape are varied and conflicting. The only consensus is that people aren't sure what they think about rape.

If the two (or more) parties which are involved in a rape incident are drunk, the issue becomes even more unclear. People are unsure whether or not a man can be held responsible for his actions when he is drunk. Others say that if a woman is drunk, since her capacity to consent is infringed, it is automatically rape. However, these definitions are not standard for everyone, and there is no ultimate authority to say which is right. Alcohol, though, is often involved in rape incidents. Lowering inhibitions, it makes people feel more sexual, leading to many potential problems.

Although women are taking steps to prevent rape, ultimately, some people feel, the responsibility will lie with the man. They say that women have every right not to be

"Rape workshops" from p. 2

first sexual experiences where they are unsure of how a woman might react when having sex. The final way to define rape is to leave the subjective realm and create objective criteria. A common objective stance is that the woman must give clear verbal consent. This leads to problems when consent is communicated in non-verbal fashions. In fact, any objective criterium for rape will lead to possible situations where one is forced to say that a woman has been raped even though she does not think so. Some people are even willing to say that this can be the case and give examples of young and confused girls who are drinking for the first time at a high school party. In this case, one is arguing that the woman does not know what is best for her. Others find this point of view just as violating as rape itself since they are both situations which take all control away from the woman and leave her powerless and violated. It is my personal experience that we will never be able to find a hard and fast definition which covers every situation.

If anyone is interested in helping with this [rape prevention workshops] endeavor next year please get in contact with either Malinda Campbell, John Clasby, Dominic Crapuchittes, or Amanda Dulin.

"Internet" from p. 5

and you can sneak a peek at the live video feed from almost anywhere in the world.

Rumor has it that if you climb into the right corner of the Internet you can access, of all things, a Christmas tree.

You can have custom subway maps created for you for many of the major metropolitan areas around the world, complete with estimated travel times.

You can access on-line Nielson Ratings, Billboard charts, a UK film archive containing plot descriptions, character abstracts, director and actor information for over 6,500 titles, or the All-Music Guide, a database of reviews and recording information for over 200,000 albums.

See something there that interests you? From the Compact Disc Connection, you can order from a selection of almost 70,000 titles by credit card. In addition there are lyrics, discographies, electronic posters, and even actual digital recordings from a myriad of artists that you can find in certain niches of the Internet.

There are on-line art galleries containing well-known images from the masters along with those created by humble artists on the Internet. With the International Painting Interactive (IPI) you can combine your creative

raped, and that things that women do don't ask for rape, or make a woman deserve rape. "No person asks to be hurt or degraded, just as no one asks to be robbed because they are carrying money in their pocket. No woman- whatever her behavior- 'deserves' to be raped by one or seven or eleven men. Rape is the responsibility of the rapist(s), not the victim," say Ehrhart and Sandler, authors of "Campus Date Rape: Party Games?"

Although men are becoming more aware of and interested in the issue of rape, the statistics are startling. "In one study involving 432 adolescents, 54 percent of the males and 42 percent of the females agreed that forced sexual intercourse was permissible, under some circumstances (if the girl led the boy on, turned him on or said 'yes' and then changed her mind). Thus, a sizeable number of young men and women believe that rape is sometimes acceptable behavior." (ibid.)

Sources: *MS Magazine* study November/October 1985, October 1990, "Campus Date Rape: Party Games?" by Ehrhart and Sandler

abilities with artists from all over the world to create more images to add to the galleries.

Verify information from the media. Find out where Elvis was last spotted. Learn stupid microwave tricks. Shop for clothes. Send a fax—more fax machines are being set up on the Internet every day. God himself already has a second fax line at the Wailing Wall in Israel.

Anything you want to know, there is probably an expert on the subject on the Internet. More likely than not, you will meet this person by chance as you wander the network.

I've met musicians, poets, philosophers, scholars, chemical engineers, biophysicists, physicians, and brain surgeons. I became friends with an astrophysicist. I've attended a forum with best-selling science-fiction writer Bruce Sterling. And, of course, I spent some time hanging out with programmers, computer engineers, and system administrators. All of these things without even trying. Imagine if you were to actively seek such people.

When you enter the 'net there are no bounds. The Internet changes the way you conceive communication, changes your perspective, changes your way of life.

Mellon: the magic, the madness, and the mystery

Our campus boasts many beautiful and historic buildings, some as old as the nation itself, and all pleasing to the eye, symmetrical and well-proportioned.

It also boasts Mellon Hall.

a building which is almost painful to the eye, and less than a half-century old. Despite its short history and unappealing facade, many mysteries shroud the building.

Mellon Hall is named after Paul Mellon, who enrolled in the school in 1940 after being told about the Program by Adolph Schmidt, his philanthropic advisor. Mr. Schmidt read about the school in Life magazine. Mellon stayed only one semester, feeling obligated to help the war effort, but later contributed money that helped remodel Pinkney and McDowell and to build the seawall along the Creek, among many other things.

Mellon Hall and FSK Memorial Auditorium were built in 1958, twenty-one years after the Program was first instituted. The opening was attended by President Eisenhower as well as the governor of Maryland and the Mayor of Baltimore. The mahogany administrative wing and the Elizabeth Myers Mitchell Art gallery were added in 1988 and 1989, respectively.

Many students whisper that the building was intended for the Santa Fe campus, which seems unlikely, since the idea of adding another campus was not hatched until 1960 and Santa Fe was not a candidate for that campus until 1961, three years after the completion of the building. This rumor might have been started because of the awkward architectural style, which looks more New Mexican than the other buildings, or because of the shutters and tinted windows seem intended to keep a bright desert sun out. But Mellon was designed and built by two firms from Maryland.

The reflecting pool around the planetarium is unable to be filled for a number of reasons. Drunken students used to break their beer bottles in the water, and others would take off their shoes and wade through the pool, resulting in ripped feet and costly

hospital bills. The walls that hold the water have gaps and leak more water out than can be poured in. Also, there seems to be an insurance problem, since having open water could result in drowning students. There are currently no plans to repair the pool.

The 300-pound pendulum ball, no longer swinging over its pit, is now bound up in a wooden box because the motor that is necessary to adjust its swing is broken. This is mostly because drunken students used to swing on the cable. The motor has been repaired five times, each time being vandalized again. At one point the motor seemed to be repaired for a whole day, but the next morning the ball was smashing against the walls of the pit. A scheme to use lasers to regulate the movement of the ball came to nothing. Six years ago, after the motor broke for the fifth time, two students and Chris Colby tried to steal the ball and ransom it back to the school to raise the money necessary to fix it, but they were seen by a person in the housing projects and the police were alerted. Dean Slakey chose not to press charges because he approved of the plan. Weekly hints as to the whereabouts of the ball were published, and about \$150 was raised, enough to raise the school's awareness about the chronic vandalization, but not enough to repair it. The ball was stolen a second time by some seniors who left it on the President's office as a paperweight. There are currently no solid plans to repair the pendulum.

There is an observatory in Mellon Hall, which is now used for play rehearsals. The

observatory has a ceiling, which makes it difficult to observe anything. There is, however, an access hatch which leads to the roof (presumably the real "observatory") but the hatch is difficult to access, since it is ten feet above the floor and there is no ladder leading to it. The observatory is apparently unfinished.

One has to go through the women's bathroom to get to the projection booth, which could be embarrassing for male projectionists. Across from the booth is a small room which only contains about 400 copies of the film club's flyers from 1985 and at least a dozen copies of the St. John's Story. This promotional film from the late 'fifties, shown yearly by the film club, is referred to by Richard Weigle in his book, "Recollections of an St. John's President," as an extremely "effective" means to attract new students.

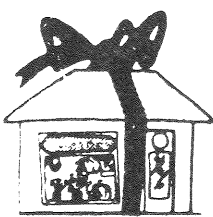
There is a fallout shelter in the basement, which was built in 1953, before Mellon Hall was built, and allegedly still well-stocked in preparation for the Big One.

The mysterious locked doors one passes when climbing the stairs near the music library lead to dressing rooms, which open into the dance studio. The studio was once part of the stage, as was the prop room. The stage once wrapped around the audience from wall to wall, but renovations built barriers on the left and right of the stage, leaving only the center open for the action.



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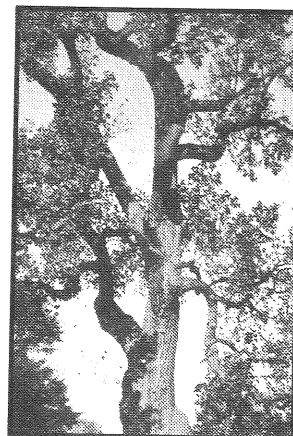
The Illustrious History of Our Liberty Tree

Annemarie Catania '97

Though St. John's is unique for its academic program, and the students like to think they are unusual, most tourists visit the college to see the Liberty Tree. George Washington and Francis Scott Key walked past the Liberty Tree, but they are dead, and the tree still stands. The Liberty Tree is older than both the college and the nation, and it is significant both as a historical landmark and an achievement in itself.

At an estimated 389 years, the tree has stood through a great deal of American history. The Sons of Liberty chose it as one of thirteen "Liberty Trees" for the meetings of their Maryland members. It has been said that it is the only Liberty tree still alive. General Lafayette watched a review of soldiers pass the tree in December, 1824. The first Methodist sermon in Annapolis was preached under it in 1772. St. John's has held commencement exercises under the tree since 1929, and its annual croquet match on the Liberty Tree lawn for the past twelve years.

Besides the significance assigned to it because of human events, the tree is quite an accomplishment, as trees go. Though one professor of wood technology estimated it to be less than 400 years old (by W. M. Harlow's calculations, 389 years or less), the Liberty Tree was thought to be more than 600 by people important enough to put a plaque on the tree. Regardless of its age, it has endured both natural erosion and obnoxious people. In 1840, a few rambunctious young school boys tried to blow up the tree with two pounds of gunpowder. Everyone thought they had killed it, but one year later, the tree prevailed, bursting into full foliage. Rot and decay had been growing inside, and the explosion ac-



tually saved the tree from bacteria. It has survived the loss of branches to heavy winds, and being struck by lightning. In 1848, it was accidentally set on fire, and in 1924, an iron fence was dedicated to protect the tree from people chipping off pieces of bark for souvenirs. Before losing a major limb in a wind-storm in 1975, the tree was the largest tree in the state of Maryland, and the national champion tulip poplar in the United States.

The tree had major corrective surgery in 1907 to repair a cavity which had extended 56 feet up the tree. Landscape architect and forester John T. Withers gave the cavity an antiseptic wash

and filled the tree with fifty-five tons of concrete reinforced with steel and iron. Gazing at the tree's cement-filled center and cable-supported branches last week, Brian McGuire '96 said, "It's more a monument to man than to nature." In an interview with Micah Pharris in the January 12 issue of the *Gadfly*, Nathan Jongewaard suggested that an automatic teller machine would make good use of the cement-filled space in the tree.

Mr. Schoener sees more natural beauty in the tree. He says, based on personal observation, that the silhouettes of tulip poplars, "don't go toward roundness," like the silhouettes of most other trees. He says that the silhouette of the Liberty Tree resembles the silhouette of a human being in the moonlight. He says, "It's an Upright Posture tree."

Though the Liberty Tree may be just a source of shade to some croquet spectators, or simply a nice old tree with character to others, it has withstood weather, time, and various adventures with endurance and grace.

Summer Reading

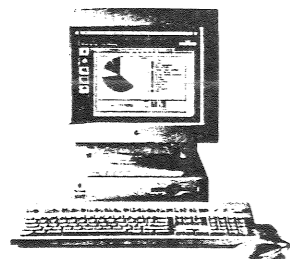
Earlier this spring the Student Committee on Instruction sent out questionnaires asking tutors to recommend some "good" non-program books. Here is a partial list, which would suffice as a summer's reading.

Baraka (James)- *Blues People*
Bergson- *Time and Free Will*
Confucius- *Analects*
Ching- *Lao-Tzu*
Eliot- *The Waste Land*
Goethe- *Faust*
Hesiod- *Works and Days*
Hoban- *Riddley Walker*
Hopkins- *Poems*
Hsuen-ch'in- *Story of the Stone*
Joyce- *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and *Ulysses*
Mann- *Joseph and his Brothers*
Manzoni- *The Betrothed*
Masil- *The Man without Qualities*
Toni Morrison- *Beloved*
Proust- *In the Search for Lost Time*
Rushdie- *Midnight's Children*
Russel- *The Problems of Philosophy*
Rousseau- *Emile*
Schofenhauer- *The World as Will and Representation*
Scott- *Raj Quantet*
Shikibu- *The Tale of Genji*
Sterne- *Tristram Shandy*
Undset- *Kristin Lavransdatter*
Williams- *Descent into Hell*
Woolf- *The Waves*

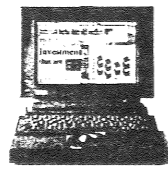
Have a nice
summer!
From your pals at
The Gadfly



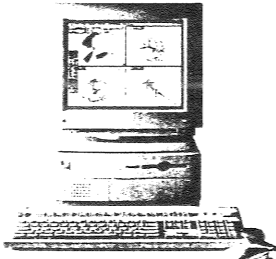
And you thought you could only afford macaroni and cheese.



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The Nodserver

Dean Brann's accent: German!

by Mike Maraschinocherry

As has been rumored, Dean Brann's accent is in fact German, *The Nodserver* discovered in an exclusive interview this week. When asked how she picked up this exotic inflection the Dean replied that she is actually from Germany itself. Many Johnnies believed that the Dean affected the accent to sound more intelligent.

"No, no," she said, "I've spoken with the accent ever since I learned English."

This startling admission caught even *The Nodserver* by

SEE MS. BRANN, PAGE 67

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Campus: lots of brick buildings

by Mike Maraschinocherry

The director of buildings and grounds made the stunning declaration yesterday that nearly every edifice on campus was constructed of a brick-like material, namely bricks.

Many were shocked by the controversial pronouncement. "Like, that's a pretty radical statement to say that nearly every building is made out of bricks," said Joe McMoe, a graduate student. Some (including the author of this article) even went so far as to verify the truth of the B&G director's declaration.

Sêän Stîcklèbäck spearheaded the investigation, visiting every edi-

ifice on campus, and ascertaining that indeed, most of the buildings were made of brick. "I counted every brick, and compared the amount of bricks to the amount of the other materials used in the construction of each building, and I have come to conclude that, yes, as crazy as it sounds, nearly every building on campus is made of bricks," Stîcklèbäck announced early this morning. Nevertheless, many are still incredulous about the original claim about the bricks. "Bricks, schmicks! it all sounds like a lot of rot to me!" responded an anonymous student to Mr. Stîcklèbäck's conclusion.

Paint Dries on campus railings

by Mike Maraschinocherry

A remarkable sight has greeted students descending the steps of McDowell after class, or while attempting to negotiate the multitude of metal railings, fences, and banisters around campus. The appearance of "wet paint" (or even the Greek $\delta\epsilon\tau\ \pi\alpha\iota\nu\tau$) signs has caused much alarm and those who have been unfortunate enough not to see the signs have even stained a garment or two.

Matthew Braithwaite was among the first to point out that the rough-breathing mark on the "wet paint" sign's Greek incarnation was, in fact, printed over the wrong letter. Upon noticing this mistake the campus erupted in a furious debate, which continues as we go to press.

The paint itself seems to be dry-

ing nicely, the Dean told *The Nodserver*. The president agreed. "Yes, this painting that has been done seems now to be dry in most places. I would still caution students to be on the lookout for the signs, though, just in case, despite the bad grammar," he said.

Students can't stop talking about the paint. Said one, "Yeah, I like it." Said another, "What? Oh, the paint? Sure." A small faction of students, however, were violently opposed to this campus improvement. A sophomore said, "[expletive] the paint! I think that they should just let this [expletive] place fall to [expletive] pieces. I loved the [expletive] old paint! Now it's red, or something."

Commenting on this outburst, a

SEE PAINT, PAGE 45

OPINION

On Saying Goodbye

Dear *Gadfly* Editors,

On May 15 I will graduate from St. John's. This event, with its accompanying promise of my increased availability, is being anticipated with apparently unalloyed joy by my family and friends and my daughter Allison's piano teacher, but I myself am struggling.

I always cry at graduations, especially, but not only, at my own graduations. There's something so final about "commencement". Graduation marks the end of a particular set of joys and struggles, the end of the dailyness of certain friendships and experiences. My friends, appropriately focussing on new beginnings, new opportunities, and new freedoms, variously view me with pity, disdain, or alarm as I stand off by myself weeping. But I know that something special has just passed.

Perhaps that is why recently I have been remembering classic goodbyes - not classic in the sense of Hector bidding his infant son farewell or Ingrid Bergman waling away from Humphrey Bogart to the waiting airplane, but rather the personal goodbyes of the people I know that somehow catch a universal emotion,

There is the letter written to my teen-aged step-daughter by one of her admirers. After listing in detail his attempts to woo her and her thoughtless responses, which he quite rightly attributed to complete disinterest, he tragically renounced her: "Goodbye forever - maybe."

There was the time that Isabelle, daughter of a French family with whom we are close friends, returned to Paris after a summer with us. As she left, she said tearfully, "Tell all the bodies I met 'goodbye and I will never see them again'."

When I left Houston after working in the space program for four years, a close friend called it "the end of an era". When I protested at the melodrama, saying I would be back for visits, she said wisely "But it won't be the same".

They were right, of course; Isabelle hasn't seen "the bodies" she met while visiting us, and my friend and I haven't had more than a few days together since I moved.

But our close friendships do survive. They survive because we won't let them go. And so this summer we are going to France for the wedding of Isabelle's brother Oliver. And my college friend Linda is flying in from Orlando for my graduation from St. John's.

But even though I will be surrounded by family and friends, I will still cry.

Marilyn Medlock Roper, GI

Live Poet Society Member explains controversy

Dear *Gadfly* Editors,

250 copies of the controversial* anthology by the Live Poets Society are now in print. You may pick up your free issue in the bookstore.

* for those who are in the dark, we present the reasons behind the controversy.

1) The Live Poets Society (LPS) approaches the Delagate Council for a charter and funding. The charter is to make the club official and enables the club to request funds. LPS requests money to print its annual anthology: \$500 to print 500 copies. \$500 is the printing cost from the previous 2 years; LPS assumes that the 1994 cost will be the same.

A member of the student body opposes the publication; St. John's does not need another literary publication, existing ones do not receive enough material. LPS protests; the poems are composed by members of the society, and discussed by said members, similar to the literary salons of Paris. The publication is the culmination of a year's work. The DC mumble for a while, then remark that the club is healthy—we do not lack material to print—the material is granted. A week later the money is recinded. Why?

The reason: some detective work by the objector proves that copies from the previous years are still available—there is no

need for 500 copies. LPS is told to re-request funds from the DC. Ask for smaller amount, only as much as demand for the anthology merits.

2) LPS approaches the DC for funds. Again, the amount is \$500. The reason: printing costs have gone up. \$500 will print 250 copies, as a signed receipt from the print shop manager, Chris Colby, proved. Mighty rumblings follow (many more now that the DC, after giving all the money to Reality, are strapped for cash). Cut costs, we are told. Xerox instead of printing on plates; this proves to be more expensive. The great heads grumble, then decide to vote. The result: 7 pro, 6 con (1 abstinence by a member).

After a great political struggle involving intrigue, fatigue, factions, and the importance of beer (Reality), we are successful—from the poets' point of view. End of Struggle—unless another one insues, resulting from this letter.

Marissa Mijal

Laissez-faire and the Program

To the editors:

A few weeks ago I read an article which suggesting the disturbing possibility that St. John's college may have to alter its curriculum to comply with pending government legislation. This article is my response to the idea of government intervention.

The United States was founded on the idea that all men "are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights" and that "to secure these rights governments are instituted among men." The founding fathers of this nation and of this college believed that a government's only legitimate duty was to protect the rights of each individual. Hence the United States became the freest nation in the history of mankind. It was born in the 18th century—the age of Enlightenment; it flour-

Letters policy: Letters of 200 words or less have a better chance of being published than those longer. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling, and will be printed exactly as submitted.

ished in the 19th—the age of Capitalism. Within the span of one-hundred years our country grew from thirteen small colonies into the richest country in the world. That was not an accident: freedom and capitalism are corollaries.

The defining characteristic of capitalism is the right of each individual to own property and to use that property however he chooses. But property rights are the existential manifestation of the individual's autonomy. Consequently, the right to one's life without property rights is a contradiction in terms; so too is a free society and a controlled economy.

In a free society individuals interact with one another without coercion or sacrifice—they interact by choice. The epitome of a free society is the entrepreneur. He acts to actualize the needs of his life without sacrificing himself to others, nor others to himself. He may choose to pay low wages, but it is beyond his power to force another to work if they do not so choose. He does not extort his wealth, he creates it. (I welcome anyone who doubts this to explain where the wealth of today came from—it didn't exist before the industrial revolution; and, as the economic collapse of the U.S.S.R. attests to, one cannot extort from another what does not exist.) Wealth is created through the passionate initiative and forethought of those who have a dream—and the unyielding courage to achieve it. But because no one knows what new field of endeavor will prove profitable, the individual must be left free to take whatever risks he chooses and to experience the consequences of that risk whether it be success or failure. The electric light, the automobile, and the airplane are all monuments to the efficacy of human reason—when it is left free to create. Wealth is a derivative of freedom: "freedom and capitalism are corollaries."

It was in the industrial north of the 19th century that America came the closest to a fully free market. But the prosperity of the 19th century burst forth so quickly and so brightly that mankind—like one escaping from Plato's allegorical cave—was blinded by the light: man was left dazed, neither knowing where he was or from whence he came. That blindness destroyed the greatest opportunity for prosperity mankind has ever encountered. The 20th century's destruction of the free market was not the result of capitalism's failure, it was the result of the failure on the part of intellectuals to grasp the meaning of what

they saw and provide a philosophical foundation for it. While Europe's child morality was decreasing at an unprecedented rate, Swift was deploring the capitalistic evil of child labor; while man was discovering that the selfish pursuit of profit was not evil, Kant was proclaiming that an act could be moral only if one did not act from self-interest. These attacks on capitalism as a product of selfish greed were left unchallenged and guiltily accepted by the very people who should have fought against those claims: the businessmen. The reason? Intellectual default—philosophy had provided businessmen with nothing to defend themselves. The result was the widespread belief in "robber-baron" myths without anyone to show that the great industrialists were neither thieves nor feudal vassals; the result was government regulations to prevent coercive monopolies without anyone to point out that only the government can legally shutout competition; the result was the movement away from the freedom of Jefferson and Franklin and toward absolutism of Louis XIV and Richelieu. Today the idea of a free market is a fading memory and government regulation is commonplace. But remember that a government's only power is law; and law is legalized physical force. Thus government regulation of the economy is the attempt to control the businessman with the threat of a jail cell.

For those who think this issue is not their concern, I remind them that St. John's College is a business and it too is threatened:

The Clinton administration's new education policies could mandate that St. John's include particular career-oriented classes, and that "student outcome" be monitored so that students are assured work in areas beneficial to the nation. (*Gadfly*, April 19th)

Unlike a free market which gives sovereignty to the consumer, a controlled economy dictates which products one is free to purchase. Likewise, the pending legislation would make it irrelevant that students choose to pay for the non-vocational curriculum that St. John's chooses to offer; government regulation destroys freedom.

If you are among those angered by the prospect of mandatory vocational classes, remember that the threat is not a single piece of legislation; the threat is the idea that anyone has the right to sacrifice your life on the altar of "societal good." There is nothing "beneficial to the nation" except your right to exist for

your own life, your own profit, your own "pursuit of happiness". Thus I urge all who value this institution to fight against this piece of legislation; I urge all who value their life to fight for laissez-faire capitalism.

Signed,

T. J. Green

"Waataai!"

Dear *Gadfly* Editors,

I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to those incredibly mature and considerate members of our community who are so deprived of entertainment that they feel the need to enter people's rooms at 4 a.m. and wake them with loud screams of "Waataai!". Not only does this greatly inconvenience the person being "Waataaied", but it also keeps everybody in that hall awake. You know who you are.

Joshua Goldberg

Gadfly at last earns name

Dear *Gadfly*,

Albeit by dubious means, the new editorship can lay claim to responsibility for a college-wide rise to action and discussion. As a result, *The Gadfly* has at last lived up to its name.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Schmidt '96

Announcements

Live Poets Society Anthology

250 copies of the controversial* anthology by the Live Poets Society are now in print. You may pick up your free issue in the bookstore.

* for those who are in the dark, we present the reasons behind the controversy in the letter on the opposing page.

"Drinking" from p. 8

"stress." One person said, "you're never done with your work here. You can always do more. The way to deal with it is to blow it off and run out and get drunk." In one way or another, nearly everyone polled concurred on this point.

The second most common answer was "boredom." One person said, "there's nothing to do here in Annapolis. Boozing it up is the best solution." Most people, while not necessarily choosing to partake of drinking for that reason, recognized it as a trend. A number of people suggested that maybe boredom isn't the healthiest reason to drink, and thought that maybe people could find something better to do with their time. "Yes," said another student. "And when they find that thing, I guarantee that they'll enjoy it more with a few drinks."

"Sweet liquor eases the pain"

These five words were the most commonly spoken of all comments on our collective drinking life, sometimes in jest and sometimes not. "There is a certain psychological vacation available for the price of a case of beer," and this fact more than anything created what is one of the few real disagreements between the drinkers and the non-drinkers. The drinkers felt that to relax, to socialize, to release tension by alcohol is a valuable asset; a way to get away from it all for awhile and have fun. The non-drinkers felt that alcohol was a potentially dangerous chemical which is best avoided for its ability "to remove the user from waking reality." Probably the best fusion of the two came from a freshman. "I like to drink. Sometimes I drink a little, and sometimes a drink a lot. It depends on my surroundings, but not my mood. When I drink, I make sure that I'm not doing it to escape."



Gadfly mascot Orlando Carter Snead executing a flawless pole vault at a high school track meet

The Gadfly

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On the Cover: Jack Wood, Class of 1919, enjoying the croquet match at Ginger Cove

Self-cleaning Oarsman: Orlando Carter Snead

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Yearly subscriptions are available for \$35.00. Tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to *The Gadfly*.

For display advertisement prices and information, call 263-2371, ext. 320.

Deadline: Thursday at midnight. Submissions may be submitted in any Macintosh-based word processing format on a 3 1/2" floppy disk along with a typed, double-spaced copy. Otherwise, typed, double-spaced submissions are acceptable.

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