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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.

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Spotlight on the Greenfield Library Reserving the Group Study Room

Dear Polity,

Welcome back from essay writing! I can't believe that in less than two months, we will be gathered on the front lawn to support our seniors and GIs at commencement! In the remaining months of the semester, studying and discussion will remain a big part of life here at SJC! Are you looking for a quiet place to focus on writing your paper, or maybe a little isolated area in the library to discuss a book you are reading with your friends, or a nice space for your next meeting? The Greenfield Library Staff recommends the Group Study Room.

The Group Study Room is intended for the use of groups of two to ten people needing a quiet place to study and where discussion and academic collaboration is necessary. The Room is available to current SJC students (UG and GI), faculty and staff. The Group Study Room has been reserved for events such as staff meetings, interviews, and faculty and student study groups. Groups seeking to reserve the space do not have to be officially established clubs on campus.

The Group Study Room is available on a first-come first-served basis, when there are no reservations. In order to secure the space you can make reservations either in person at the Circulation Desk or by phone at 410-626-2548 for a maximum of three hours. Reservations must be made at least one day in advance. Keep in mind that reservations always take precedence over walk-ins.

Elizabeth Akhvlediani (A'17)
Greenfield Library Student Assistant



From the Editors:

We apologize for the delay, Polity. The Forces have conspired to keep this particular issue suppressed for several weeks before we were able to convene an emergency summit of the heads of leading small liberal arts college publications, and reached an agreement wherein all parties were satisfied. Everything is fine now—but don't be alarmed if your tuition increases by \$15-\$20. It's all part of playing ball, if you know what I mean. Everyone does it, and if you don't think they do, you're kidding yourself. Maybe this business is too rough for you, kiddo. Get out of this town. Find yourself a nice girl and start a family, lace yourself up straight. Don't follow in my footsteps.

-The *Gadfly*



Q: ♦ According to Aristotle, if your best friend falls into a void, what should you do?

- Jump in after him.
- Throw in a branch/life raft.
- Debate with the nearest philosopher about the peculiarity of your situation.

A Message from Admissions:

Dear Polity,

As you know, the Admissions Office has been working hard to build the Class of 2020. You've all seen prospies on campus over the course of the year, and we have Accepted Students Day coming up on April 9th (with overnights on the 7th and 8th.) With over 100 people on campus, this is when many students will decide whether St. John's is where they want to be for the next four years

Many of you have decided to join the Accepted Students Class of 2020 Facebook page. This page is created each year by the Admissions Office as a way for accepted students to get a sense of the community they are considering becoming a part of. As of

now, this page includes students who are still deciding if they will attend St. John's, and students who are positive they will be coming here in the fall.

Whether it's over Facebook or while students are on campus, we all have a responsibility to both the prospective students and to our community to represent St. John's College honestly and respectfully. What you write and say has a huge impact on a student's impression of our school. Think about what you want to say about the college before you share it, and judge what to say by this question: Is what I am going to share helpful to them on their college journey? Introducing

yourself and passing along advice is a great way to give these students a sense of who we are, but keep in mind that this is their journey and should be about them.

Think back to when you were an accepted student. What questions did you have? What made you really excited to attend St. John's? Did you have concerns? Chances are, our current accepted students have the same questions and concerns you did, so let's be a resource for them as they make this huge choice and help them get excited about the next four years.

Sincerely,
Alice Meyer

The Altercation

◆R.M. Goad A'19

We speak in steel
beams, cables
and concrete—

our words fling
like space debris

Chests puffed,
we are huffing at
brickless walls,

watching chalky
rubble settle 'round

But we are humans!
But we are engineers!

Tired of mendless commotion,
our mouths lose motion

but the metals croak,
pining for communion.

And we are weary
so we sate the plea—

Why don't we build a bridge?
Why don't we build a bridge?

Chest-deep in provisions,
we begin with one word:

consider

The overpass ripens as
our sweat pools beneath,

and we wonder what
we would have had
left to bequeath if
we'd never started
building bridges.

Or would we
ever have been?

And however would these muscles ache?
And however would this skin?

CALLING ALL SEAWORTHY JOHNNIES!

Madeline Edwards A'19

Like Ishmael, Captain Hook, and Jack Sparrow before you, the time has come for you to take to the sea! The St. John's sailing club returns to the boats to begin our own odysseys, and we'd like you to join us.

"But sailing is a big time commitment!" some may bemoan. "I don't even know what a boat is! Why should I go sailing?" Fortunately for you, we have a list of reasons and reassurances to assuage all your doubts and fears:

1) No experience is required to join the club! Whether you've never seen water or are a regular Odysseus, we'd love to see you on the water and (quite literally) show you the ropes.

2) Even though sailing can be a big-time commitment, you don't have to go to every practice. Most people only go once or twice a week, and that's totally fine.

3) Blazer points! We all want to look as snazzy as all those cool kids in the blazers. Sailing practices will springboard you into the blazer posse.

4) You haven't seen Annapolis until you've seen it from the water. We sail up and down the Severn River, and you're missing out on some great views that you can only get from a boat. And unlike crew, we don't practice at ungodly hours in the morning.

5) Learn a new skill. Knowing how to sail will never be a detriment, but it could come in handy in several circumstances in which you're stranded on a desert island or need to perform a rescue mission in a dinghy. You'll regret not having learned when you're somewhere in the middle of

the Atlantic with nothing but a pistol with one shot and an FJ.

6) It'll help with your seminar reading! Did you feel like you couldn't truly relate to the list of boats in the Iliad? That's because you'd yet to sail! Come out to a practice or two and your eyes will be opened to the depths within this catalogue of ships. Either that, or you'll be too busy having a great time to think about it for too long.

7) Build some killer abs before the summer! One day of heavy winds and you'll understand what I'm talking about.

8) In the same vein, if you start sailing now, you'll have a tan by the summer. No one will say you spend too much time inside reading books.

9) Life jackets and dry-suits are the next fashion trend.

10) We have a boat named Aeneas. Where else can you say you sailed with Aeneas?

11) Socrates emphasizes both a sound mind and a sound body. Sailing helps both!

12) Knowing how to use terms like "mizzenmast", "Hoist the main halyard!", and "Jibe ho!" will definitely make you cooler at parties.

13) Get one step closer to being a real-life pirate! We all know that's the real dream. Plus, nothing like piracy to pay off student loans.

If these reasons weren't enough to convince you, you'll just have to come out to practice to see what all the hype is about! It's a lot of fun and a great way to spend some time between readings. We meet at 4 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Boathouse. So support your local sailors and join us on our adventures! ◆

What I Lost in the Fire Parts 1 & 2

◆ Anonymouse



1

I am in love with a memory
A memory of long ago
One that seems like only yesterday
A memory of you and me.

You were too pure and I was too kind
I should have known you
Wouldn't be mine

But I still hoped through
Love and loss
And dreamt and slept and pined.

I cast my hope like an anchor in you
And my faith sadly, it came too
Now that you're gone, I know I was wrong
But you couldn't be further from the truth.

And now I stand next to him
And give my heart with you to them
I know he's probably not my love
For you're the closest I ever came.



2

I am in love with a memory. One that is fading. Blurred. One from long ago that refused to die in the fire of time and distance. A meeting. Silence. Conversation. Friendship. A dance. New Zealand. Biology.

You were too pure. I was too kind. I should have known. My mind got the better of me. For months I burned, the bitterest fire. A hot coal that I could not release. A hope. A dream. A mistake.

Two days that turned into two months. Two months that turned into a year. Hope and faith invested, prayers that they would grow into something that could survive the fire. I know that I was wrong. You couldn't be further from the truth.

The ashes have fallen to the ground. They have buried the wreckage. I stand in a new world now. A new world to which I have given my heart. The memory still remains, tucked away, a reminder of what I lost in the fire.

Notes from the Other Side: 9

Sleeping in a Hammock

Judith Seeger TUTOR

Sleeping in a hammock is the best.
You make yourself a comfortable nest.
Make sure that your ropes are strong and tightly bound:
There's nothing underneath you but the ground.
A rolled-up blanket makes a handy sheath
To warm you from above and from beneath.
Once in, you're cradled in a pocket deep
And perfectly disposed for restful sleep,
As long as you don't dwell on the precariousness of sleeping hanging in the air.

Water Evaporation Observation

(Laboratory Practicum Proposal)

Gregory Recco Tutor

Materials

Liquid water
PASCO brand silica-based opto-transparent container
PASCO brand permanent marker

Methodos

1. Carefully measure out 115-130 mL of liquid, room-temperature water into the PASCO brand container.
2. Carefully mark the level the water reaches in the cylindrical container with the permanent marker. [Caution: marker not actually permanent.]
3. Carefully note any change in the water level over the course of a single long laboratory period (2h40m), in 5-minute increments. Graph the results (however you like).

Questions For (Careful) Reflection

Is the graph a straight line or curved? Why? Do your observations give you any insight into why fainting was once referred to as getting "the vapors"? What is evaporation, anyway? Does water possess the character of dryness in potency? (And by what is this potentiality actualized?) Or rather, is the dry the "enemy" of the moist (cf. Plato, Philebus)? Does water become tacky upon evaporation, as paint does? Why not? If time permits, your class might mindfully observe a swatch of paint in its transition from wet to not-wet. Touch it. Smell it. Taste it. What, if anything, does it remind you of? Is the answer water? Is water what it reminds you of? [Note: it's water.]

Unrepentant

◆ Ivan Romanovich Syritsyn A'19

When I arose this winter morning
I went and walked into a field
I glided through its ice-clear covers
To plains of old, unknown, unsaid.

And on the trails through which I wandered
There sang the darkest of all birds
Who called upon me very sweetly
To follow him, to see his curse.

And so he led me to a shadow
A ghost of foul begotten deeds
A lonely soul condemned from passage
Bereft from all his passion's needs.

He took me to the fields of battle
To where he sacrificed his foes
To where no man or beast could stop him
Where God himself he would depose.

Created through the love of fear
In screams and angry cries of hate
In tears of lovers, family curses
He fueled himself on the unmade.

Although once feared he is forgotten
No fear of him remains in men
His gain and trophies ill-begotten
Now rot beneath the snow and sand.

And yet he lived the way he wanted
For him the hatred and their pain
Had filled his cup of wrath and wanton
It is his pleasure, love, and fame.

So as I left him I felt weary
For having felt the deepest taint
The place where he does lie unburied
I carry with me every day.