



## FROM THE POLITY

### A Message from the Randall Worms

To the Polity:

It has come to our attention that there has been an attempt from residents of Randall Hall 2 to suppress the reality of our plight under the guise of “privacy.” Let the story be set straight. We are the worms.

We are the native inhabitants of the Randall 2 showers and refuse to be ignored any longer.

In mid-August of this year our modest homes became overrun with human beings who have incited violence towards us. We have been wiped away and flushed down drains. We have been smashed. We have been bleach-bombed. We have had the higher powers of Buildings & Grounds called on us, all in a desperate attempt to eradicate us from our rightful place in the showers.

We understand we are not the most beautiful creatures. But if you think it's traumatic to shower with us, imagine how *we* feel. Somehow, we are the invaders, not you all, the ones entering our homes—*naked*, mind you—and attempting to wash us away or crush us underfoot. There are families who have been living on these tiles for *generations*. Childhood friends have been mutilated by your cruel tactics, and we have had enough. No longer will we suffer in silence.

This message is for the aggressors of Randall 2: we won't be gotten rid of that easily. We have and will continue to survive your assassination attempts and will be exacting our revenge shortly.

Stay vigilant.

Sincerely,

The worms

*Editor's Note: This letter was submitted anonymously, and as a publication we cannot speak to whether or not any worms do actually reside in the Randall Two showers, and as to whether or not they can write in English. However, if there were worms, and if they could write in English, a letter from them would be so remarkable, it would be worth publishing here merely on the chance that it may really be written by worms.*

## FALL 2023: THE COLLEGIAN'S INAUGURAL SEMESTER IN REVIEW

### Looking Back on the First Three Months of the St. Jon's Collegian, and Looking Forward to the Paper's Future

When I first decided to start the Collegian, it seemed like the task ahead of me was particularly daunting. I recognized the need for a more frequent campus publication, but also saw that with our small student body, it would be difficult to find enough writers to keep up the kind of regular reporting I was hoping for. More than that, I saw the task of keeping myself on a weekly schedule as a challenging one, and a difficult one to enforce for Johnnies, who are notoriously bad at deadlines.

The task ahead of me seemed large, and it did turn out to be so. For some issues, such as this one, I did struggle to get enough contributors, not for lack of occurrences on campus, but for the nearly universal lack of time that all Johnnies, including myself, suffer from. Likewise, I often found myself cutting precariously close to my own deadlines, although fortunately almost all of the paper's other contributors were far more punctual than I was. However, despite all these difficulties, the paper took off, and largely successfully. Certainly, there were no ends of spelling, grammar, and printing errors (largely due to my editorial procrastination), but news was reported on, opinions were presented, and miscellaneous bits of commentary and cryptic aphorisms were spread amongst the Polity.

Most of this success is due to the paper's hard-working team of contributors. We had, in the nine issues since the beginning of publication in September, sixteen different contributors, including, in order of the first publication their articles appeared in, Caleb Briggs, Lainey Rendelman, William Marchman, Augustus Pananas, Georgia Green, Natalie Goldman, Semyon Andruschenko, Louis Rosenberg, Ron Hafidson, Andy Manne, Jack Huntley, Susan Paalman, and Molly Sprout, not to mention the anonymous anti-smoking crusader, their rival J.S., and the Randall Worms. I must sincerely thank each and every one of these people for their contributions- without them, the Collegian could not exist. In particular, I would like to thank Briggs, Goldman and Manne, who all contributed more than once and helped keep the paper running.

In total, the paper had 36 articles this semester: eleven opinion pieces, in the form of letters to the editor, editorials or just very short, opinionated essay about assorted nonsense; nineteen news articles, ranging from reporting on the College Creek Connector to a

student attending two seminars, four arts features, on the Mitchell Museum or KWP shows, and then whatever this article and the first introductory piece in the first issue could be classified as.

With all this, the newspaper covered important stories. Looking back on the semester's headlines serves as a sort of summary of the year: September gives us the summer BVG meeting and the College Creek Connector, DC Budgeting, and, most importantly, the incessant ringing of bells during seminar. In October, dialogue on the bells continued alongside the official reopening of Mellon and Public Safety's Cleary Report, the Polka and Limbo competitions and the DC Budget Omnibus Bill. November continued to be just as busy, with another BVG meeting, a tutor walkout over pay, a suspicious item leading to Mellon being evacuated, and the College Historical Taskforce.

In different ways, each and every one of these stories is important to the Polity, and many of them, such as the BVG meetings or the College Creek Connector, might never have gotten any notice had there not been articles written about them. To me with all the challenges the Collegian has faced, the fact that at the end of the day the Polity has become, even just a little, better informed thanks to the work of the Collegian, makes me motivated enough to keep this paper going to next semester, next year, and hopefully further into the future.

However, this will not be possible without other people's help. If you are interested in covering anything, whether it be local Annapolis politics, College administrative decisions, Intramurals, campus music and art scenes, or anything at all, please send in articles! The more regular contributors we have, the better we can keep up the timely, efficient and informative publication of the Collegian, and the more interesting we can make this paper.

Save the Polity from having to read any more “year in review” summaries from me- find a topic, and just write! It doesn't have to be long, it doesn't have to be complicated, all we need here are articles on things people care about, and I know that things like that are not at all rare on this passionate, busy campus.

Farewell until next semester,  
*El'ad Nichols-Kaufman*

## This Week in Seminar

Freshman:

- 12/7: Euripides: Medea
- 12/11: Plato: Symposium, Beginning–198A

Sophomores:

- 12/7: Christian Creeds, see official list; Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologiae, Prologue; Prima Pars (First Part), see official list
- 12/11: Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologiae, Prima Pars (First Part), see official list

Juniors and Seniors:

- Preceptorials

## Friday Night Lecture:

KWP's production of the Importance of Being Earnest

## Upcoming Events:

Friday 12/8

- 7:30 pm, FSK: The Importance of Being Earnest

Saturday, 12/9

- 7:30 pm, FSK: The Importance of Being Earnest
- 10 pm, Great Hall: Pangaea Just Dance Party

Sunday 12/10

- 7 pm, Great Hall: Summerfield Live

Tuesday 12/12

- 7 pm, Great Hall: Collegium and Assistant Dean's Winter Party

# DELEGATE COUNCIL SEMESTER ENDS, SHAWAMREH ELECTED DC PRESIDENT

## End of the Year for Delegate Council Featured Much Legislative Action, Planning for Future Budgeting, and Contested Officer Elections

The end of the fall 2023 session was a busy end of the year for the Delegate Council, which in the past has slowed down at the end of budgeting season. This year, however, the council shifted towards working on legislation aimed at improving its budgeting process and better representing student voice to the College administration.

Two committees were formed for this purpose: the archives committee and the budgeting committee. The archives committee, which this writer headed in his capacity as DC Secretary, reviewed current acts of council, and looked to find ways to improve them both through amendments and by writing new acts. The archives committee brought forward three pieces of legislation: an amendment to the archives act, to make DC proceedings more accessible to the Polity, as well as two new acts. The first of these, the

succession act, outlines what happens if both the President and Secretary are unable to lead a meeting. The second was the new Club Responsibility Act, which formalizes the DC's recommendation that new clubs receive \$500 in their first budget and requires them to submit an official request do so, as well as have the budget passed by a 2/3 majority of the DC.

The budgeting committee, headed by treasurer Grace Jang, looked to address problems that have arisen from the Council's often confusing budgeting rules, and pass acts of council resolving them. Amendments provided by this committee included a reworking of the Agora Act, which creates a fund any student project for the benefit of the whole Polity can request money from; amendments to the Allocations Procedure Codification Act, to streamline check

allocation process and give the Treasurer discretion as to decide when budgets should be heard, to allow for more urgent budgets to be heard faster; an amendment to the Budget Role Clarification Act, to help distinguish between emergency and supplemental budgets; and a new act of council, the High-Budget Sports Club act, which provides new guidelines for clubs like Polo or Jiu-Jitsu.

Elections were also held for the officers and freshman delegates. The Secretary and Polity Herald's races were uncontested, with incumbents El'ad Nichols-Kaufman and Rylee Bain being reelected, while in the Treasurer election, Alexander Paden won in a race against Rachel Rozsa, and in the Presidential election, Ali Shawamreh won, running against Lainey Rendelman.

*El'ad Nichols-Kaufman*

# BEHIND ALL THAT GADFLY BS

## A Psychological Analysis of Mr. Bennett Scott

[Note: Mr. Scott has forbidden this article from being printed, but we shall not be silenced.]

Is he a madman, a prophet of modern decay, or simply the weird roommate of Ben Maier who makes those videos? Who really is B.S.? Bennett Scott, man of many wives, is known around the St. John's College campus as the archon of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, A Senior, and turtleneck aficionado; lately, he has emerged in the polity consciousness as the sole pursuer of what he deems "SJC Mysteries." His main output, however, is satire, always signed with his initials: B.S. Bennett Scott...B.S....Based on what he writes, it's enough to make any good wannabe psychologist wonder whether Mr. Scott would do what he does if his initials didn't stand for bullshit. It's almost too perfect. Of course the man who writes about the "Bro Scogan Experience," the first "Intercollegiate World National Chopsticks Championship," and who allegedly received a cease and desist from the college for breaking and entering (something he wouldn't be so stupid to record himself doing) would write under those initials. The be B.S. might not just be a tongue in cheek acknowledgement: it might well be his deepest insecurity.

The question is then one reminiscent of the chicken and the egg. What came first? The antics, or the signature? Did Mr. Scott realize the potential of his name and begin playing into it, or was he always like this, sufferer of nominal determinism, the years passing and proving all too apparent how accurate his initials are? The answer to this question was provided by the man himself (in an off the record interview that he has tried to hide, destroy, and block from being published). In his wayward youth, Mr. Scott was a member of Mr. Breck's sixth grade algebra class. In this class was also the much smarter, kinder, more likable Bennie Surketz. As a result, he explained with clear rage in his voice, his teacher referred to him as "B.S. 2." Mr. Scott lambasted Mr. Breck as "the worst

person [he] ever met," his face turning red, his hands shaking, muttering the quadratic equation under his breath.

Not only did the title come first, it's a name which represents all of Bennett's deepest insecurities. To have to bear such worthless initials and be reminded that you are only secondary in such worthlessness? No wonder Mr. Scott resorts to cheap absurdist comedy and video podcasting. What respectable outlet could be left for a man with so little faith in his abilities that he signs every work with the very moniker that has blighted and shadowed him since childhood? Truly, he should be pitied, or at the very least given a low-level writing job at GQ. Every article in the Gadfly, every YouTube video, each and every one is a desperate cry for help. Each inked B.S. represents the burning soul of a tortured man (just factor the damn equation Bennett!), a man searching for answers in the mysteries of his little world, leaving no cryptic stone unturned or cellar un-rummaged through, searching for the way to overcome his own feelings of inadequacy. Pushed aside even in his weakness, he now presents every sign of narcissism and "pick-me" syndromes, left in the most absurd of fights: he tears at himself in search of the angst to prove that he too is a starving artist. To be B.S, Mr. Scott needs to do what he does, but to do what he does, Mr. Scott must truly be B.S.

—A.M. (*Assuredly Magnificent, not Ass Magnet*)

### Pensée of the Week

*If religion is the opium of the masses, then revolution is the crack cocaine of the masses.*

# ABOUT THE ST. JOHN'S COLLEGIAN

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

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

Contributors for this issue:

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- Andy Manne
- The Worms