



FROM THE
POLITY

A Response to *On the Honor Code*

Many of us have given thought to Ms. Paalman's suggestion of establishing an Honor Code for Johnnies in response to the emergence of Large Language Models. But while some remained untroubled, others have embraced the proposition with an enthusiasm that should not fail to disturb us. Every time we are to think of our institution as a *πόλις* (city-state), we consistently compare it to Athens (the city of philosophy) and not to the Media (the kingdom of Middies). This is because our education here embraces intellectual freedom. St. John's neither cares about grades nor punishes anyone for a lack of engagement. Indeed, when one fails to prepare for a class by reading or produce an original piece of writing, these actions serve as self-punishment, depriving oneself of intellectual opportunities. And should we look within to uncover the reasons for such misadventures, we necessarily discover that the individual is blinded either directly (through some sort of ignorance) or indirectly (because of a tragic life circumstance). The proposal of the code and all subsequent ideas are necessarily spoken with an eye on the interests of our polity. As individuals we also postulate that one's freedom finds its limit there where the other's start. Yet the exercise of one's freedom to cheat (oneself) does not compromise others in their intellectual development. Hence the interests of the polity are not hurt. If St. John's is confident in the dignity of its

Cont. on Page 2

DELEGATE COUNCIL BUDGETING
SEASON UPDATE

DC Hearings Continue, 30 Clubs Funded with Almost a Dozen Still Awaiting Hearings

The final day for archons to submit club budgets for the fall semester was September 7th, and the Delegate Council began hearing club budgets on September 10th. (While most DC meetings take place Tuesday evenings, two weekend hearings were held to make the process more efficient.) These hearings play a key role in ensuring that funds are distributed in a way that benefits the polity. In a policy newly introduced this year to improve efficiency for archons and delegates alike, the DC is aiming to keep debate times to under 8 minutes for most clubs, or under 10 minutes for clubs that are requesting \$1000 or more.

The amount of money initially requested by clubs ranges from \$190 (JSPN and Storyteller's Guild, though JSPN ended up successfully requesting to amend their budget to include an additional \$175 for a rugby viewing party) to \$5855 (Rock Climbing Club). Approximately 10 clubs requested more than \$2000, while 15 clubs requested less than \$500; nearly 40 budgets were submitted in total.

As expected, larger budgets tended to be discussed in more detail than smaller budgets. Some clubs — including Baking Club, Board Games Club, Insect Farming Club, Folk Life, and Shammai — had their budgets passed with little to no debate. Other clubs had more contentious budget hearings, with delegates proposing various amendments. Notably, Video Games Club (which requested \$1445) and Jiu-Jitsu (which requested \$4550) each

had approved budgets of less than half their initial request. Not all budgets have been heard yet, and hearing a budget doesn't necessarily mean it will be approved the same night or at all — at the meeting on the 19th, for example, a final decision on Polo Club's budget was deferred to the following week.

Any polity member who has an interest in the DC or the budgeting processes is strongly encouraged to attend the upcoming meetings, speak to their delegates, and/or read the minutes from past meetings. *Louis Rosenberg*

DC Budgeting Statistics:

Amount requested by clubs: \$53,654.97
Amount of money received by the DC each year: approx. \$35,000
Amount estimated by the DC treasurer that can be allocated given club underspending and surpluses: approx. \$42,000

KWP: \$4,175
Waltz: \$3,900
Reality: \$3,235
Energeia: \$3,180.96
Pangaea: \$2,305
Jiu-jitsu: \$2,120
Cinema: \$1,740
Futsal: \$1,050
SCI: \$1,000
HEMA: \$887.87
Darkroom: \$800
Board Games: \$737.53
Peliclemos: \$700

Cont. on Page 2

This Week in Seminar

Freshman:

- 9/28: Plato, *Gorgias*, 447A–481B
- 10/2: Plato, *Gorgias*, 481B–to end

Sophomores:

- 9/28: Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura*, IV–VI
- 10/2: Virgil, *Aeneid*, I–IV

Juniors:

- 9/28: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 12–18
- 10/2: Hobbes: *Leviathan*, Chapters 19–21, 24–25, 27, 28 (only the very last paragraph), 29

Seniors:

- 9/28: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (see official list for selections)
- 10/2: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (see main list for selections)

Friday Night Lecture:

Rhetoric and Democracy: Introduction to Aristotle's Rhetoric, Robert Bartlett

Upcoming Events:

Friday, 9/29:

- 11:30 am: Mellon re-opening ceremony, Mellon Terrace

Saturday, 9/30

- 2 pm: Extended bookstore hours and book signing, Bookstore
- 3 pm: Alumni-Student Networking Event, Hodson room
- 8:30 pm: Reunion Waltz, Great Hall

Sunday, 10/1

- 7 pm: Film Showing, Coco

Tuesday 10/3

- 5:30 pm: Resume Workshop, Hodson Room

Wednesday 10/4

- 3:30 Naloxone administration training, Conversation Room

SKELETONS AS SATIRE

Exhibit Ending this Week at the Mitchell Museum Highlights Work of Posada

When I arrived at the Mitchell Art Museum, I suddenly thanked my past self for sticking with Spanish for all four years of high school. All of the text in the exhibit is written in Spanish, primarily, with English translations underneath. The first instance of this is displayed on the wall, right outside the entrance to the museum. This wall asks each passerby two questions: “¿ Debe uno ser serio para ser tomado en serio ?” and “¿ El arte tiene límites ?” The translations given are “Must we be serious to be taken seriously?” and “Does art have bounds?” José Guadalupe Posada (1852-1915) has become one of Mexico’s most celebrated printmakers and satirists, but he did not

achieve fame or recognition during his lifetime. Spending most of his career at the publishing house of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, he created images to be printed in Arroyo’s chapbooks. The reason the exhibit asks us its initial questions is that José Guadalupe Posada was notorious for his satire. Calaveras , or skeleton figures, are now well known as symbols of Mexican culture, but their popularity is in part due to Posada—he often used them to satirize current events or public figures. The exhibit itself doesn’t seem to prioritize seriousness in the slightest. The word “ ridículo ” is splashed across the wall in bold capital letters, and bright primary colors dominate

the space. There is even a plastic skeleton lying prone on a ledge, gazing down upon unsuspecting museum-goers. At the same time, the calaveras introduce an underlying motif of death, and it’s true that Posada wrestled with very somber ideas in his prints. One of these was the Mexican Revolution, which sparked a creative drive in Posada, though he died before Mexico gained independence. Death imposes on us a hard and fast limit to creativity, but that doesn’t mean that we can’t poke fun at ourselves while we’re still here. Sometimes, humor is what reveals the gravest of truths.

Natalie Goldman

DING DONGS?
MERRILY ON
HIGH?

Mysterious Ringing Keeps
Campus Awake

For night owls, insomniacs, and light sleepers on upper campus, you may be aware that our beloved campus bell has been exhibiting a curious behavior over the past few weeks. Administration Officials and Public Safety Officers are baffled. The bell has frequently gone off for ten minutes at precisely midnight on Wednesdays and at 7:30 on Mondays. It also went off at midnight on Monday of last week, chiming thrice. The only clue to go off of is that the bell may be controlled remotely.

What are we to make of this mysterious malfunction? Is it ghosts, goblins, gnomes? Seniors with long-overdue essays? Perhaps the bell has a mind of its own and wishes to join the revelers on lower campus in their ushering in of the New Year. The midnight Monday chimes make less sense, however. Perhaps a seminar in the Octagon went on a bit longer than usual—there’s no end to those things, you know.

The hunt for who or what is causing this continues, making this lofty mystery a worthy counterpart to the underquad. The answer to this riddle, however, is likely hiding in plain sight.

Caleb Briggs

Honor Code (Cont.)

enterprise as a college, there should be no question of an honor code. One will thus be either a Johnie or not (someone who enrolled at St. John’s by an accident or blindness). If we are to help the cheating one with their ignorance or a tragic event, we must do so sincerely and only from the position of love and compassion. These two qualities are not to be found in the realm of fear and control, but in the realm of joy of and wonder in the other. And the same is true for good essays and discussions.

Semyon Andruschenko

DC Funding (Cont.)

- Video Games: \$620
- Alexander Hamilton Society: \$540
- Bowling: \$503
- Catholic Fellowship: \$500
- Christian Fellowship: \$500
- 3D Printing: \$495.10
- Historia: \$480
- Purls of Wisdom: \$448
- Delegate Council: \$415
- Baking: \$386.22
- JSPN: \$365
- Shammai: \$356.96
- Swimming: \$299
- Insect Farming: \$275
- Project Polity: \$270
- Folk Life: \$250
- Storyteller’s Guild: \$190
- Total approved to date: \$32,724.64

Aphorism of the week:

Madness is the only way to immortality by oneself. That is why it is called madness.

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 300-400 words, while opinion should be kept short at 200 words. Just email 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 djnathan@sjc.edu.

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