The Rat-Tat existed long before the New Program. Like The Collegian, it was a legacy of the older sort of Johnnies. Rat-Tats were made with great craft and care from the late 19th century to the mid-20th, when they tapered off into obscurity. In the 90’s there were some efforts to revive the yearbook under the name The Canvas, and, later, simply Yearbook. The editorial staff of the 2015-2016 Rat-Tat were completely unaware of The Canvas, so we elected to title ours after the older ones which we adored so much. What began as a mistaken understanding about the history of yearbooks has now become a new tradition -- that of sticking to ancient customs and ignoring the new.

Yearbooks are funny things. At heart, they are merely an assembly of rather bad pictures taken by well-meaning, inept undergraduates. It isn't the first priority of a yearbook to tell stories, although sometimes that happens. Mostly, it is the job of a yearbook to provide context. Yearbooks are historical artifacts whose use is to aid our memories. Years from now, when St. John’s is but a distant glimmer of a forgotten dream, we hope that you pick up this book accidentally. We hope you find yourself straining past the pictures of places and faces into the world which they are a part of. This book is a contemporary document. It is a snapshot of the now. Soon, much sooner than any of us expect, now will be then. And then? What then? We will smirk.

The 2016-2017 Rat-Tat is dedicated to the St. John’s College Cooking Club. May it rest in peace.

President: Christopher Nelson Dean: Joe McFarland Assistant Dean: Katie Heines Associate Dean: Emily Langston
The Campus We Live in

As a beautiful well-maintained outside space in Historic Downtown Annapolis, the campus is a destination for members of the public looking for a pleasant place to walk their dogs. (The administration has of late been trying its best to use the students as foot soldiers in the war of discouraging this, but their efforts always seem to fall flat.) Photographers, wedding-guests, tourists, wanderers, homeless, and all sorts of other bizarre people tramp onto it daily, gazing slack-jawed at the chipped bricks, the brilliant trim, the neat grass, the spectacular history of our campus...

It is not like that for us. To us St. John’s College Annapolis is not a mere visitable location. We live here. We know full well that it is not our obligation to get out of the way so that some cheap photographer can take a prom picture, because this is our home. This is the place we see every day, and where our friends are, and where the vortex of our whole livelihood as students is centered. We welcome others, of course, and cherish our guests with the knowledge that they can’t imagine well we know the bricks of the quad. Here are pictures of the campus while it was ours.
Freshman Seminar

Everyone envies the Freshmen the fact that they are Freshmen. "We were Freshmen, once," upperclassmen oft muse, looking sadly into the distance while a herd of eighteen year-olds ash their third-ever cigarette on the quad, talking loudly (and sloppily) about Plato. The Freshmen do seem to read the best books, and they also seem to say the dumbest things. Or at least they're more excited about the things they say than the rest of us are. Or at least they're not yet wise enough to know when they're totally wrong, so they take risks. Make no mistake though: we love the Freshmen. They are so wrong, but we love them.

Of course, the class of 2020 is not only a class of Freshmen, but a whole group of individuals themselves. We have been watching you and befriending you. We wish you good fortune as you persevere through the next three years.
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Salem & Silver
Front: Mr. Eric Salem, Xin Ye, Dorothy Diaz-Sullivan, Lucy Ross, Ms. Joan Silver
2nd Row: Elizabeth Morell, Yiran Si, Haite Zhan, Brendan Reichert
3rd Row: Emmet Allen, Zach Radford, Axel Krieger
Back: Benjamin Clespil, Chance Hogan, Thel Abseridze, Luke Olson
Not Photographed: Samuel Elston

Abbott & Sinnett
Front: Yeojin Yang, Darcy Bohlin, Xiaorong Jin, Yoon Kyuyoung Cho, Yunja Park, Mr. Mark Sinnett
Back: Mr. Robert Abbott, Jon Frizker, Mark Wittmer, Renben Morris, James Rubidge, Matthew Hogan, Pearl Eastice
Not Photographed: Athena Bercedes-Luna, Marie Divine, Anton Kalmysz, Jameson Marshall, Alberto Valenzuela

Lasell & Sterling
Front: Jodi-Ann Griffin, Sean Miller, Nolan McElney, Kaila Johnson, Sadie Macdonald
2nd Row: Mr. Walter Sterling, Gabriela Sanchez, Sia Karabiber, Connor O’Malley, Nihar Dhungel
Back: Rose Pelham, Emilio Caruso, Mr. Brendan Lasell, Sam Cooper, Kidus Kebede, Morgan Wheeler, Jared Baumann
Not Photographed: Emmett Freeman, Rebecca Leigh

Tomarchio & Romiti
Front: Alexander Kocinsky, Zhongqing Zhang, Fazun Youk, Abigail Stuart, Maddie Nell Jane, Julia Cooper, Mary Turner, Zachary Flaugher
Back: Mr. John Tomarchio, Christian Sweeney, Cole Caudle, Tyler Mazur, Gus Bagns, Thomas Ralston, Robert Blankstein, Yixing Li, Logan Zimmerman, Mr. Andrew Romiti
Not Photographed: Kapil Adhikari

Not Photographed: Samuel Elston
Sophomore Seminar

The Sophomore class has a particular character which varies neither from year to year nor from decade to decade. That character is no doubt a product of their intermediate position; they are neither old nor young, wise nor foolish, virtuous nor vicious. They know what they are doing; they have learned the rules, and they keep them well. A Sophomore seminar is an orderly institution, but by no means is it a brilliant one. The Sophomores are afraid of being Freshmen once again, and so they avoid asking silly questions, questions which they will not hesitate to ask once they are Seniors. They view the pretentiousness of Freshmen ("Now, I must agree with Leo Strauss on this point...") with disdain, but they have not yet the subtlety to counter-balance their hard-won earnestness. They are no longer tadpoles, but who will dare call them frogs?

It is often said that Freshman year is wasted on the Freshmen. Sophomore year is certainly not wasted on the Sophomores. They are the only class that can read the Bible. Upper years would read the Gospels and spend two-and-a-half hours failing to decide what a son is, while the Freshmen will not pay attention to the words at all. The Sophomores know what words mean (the Class of 2019 was the last to receive lexicons at convocation, which fact the editors of this publication view with indignation) and can read the text as a text. This particular crop is better than most, as they are more faithful representatives of their type than their recent predecessors were. We wish them good luck, godspeed, and, if they merit it, enabling.
Dink & Haflidson

Front: Mr. Michael Dink, Aisha El-Khatib, Jing Zhang, Yuan Liu, Kar Mahaney, Jaeyeon Jo, Anna Hubbell, Camille Testa, Madeline Weaver

Back: Mr. Ron Haflidson, Ethan Pellegrin, Jacob Burger, Dahye Kim, Ty Weiser-Podlech

Not Photographed: Rasanijana Bhandari, John Davis, Prasanna Thapa

Luther & Yee

Mega Row: Alex Dicken, Madeline Edwards, Max von Keudell, Karlena Haase, Neal Bhattacharya, Mr. Bryan Luther, Mr. Cordell Yee, Henry Bartholomew, Stacy Villiford, James Griffin, Sean Mullins

Not Photographed: Falcon Findley, Patrick Humann, Zoe Himman, Prabesh Koirala, Jerong Ho Lee, Yiyang Mei, Yingzi Zhang, Abraham Zhao

Braithwaite & Lee

Front: Thaddeus Monierino, Ayushma Thapa, Cordelia Achen, Ms. Christine Lee

Back: Collin Walker, Seth Kates, Ivan Spruitsyn, [Mr. William Braithwaite], Sam Arron, Christian Gordon, Cyrus Schiller, Stuart Lombard, Dane Perchalis, Aisha Shahbaz, Hun Jin Ha

Not Photographed: Seung Eun Lee, Stryder Zug

Druceker & Hitz

Front: Sophia Kiang, Sarah Irving, Caren King, Mr. Robert Druceker, Yujia Zhu, Yanuan Tang, Ms. Zena Hitz, Cameron Byrd, Dylan Briceño-Hawkins


Not Photographed: Jun Hwan Hwang
Beall & Harrell

Front: Hanako Hashiguchi, A.J. Sparks, John Monday, Aidan Shaw, Samuel Harder, Louis Petrich
Back: Meredith Lehan, Benjamin Haas, Dorothea Bowerfind, Claire Tucker, Alexander Muradian, Eric Rustine, Matteo Burrell, Graham Ferguson
Not Photographed: Ms. Erica Beall, Mr. Daniel Harrell, Desiree Jones, Rachael Langston, Cara Wiley

16 Sept. 2016: Patrick Hamann (A'19) napped on the quad after dinner.

Gone but not forgotten

new bathroom cigarettes

John Himes doing his job

The last Wilder Christmas Party

Scootering furtively about

Joe Garry displays his inner gremlin, as well as the terrifying Senior Prank shirt

New farmy sprouts sproutingly
I
Charlie prepares for battle
Louis rocks out over something
The jolly campus vans in waiting

Will Harrington navigates the labyrinth
Martha poses before her hall
Louis rocks out over something
The jolly campus vans in waiting

Students huddle behind a comforting glow
James Griffin in his dorm room
Steamed Seniors enjoy hard-earned champagne
Ivan Syritsyn preparing
Junior Seminar

No year is more infamous than the Junior year. Across countless generations of Johnnies stretching backwards across the infinite lifetime of the college, "Junior year was hell," Francis Scott Key was once heard to have said.

It is often thought that the Junior stage in the life-cycle of the Johnny is its most difficult. Feeding on a steady diet of Kant, Hobbes, Leibniz, and other incredibly dense, rich, and difficult forms of sustenance the Junior must be at the height of their intellectual ability to survive and thrive. Throughout this process they are found to have a readiness to take on the challenges of life found on campus with a rapacity unseen in any other grade, taking on even the great challenge of "Reality" with a mixture of bravery and grim determination. Even compared to previous members of this class, the current group of Juniors seem hellbent on devouring and destroying the Seniors who had previously assumed roles of leadership, assuring us all that the ecology of St. Johns will at least have a firm and lively ruling class come next year.
The world of the somewhat small as viewed

Mr. Llovet and Ms. Frawley discuss something interesting

Farny weeds weed wonderfully

2nd Nov. 2016: "Poulenc... it's like Catholic jazz." Joe Loomis (A'18)

Arcadia shows off her true self
(What does she think about?)
Senior Seminar

The Senior class has found itself in rather an awkward position at campus events this year. Rarely can they succeed in mustering enough enthusiasm to bother showing up to anything (rehearsal, meetings, class, orals, &c.). When they do find themselves somewhere, they invariably employ a slow-moving, conservative approach to action. Gone are the days when we as freshman could get away with excitingly trying to "get somewhere" with Plato and Aristotle, or "do something" in the Delegate Council or KWP. Nothing matters now. Junior year taught us that no matter how much work we put into something it will turn out just as bad. Senior year has taught us that no matter how easy it is, it will make just as little sense.
26th February 2017: "Senior Year of St. John's College is quantum mechanics and racism."
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Yes, yes, you have already seen the faces of the graduating class in their diverse seminars, but it is also necessary (nay, vital!) that we honor them still with poignant vignettes. It's just one of those things. Bear with us. You non-seniors will get to take up 1/8th of a page with your leering countenance soon enough.

Grace Athanas-Linden
"The First Part of King Henry IV: What does Hal, the Rising Son, Think of Honor?"

Madeleine Banks
"Death is Inevitable, to Fear it is Optional: An Exploration of the Ways We Come to Understand Our Own Mortality"

Sebastian Barajas
"Kierkegaardian Truth: Whether the Socratic and the Theological Methods are Different in Degree or in Kind"

Jessica Benya
"Kierkegaardian Truth: Whether the Socratic and the Theological Methods are Different in Degree or in Kind"

Jermaine Brown
"The Relationship Between Space and The Human Mind: An Evaluation of Kant’s Transcendental Aesthetic"

Jenny Cawood
"My Life Stands in the Level of Your Dreams: An Exploration of Monstrosity and Humanity in The Winter's Tale"

Scott Chevaillier
"Jaques: Shakespeare’s Beautiful Soul"

Mary Christman
"A Name for Ourselves -- Exploring the Political Nature of Man Through Genesis and the Tower of Babel"
Casey Collier
"Defining Fate in King Lear"

Sophie Colt
"Death at the Party: Damning the Ebb and Flow of Mrs. Dalloway's Consciousness"

Decca Dennett
"Though Mayest Triumph Over Sin"

Charles Denton
"Play the Game: Language as Activity in Ludwig Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations"

Haley Ford
"The Real and the Ideal -- A Search for Goodness in George Eliot's Middlemarch"

Jasper Ford-Monroe
"Not by Reason, but by Life -- A Justification of Fiction with Reference to War and Peace"

Camille Gagnier
"The Growing Good of the World -- Sympathy and Reform in George Eliot's Middlemarch"

Remy Gaudin
"God's Great Mathematical Waltz"

Ambrose Donnelly
"Michael Faraday Describes Magnetism Heuristically"

Hayley Dunn
"Faith without Pain is Dead: A Meditation on the Necessity of Pain for Fear in Soren Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling"

Gabrielle Feliciani
"Man’s Possession of Truthiness -- An Essay Interconnecting Language, Politics, and the Human Experience"

Owen Forbes
"The Point and the Atom: On Indivisibility and Continuity"

Sasha Gesmer
"The Role of the Individual in War and Peace"

Joseph Gillespie-Hill
"To Be More Than What You Were -- Masculinity in Shakespeare’s Macbeth"

Kaylin Gochenaur
"The Sublime in Paradise Lost -- An Exploration of Hell, Chaos, Heaven, and Earth"

Zachary Gold
"Ducdame"
Jonathan Llovet
"Figuring God's Lyre -- Thought Community and Action after Reconciliation in Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit and Philosophy of History"

Connor McCourt
"The Topography of Being -- Being, Phusis, Alatheia, and Logos in Martin Heidegger's Introduction to Metaphysics"

Jacob Logan-Baer
"The Law and the Roman: The Righteousness of God"

Sam Mentas
"The Evolution of Emotional Maturity in Tolstoy's War and Peace"

Bianca Lora
"Eliot's Heroine Addiction: Understanding a Great Woman Limited by the Ignorance of Provincial Life"

Ashleigh Mierau
"The Evolution of a Woman: The Character of Fate and 'Tess' Reaction to It in Tess of D'Urbervilles: A Pure Woman Faithfully Preserved"

Silui Ma
"The Probability Function in Quantum Mechanics: A Formal Cause Beyond Space and Time"

Owen Morgan
"Man and Amoeba: Recognizing the Biological Basis of Our Being"

Grant Mortimer
"The Apocalypse of the Hallow Man -- An Investigation of Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness"

Alina Myer
"Immediate Conviction -- An Examination of Rationality and Reason in Gulliver's Travels"

Thomas Pack
"Rancor and Reconciliation: Lincoln's Charify as an Element of his Statesmanship"

Joshua Nichols
"Rise and Fall: A Study of Aeneas and the Final Scene of The Aeneid"

Jiangxue Ning
"The Meaning of Suffering: The Transformation of Raskolnikov in Crime and Punishment"
Jakub Piven
"We prosper well in our return: An Essay on Prospero's Magic"

Abigail Purnell
"If Men Were Angels -- Machiavelli's New Science and the American Experiment"

Claire Racette
"Between the Heaven and the Earth: An Exploration of Humanity's Identity as the Image of God in Flesh"

Noemi Ramirez
"None is so Disgusting: An Exploration into the Anatomy of Temptation in Milton's Paradise Lost"

Bonnie Scott
"Sweetbitter Eros: On Longing in Sappho's Fragments"

Erica Seman
"'Accuse Not Nature': An Exploration into the Anatomy of Temptation in Milton's Paradise Lost"

Katherine Rees
"Mouth-watering Providence -- How Huckleberry Finn Finds His Appetite for Change"

Margaret Rodgers
"Humean Life"

Garri Saganenko
"A Quest to Capture Mirth in A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Sophy Schulman
"The Reverberations of Speech in the World of King Lear"

Jon Shrestha
"On the Paradox of Quantum Theory"

Maria Solyga
"The Soul of a Karamazov"

Wesley Sonheim
"The Virtuous Yahoo and Other Problems: Travel's Ruinous Effect Upon Lemuel Gulliver"

Colin Shott
"The Possibility of Internationalism: Institutions, Custom, and Legitimacy in the Social Contract Theories of Rousseau and Kant"

Ripley Stroud
"'Great Captain, a Fair Wind and the Honey Lights of Home are All That You Seek'"
Maura Sugg
"The Unsung Hero -- An Exploration of the Power of Silence in Mozart’s Magic Flute"

Maxwell Swann
"An Exploration of Visual Imagery in Baudelaire’s Poetry"

Emmy Titcombe
"Floating Downriver: A Journey of Moments in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"

Leyla Tortamis
"After Human Nature: An Inquiry into Marx’s Concert of Alienation"

Eric Wifall
"Oedipus and the Sphinx -- An Inquiry into Understanding the Self in Beyond Good and Evil"

Peter Wilder
"Looking Through the Inner Eye: An Exploration into the Mental and Moral Forces of Clausewitz On War"

Emmy Titcombe Leyla Tortamis
"Floating Downriver: A Journey of Moments in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"

Finn
"Communism, Capitalism, and Marx’s Materialism"

Claudia Joy Vaughn
"Unhistoric Acts: Altruism, Friendship, and the Happy Life in George Eliot’s Middlemarch"

Tianren Zeng
"How Will I Love Thee, Thou Suffering One? -- An Inquiry into the Relationship between Love and Self-Overcoming in F.W. Nietzsche’s Thus Spoke Zarathustra"

Peter Wilder
"Fulfillment in Family, Family in Fulfillment"

Eric Wifall
"Understanding the Self in Beyond Good and Evil"

Peter Wilder
"Looking Through the Inner Eye: An Exploration into the Mental and Moral Forces of Clausewitz On War"

Daniel Wilson
"Communism, Capitalism, and Marx’s Materialism"

Lucinda Wright
"Reunion, Regeneration, and Renewal: An Exploration of Weeping in Milton’s Paradise Lost"

Patrick Turley
"Knock, Knock, Knock. Who’s There? An Exploration of Identity in William Shakespeare’s The Tragedie of Macbeth"

Stefan Vasic
"‘No Purpose’: When Reason Falls Asleep in The Brothers Karamazov"

Tianren Zeng
"How Will I Love Thee, Thou Suffering One? -- An Inquiry into the Relationship between Love and Self-Overcoming in F.W. Nietzsche’s Thus Spoke Zarathustra"

Collin Ziegler
"The Significance and Transformation of Wotan’s Will in Wagner’s Ring"

Nathan Huey
"Why Should We Think About Music?"
Intramurals

Intramurals and Kunai were played nearly every week during the 2016-2017 academic year. It turns out there are quite a few folk are working very hard to perpetuate perfect motion outside of lab class. Athletics director Chris Krueger impressed many with his willingness to work with the D.C. and respond to emails quickly. He was joined by the following Intramural captains: Greenwaves Jakub Piven, Jermaine Brown, and John Jane III; Spartan Grace Athanas-Linden, Guardians Josh Nichols, Robin Lancaster, and Tyler Snyder; Druids Joe Gillespie-Hill, Stefan Vasic, and Stephanie Hurn; and Hustler Scott Chevailler. They are joined in their merit by Kunai captains Grace Athanas-Linden, Marybeth Beydler, Hanako Hashigushi, Cordelia Achen, Simone Low, and Sally Jankovic.

Historical European Martial Arts

A guest instructor, Thomas Chrisman, Erin Compton, Jason Seman, Anna Hubbell, Sam Aton, Thaddia Montione, Charlie Denton (Arebon)
Reality

There has been a recent trend of changing the names of beloved Reality parties, and this has continued this year. What was once S&C is now the Achilles’ Rager. What was once Senior Shit Show is now Senior Essay Party. What was once the J Edgar Hoover Drag Ball is now the Break Down the Walls Ball. Reality 2016-2017 has dutifully thrown the requisite parties in a clean and administration-sanctioned manner. There is beer which has been paid for by the office of the Director of Student Services, music which is fine, and usually edibles.

Parties have occurred on time, as advertised, and completely respectfully. Never before has Reality been so clean, so nice, and so lovingly accommodating.

It cannot be overlooked that the usual messy craze has been all but absent from the Reality parties this year. There is a grunge which has fled. Things are too bright, decorations are too visually pleasant.

None of this is necessarily the fault of the Reality Archons this year. They are merely part of a wider trend. Still, it is good to remember that, in years past, Reality put freshmen in cages.

The Reality Archons swimming in money stolen from the smaller clubs.

Isabel August, Sawyer Neale, Felipe Rego, Alice Meyer, John Jane III, Katelin Stafford

Croquet 2016

Due to the publication schedule of the Rat-Tat, it is impossible to show pictures of the 2017 USNA-SJCA Annapolis Cup. However, since there are plenty of pictures lying around from last year, and every croquet is basically same victory played out in slightly different costumes, we have taken the liberty of showing pictures of last year’s victory. Imagine that it was this year’s. It will make our loss less disappointing.

Front Row: Jared Bassman(n), Shane Hettler, Robin Lancaster
Back Row: Ambrose “The Mongoose” Donnelly*, Alec Muradian, Sean Miller, Stephanie Horn, Mack Megewen, Joe Gilleges-Hill, Myfield Xu, Stefan Vasic, Tyler Snyder, Rhys Davis, John Jane III, Subba Niroula
*Exhibitionist Emeritus
Waltz Committee

This year was the first year that the Waltz Committee was able to serve alcohol, and they did so admirably. All of the staples were there in fun, swingy madness: The Welcome Back Waltz, The Sock Hop (in which Zeke Lemann finally secured the limbo victory he always deserved), The Valentines Day Waltz, Homecoming, and what seems like it must have been a dozen others. There were some rumblings about a possible return of the fabled Space Waltz, but quite sadly it did not come to fruition. Doesn’t Cat Baldwin make lovely posters?

The King William Players

KWP is the oldest student club on campus, and it remains strong. It is constantly reinventing itself into a better version of the club it was before, and then immediately ruining its new self with overambition. Still, this year was a good one for KWP. There were two shows each semester: *As You Like It* (Dir. Alex Warren), *Lysistrata* (Dir. Ripley Stroud), *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind* (Dir. Joe Garry), and *Spring Awakening* (Dir. Sarah Irving).
The St. John's Chorus

Under the enthusiastic direction of Mr. Peter Kalkavage and Archon Maura Sugg, the St. John's Chorus absorbed (and emitted) eight motets. These motets, by such esteemed composers as Bruckner, Palestrina, Schutz, and Gjeilo, told of crocodiles, unicorns, and Jesus. The St. John's Chorus gives practical support to a core belief of St. John's, proudly self-selected institution that it is: if you show up and work hard, you can do something beautiful.

Contemporary Choir

They have been working on a Latin piece, "Daemon Irrepit Callidus," some French pieces which by Morten Lauridsen that are settings of Rilke poems, "La Rose Complete and Dirait-on," and an African-American spiritual, "Witness," by Jack Halloran. They always sound both hydrated and hydrating.

Madrigal Choir

Bigger than Primum Mobile, the Madrigal Choir sings with almost as much polish; smaller than the St. John's Chorus, the Madrigal Choir sings with almost as much lusty vigor. They occupy a happy mean, and we always look forward to hearing them.

Primum Mobile

It seems that the otherwise good people of Primum Mobile have it in for the Polity. Why else would they insist on performing so few times a year? Why else would they inflict ages of agonizing wait upon us? Why else would they let our ears atrophy and rot, withholding the sweet sweet nectar of their heavenly song?

Suffice it to say that they sing very well and we all wish that they would perform more often.
The Spirit of Radio Club was born of an innocent desire: to listen to and discuss music without negative repercussions. While it’s impossible for Spirit of Radio to protect you from negative social reactions to your opinions on Queen, at least they won’t bring them up in your don rag. We hope.

In their own way, Equant reminds us that a world of popular culture outside of St. John’s exists. It is unclear what punishment best befits this crime, so we will continue begrudgingly listening to their cheerful voices until we enter the world again. Equant, you make us hum. How dare you.

The St. John’s Orchestra is a living testament to the marvelous perseverance of Johnnies in the face of blinding apathy.

In the first semester, the St. John’s College Orchestra performed selections from Mendelssohn’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at the Opening Ceremony for the Mitchell Gallery’s First Folio Exhibit as well as a winter concert. The early Romantic work proved a challenge in regards to both instrumentation and difficulty, but the orchestra succeeded due to the combined efforts of student arrangers, instrumentists, and new conductors. In the second semester, the orchestra pushed its limits even further by performing the entirety of Mozart’s Symphony No. 36.

The Student Jazz Coalition is a most awkward bunch. Are they a merry bunch of misfits? A pretentious collection of pompous braggarts? A selection of really really good friends? Nobody knows, but they play music in places sometimes, and they’re pretty good. At least we think so. We are grateful to all of them for conspiring down in the dungeon called “The Rock Room” to make music and lose a few years of their lives due to the asbestos.
The Delegate Council

The Delegate Council dealt with a budget shortfall with means of doubtful constitutionality, which angered everyone almost. Some Seniors, taking their cue from *Marbury v. Madison*, talked about reviving the Polity Court; being Senior, they decided not to press the point with any vigor. The delegates are also tending toward greater eccentricity. They have not responded to our emails suggesting they communicate with Equant. To be fair, the D.C. did its job, as the clubs all received money in an arguably timely fashion.

The Student Committee on Instruction

The Student Committee on Instruction had a fairly successful year; Plato in the Spring is ongoing, and the seminars are consistently attracting at least nine students, and occasionally a tutor or two. Shakespeare in the Fall did not happen, despite Mr. Freeman's suggestion that they ask more 'literary-minded' tutors, to which we reply that all tutors have minds, and hence are capable of being literary-minded (see Buchanan quote, second story Barr-Buchanan Center/Woodward Hall). When asked what they'd like to convey in their caption, the officers wrote the following: "Please come to forums. They're usually on Thursdays." "I love the D.C." "I love the D.C. Come out to croquet, we practice Tuesday and Friday at 3:30 on the front lawn."
Pink Triangle

Despite the institution of our dubious study-abroad program, the membership of Pink Triangle adds up to exactly one hundred and eighty degrees, making them the most progressive geometrical shape on campus. But don’t let the quad hear you...

Black Student Union

It is BSU’s first year as an official, chartered club. They threw a Harlem Nights themed Black History Month Celebration at the end of February and hold biweekly meetings where they talk about topics such as beauty and use movies, experiences, and discussions to learn more about black culture.

Project Polity

They do good.

Maryland Student Legislature

Members of the Maryland Student Legislature acknowledge two terrifying realities: we are students, and laws exist. Instead of trying to ignore the intricacies of local and state government until graduation -- as a normal, decent St. Johnnie might -- MSL has attended the Winter Leadership Summit at Thorpewood Lodge and Winter Session at Hood College. MSL members have written legislation aimed at improving Maryland, and have actively contributed to debates on other legislation, including a Resolution to teach Philosophy at public schools.
Board Game Club

There has not been a single late Friday evening this year when the Coffee Shop has been free from the sounds of dice rolling, cards shuffling, jewels munching, and steady authoritative strategizing. It is a loyal, lively time down there.

Epoch

This year The Epoch broke its own record. It managed to spend a record three weeks scattered across the Coffee Shop tables without anyone bothering to notice it, let alone read it. Of course, it has been very successfully published in spite of this.

The Epoch continued to supply the Polity with homegrown musings of the political problems of America and the world as they take place around and outside St. John’s.

Historia

We are always suspicious of new publications; after all, aren’t there a lot of thin and unread copies of various periodicals crowding coffee shop tables? Historia, however, has attracted editors, contributors, and even the odd reader, thus proving itself, if not indispensable, at least worthy of its keep.

Energeia

As ever-always, Energeia has remained potent this year. They tried their hand as a party planning committee with the excellent Energeia Launch Party, as well as expanded into radio with the “Johnnie Talk” podcast. As if this were not enough, they have supplied several healthy publications.
Spanish Poetry Club

“We tried to translate “Oración del Camino” by César Vallejo,” said the entire Spanish Poetry Club in unison.


Dark Room

One half of the dark room was overtaken by a highly precise complex of (very expensive) laboratory equipment to pamper first semester seniors with some smattering of quantum experiments. The other half, however, remaining unbrightened by lasers and sweaty seniors, continues to further the hobby of film photography here at St. John’s.

Christian Fellowship

The Christian Fellowship built on its 2,000 years of hard work and earnest effort. We have no doubt that the Fellowship will continue to exist for some time; perhaps for the amount of time remaining.

Farm Club

The Farm Club has not yet succeeded in its ultimate goal of over-growing the Dining Hall. Maybe next year...

3 Sept. 2016: The Farm Club found a black widow while weeding the community garden, sparking a conversation about the relationship of man, animals, gardening, and imperialism. There were no survivors.
The Tutors

The tutors of St. John’s college is where it’s at: they do all the academic legwork of the school and are constantly very busy. Naturally it’s really, really hard to get pictures of them when you aren’t trying that hard, and, well, we’ll be honest: we didn’t try all that hard. It hasn’t really been a tradition in the recent past to include a whole roster of the Tutors (for there are many, many, tutors), but we wanted to say something, right? I mean we really owe so much to the tutors. Tutor faces and mannerisms are definitely something that we want to remember, because it’s the one universal gossip topic among students. If a student is among strangers, all they have to do is mention how bizarre their math tutor was that day and a fun time is had.

The tutors sometimes teach us, which is important. All of this is to say that, this year at least, one will have to rely on memories more than the yearbook for tutor thoughts. We’re sorry.

31st March 2017: “Someone once told me that all of senior year is either history or poetry.”
The Evolution of Love at St. John's Since 1903

Reprinted from the 1903 Rat-Tat via the 1926 Rat-Tat

The Formula in 1903

Select the prettiest girl possible.
Choose a seat built for two in which to compound the mixture.
By use of two teaspoonfuls of conversation and a few pinches of persuasion cause the maiden to settle.
Gracefully take your station beside the maiden.
Throw in one cup of "sheep eyes" and 2 cups of "goo-goo eyes.
Hold her hand in yours to Hasten the action.
Keep "spooning" the mixture all the while.
Add 3 cups of laughter.
Apply your arm to her waist and rest the liking.
When ingredients are well stirred, flavor with osculatory movements to suit the taste.
The above amounts for two persons only, and are most agreeable when served in twilight or with lamps turned low.

Icing to the Same

Allow no light in the room, seat the damsel on your lap, add an armful of vigorous squeezes or flavor with tulip salve.

The Formula Today

Select the least pretentious person possible.
Choose a sluggish bagel line in which to compound the mixture.
By use of a half-pint of stumble and a double-shot of hard-of-hearing, lean in close.
Ungraciously bump, and maintain the position.
Add two cups of Wow Polity Lags on Fridays and three teaspoons of How St. John's College Has Changed Me For The Better.
Keep drinking all the while to Hasten the action.
Apply shoulder to shoulder to test the liking.
When ingredients are well stirred, transplant the mixture to a less humid location and serve up clumsily.
The above amounts for two persons only, and is most agreeable when served at Gilliam parties or Reality events held in the Dance Studio.

Icing to the Same

In a place where others are sleeping, throw in vigorous singing of half-remembered Chorus songs until the neighbors force dispersal.
It is the second continuous generation of Rat-Tat editors, and we are proud of our accomplishments. You can tell from this picture how tired we are.

If you are inspired by our tired countenances, perhaps you would like to join Yearbook Club next year and join us in the cause. Come to meetings and aid in a great publication. You get to email lots of tutors, if you’re into that. They’re full of surprises.

Also, have a good summer everyone.

This Rat-Tat also features photographs by Martha Campbell, Sasha Germer, Chance Hogan, Stephanie Hurn, Cameron McConort, Elizabeth Morelli, Alina Myer, Gabriela Sanchez, Garri Saganenko. The illustrations are by Calida Howell. If you ask nicely, maybe she’ll let you get one tattooed somewhere tasteful.

9th Apr. 2017: “I’ve heard history and poetry are the same as racism and quantum mechanics.”
Student:

Language Tutor:

______ The student’s work has been at least satisfactory
______ The student’s work cannot be judged satisfactory

Mathematics Tutor:

______ The student’s work has been at least satisfactory
______ The student’s work cannot be judged satisfactory

Laboratory/Music Tutor:

______ The student’s work has been at least satisfactory
______ The student’s work cannot be judged satisfactory

Seminar Tutors:

______ The student’s work has been at least satisfactory
______ The student’s work cannot be judged satisfactory

**
______ The student’s work has been at least satisfactory in all classes
______ The student’s work cannot be judged satisfactory in all classes because:

Remarks of the Student:

Note: The comments reported here are not equivalent to letter grades. While some attention is given to accomplishment, the main purposes of the don rag are: 1) for the tutors to share their opinions of the student’s learning; and 2) for the student to receive advice, praise, criticism, and encouragement that bear on work in the future. The don rag is an interim report.