



Baltimore's ABC's

By Jay Venit

“Baltimore—The Greatest City in America.”

There's a quote you see on lots of benches around Baltimore: “Baltimore—The Greatest City in America” Who in America believes this quote? The Yankees from New York? Nah. Those from bean town? That's a wicked no. Maybe our loving brothers from Philly? Still no. Some people in Maryland even make a joke of this. Honestly, before I came to campus I made fun of these benches, too.

The people who really believe that these benches know what

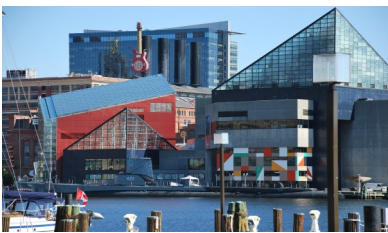
they are talking about are the people who live in Baltimore and have the pleasure of sitting on one of them every day.

I have lived just outside of Baltimore my entire life. I didn't want to go to school in Maryland, but something—I still don't know what— attracted me to Loyola. I have spent a lot of time in Baltimore over the years, from field trips, to ball games, to fun family day trips and now living here I have accepted it as my home. And you can, too!

Baltimore is such an intellectual and enjoyable place that anyone can live here and be happy. I realize that everyone is different, but everyone can live in and enjoy Baltimore because Birdland has so many fun things you could do. It doesn't matter what kind of person you are. If you consider yourself intellectual, a sports nut, or a food connoisseur, Charm City will have something for you—guaranteed!

The “A” in ABC's

For all of you who are interested in your academics and that's it—first let me tell you—this will change. Other things are important in life. You can know everything, but if you don't know the world and have life experiences, you will fail. Grades are important, but they should not be the only thing controlling your life. But if academics are your main focus while here at Loyola, the “A” in the Baltimore ABC's stands for the



Aquarium. The National Aquarium, at the heart of the Inner Harbor in

Baltimore, is one of many sites of academia which you can go to in The Greatest City in America. For those who love science, there is also the Maryland Science Center which sits opposite the Aquarium. For the artists reading this you could fit in at one of the many art museums like the American Visionary Art Museum, the Walter's Art Museum, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, or the Baltimore Museum of Art. Most of these museums have awesome hours. I visited the American Visionary Art Museum after my classes one day and still made it back in time for dinner. The museums are a hit amongst students. If art and science isn't what you are looking for, but you are still looking for academic stimulation, feel free to visit the Poe house—where Edgar

Allan Poe lived—or go to Fort McHenry. There is plenty of literature and history at those two locations. Baltimore as a whole is a very aca-



demie place; there are plenty of colleges and students from different colleges who all go to the same exhibits and academic attractions as we do. So not only is Baltimore a place to learn something new, it is also a place where you can meet someone new and grow friendships.



The “B” in ABC’s

Regarding other colleges, the second letter of the Baltimore ABC’s—“B”—comes into play. When I say play, I mean it literally. “B” stands for Ball. Like Play Ball. If you are the type of person who loves sports, Baltimore is perfect for you. You will love the sports here, starting with the rivalries we have with other schools in Baltimore. The Battle of Charles Street is between Loyola and John Hopkins and the big game falls in the spring semester when we play JHU in lacrosse. No matter what school the game is being hosted at, there will always be a sellout crowd. This is arguably one of the biggest games in the sport of lacrosse every year. If you don’t know anything about lacrosse that’s okay, your fellow greyhounds will try to get you caught up as fast as possible. If lacrosse isn’t

your thing but you still love sports we have soccer, basketball, tennis, swimming and diving that you can always go to. And these games are free because you will be a student here at Loyola. If you aren’t a big fan of college sports, it’s understandable, and Baltimore has you covered still. You can go to a Baltimore Blast game—that’s indoor arena soccer for those of you who don’t know. You can watch the Orioles at Oriole Park at Camden



Yards (OPACY for short). And I suppose if you enjoy watching one of those other teams like the Yankees or the Red Sox I guess you could watch a game there, too. The best part is, tickets aren’t even very expensive, “Every Friday, students of any age with a valid school I.D. can purchase Left Field Upper Reserve seats for just \$7 at the Oriole Park Box Office” (“Promotions”). If you are willing to pay a little more money, you could go watch your favorite team play at M&T Bank Stadium when they come in town to play the Ravens. This is another activity students love. Of course, if you are more interested in playing sports rather than watching, you could play club or pickup games on DGA field by the college center. You could also go for a swim and play more pickup or club games at Loyola’s state of the art Fitness and Aquatics Center.

The “C” in ABC’s

Playing all these sports will probably make you hungry, and that’s where the third letter of the Baltimore ABC’s comes in. “C.” “C” is for Crabs. The delicacy of Maryland. If you have never had crabs (FROM MARYLAND!), make it one of your missions while at Loyola to have one because they are the best seafood meal



that will ever touch your taste buds. Crabs aside, Baltimore is one of the greatest places to be if you are a foodie. You will not have the time—nor the money—to try all the amazing food Baltimore has to offer, but I suggest trying your hardest to hit as many

as you can. The best places to get some of these meals are hidden where you would not expect. Hampden, which is about a 5 to 10 minute car ride from campus, is home to many different little shops and restaurants, all of which are small and usually family run. Some places are even closer to that and are a great stop for a Sunday breakfast with your friends because you can walk there. Miss Shirley’s café and Roland Park Bagels are two wonderful establishments that you can wander to from campus in a jiffy. Both food stops are, simply, breakfast made by perfectionists. If you are at the Inner Harbor, there are plenty of places to eat there, too. Some students can’t even make up their minds about their favorite spot—you have that many choices.

And of course, everyone knows that “D” in the Baltimore ABC’s stands for Dogs. Because Greyhounds are dogs, and they are the dogs with the biggest heart. No matter what grouping you fit into—whether you’re a scholar, a sports fanatic, or a foodie—you all have one thing in common. You are all now Greyhounds! And you are about to start the beginning of your new life living in a new place. “I think that Baltimore being ‘The Greatest City in America’ is entirely a personal statement because of the word ‘best’; therefore, if you truly love this city, it may be the best to you” (Koegl) to make this city the best you must love it. It is up to you whether those benches around Charm City are right or not. To me, most students and staff at Loyola, the greatest city in America is right here.

“Baltimore -- The Greatest City in America.” *Baltimoresun.com*. The Baltimore Sun, 01 May 2001. Web. 25 Feb. 2017. <<http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/bal-baltimore-city-slogans-through-the-years-2-001-photo.html>>.

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