

Sean Swogger

Piss Poor Etiquette

Upon entering a bathroom, assess the environment.

If there are only three urinals like on campus, take the one farthest from the short one.

Should somebody be positioned there already,

leave an empty urinal between the two of you.

If both sides are occupied,

check the toilets.

Remember:

the middle urinal is an act of desperation.

Toilets require focus unless alone.

If surrounded by so-called “piss pals”, aim for the sides of the bowl to execute “stream silence.”

Stream silence must remain standard protocol unless another person is talking, particularly if the talker is a drunken frat boy in the Ray’s Place bathroom who wants to know if he should cheat on his girlfriend.

Breaking stream silence in a similar scenario will be the closest you ever come to pissing on somebody—lest you find yourself blackmailed by Russians who understand your tastes—so take an opportunity to appreciate the moment.

Please refrain from commenting, as Kyle Harris did in sixth grade, that the pressure of the stream is impressive.

Please refrain from rubbing the shoulders of a urinal patron, as Mr. Moskos did in eighth grade.

If alone and contact has not been made with objects that could endanger social interaction, weigh the pros and cons of washing hands. If a senile, racist grandma is waiting outside so that she can wash her dog and talk about the dirty blacks across the street, consider adding weight to any pros of not washing hands.

If at home, make this a habit unless you’re playing Guitar Hero with a roommate.

Exceptions can be made if you’re an asshole.

Should you decide that you are, in fact, an asshole, acquire the nearest roll of toilet paper and wipe that shit-eating grin off your face.



Sean Swogger is currently pursuing his MFA in Poetry at Columbia College Chicago. He graduated from Kent State University in 2017. His thesis will be about gun control, after being inspired by the Parkland movement.