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Bard Free Press, Zine (February 20, 2019)

Bard College

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Smooth Start to New Shuttle Security Policy

CASSIDY POLGA

Amongst a wave of emails sent out late last month alerting students to a number of reminders and updates on things ranging from club registration to administration departures, a policy change which arguably affects every student on campus was also sent out, with minimal fanfare. The initiative, installing a campus security guard on Thursday to Saturday shuttles from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., was explained by a desire "to help to further ensure the safety of all passengers on board the shuttles." On a campus with students as notoriously authority-wary as Bard, this move has perhaps inevitably prompted a fair amount of grumbling between students.

Speaker of the Student Body Jazondré Gibbs '19 understands this sentiment, but says that those tendencies are part of the reason for the new initiative. Gibbs explained that idea for installing a security guard on the weekend shuttles was

brought to her, the two student leaders of the peer review boards, and Jakir Hossain, the chair of the Student Life Committee, by Dean of Students Bethany Nohlgren and Director of Security John Gomez. Gibbs says that she was initially hesitant to accept the new policy, saying that she worried "it would make students uncomfortable taking the shuttle," but got fully on board when it was made clear to her and the other student leaders that the initiative was also meant to better the lives of the shuttle drivers.

She says "there have been problems for years with trying to retain bus drivers, especially for those weekend shifts, because a lot of the time students can be very rowdy or aggressive; we've had issues with drinking on the shuttle-students coming on carrying open containers, students throwing up on the bus, students vandalising the bus." This student behavior is a two-pronged problem, not



THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN

only because it affects the shuttle drivers' working environment, but also because some of the shuttles are chartered by the college, which is then charged more money when, for instance, seats are stolen.

The solution of installing security guards is not a new one, explains Director of Security Gomez, and there was no recent specific incident which prompted the change. Over email, Gomez said that "this is not a new policy. A decision to staff the shuttle was made in 2016 but due to staffing shortages, never implemented." Gomez was recently "fortunate enough to be able to hire two additional guards which allows us to staff the shuttle." Gibbs hopes that the presence of mostly familiar faces in the guards will allow students "to recognize them as someone we can go to when there's a problem, instead of just vomiting in the back of the bus" and then not alert anyone for fear of repercussions.

Students who ignore the shuttle rules on the weekends will be approached by a security guard who will record their I.D. number, and will

later go before the Peer Review Board, the lower level court. Gibbs above all wants students to understand that this was a consensual decision made for the safety of both students and shuttle drivers, and that "the security guards are not meant to be scary, they are meant to be authority figures." According to Gomez, Security has so far "had no issues and [he] has received positive feedback from students."

Bard College FREE PRESS



FEBRUARY 20, 2019
ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY

Support The Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act

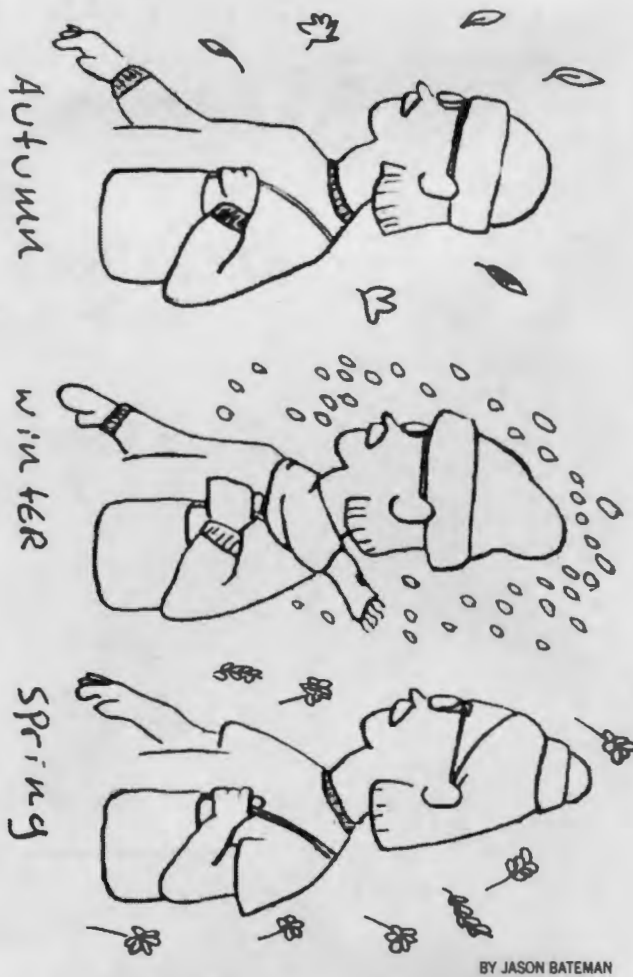
NOAH WURTZ

Agricultural workers have been deprived of their fundamental labor rights for eighty three years. In New York State, Democratic lawmakers have introduced a bill that hopes to change that. This is a moment of unprecedented opportunity for labor in the state of New York. Democrats hold a 64-seat supermajority in the Assembly and, after 6 years of Republican control, a 16 seat majority in the Senate.

It is up to us as New York state residents and voters to amplify the voices of the people who produce our food and to show our lawmakers that this issue matters. We must do everything we can to pressure lawmakers to introduce the bill onto the floor to be voted on while the Democrats still hold a majority. Show your support for New York farm workers on February 21st at a town hall event in New Paltz organized in support of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. The Student Labor dialogue will be

providing transportation.

For too long, farmworkers nationwide have been left powerless before the unfair demands of their employers. The 80,000 to 100,000 migrant, seasonal and dairy workers on New York farms do not have the right to collectively bargain, the right to overtime pay, the right to one day off per workweek, or the right to medical compensation for work related injuries due to a racist remnant of the Jim Crow era. The majority of legal rights given to American workers stretch back to the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. Roosevelt and the New Dealers realized that such sweeping legislation could only be passed with the support of Southern Dixie democrats. At the time, the South relied almost exclusively on underpaid black Americans for agricultural labor. As such, legal rights for agricultural workers threatened to disrupt the Jim Crow order of white supremacy. In the grand



BY JASON BATEMAN

American tradition of compromising with racist southern plutocrats, American farm workers were left out of the NLRA of 1935. This is still the case in the state of New York. Until 1999, farm workers weren't even entitled to a minimum wage. As of now, they still lack the right to almost every legal protection other American workers gained access to over eighty three years ago.

The lack of legal protections contributes to a cycle of exploitation and unchecked employer control. Most farm workers in the state of New York are undocumented or guest workers. Basic needs, such as driving to the store for groceries, or renting off-farm housing are hindered by the risk of legal persecution and deportation. As a result, farm workers are almost entirely reliant on their employer for basic needs such as transportations and housing.

By speaking out against their employer, farm workers and their families risk losing their home, their mobility, and oftentimes their only available income source. Instead, farm workers in New York must accept work

conditions which, for any other worker in America, would be unacceptable. They work long hours, up to 90 hours a week during the height of the season, for no overtime pay. They must accept the most dangerous work conditions in America with no access to guaranteed medical compensation. The rate of injury among agricultural workers in 2011 was 40 percent higher than the average rate for all workers. Farm workers are seven times more likely to die from work related injury. They must accept some of the lowest wages in America.

A 2011 study found that 93 percent of agricultural workers earned a poverty or subminimum wage. The housing provided by the employers is often the bare minimum required for maintaining their labor force. On a visit to a New York farm, political scientist Margaret Gray reports seeing "a small two-bedroom trailer in disrepair" which "housed eight workers and had four bare mattresses piled up in the living room." This is only a small sampling of the state of farm labor in New York. If farm workers continue to have

CURIOUS ABOUT COMPOST?

Five Easy Tips on How to Do it Right!

1 Join The Clean Plate Club

The first thing that will help you get composting right is taking the food that you want to eat, and that you think you can finish. If you eat everything on your plate you can know that nothing will be going to waste!

2 Organize Your Plate

Before you head to the Dish Room, try organizing your waste. Separate Plastic from Paper and Food Waste, and get some cutlery ready to scrape!

3 Composting Do's and Don'ts

Knowing what goes where can be confusing, but it's pretty simple! First off, all food waste can go into the green bins. You can also put paper napkins in with the food. You cannot put liquids or anything plastic, this includes plastic cutlery, and paper cups (those are lined with

plastic). Tea bags are fine, but most Tea bag packaging is lined with plastic, so that's a no no!

4 Break it Down

The most important thing to keep in mind is what can and cannot be broken down by our good old friend decomposition! Heat + Organic Matter = Nutrient Rich Soil! That means that anything that can't break down (plastic) can NOT go into the compost. But, if you ever forget, there are signs above each of the bins to clarify any confusions.

5 Be Kind!

Last, but not least, be kind to those who work in the dishroom. After disposing your waste into the proper bins, push your scraped dishes as far back as possible, and say thanks!

For any questions or concerns please contact: klight@bard.edu

no legally guaranteed right to demand higher wages and better working conditions, there is no doubt the cycle of exploitation will continue.

The argument against increasing worker wages has been that the agricultural industry is on the brink of destruction, and that any wage increases would push it over the edge. In truth, New York agriculture has been booming. Revenue from agricultural exports have tripled from around \$500 million in 2000 to \$1.5 billion in 2016. It is time that New York farm workers earned their fair share of this income.

If the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act passes, farm workers will gain

access to overtime pay, medical compensation and one guaranteed day off a week. Collective bargaining rights will allow farm workers to demand change without fear of employer retaliation. If we make it clear that the rights of American workers are a top priority for New York voters and residents, the chances are high that this new legislation could pass.

Join us on February 21st at a town hall meeting in New Paltz, New York to hear firsthand the experiences of New York farm workers and show your support for the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act.

If you are interested, you can email me at nw4568@bard.edu.

Sunrise Movement Lays Plan For Action

RACHEL HODES

On February 13, members of Bard College's newly founded Hudson Valley chapter of the Sunrise Movement walked into Antonio Delgado's New Paltz office singing. They stayed there for about forty minutes, sharing stories about how climate change has affected their lives, and handing over letters that they had each written for their representative.

One of the founders of the Hudson Valley chapter is Yonah Benstein, a first year at Bard. He called the Sunrise Movement a "horizontal organization," with no hierarchically appointed leaders. "The focus is on local action and making sure local authorities and representatives know that climate change is our top priority as constituents," he explained. Benstein became involved with the Sunrise Movement when he and co-founder Tobias Hess drove to Washington, D.C. after last year's UN report on climate change revealed that there may be just 12 years left to

limit the disastrous effects of a climate change catastrophe. After a day of training with the group, followed by a sit-in bolstered by the support of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the movement exploded. Its current focus is the Green New Deal, a resolution that proposes a set of stimulus programs that Benstein calls "the most radical environmental and economic policy since the New Deal."

The Sunrise Movement has deemed February its "Month of Action," and the Bard chapter has certainly complied. On February 5 they participated in a livestream that helped detail the group's strategies for their upcoming support of the Green New Deal. In the last few weeks, they have been tabling and encouraging students to call their representatives and endorse the resolution. Mitch McConnell plans to hold a vote on the Green New Deal as soon as possible, to avoid the possibility that groups like the Sunrise Movement will drum up further support. Their hope is that Antonio

Delgado will join in co-sponsoring the Green New Deal, and they have given him until February 26 to do so or face another, larger rally at his office.

The February 13 rally included seventeen people, and was livestreamed to the Sunrise Movement for documentation purposes. Bronwyn Simmons, who participated, described that the people working in the office "seemed defensive" until the group stopped singing, which they did on their way into the office. They they appeared more "open to listening" as students spoke about their own experiences with climate change, and collected the participants' letters to Delgado.

"We need Delgado to take strong and bold action if he wants support in 2020," Benstein explained, of the Movement's timeline. Members of the group often spoke about how young, politically active people, including many of the students involved in the movement, were the force behind Delgado's election. Now, they're hoping he'll lend his support to the issue that matters most to them.

Delgado has been making the rounds in his district through a series of Town Halls, and on February 16, he came to Germantown. Six members of the Sunrise movement were in attendance, hoping to ask their representative about his support of the Green New Deal. In the car on the way over, they strategized, hoping to emphasize their support in Delgado's election, and the urgency of climate-related legislation.

The Town Hall was held in a large barn, which was completely filled, and many people had to stand in the back due to a lack of seats. The representative spoke briefly, for about fifteen minutes, before opening up for questions, explaining that he's dedicated the week to listening to his constituents, at Town Halls and a series of farm visits. "I'm here to work, and I'm here to serve you," he concluded. "And with that, let's open up for questions. It's all fair game, I just ask that you actually as a question when you stand up... and then we can just have a nice conversation."

Many constituents raised their hands to ask a question.

Eventually, he called on a Sunrise Movement member, sophomore Akiva Hirsch, who said "I was actually at your office in Kingston earlier this week, at a rally for the Green New Deal, and will you back the Green New Deal that's been proposed as a resolution?"

"I don't make it a habit to support things that I don't necessarily have a full grasp of." Representative Delgado began. He referred back to his campaign commitments to legislation that addresses climate change. "The problem I have with a lot of this conversation and particularly on this issue is we are now living in a time where we live in headlines. And when you put something out there, and it's not clear what it actually is, in this environment, people play that however they want... I'd rather tell you what I'm for and what I'm going to do to get there, than just say that I'm for something that in this climate could mean anything."

His response, which was based around the idea that the Green New Deal plays into the desire for headlines without substance, and the lack of ability to have a

"substantive debate" on the issue, seemed oblique to many in the audience. Throughout the Town Hall, others tried to get Delgado's firm opinion on where the Green New Deal goes wrong, and what it would take for him to support it. However, he tended to focus on what he termed "concrete, practical, pragmatic steps towards a bold vision," and he did this by listing off climate-related legislation that he would support rather than speaking to the Green New Deal itself.

For instance, he would pivot to his own legislation in the green energy world as opposed to addressing the Green New Deal: "I am for making sure we invest in green jobs, which is why I'm introducing legislation asking the Department of Energy to do a study that it hasn't done in ten years on what green jobs are out there, how do they look?" When one questioner whose interests were being represented by Delgado staying away from the resolution, he answered "It's about my set of principles and how I think I can best reflect and pursue the best interests of this district, because at the end of

the day, I hear you and I understand where you're coming from."

After the Town Hall ended, the students from the Sunrise Movement made their way to the front of the barn in an effort to talk with Delgado face-to-face. Benstein first addressed Delgado, laying out the concerns of the movement and the hopes that the Green New Deal brings to young people, who are especially affected by future climate change.

"I tried to explain this to the group as a whole, and this might not be what you want to hear, and I understand that." Delgado was patient and engaged in a dialogue with the group for almost ten minutes, while aids interrupted to tell him that it was time to leave. He was still steadfast in his lack of support for the full Green New Deal, but refocused the conversation on passing legislative items as opposed to a full resolution. "There are things within the deal that I've talked about, the select committees, making sure we get off fossil fuels and incentivize investment in renewable energy... I'm laying out the plan for you,

I'm telling you the things concretely that I want to pursue," he explained to the group crowded around him.

Benstein asked how Delgado expected to get legislative items passed on a federal level. The representative responded "How-- sorry but the better question would be, how do you think we would be past the sort of grand idea as opposed to actually passing concrete legislative items? Passing a concrete legislative item is far easier than trying to figure out how to take a concept, and that's, it's a concept, the idea, this notion. And somehow get that through a politically diverse incredibly partisan atmosphere, that is determined, with outside forces... that is the climate we're in. No pun intended."

As he departed, Delgado told the group to keep paying attention to his voting record on the floor. "I hope that how I operate in this space, and the choices that I make, you just take a second and reflect a little bit on why I might be deciding to focus on certain things and not other things, for the betterment of our shared goal. I know that takes

trust. Faith. And I know that's not easy in this environment. I get it. All I ask you to do is to continue to watch us move forward, continue to see where I actually land on the series of legislative items, how I actually vote when things come up."

The group still plans to rally at one of Delgado's offices if he does not support the Green New Deal by their February 26 deadline.

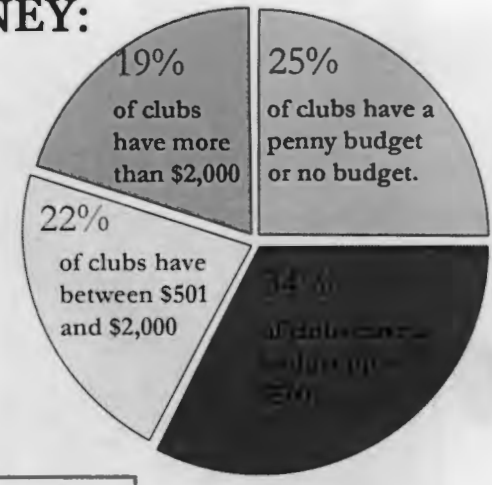
For more information on the cause, email:

Yonah Benstein (yb8026@bard.edu) or Tobias Hess (th1378@bard.edu).

SHOW ME THE MONEY:

Breaking Down the \$\$\$ For Clubs This Semester

\$232,516.63 allocated to 172 clubs



Top 5 Earners:

Student Government	15,848.21
Spring Fling	11,195.00
Code Red	7,951.10
SMOG	7,701.84
Student Activities	7,500.00
Total	50,196.15



HOROSCOPES

FEBRUARY 2019



Pisces: Looking for love, Pisces? It might be where you least expect it. Try something new this week. Maybe spin class?



Aries: This week it's time for you to get your finances in check, Aries. Think twice about going off campus for brunch-- your wallet will thank you.



Taurus: This week is all about strengthening the relationships you have. Thinking of a friend you haven't seen all semester? Invite them to lunch and catch up!



Gemini: You've got a lot going on, Gemini, but don't get discouraged. If anyone can make it all happen, it's you. Take a deep breath, put on your favorite outfit, and go get it done!



Cancer: Feeling stuck, Cancer? You've been sticking to your comfort zone lately. It's okay that lately you're happiest staying in and covering up with cozy sweaters-- that's what winter is for!



Leo: Leo, you know that the world is your oyster. Take advantage of that! I sense a big confession this week, and I'm here to tell you it will all go smoothly.



Virgo: It's time to start setting your goals for the semester, Virgo. You've got a big project on the horizon, and now's the time to get planning.



Libra: Have you been putting off sending that email, Libra? Time to get it done. Once you can check it off the list you'll feel much better, and you can get started on more important stuff, like your new piece of collaborative performance art.



Scorpio: You've been all over the place this week, Scorpio. Well, your hard work is about to pay off. It's time to sit back and enjoy yourself a bit, and breathe!



Sagittarius: It's time for you to ask yourself what you really want. Is it discount candy leftover from Valentine's day? Is it a walk down the seasonal path without slipping on the ice? Spend some time on yourself and figure it out.



Capricorn: Hey Capricorn, I know that you've been on a roll lately. Good news is your luck continues this week. Look forward to your favorite breakfast in Kline and shuttles that run totally on time.



Aquarius: Alright, Aquarius, this week you'll get down to business. Find a quiet spot in the library and park yourself there-- you're feeling productive.

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