

ARTS

F A L L 2008



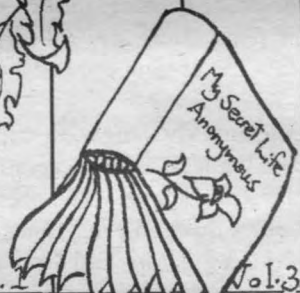
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Observer

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Sara J.P.



SLD, Bard Democrats Host Gillibrand Rally

Robert McKeon discusses living wage, cost of living

BY ENRICO PURITA

The Bard Student Labor Dialogue and the Bard Democrats teamed up on October 25 to host a rally for Democratic candidates Kristin Gillibrand, Robert McKeon, Joan Posner, Ken Dow, and Anne Rubin.

Held in Weis Cinema, the rally featured a mixed crowd of both Bard students and local residents interested in hearing more about whom they are inclined to vote for on Election Day. Centered around the re-election campaign of Congresswoman Kristin Gillibrand, the rally also featured short speeches by Robert McKeon running for Red Hook Town Board, Joan Posner for Family Court Judge, Ken Dow for State Senate, and Ann Rubin for State Assembly.

The Bard Student Labor Dialogue teamed up with the Bard Democrats for this event to promote key issues of workers rights and living wage. Information about the living wage campaign that the SLD is working on was available outside the rally for interested supporters. Robert McKeon, who is at Bard often campaigning for the Red Hook Democrats, was willing to answer some questions regarding living wage and cost of living.

In reference to living wage, McKeon said, "I am a strong proponent of a living wage. I support increases in minimum wage, and I think we have to change our tax structure both in New York and across the nation." He also went on to state, "The only way we can succeed is if we allow people to survive off of one job."

In reference to cost of living, a growing concern among Hudson Valley residents, McKeon talked about his involvement as the head of a regional tax group in Northern Dutchess County that has lobbied for a property tax based on income rather than property value. Gentrification, he said, has brought in higher incomes, which has brought an increase in property value. "Once we can get a tax system that asks those who can afford to pay more to pay more, this is where it starts," he said.

McKeon's next issue regarding cost of living was changing the income tax structure. He talked about how the wealthiest New Yorkers once were taxed on 15 percent of their income whereas they are now taxed on 8 percent of their income. "Less flat and more progressive" is how McKeon described his vision of an improved tax structure in New York State.

New York is 32nd in the nation in state contribution to public education. This is another issue that McKeon is making central to his campaign. He talked about the importance of receiving state funding for education in communities that do not have high incomes.

McKeon also started a trend at the rally by mentioning Barack Obama as a central figure in the campaign by referring to him as "the person who is not able to be here today who is the one that we should perhaps celebrate the most." The others all mentioned Obama and his importance to the policy decisions of the Democratic Party, and this is echoed in the group's slogan for this election,

Cont'd Pg. 4

Interview with Presidential Candidate Brian Moore of the Socialist Party

BY CHIP GIBBONS

Chip Gibbons: Why are you running for President?

Brian Moore: To offer a radical systemic change to our economy in order to offer solutions to our serious problems, and not just some softball reforms that the majority candidates propose.

CG: What is your political background?

BM: I am a socialist of less than two years, in name, but have been a socialist in my platform positions for the last 8 years. I was a campaign volunteer for Democratic, Independent and Citizen Party candidates the first twenty years of my adult life; and upon becoming a candidate for the previous twenty years, I was totally disillusioned with the Democratic party, and ran mostly as an Independent.

CG: Why should Bard students vote for you?

BM: Because I have put principle ahead of power and party all of my life. I have acted at times with singular courage and political fortitude, and history has shown that my positions have been mostly vindicated. I have thus demonstrated good judgment, vision and have stood up for principle.

CG: How do you differ from your opponents?

BM: As mentioned above, I am a socialist, they are mostly capitalists, even though of different political parties. I offer radical change, they offer timid reform. I call for the elimination of all for-profit corporations, the nationalization and confiscation of for-profit entities, and the transfer of power, ownership and control to workers and citizens. Thus, we will form a more democratic society where decisions are made from the bottom up, and a greater percentage of people benefit under our system.

CG: What challenges do third party candidates face?

BM: We lack ballot access in individual states, party resources and manpower and financial support. The press and the media do not provide us any credibility, which ripples through everything else. The two major parties also control the legislatures, who set the laws, and discriminate and obfuscate against minor political parties with less power and resources.

We cannot participate in debates. We have to overcome difficult images and myths promoted over the years by the press, threatened corporations, and fear-mongering and red-baiting by the two major parties.

CG: Throughout the course of your candidacy you've been involved in several lawsuits regarding ballot access (Ohio, Mississippi, Louisiana). Could you explain the cases and where each one currently stands?

BM: For those who are interested, here are what appear to be the final results for the ballot access cases we filed or argued this election cycle:

1. Moore v. Brunner, No. 08-224 (S.D. Ohio 2008) (2008WL3883639), invalidated Ohio's statute requiring that the circulators of candidates' petitions be residents who are registered to vote in Ohio. Independent candidates for office in Ohio are required to collect signatures. This requires circulators. The residence and registration requirements were commonly used to challenge circulators' collection efforts. If a circulator is not a true 30-day resident, all of the signatures he or she collects are invalid. This is what tripped Ralph Nader up in 2004. Invalidation of the law makes it easier for independents, like Nader, to qualify for the ballot in Ohio.

2. Moore v. Brunner, No. 08-224 (S.D. Ohio 2008) (2008WL2323530), ordered the Socialist Party USA presidential ticket onto Ohio's ballot. Once the Libertarian Party case came down, the Socialists moved to amend their complaint to gain ac-



Socialism For America!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cess as a party, too. This case was then consolidated with the Libertarian Party case. The Court then found that the Socialist Party USA had a significant modicum of support in Ohio and ordered its candidates, Brian Moore and Stewart Alexander, onto the Ohio ballot with the Socialist Party USA label. The Green Party and the Constitution Party later sought and were awarded this same relief. Hence, there will be four minor-party candidates on the Ohio presidential ballot; the most since 1932 I am told. (Nader will also appear as an independent).

3. Libertarian Party of Louisiana, Brian Moore, Socialist Party v. Dardenne, No. 08-582 (M.D. La. 2008), invalidated the Louisiana Secretary of State's new deadline, issued in the wake of Hurricane Gustav, that required that parties file all their qualifying papers by September 8. Louisiana's statutory deadline had been September 2, but the state was shut down that week by Gustav. The Secretary did not re-open until September 8. When it did, it informed the Libertarian Party at 3:15 PM that its papers had to be filed by the end of the day. The Governor, meanwhile, had extended all deadlines in "legal, administrative and regulatory proceedings" to September 12. The Libertarians filed on September 10. The Court found that the Secretary did not have the authority under Article II of the Constitution, see Libertarian Party of Ohio v. Brunner, to set a deadline and used its equitable powers to place Barr/Root on the ballot. Unfortunately, the Fifth Circuit stayed the order two days later. It concluded that forcing the state to correct its ballots would be disruptive and cost too much, even though the election was six weeks away. See No. 08-30922 (5th Cir. 2008) (2008WL4375782). The Supreme Court denied our Application for a Stay of the Fifth Circuit's order. No. 08A269 (U.S., Oct. 7, 2008) (2008WL4482790).

5. Moore v. Hosemann, No. 08-573 (S.D. Miss. 2008), rejected the claim that the Mississippi Secretary's rejection of papers filed on behalf of the Natural Law Party at 5:01 PM on September 5, the qualifying day in Mississippi, violated Article II of the Constitution. Mississippi law states that presidential candidates must qualify by September 5. It says nothing about the



Brian Moore (right) with running mate Stewart Alexander

time of day. The Mississippi Secretary of State closed at 5 PM on September 5, just as the Natural Law Party arrived. It refused to open to accept their papers. We argued that the Secretary has no power under Article II to change the Legislature's deadline of September 5. The Court refused to issue an injunction. The Fifth Circuit also rejected our Motion for a Preliminary Injunction. We will continue to pursue the case after the election.

CG: What is the Socialist Party USA?
 BM: Socialist Party is committed to the transformation of capitalism through the creation of a democratic socialist society based on compassion, empathy and respect as well as the development of new social structures. Socialism will establish a new social and economic order in which workers and community members will take responsibility for and control of their interpersonal relationships and the production and distribution of all goods and services.

CG: How many members does the Socialist Party USA have?
 BM: 2500 dues paying members

CG: What lead you to join the Socialist Party USA?
 BM: A recognition that my philosophy is best reflected by the Socialist Party.

CG: What do you believe is the most important issue facing America?
 BM: Changing the economic system to avoid total collapse. We need to transform America from capitalism to socialism in order to survive, and in order to have a more equitable society.

CG: How do you feel about the bailout? How would you deal with the economic crisis?
 BM: Oppose the bailout. Nationalize all financial institutions and form an independent economic authority, socially controlled, democratically operated, through credit unions, cooperatives and state banks. Plus, nationalize all for-profit institutions and transfer ownership and control to the workers.

CG: What would US foreign policy look like under a Moore Administration?
 BM: Pull out of Iraq and Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran within three months; reduce Defense budget in half immediately, and another half within five years. Close all overseas military bases; rid all weapons of mass destruction; phase out nuclear power commercially and militarily; stop the sale of weapons of mass destruction; deal with all countries in the middle east on an equitable basis, and not favor Israel.

CG: A common issue on college campuses is a livable wage for all campus employees. If elected, what would you do about a livable wage?
 BM: Guaranteed income for all adult citizens; especially the handicapped, the homeless, the seniors and the housewives home raising children; plus the lower income workers would also be given a base level of \$35,000 annually. Students would be provided full access to education. My guaranteed income plan would apply to all campus employees. Students would probably not fall under those categories for guaranteed income.

CG: Do you believe there are certain issues neglected by the major parties? If so, why do you think they are neglected?
 BM: Definitely. The two major parties are capitalistic parties, who have supported the bailout, the war, not advocated a universal health care system, full employment nor housing. They are dependent on corporate monies and their good will and thus imprison themselves from fully supporting peoples' rights and needs. Thus, the Democrats and Republicans compromise their principles to retain power, but fail to represent people's interests first.

THIS ISSUE!

KOCK FIGHT..... 4

RUGBY GORE..... 5

FALL HAPPENINGS 5-6

PROVOCATIVE OPINIONS 7-10

VOTING LOCAL & OBAMA AT THE DEBATES 7

U.S. VS INDIA & TEACHING AFTER BARD 8



Kock Fight Club: Mischief, Mayhem, Feathers

BY ALEX ERIKSEN



//Walker Tate

What sounds like the pornographic version of the cult-classic book and its film incarnation is actually a new spin on Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by True Love Productions's Daniel Fish. *Kock Fight Club* (or KFC, get it?) never borrows from the work of its namesake, but stands right alongside it with its penchant for sex and violence. The play includes all manner of bumping and grinding, cat fights, a simulated golden shower and even a suicide for good measure. The show also features elaborate special effects and musical numbers, some translating Shakespeare's lines into song lyrics.

The play departs radically from the source material only in its presentation. The plot focus is still on the four lovers, all of whom are incidentally played by women. "I didn't go into it to make a statement about women, that's not it at all" said Fish, "a lot of people auditioned for the show and they were the four that most caught my interest." Among other changes, the audience is not traditionally seated in front of the stage. As a matter of fact, there is no stage. For the duration,

with the exception of an occasional chorus of chicken noises.

In lieu of a stage, KFC uses a pit in the Performing Arts Center, about ten feet deep, fifteen feet wide and about twenty-five feet across. Here is where the show unfolds as you sit, stand, or do whatever it is you feel like. The actors maneuver around the audience with striking agility. The unconventional arena didn't seem to faze them at all. This is a small wonder after six weeks of rehearsal. The play was rehearsed entirely in the pit at the PAC, letting both cast and ensemble get comfortable with their surroundings.

The lights came down just before the beginning of the first act and it was revealed the cast was alongside us in disguise. Things only got more interesting from there. Rather than a comedy of errors, the play focuses more centrally on the anguish and pain of the four lovers' bizarre circumstances. "I looked at the play again and realized, every other scene, there's a fight" said Fish. The violence isn't merely sensationalized to shock the audience; it has real ground-

cast and audience alike are intermingled. Dress code is also a factor, as all attendees are required to wear chicken suits with masks to match. The suit is a kind of poncho made from a yellow shag material, and the masks, bought in bulk, made of styrofoam. The chicken disguises give the audience a feeling of anonymity, which comes in handy being in such closed quarters with the actors. "It completely changed the experience" said Fish, "I wanted them to be close to the players, to be inside the dream of the play, to make it more interesting and have the experience be more intimate." As to why chickens, it seems it could have just as easily been something else. When asked, the director simply replied: "why not?" The free radical of the audience's size and behavior was what put director and cast on edge the most. "That was a big unknown all through this" said Fish "I tend to be drawn to risk in my work, inject a bit of chance into it." However, in the eight performances of KFC, the audience was generally docile,

ing in the host material. "These are just four people in a real situation, that's how we did it" said preformer Angelina Impellizzeri.

The elaborate special effects, like a gigantic projector screen that would descend over the pit, almost seemed in contest with the performers. That and musical interludes like the punk-rock ballad "Use Me As Your Spaniel" and a version of Eurhythmics - "Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)" seemed to be edging in on the spotlight. "Sometimes they would fight with each other" said Ashley Mayne "but the accompaniment supported what I was doing in a good way." Performers said they had difficulty staying in key and still delivering their lines, but enjoyed the new perspective on old material. "It was really great to work with a director who wasn't afraid of Shakespeare and to do something different" said Mayne. There were concerns among the cast that focus would shift given how technologically oriented the show was, but Fish managed to juggle the two and they acted for the most part in complete harmony.

It's not often a director is able to stake his own claim to something as widely preformed as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but Fish has done just that and with substantial success. The production defied all convention but was standing on its own two feet by the last curtain call. Uncertainty reigned supreme in both the show's preparation and its presentation, but rather than bewilder, the audience was captivated. With KFC being such a strong success, we can only hope Fish will return for round 2.

The Glamorous Confusion of Skeletal Lamping

OF MONTREAL'S LATEST EFFORT IS EXCITING DESPITE BEING UNEVEN

BY ENRICO PURITA

It isn't Elephant 6. It isn't indie rock. It's definitely still weird. Of Montreal is moving into a new realm of characterization highlighted by shades of glam, orchestral pop, and funk and their new album, *Skeletal Lamping*, puts it all together in one neat, colorful, and incredibly confusing package.

This is Of Montreal's *Midnite Vultures*. That is, to say, that Kevin Barnes and the rest of the guys from Georgia have come to the point in their career where they are exploring every musical motif of their past, present, and future. The genre hopping in *Skeletal Lamping*, like Beck's magnum opus of pop stardom, does not just run from song to song but from minute to minute.

The first track, "Nonpareil of Favor" (whatever that means), switches from the brand of orchestral pop that Of Montreal has patented to punk-driven guitar rock and finally to spacey psychedelia ala *The Flaming Lips*. If Prince were white and alive during the 70s, you would have much of the ideas present in *Skeletal Lamping*. Confused? Well, that's because there's a lot to sift through here. "Wicked Wisdom" is puzzling in the sense that it features elements of Beatle-esque pop without the rawness, Bowie-era glam without the edge, and a chorus that sounds recycled both in its lyrics ("we are the champions my friends") and Barnes' falsetto possibly stripped from his mom's Bee Gees records.

The album's length of 58 minutes and the 16 tracks make the album somewhat of a mess (albeit a fun one). Of Montreal fans won't be surprised by the upbeat ear candy that echoes throughout the album. If this is actually Kevin Barnes' leap from indie rock darling to star front man, however, the album doesn't present anything too new. If one doesn't take this aspect of Barnes' songwriting into account, this is fresh music.

As opposed to *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*, this album is interesting throughout despite having problems with flow. The album really gets going toward the middle to appeal to any drug-infused party.

Kevin Barnes
of Of Montreal

"Touched Something Hollow" is used to segue into a trio of synth-driven dance numbers that show that Of Montreal is just really good at being energetic. "An Eluardian Instance" includes well-placed horns, a brilliant orchestral arrangement, and the vocal melodies that Kevin Barnes arranges so well to create one of the best examples of indie pop on the whole album.

"Gallery Piece" may be the album's mission statement. Kevin Barnes' metaphors of comparing sex to art through mood-shifting, fast-paced verses is like nothing else. Despite all the comparisons Of Montreal is getting to a variety of past artists (most of which are justified), "Gallery Piece" is original and seems to signal the exciting direction that the band may go next.

Kevin Barnes is least effective when he tries to emulate 80s soul music. This is why the album has flow problems. Due to the fact that the soul is used to break up the possible monotony of the upbeat pop, it instead sounds forced and generic.

This is a shame because it prevents *Skeletal Lamping* from being up to par with the best Of Montreal efforts like *Sunlandic Twins* or *Satanic Panic in the Attic*. The album does, however, close strong with "Death Is Not a Parallel Move" (Barnes declaring "I Feel Just Like a Ghost" puts a darker glow on a glittery album) and "ID Engager." The latter ends the album with an appropriately quirky and catchy vocal harmony that rings throughout the song.

Judging from their latest concert in NYC's Roseland Ballroom and the look and feel of *Skeletal Lamping*, Of Montreal is moving into new territory. Their psychedelic live show has been replaced by a still psychedelic but increasingly more ridiculous variety stage show.

Between Kevin Barnes' outlandish costumes and the masses of groupies with choreographed stage moves, Of Montreal is more glamorous than ever. *Skeletal Lamping*, despite not being Of Montreal's best effort, is the reflection of this glamour.

Gillibrand Rally

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Row A all the way."

Joan Posner focused on the fact that there has never been a Democrat elected to Family Court Judge, and the importance of same-sex marriage rights.

Krstin Gillibrand closed the rally by delivering a focused speech in which she explained her accomplishments in Congress. She also mentioned that she voted against the bail out plan in order to emphasize her proximity to working class families rather than CEOs.

The rally tended to focus on the Populist qualities of the candidates involved. The candidates consistently emphasized a focus on working families, an idea that the Student Labor Dialogue and the Bard Democrats wanted to present to students and the local community.



Blaine Keller will eventually go on to get 11 stitches. // photo-cred. Alex Eriksen

Bard Rugby: October Brings First Win in Two Semesters

FOR BRFC, FIRST VICTORY PAID IN BLOOD

BY ALEX ERIKSEN

As the team marched off the field a great sense of relief was in the air. You could see it in the older players and by osmosis too in the younger ones, there was something different about the way they took their boots off or how they talked to one another. In 80 minutes the club broke a near two and a half year string of defeats. Some veterans compared it to a curse being lifted. Their last jog around the Red Hook field felt like a victory lap. "It's been a while since we've won a full squad game; I know a lot of us have been hungry for a while and this was our week, being home, against our rivals, that's what we'd been focusing on, that this was our game, nobody else's" said BRFC captain Joe Forsyth.

The victory could not have come at a better time, with half of the fall season still to come, and new members of the club emboldened by a victory, over an arch rival no less, the BRFC had good reason to be optimistic. Beating Drew however was not simply inevitable. Anxiety over Drew in the last two seasons had built to the point where to endure more frustration over losing games the BRFC knew they should be winning would be akin to a spiritual surrender by the club's leadership. It was time to win and the club did not miss their chance.

The team came into this game looking ready, more determined than I've seen them in a long time, since I began covering them steadily more than a year and half ago. What was unusual about their warm up was their attention to a new line out drill. They ran this a few times as Drew's bench warmed up. It looked like a normal drill but a fourth man was placed behind the three groups of lifters. The way it worked was that by pitching the ball headlong over the jumpers, a player could receive it and get on a breakaway before Drew could disassemble their jump and give chase. Good in theory but in practice it was only attempted once or twice. The point is that it seems that Bard has finally gotten wise to the fact that they're not going to outmuscle anybody, point in case: the recent games against Rutgers and William-Patterson, both ending

in crushing defeats for the BRFC. The proverb about brains over brawn comes to mind and really seems to prove that Bard is a place to think, even on the rugby pitch.

The club is reorganizing their strategy threefold: technique, technique, technique. To find the brains behind the changes one has to look no further than head Coach Brian Wolf and team captain Joe Forsyth. In the past few weeks they've worked closely together to answer one simple question: "why aren't we winning any games?" To which the answer is the team has in the past tried to use brute strength to compensate for ability and play-making. And when a game becomes a grudge-match, you only need to look at the team with the bigger bench to find the winners. Over and over the BRFC has lost purely by attrition, burning up their resources till they're depleted. But thankfully the club is moving away from a war-of-exhaustion approach to a higher plane of a thinking man's game.

The match against Drew was the successful test of this new philosophy. The BRFC was ready to capitalize on Drew's weaknesses, namely a poorly staggered back line that left them vulnerable to kicks. Every time Drew's defense would charge up, Forsyth would give the ball a nice kick and send the Drew defense into a full retreat. That unstaggered back line did little but gain procession of the ball before Bard came on in full attack. Gaining ground in this way, the BRFC pushed their way to the try line. Their first point on the boards came from a beautiful turn over on a blocked dropkick on the 22 yard line. Center Nathan Gandrud quickly recovered the ball and drove it hard into the Drew try-zone, putting Bard's first points on the board. The kick after failed but it mattered little; this was the first try by Bard in the first twenty minutes of a game in recent memory. The morale boost unquestionably fueled the march to victory.

The Bard was not without disadvantages however. In the first thirty minutes of the game they lost both their A line locks, Blaine Keller and John Borth-

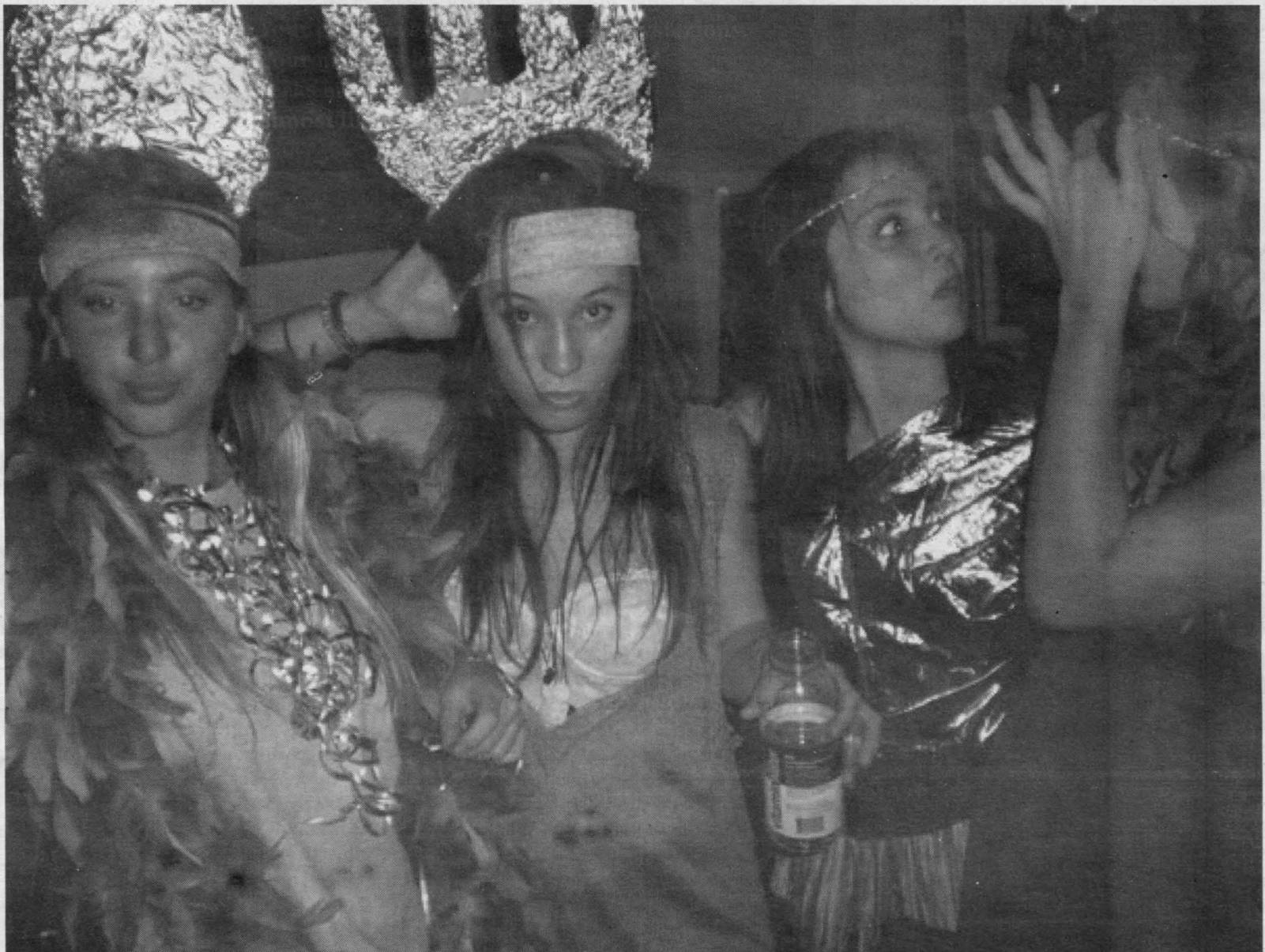
wick, to head injuries. Blood streaming down their faces, the pair sat shaking with adrenaline on the sideline while a trainer swabbed their wounds. Both got stitches and a good scar with a story to tell. The scrums luckily seemed unaffected, as Bard won 8 of 10 scrums, not including those that collapsed.

In addition, star kicker Willy Chriton performance faltered under pressure, making only three conversionary kicks and missing all those made for extra points. "There's a lot of pressure on Willy, and in a game like this where we expect to win, put points on the board, he could certainly feel it" said Forsyth. Chriton is the team's only long distance kicker and an almost unrealistic amount is expected from him in each game. When the score is down and time is running out, the team needs its kicker to close the gap and hearten the team to play on. Is that too much to ask? In Chriton's case it seems so, as the responsibility lays squarely on him alone.

Another stumbling block was discipline; the BRFC incurred 21 penalties in the course of the game compared to Drew's 16. The referee was calling the game close and his scrutiny showed just how much farther the club needs to go in their composure. The obstacle the club should be focusing on now that their playbook is in order is not surrender the field ten yards at a time.

All said the BRFC came over their rivals 21 to 5, with Drew scoring only within the last five minutes. Change is what the club needed and change they got. Two and a half years is a long time to go without a victory, especially for those soon to be graduating club members. An objective for the BRFC seems to be more than just winning games this season and for the upcoming spring, but to build up a club worthy to be passed on to the next generation. As for if they will pass this test, only time will tell, but every solid victory pushes back the threat of extinction and brings forward the opportunity for those senior members to build their legacy.

H A L L O W E E N





The Descent from the World.

Nick Ogonek

The devil lies in bed, it is the afternoon.
Between the devil and an unmade bed,
I'd take the devil. His green eyes flutter closed;
you have to get up sometime! –
devil in your autumn bower.

The devil feels like a refugee in his own home.
He feels overwhelmed by life. Nighttime again:
the devil needs to pee but it is so dark.
He takes a flashlight from his dresser and switches it on.
A thin yellow beam licks the walls, the floor.

You have to get up sometime! –
devil in your parent's house.

Your green eyes are dashing and mysterious.
Your unmade bed
reeks and is gray from dust,
almost like the inside of a pocket.



Vote Down the Ticket: An Argument for Local Politics

BY MĀYA PERLMANN

I didn't vote last November. Dutchess County held elections for offices including New York State Supreme Court Justice, County District Attorney, County Legislator, among others. Like so many other Bard kids, I am registered to vote here, in Dutchess County. But upon arriving at Bard, I felt ridiculous participating in local elections. I figured I wasn't part of the local community and I'll only be living here four years, so why should I have a say in Red Hook's Town Board? Don't the local residents resent us enough?

But I changed my mind. This November, I will be voting not only for the president, but also for the Congressman, State Senator, Assemblyman, Councilman, and Family Court Judge, and I hope all of you do the same (if you're registered at Bard). Here's why:

1. **It's Your Right:** If you are registered to vote in Dutchess County, you cannot vote for any other state's or town's candidates. The Dutchess County officials are our representatives! It makes no sense that for four years of college, we should be disenfranchised locally!

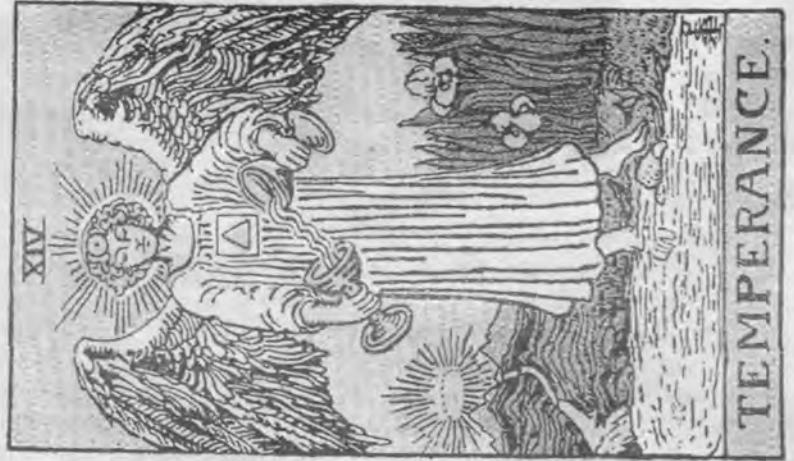
2. **Local Politics Are Not Isolated:** This November, Kirsten Gillibrand and Sandy Treadwell are running for Congress, which, in fact, is not local. Whoever gets elected for congress will be our representative in Washington, voting on Iraq, taxes, health care, environmental policy and other national issues. Beyond the congressional election, every other race, all the way down to the Robert Latimer versus Robert Mckeon race for Town Board, is significant. Local officials are the foundation of our government. Local policies are not isolated; good policy gets copied around the state, and even nationally. For exam-

ple, local land preservation efforts in Red Hook have been copied around New York State.

3. **Local Politics Affect Us:** True, the president plays an extremely important role; but in fact, the representatives that arguably affect our daily life the most are our local officials. One specific issue that affects Bard students is the possibility of a polling place on Bard campus. As Bard students, we are a large voting bloc in Dutchess County, but we have been forced to vote at the Barrytown Church. Robert McKeon, a candidate for Town Councilman, has promised that he will work to put a polling place on Bard campus.

4. **What About Local Resentment?** We are citizens of Dutchess County, in the exact same way that a born-and-bred, middle-aged Tivolian is a citizen of Dutchess County. In fact, we are a sizable portion of the electorate. Just like other members of the electorate, we have to power to change the outcomes. If local politicians see that Bard students are voting in local elections, they will be forced to compete for our vote and respond to our demands!

5. **This is an Exciting Time in Dutchess County:** Unlike many local elections around the country, all the local races in Dutchess County are competitive; every vote counts! For a variety of reasons including the influx of new residents arriving from New York City, Dutchess County now has more registered Democrats than Republicans for the first time in history. According to Jenny Lee Adrian of the Poughkeepsie Journal, Dutchess County now has about 164,000 voters: 53,470 Democrats, 53,091 Republicans and 44,045 voters not affiliated with a party.



The Banality of Televised Debates

BY JAMES MOLLOY

I happened to be home the Friday of the first presidential debate. I watched it with a friend and her mother on an enormous flatscreen tv hung on the wall in their basement. Lounging on separate couches, we watched McCain's right arm rise and fall stiffly in his suit like a piece of heavy machinery. Like a huge and terrifying city crane swinging independent of any guiding agency towards the wooden podium-building, and the meaningless refrain, "My friends." The mother poured more wine. I tried to concentrate but my eyes kept watering. Every now and then I would snap to like from a dream and realize I had not been listening for some time.

I started to look at the digital clock on the cable box. Eventually I focused my eyes and saw that ninety minutes were nearly up and I turned back to the TV and Obama was making his closing statement looking right into the camera, which was a little startling. The three of us chatted a little after it was over. The mother was bleary-eyed. She kept sipping the wine. We wondered if McCain had won. We weren't sure. We said things like, Yes, obviously the man's an obsessed bellicose militarist, but I can understand how someone else watching this would have thought, etc. The tv was still on. We watched it absentmindedly as we talked. The camera was panning around a table full of reporters, weirdly all with laptops open in front of them. The camera panned away from the table and self-reflexively focused on a techie

dressed in black holding a second camera. Shortly after that I went to sleep. I think I dreamt that I was lying in adobe house in a red desert on a mat of reeds.

I watched the vice presidential debate in Tivoli at Madalin's Table. My friends knew the bartender, which meant that we could enjoy the Palin debut over a good beer, thank god. The place was full of Bard students. We sat at a table in the corner and as the debate got under way more Bardfolk arrived, more than there were seats for. Some stood against the wall. The owner hiked the volume on the tv. Within half an hour people began to throw red drink-


stirrers at Palin. Around the same time Joe Biden began referring to himself in the third person. I took out a pen and began to copy down some of what Palin was saying onto my napkin, making sure to remain within the perimeter of the wet circle of the beer stein.

I had read that it was impossible to diagram her sentences. It was true, I discovered. Halfway into the debate I received a text message from a friend watching across the street at the bar. "What a waster. The format works well for her." It did. As I looked up she said "maverick" again. I later read that ironically Maverick is the surname of a family famous since the 1600's for its liberal progressive politics. As late as February 2003, just before he died, Maury Maverick Jr., a civil libertarian and a lawyer who had defended draft-resisters before serving in the Texas Legislature during the McCarthy-era, published an attack on the pending war in Iraq. His father, Fontaine Maury Maverick, a Democratic congressman and mayor of San Antonio, had in 1944 coined the term "gobbledygook" to describe the "convoluted language of bureaucrats." Incredible.

I received another text message. "Come for a drink at my friend's house after this mess is over." I couldn't. I had to drive another friend from Madalin's Table back to campus. In the car he said, Yeah, obviously, but I don't know if someone else watching it might have thought that, etc.

I watched the second presidential debate in the campus center's MPR in the company of, I'd guess, maybe two hundred other people. CNN was trying something new, as the perpetually unshaven Wolf Blitzer explained, standing in front of a giant tv screen in the CNN studio. Tvs inside of tvs. In the background there were people pacing in and out of the shot or sitting at computers on cell phones in the shadows. It was a live double line-graph at the bottom of the screen that during the debate would monitor the moment to moment "pulse" of a focus group of undecided male and female voters. This was obviously important. To know exactly how that bizarre little community of voters react to each word, gesture, facial expression, camera angle. What are these self-important "undecideds" still waiting to hear? No one knows, and they love that about themselves. That they don't even know. Yes, we'll go on television. Were the lines in the graph averages of the their combined "pulses"? Did it matter how hard they pushed the positive and

Cont'd Pg 8



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Consequences of New US-India Civil Nuclear Pact Unclear

BY CAROLINE FRIEDMAN (ADJUNCT OPINIONS EDITOR)

Earlier this month, the US Senate voted to pass the US-India Civil Nuclear pact. This follows years of tumultuous politicking on the part of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that threatened to tear apart his fragile coalition government. This pact will overturn a more than 30-year ban on US civil nuclear trade with India.

India, the world's most populous democracy, has become an important ally for the US. It is seen as a potential counterweight to China's extraordinary, yet authoritarian, rise in the region. Since the 80s, Presidents Reagan, Clinton and Bush have made attempts to strengthen this relationship. However, India's nuclear program had always remained a point of contention (as India was one of only four states not to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), and therefore, no real progress could be made. The recently ratified civil nuclear pact between the US and India, as well as the International Atomic Energy Association and Nuclear Suppliers Group's decision to exempt India from its guidelines, certainly marks a turning point in the relationship between the US and India.

The pact will allow India to diversify and secure its energy security, while working towards a reduction in carbon emissions. India already imports 70% of its energy (more than the US), and that number would only rise. It opens India to dual-use technologies, equipment for peaceful aims on top of their military functions, such as instrumentation, which can be used in the mining industry and oil exploration. It will also force India to separate its military from its civilian nuclear programs, and subjects it to greater oversight and regulation. However, this pact was not merely an act of altruism: the US stands to gain. Investment opportunities are approximated at around \$27 billion, though the US will have to compete with the likes of Russia and France. India might experience the benefits of \$500 billion over time.

While supporters are very enthusiastic about the deal, criticism and unknowns abound. Critics say India's refusal to sign the Nuclear-Proliferation Treaty should rule it out for any kind of partnership, as that treaty has for the past forty years been the guideline for civil nuclear assistance. While the US is taking a hard-line against other states that pursue national civil nuclear programs, (cough, cough, Iran), it is willingly breaking these rules for a perceived friend. This could create two possible consequences: either Iran will respond by feeling more justified in breaking what it would now consider to be flimsy rules, or it could see that there are rewards for good behavior, and soften its approach. In either event, this pact marks a complete reversal of the US' decades old non-proliferation efforts.

Critics also point to what they see as a lack of caveats for India. The safeguards, they argue, are not strong enough, and only apply to facilities built before the agreement. There aren't enough assurance that India will not divert its peaceful program to its military program, especially because the agreement only allows supervision over civilian facilities.

Other countries are likely to see India's exemption as unfair. For instance, India's neighbor, Pakistan, which also has a nuclear program, expressed concern and annoyance with the pact. In response, China, who also voiced displeasure with the agreement, has now agreed to build Pakistan two more nuclear plants in the near future. Pakistan is no India; it is a veritable tinderbox. These are the dangers presented when exemptions are made.

India might well be one of our greatest Asian allies. It is a democratic success story, a very populous one at that, and a power that could potentially counterbalance Chinese supremacy in the region. While PM Manmohan Singh almost risked his political career over this deal, it will, in the end, be beneficial for the

CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Teaching After Bard

BY SAM KRAFT, BARD '06

I had hardly begun to think through my societal privilege when I decided to join Teach For America (TFA) and make a two-year commitment to an under-resourced school in a low-income community. What this experience has given to my students and myself has been remarkable.

I am not writing to tell you that you must apply to TFA. No, I'm urging you to reflect upon the opportunity that allowed you to attend Bard. We get to devote four years of our young lives to study whatever we want, an enormous privilege that many people never get to experience because of national and global systemic inequities.

I urge you to dedicate yourself to some kind of service after you graduate that fights to counter-balance these inequities. I have become partial to teaching. My fourth grade students were part of demographic groups that were already three grade levels behind their peers in high-income, predominately White communities. Statistically, 50 percent of my students will not graduate from high school. This compares to about an 85 percent graduation rate for White middle class Americans. So, to close this achievement gap, I set goals for my students that invested them in learning and that motivated them to grow academically more than one grade level in a year's time. I also fostered social development in my classroom by creating a conflict resolution curriculum. Through this process of struggling to meet our goals, I saw tremendous growth in both my students and in myself.

My teaching experience has transformed me as a learner, a leader, a communicator, and an informed citizen. Much of the transformation

came because teaching is hard work. The job challenged me every single day, forcing me to reflect on my practice and bring new energy with each new day in order to become a better teacher. Teaching offers challenges that Bard is not designed to offer. However, as a Bard student, I learned skills that were transferable to teaching. You do not need to be studying how to teach literacy or math right now in order to be successful in the classroom. The most important thing you can develop as a Bard student is a critical lens through which you view the world. Develop your lens with passion to fuel your actions, determination to carry you through obstacles, and a positive attitude to help you see what is good and what could be better.

My critical lens has shown me that I am a member of a race, gender, and class that in our society has privileges. I have been given opportunities since the day I was born that have not been given to people of more marginalized races, genders, or classes. This societal construction comes into conflict with my sense of justice. If you feel the same way, one of the most foundational ways you can fight this inequity is by becoming a teacher.

Public education in America has historically been controlled by people who

CONT'D ON PAGE 9



negative buttons? What if someone leaned on one while zoning out?

The lights dimmed in the MPR. I watched the mysterious little lines with great interest. When they went up for Obama I clenched my fist and whispered to myself, Yes. Be swayed you bastards. When they climbed up like little green and orange caterpillars for McCain I was filled with horror and, seething in my seat in the dark and the din of those high echoing ceilings, was alienated from all that America had ever been to me, and alone, and hating the focus group, I pettily cursed them, raising my fist towards the screen's colossal blue glow. Obama started going on about his story. Someone in the audience said, We've heard this, or something like that. McCain wandered around the stage like a lost man, gesticulating to himself. Finally they made their closing statements. Obama wouldn't answer the question about what he didn't know.

In my American history class we recently spent some time studying the Constitutional Convention. What interested me was the genesis of the Electoral College. Did you know that there is no mention in the constitution of popular election for the presidency? Only for the legislature. The president is voted by the electors, an elite group of representatives assigned to each state based on population. The system originated as a concession by the north to the slave-holding states of south who, under the three-fifths clause, which counted every slave as three-fifths of a person for the purpose of tallying state populations, benefited from having the presidency decided, not by a popular election of free citizens, which would have favored the north, but by electors.

I was thinking about this as I went into the fourth debate, which I also watched in the MPR. The lights dimmed. CNN took the pulse of independent voters again and the little colored lines waved up and down at the bottom of the screen without meaning. There was less cheering when Obama spoke. More talking in the audience. Less shuddering when Obama said that he would kill Bin Laden in that adopted aggressive tone that so obviously does not suit him. Less jeering when McCain said that America is the greatest country in the world. Less sighing when Obama talked about his story.

We wonder how many times can a person say the same thing before he stops thinking? Is there a number that once reached erases the meaning of the words so that they move around in the mind as a blank place-holder? Is the number reached in the course of a campaign? How can either of these men have the thought left to serve after a campaign like this? We think we still see the glimmer behind Obama's words of a mind. We think that he says what he does carefully, because he knows how politics work. Are we sure? Experience? In a way doesn't he already have too much?



Teaching After Bard

CONTINUED FROM P.7

want it to be a socially confirming system, preserving the socioeconomic structures that exist. The Bush administration's No Child Left Behind is a continuation of socially confirming policy that penalizes communities, largely composed of people of color, that have under-resourced, and thus under-performing schools. To fight back, you need to be a socially conferring force, encouraging your students to question the dominant frameworks in American society, regardless of their age, and empowering them with critical thinking skills that will give them the opportunities that we all deserve. Excellent primary, secondary, and post-secondary education should not be a privilege. It is a fundamental right. Begin your efforts to close the achievement gap by becoming a teacher.

I write this only to share with you my powerful personal experience. I am still trying to understand what it means to me to be an agent of change. If you want to speak to me about my experience or about your own opportunities for service and how to apply to TFA or another program, do not hesitate to contact me at student.to.teacher@gmail.com.

Why Anarchists Should Vote: Republican, That Is

BY ENRICO PURITA

Anarchist ideology here and within modern-day youth subculture is misinterpreted and grossly simplified. Anarchism and the reason why it is popular with the pseudo-political armchair punk scene is that it is centrally concerned with the collapse of the capitalist structure (i.e. the U.S. government/economy). However, in 2008, not voting is less in line with anarchist thought than is voting to perpetuate the gradual collapse of the American economy.

Therefore, not voting isn't a symbol of anarchy unless one is already actively engaging in destroying the U.S. government (which is doubtful within this community). Voting for John McCain (gasp) is in fact more in line with anarchist thought because between the three options available to voters, McCain, Obama, or none of the above, voting for McCain would prompt the faster collapse of capitalism. Confused? Are you thinking, "What?! Obama isn't punk?! McCain?! Grrrrr.?" Let me explain.

Flashback to 1929. Panic struck, the stock market collapsed, and anarchists rejoiced the fact that the capitalist structure of the Western World had finally reached its breaking point just as Marx

predicted. Looked at it through the lens of hindsight, however, Americans made a mistake in electing Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

His New Deal nationalized social programs in the vein of the utopian socialist craze that was sweeping across war-torn Europe at the time. It also maintained the American capitalist structure that is currently experiencing weakness in the global market. For the sake of explaining the argument, we can say that this same structure would have collapsed had Americans re-elected Herbert Hoover with his platform of letting the free market take care of itself. FDR started a dangerous trend in this country that unknowingly saved capitalism through a classic example of liberal politicians in the U.S.: promoting functionalism. This basically translates to repairing problems within the current system through government involvement.

Fast forward to 2008. We have a choice between John McCain, Barack Obama, and arguably more change-driven third party candidates that, at this point, would constitute a wasted vote. The comparisons to 1929 are scary.

McCain vows a spending freeze that would give the free market room to either bounce back or completely collapse from its current volatile state (now do you see where the anarchists come in?) and Obama is promoting functionalism through maintaining capitalism while using the government as a tool to stop Wall Street from going wild and to better control the loan system. Whether or not this is a good idea is immaterial in the eyes of true anarchists.

Anarchists are not blind to what works. McCain's free market spending freeze through the increased privatization of health care and education would either save the economy or make it sink. Given the fact that there has already been talk in socialist circles that capitalism as a phenomenon of history and time is fading, taking the bet of involving oneself in the political process if it may mean the collapse of capitalism is a legitimate revolutionary strategy.

A vote for Obama, on the other hand, would not feature any radical changes in what already constitutes the American economy. He doesn't even want to completely nationalize health care. This isn't anything new. Everyone knows that the secret to the success of the neoconservative movement in this country is the fact that it is the only political movement.

There is no such movement on the left, and the conservatives have a strong value set. Whether or not this is a misguided value set is another question. The Republicans won't patch up holes like the Democrats want to do; they'll tear them apart. This is where anarchists can bring the floods. The Republicans just make their job easier.

Another important aspect of the dichotomy between the parties is that Republicans are easier targets in the event of an economic collapse. With a government that can easily be made into the bad buy, the ultimate goal of the smashing of the system will be flooded with popular support. The liberal movement in the United States today is not easy to criticize because it is weak from an ideological standpoint. There are no core values that citizens can rally against like with the Neoconservative movement.

Yes, it's true. This process may take the entirety of McCain's term. However, anarchists should not stop trying to smash system during this time in hopes that McCain will do it for them. McCain will perpetuate the process and make it easier. He is an anarchist and he doesn't even know it yet. Remember this, comrades, when you go to the polls.

Sri Lanka: Creative Media in a Time of Conflict



informal talks with artists and filmmakers

Friday, November 7th
Avery Center for the Arts

No More Tears Sister: Director's Cut
Film Screening with Helene Klodawsky
Ottaway Theater 1:30 - 3:00 PM

The Splintered Face: Tsunami Poems
Poetry Reading with Indran Amirthanayagam
Ottaway Theater 3:00 PM

The Art of Forgetting
Film Screening with Lisa Kois
Ottaway Theater 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Sri Lankan Dinner 6:30 - 7:00 PM (FREE - with RSVP!)

The Vitality of Creative Media in a Time of War
Discussion with participants moderated by Kristin Scheible
Ottaway Theater 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Art Installation by Nadia Haji Omar
Reception with refreshments
Integrated Arts Studio 8:00 - 10:00 PM

Crossing Fires ← TV episode for Young Asia Television featuring M.I.A., never before shown in the US.
Time: TBA

email: tlsbardsri Lanka@gmail.com

Club Funding at Bard

HOW TO INCREASE CLUB FUNDING AT BARD: VOTE

BY RYAN GUSTAFSON

This semester clubs at Bard requested nearly \$200,000 in funding from the Student Government Planning Committee and the Student Association at Budget Forum. Unfortunately, the Convocation Fund—the pool of money allocated to clubs, constituted by the \$70 Student Activities Fee that each of us pays per semester—only adds up to about \$150,000. In other words, clubs at Bard are currently seeking \$50,000 in excess of what we have to allocate. We have outgrown our current Convocation Fund. Although the Planning Committee did a masterful job this year in finding items to cut (only 3 amendments to the budget were proposed at the Forum), this is clearly a problem that will not go away. This is why the majority of club heads signed a petition to raise the Student Activities Fee at Budget Forum. This is why the Student Government is asking you this semester to vote to increase the fee for the Convocation Fund.

This club funding deficit is not a surprise. With the steady increase in the student population at Bard over the last four years, there has been an increase in the number of clubs on campus. Furthermore, when clubs are successful over a sustained period of time, they naturally expect to receive more funding so that they can expand their efforts. Clubs are a sign of the ingenuity and the sense of community in students at Bard; on a campus that is sometimes criticized for its diffuseness and social isolation, clubs constitute one of the strongest ties that bind us together.

We ought to help clubs expand their efforts and make sure that there is funding for new clubs. The only way that we can accomplish this is by increasing the Student Activities Fee and thus the Convocation Fund. Assuming that the student population at Bard stays at about 1,900, if we were to increase this fee by merely \$20 per student, the fund would be raised from about \$171,000. If we were to increase this fee by \$30 per student, the fund would be raised to \$190,000. If we were to increase this fee by \$40 per student, the fund would be raised to \$209,000. The point is this: because the Student Activities Fee is paid by all of us it will only take a minor increase to significantly increase the funding of our clubs.

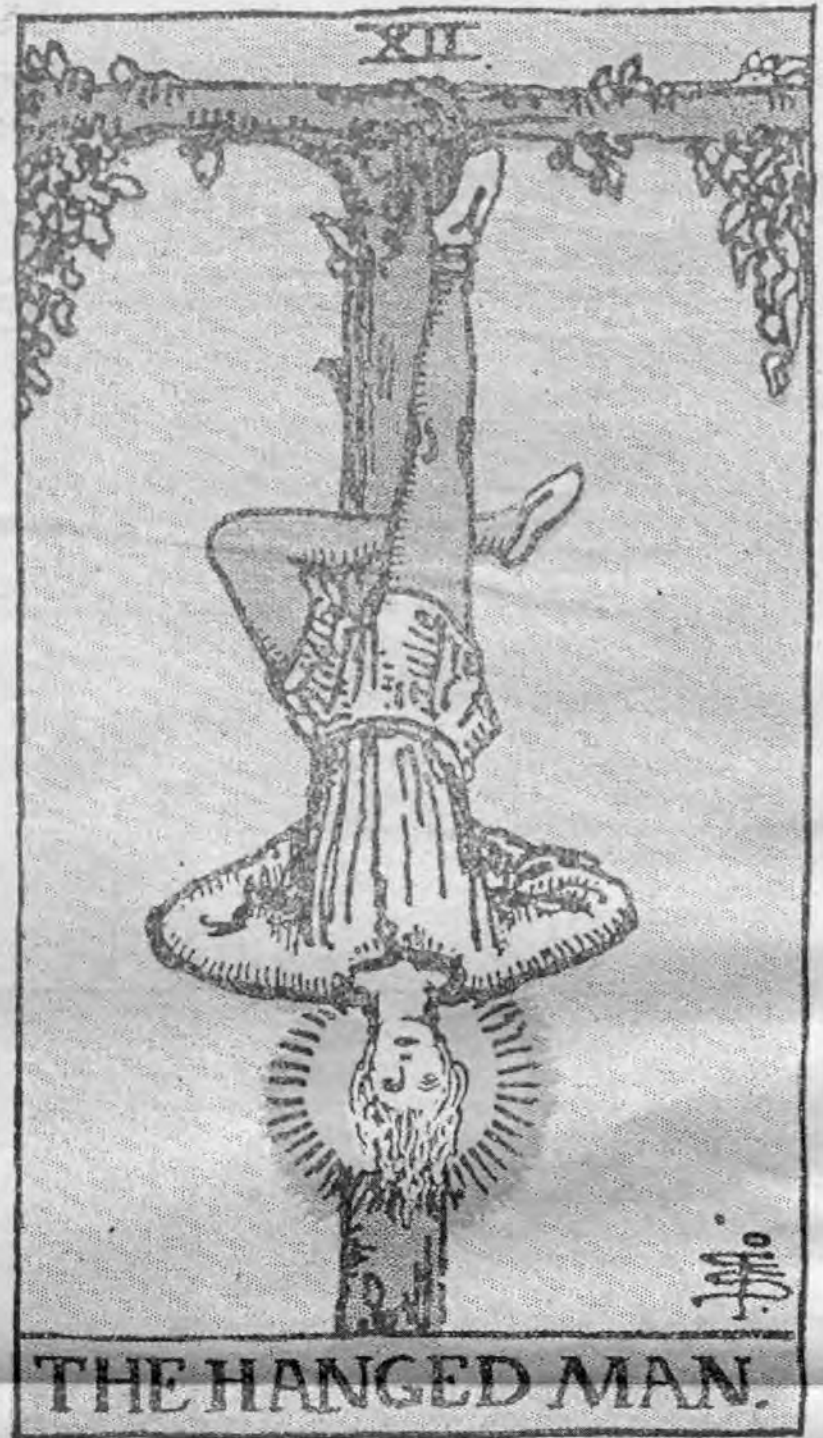
However, it is important to consider as well the objections to raising the Fee. For one, a lot of us already are going into substantial debt to attend Bard in the first place; as the College continues to increase tuition, the prospect of any other fee increase sounds dreadful. I can completely understand this objection because I am one of those people in substantial debt. However, to this objection I would point out that Vassar College, like many other small liberal arts colleges, has also increased its tuition, but their Student Activities Fee currently stands at \$138 per semester. Compare this to our measly \$70 per semester. In other words, Vassar students pay a nearly identical total amount as us (they literally only pay about \$10 more to go there), and yet their fund for clubs is almost two times as wealthy as ours. We owe it to ourselves to increase our Convocation Fund. Unlike the other items in our tuition, it is the one fee that you as a student have direct control over. You get to determine who sits on the Planning Committee during the allocation process for clubs, and at Budget Forum you get to determine how that money is spent by voting on amendments. If we are going to see increases in tuition and the size of the Bard student population we also deserve more and better clubs and club activities.

Now, given that only a minor increase in the Fee would significantly increase club funding and that as it stands our current Student Activities Fee is significantly less than competing institutions, the question becomes: how do we increase ours? In a word: vote. The Student Government will be holding an online survey with different fee increase options so that you can tell us by what amount you think it ought to increase by. Once we have an idea of how much Bard students are willing to raise the fee, we will then hold an online vote to raise it. This is where things get tricky: we need a majority of registered Bard students to vote for this to pass. That is, according to the rules of the Board of Trustees (the body that determines our fees) about 1,000 Bard students need to cast a ballot in favor of this change. In the coming weeks you should look for an email from vote@bard.edu containing a link to the survey with the fee increase options. After that, look for an email containing a link to the vote itself. If you have a concern about this issue, please let us know (our office hours are listed below).

Ryan Gustafson (rg865@bard.edu)
Secretary of the Student Association Government

India Continued

Indian people, and this treaty will be viewed as one of his greatest accomplishments. While it is undesirable to break decades old rules over proliferation, India is a time-honored ally who has imposed voluntary safeguards in lieu of the NPT and practiced export restraints on its own. This deal will grant India new technology and a more environmentally-friendly road to energy security. At the same time, it will open up an important new market for the US. For now, it seems that the potential benefits outweigh the risks and question marks.



Why Vote Barr?

BY STEVEN PIKELNY

How did one of congress's most fearless drug warriors – a pro-life, pro-family man who coaxed his ex-wife into getting an abortion – become the nominee for the Libertarian Party? It's not really that important. If I were a gambling man, I'd put more money on Sarah Palin becoming speaker of the house in 2016 than I would on Bob Barr becoming our next president. If he was the second coming of Idi Amin it wouldn't matter; 75% of the voting population doesn't even know who he is.

To be perfectly frank, a vote for Bob Barr is a throw away vote. Anyone that thinks otherwise is foolish. Your vote, however, will be thrown in the right direction. I won't bother feeding you the typical voting-for-the-lesser-evil-is-still-evil tripe and I won't waste the time to convince you that neither candidate is qualified to run a Wal-Mart, let alone a country. Aside from setting your conscience at ease there are pragmatic reasons to vote Libertarian on Tuesday.

There have been plenty of crappy presidents before Bush, but there is a reason that he was so detrimental to the country: the president has too much power. If it is possible for a single human being to cause half as much damage as George Bush did - conservative or liberal - then they have too much power.

In the past decade the Republican Party has morphed itself into a wild pack of neo-cons, leaving behind their platform of small government and a humble foreign policy. You can disagree with a traditional conservative all you want, but they will leave you alone at the end of the day for better or worse. One can only speculate as to the reasons that the neo-cons hijacked the GOP, but it most likely reflects a change in attitude of American society. After all, they were VOTED into office.

The main point I am trying to make is that if, on the morning of November 5, Republicans turn on their TVs to see that they lost by a margin equivalent to that which Bob Barr won, they may want to court a different part of the voting population. Conservative Barr sure as hell didn't steal any votes from Obama. This can translate to a change in policy.

Liberals and libertarians are frequently at odds with each other, but they can agree on at least half of the time. The closer the GOP moves towards a libertarian platform, the closer it moves towards a liberal platform.

In a two party delegate-driven election there is a good chance that your vote will literally not count. There will be not statistical difference between voting and not voting. Third parties, on the other hand, don't win any delegates; they only count raw votes. With the ever-changing political ideologies observing the raw numbers, every vote counts.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

November 3rd protest: The Aftermath

BY GOZDE "JAZZY" SAVIM
6 DECEMBER 2004

As many members of the student body probably remember, on the day following the election, Wednesday November 3rd, about 200 Bard students headed to the town of Red Hook and sat at the main intersection to protest the results of the election. Faced with many police officers, students sat for twenty minutes before students collectively decided to head back to Bard campus.

While some caught the shuttle back, most of the students chose to walk on 9G to return to Bard campus. Accompanied by cops, the walk home wasn't as peaceful as the protest in the main intersection. According to the police forces, students did not cooperate and did not follow officers' instructions to not cross the white line that separates the road from the shoulder. According to police, this caused disruptions with traffic flow. As a result, twelve students were arrested at the intersection of 9G and Highway 199 and taken to the station. One was released immediately after the incident, but eleven students are being charged for misdemeanors and other violations.

As President Leon Botstein put it, something went wrong, and Bard asked for an investigation. Meanwhile, for the students who had been arrested and are being charged, the first court date is on Thursday December 9th. President Botstein has also said that each of the students charged will have legal representation in front of the judge on this date and until the proceedings are followed up completely. During these proceedings, the administration, through Erin Cannan and Jim Brudvig, has kept in contact with the police to stay updated and informed.

Bard College has stood behind its students. As the Dean of Students Erin Cannan says: "It is always our [Bard Administrator's] role to help the students." However, in this case, Bard's help has been limited to getting students back from the police station on the night of November 3rd, and emotional support. President Botstein has offered to personally pay for all the financial charges that students would otherwise have to pay for themselves. Despite what the final amount would add up to, President Botstein is willing to compensate without any estimation. President Botstein sees the motivation for his generous offer as his support for the protection of right of assembly. He also adds that what is more critical in this issue is the investigation of what occurred when the students were on 9G, on their way back to Bard.

While students are waiting for their first court date next week, the lawyers are trying to figure out if the charges that were taken against these eleven students were supposed to go in front of the judge before Thanksgiving; however according to Erin Cannan, the lawyers postponed the date to do more research and investigation into the incident by interviewing students present.

The post-election protest certainly was not the first time that Bard students engaged in a mass protest. The last protest before the rally on November 3rd took place three years ago then the Iraq war broke out. Erin Cannan says that looking back on the present incident, the administration was expecting a rally, just not a sit-in in Red Hook, and never such complications as the arrest of 11 Bard students.

As the students who are charged must remain in silence about this issue for legal reasons, Erin Cannan explains the possible effects this will have on Bard's relations with Red Hook: "Freedom of speech is not always popular." She also adds: "What I do want to make sure is that freedom of speech is still protected even if the idea is unpopular. Even if it is an unpopular idea, it should be expressed."

While helping students by showing them unlimited financial support throughout the process, President Botstein expresses his thoughts on the issue: "I am proud of the students who had such an engagement to show their political involvement." By his support, he explains that he wants the rights to assembly and free speech protected without any compromise.

Although it is not possible to know at this point what kind of punishments the arrested students might have if convicted, Erin Cannan predicts they might vary from a fine to community service to time served in jail, the latter being the worst-case scenario. Like any other partisan from the Bard administration, Cannan sums it up by saying: "It would be great if the students were not found guilty."

At the moment, like the students themselves, Bard College is waiting to see where the proceedings will be headed after the court date on December 9th. It is likely here that the judge will give the exact charges Bard students will face, and assign a future date for the trial to continue.



// A still from the video

EDITORS NOTES FROM 2008

- 1) A student present at the protest took video with their camera. It is on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qoycq0e-4I4>
- 2) The fates of the students involved varied. The charges against one were dropped due to a technicality. Eight of the remaining plead guilty and were sentenced to 25 hours of community service, and had to write a letter of apology to the police force for resisting arrest. The two others plead not guilty.

Don't forget to Vote!

Love, Observers

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