



# THE BENNINGTON FREE PRESS

Vol. 12 No. 5

November 21, 2009

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## Apathy Impedes Council Revival

BY CONNIE PANZARIELLO '12  
FEATURES EDITOR

According to the NEASC Self-Study, Student Council at Bennington is the "forum for student discussion of non-academic issues" with one of their major duties being to help "coordinate funding for student organizations". They create a "tentative budget to divide student activities funds among various campus organizations", which the student body votes on before being distributed. Student Council also helps to "facilitate communication among students, faculty and administration." When this article comes out, Bennington will have been without a student council for nearly an entire term. The question seems to be this: is a functioning, traditional student council feasible or even needed at a school like Bennington?

To fully understand the dysfunction of the traditional Bennington Student Council, one can look back at our last full academic year. According to Jonah Lipsky '12, who was on Student Council from the beginning, the first meeting had a good turn-out of people who were eager to get involved, but as the term moved on, it became more apparent that

problems from lack of attendance were going to arise. "It would dwindle pretty steadily," he says, "and it became so that we couldn't vote on any issues because we didn't have quorum [the amount of people that must be present for a decision to be voted on]". It became so that there would only be five or six people each week." (By the way, if you haven't quite done the math yet, there were supposed to be 36 people, 2 from each house.) Beyond the issue of not having enough people, there didn't seem to be much motivation to keep the Council going. As Lipsky attests, "It became very mechanical- there was not much enjoyment in it."

After the resignation of their long-time leader, Hector Najera '09, Student Council attempted to make some changes. Student Life helped them along by deciding to move the budget into a committee, which is how it currently functions. Lipsky says of the change, "We were not opposed to it because we thought it was good thing to release the responsibility of administering the funds. It had been the cause of a lot of turmoil when student organizations felt they did not get the money they wanted." Now, the Budget Committee consists of them. They also put forms in each student's mailbox, asking us to apply to various leadership positions on

Student Council. According to Lipsky, only four people responded to this call.

We do, however, have two other well-functioning student leadership bodies on campus, only one of which is formally elected by the student body. The House Chair Body, according to the official NEASC description, is comprised of two students from each house who "work collaboratively to foster community development and cooperative living" and the Student Educational Policy Committee (SEPC) which "is a group of students—two for each academic discipline who represent the student body in issues affecting academic life at Bennington" as well as being "liaisons" between the students, faculty and administration. The SEPC body is elected at the beginning of each year, but only about 80 to 100 people voted (is anyone else starting to notice a pattern?) The leaders of these leadership bodies each have differing opinions on the lack of Student Council at Bennington and what can/should be done about it.

Tim Voice '10, Senior House Chair of Second Street, pointed out the potential problems Bennington would have with a Council too traditional in makeup. "It would need to have student governance completely different from other schools; it has to be

more creative. It would have to serve Bennington's own unique structure." Liz Meier '11, Senior House Chair of First Street agrees that any type of Student Council would have to arise from Bennington's specific want for one, "Student governance has to be what serves the students best. It has to be about the needs of the student body." She also reasoned that other institutions don't have organizations like SEPC or the House Chairs to represent them, hence the existence of a formalized student council. Jama McMahon '11, Senior House Chair of Third Street also added, "Student councils tend to exist when students have difficulty with accessing the school's policy and curriculum, but that's leveled out by our access to the administration."

The Senior House Chairs were also able to inform me of the changing structure of their own body. They no longer function in committees, but rather divide to work on projects. One of their major projects at the moment is actually a bike-share where you would be able to take out a bike with a lock from the library and use it for a certain period of time. They are also making a greater effort with this project and others, to bring in students outside the House Chair Body. Voice thinks that it is good that House Chairs

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## C0penhagen

BY HÉLÈNE GAGNON '13

As we approach December 7th, the first day of the weeklong Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, tensions rise and anxiety mounts: what will be resolved at the conference, consisting of about 40 world leaders, and what will be left undecided? Will the conference fruit global commitment and a strong unified stance on climate change or will it leave loose ends dangling and hopes for international action dashed. As of November 16th, a deadline for the legally binding document has yet to be established. Such a document, according to the head of the UN climate change secretariat, Yvo de Boer, will consist of a compilation of decisions and actions ultimately forming a treaty designed to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. Yet world leaders are unwilling to create a legally binding document as soon as December. Last weekend, President Barack Obama, along with other heads

of state, gathered in Singapore to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. There was talk of various alternatives to a legally binding treaty, namely various written political agreements. There has been "assessment by the leaders that it was unrealistic to expect a full, internationally legally binding agreement to be negotiated between now and when Copenhagen starts in 22 days," said Michael Froman, Barack Obama's deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic affairs; to the dismay of many who emphasize the urgency of a legal commitment.

De Boer has said he hopes that the leaders meeting in Copenhagen will address by how much industrialized countries are willing to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, how they will limit the growth of their emissions, and how global reductions will be handled financially. Britain, France, Germany, Greece and Sweden have already met their goals for reducing emissions below the levels required to be met

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## Hunger for Some, a Banquet for Others, Again

BY ABBY NEALE '13

On Wednesday, Nov 18, over 100 students attended the hunger banquet, hosted by the school's chapter of Students for Social Justice. The Banquet occurred in the middle of the first annual Demand Dignity week, a time devoted to service and poverty awareness on the Bennington campus. Fundraising for Oxfam, the Dining Hall pledges on behalf of each participant. For the past three years, SSJ students collaborated with Bill Scully, head of Dining Services, making this undertaking possible. The student group, led by Shannon O'Reilly '11, began organizing this event in September.

Diners received meals based upon a designated social class, thus, some students ate rice out of communal platters, some enjoy

ed individual servings of rice and beans, and some students received a lavish, multi course meal. Organization of student meals correlates with international poverty statistics. The Dining Hall acts as microcosm of the world's economic breakdown. Many students found this experience eye opening. Average college students never experience the realities of poverty, and so the Banquet provides participants with a small scale understanding of world hunger.

*Average college students never experience the realities of poverty, the Banquet provides participants with a small scale understanding of world hunger.*

O'Reilly introduced the event, with representative Theresa Snow from the Vermont Food Bank enlightening students about local food shortage. Nelly Gagnon '13, Bennington's Amnesty International coordinator, also distributed information about Amnesty's Demand Dignity initiatives, providing diners with a new understanding of hunger issues.



# Registration: Russian Roulette

BY SAFIYA SINCLAIR '10  
VOICES EDITOR

More than four years ago, underneath the shade of a mango tree in my yard, I flipped through the thick *Book on Bennington*—the College's curricula over the last four years, bound, printed and shipped to incoming students like me. I gazed in wonder at the descriptions of classes on Plath, modern dance, mathematics and biology, imagining the sheer possibility of it all. "Take a dance class while studying statistics!" it said, tempting me with the novelty of limitless and intersecting branches of academia. I registered for an acting class, I prepared a monologue—all very new and seemingly whimsical firsts for me. But it was exciting, and this was my first registration process: free of stress and full of possibility. I still count some of the classes from my first term among my absolute favorites. Now nearing the completion of my final registration process, four years and many long lines outside of Greenwall later, I feel the heaviness of finality.

The peculiarity of the situation is not lost on me—this is one of the few times when I am certain this is my last chance for many things. I never did take a modern dance class, I never did study statistics. How does a senior even begin to decide what classes will close the circle of this strange four year journey? I remember the tingle of my fingers running over the pages of *Book on Bennington* years ago, a feeling not replicated by the new online PDF curriculum. Nevertheless, I was just as excited as I was that first term to be the architect of my last. What should I choose? I opened the latest curriculum and found with a sinking disappointment that most of my choices were already made for me. As a literature student, the outlook was particularly bleak. Most of the classes offered I'd already taken, I'd already studied with all the professors but one, and there was only one 4000-level course that was not a creative writing class. Fellow senior literature students have echoed my dismay at the unsubstantial offerings. The Curriculum Planning Committee is in dire need of re-evaluating its planning process. There are days and times outside of Tuesday and Friday 10:10am to noon. So many classes on the curriculum had time-conflicts that constructing a final schedule seemed like an unsolvable math problem. Maybe I *should* have taken statistics. While contemplating the horror of leaving my academic fate to the 2000-level lottery, I imagined the one stray bullet spinning 'round the revolver in Russian roulette.

In the face of such a registration predicament, I run the risk of being dramatic, but let me be clear—I've taken extra credits every single term, dabbled in political economy, taken drama, playwriting, astronomy, studied Middle English, even history with Scully—I've paid my dues. If all these years of sleepless study haven't earned me some hierarchical benefits for my last three months, what was it all for? I've spoken to other seniors who share my frustration. Some have tried for years to get into 2000-level classes that were vital to their Plan, to no avail. There are horror stories of being first at Greenwall, in line for hours, only to be waitlisted in classes that reserved spaces for freshmen. I must admit, for four years, I've been perfectly content to be flexible, to make my schedule work: after all, I still had time to study with the professors I hadn't, there was still time to take the classes I had missed. Now, heading into my final term, I am not particularly excited about what has become a randomly selected schedule—and who

would be, after being handed left-overs? I know SEPC has a survey circulating to seniors to get feedback on this issue, and though it won't affect me now, I think there needs to be change.

I know the registration process is a complicated one for the

administration as well, and no one should forget the utter Sunday market chaos that was the original registration process: where students camped out in front of professors' offices in the Barn, and the class spaces were a first-come first-served basis. But there were the silent signatures of favoritism—that benefited the seniors, of course. I watched then as a freshman, begrudgingly, as spaces were already inexplicably filled for seniors who didn't have to wait in line. But is this random lottery process better? Sure, there's no one camping out in the Barn like it's a *Twilight* premiere, but the class places are picked even more randomly, and without the consideration of external factors like experience or last chances. At some universities and colleges, registration week functions in favor or seniority: the first two days of the week are designated for senior registration, which then continues on a staggering basis throughout the week, for juniors, sophomores, and then freshmen. Maybe as a begrudging freshman I didn't fully understand the necessity for senior preference, but I also thought my time would eventually come, that I would one day benefit from waiting. How could I anticipate, all those years ago, not excitement but this anxiety that comes with the barrel's random click?

*While contemplating the horror of leaving my academic fate to the 2000-level lottery, I imagined the one stray bullet spinning 'round the revolver in Russian roulette.*

Dear reader,

The BFP is a student-run, school-sponsored publication whose purpose is to inform, represent and entertain the members of Bennington College and the surrounding community about issues relevant to the diverse readership in as fair and accurate a manner as is possible by the staff.

News and opinion content in the BFP aims to be accurate, balanced, readable, relevant and significant to readers. With that, we welcome any feedback: criticism, praise or suggestions. Letters must be typed and signed by the author and submitted to [contact@benningtonfreepress.com](mailto:contact@benningtonfreepress.com) or in the editor's mailbox at Commons. All letters submitted to the staff of the BFP become property of the staff and will not be returned. Additionally, the BFP reserves the right to edit any letter submitted for length, grammar, punctuation and clarity.

Sincerely,  
Sarah St. Lifer '10  
Editor-In-Chief

# Climate Change Debate

BY COLIN TAYLOR '11  
STAFF WRITER

Our studies show us that as climate change accelerates, our Earth's biodiversity stands at risk. Species extinction rates will increase, but we don't know by how much. What does all of this mean in terms of global change? E.O. Wilson's book, *The Future Of Life*, shares some very interesting perspectives. His decision to frame his argument as a dialogue between economists and ecologists is an excellent medium of placing the two side by side. The economist, on the "pro-human" side, so to speak, cites man's reaction to the problems caused by overpopulation and over-consumption as having kept up with the change, and that we are even better equipped to deal with these problems than we were 50 years ago. It's surprisingly reassuring. It speaks right to you, because as a human, the economist glorifies human

accomplishments and proclaims our status as rulers of earth. He excuses our excess and absolves our guilt. It's comforting. You want to agree. Hopefully the skeptical would at least be suspicious of its rather narcissistic attitude.

The ecologist, on the other hand, has grim tidings. He argues that our current rate of economic growth cannot be sustained without dramatic environmental consequences. This is the question at the heart of the entire global change issue. How much environment are we willing to sacrifice for human prosperity? Logically, it's a losing game. If we've already overextended the Earth's carrying capac-

ity, and our consumption is continually growing while reserves of energy are getting smaller, eventually we're going to run out. The environmentalist argues even to change our indicators of production from Gross National Product to Global Progress Indicator. They're essentially arguing for a societal reinvention in which everything is thought of in terms of environmental cost and sustainability. It's a strange concept to think about, but what if our ability to act on an issue is constrained by the language used to conceptualize it? Would sustainable practice come inherently from an environment-economy?

As a student of political science, I agree



Ecologist E.O. Wilson

that the evolution to "environmental capitalism" would be a positive thing for the world. Capitalism tends to unleash rampant greed in the human soul, as shown by all the terrible things that humans do to one

another for money: the exploitation and thievery. One of the Goldman and Sachs finance executives said in the New York Times that working at that office gave you "an addiction to money." Coming from one of the formerly largest banks in the world's largest economy, I think that really says something about the nature of our current economy. If environmental considerations put a damper on the obsession for money, I feel like it could do positive things.

I didn't like the way Wilson colored the words "life" and "future" red every single time he used them. It felt strange that he was trying to call attention to them. I *know* they're important.

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# Fake It 'Til You Make It: FWT

By MICHAEL ZIMMER '10  
STAFF WRITER

If you didn't go through the deceitfully simple process of getting an extension (who knew you had to actually TRY to get jobs in order to get an extension, pfft...) and you aren't out 50 bucks, then congratulations! It's time for the magical 6-7 weeks called Field Work Term! A time when your savings slowly but surely deplete from your bank account and your sleep schedule is thrown off by those 9-5 squares in the "real world."

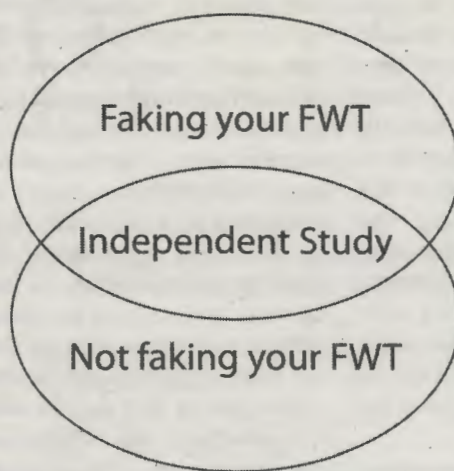
Seriously, though, this is one of the best parts of going to Bennington, and it may make the difference between a post-grad job and unemployment, which is at about 8% right now for college graduates in our age group. So even if your job turns out to be 30 hours a week of staring at spreadsheets on a Dell running Windows '98 in a windowless basement (who knew indie record labels were that exciting?!) you're still building a pretty mean resumé (mind the é when you name your word .doc for e-mails and avoid resumé faux pas like going over a page, too much personal info, and squids).

One of the most unfortunate things about FWT is the fact that all the most interesting jobs are in the most expensive cities in the USA (who ever heard

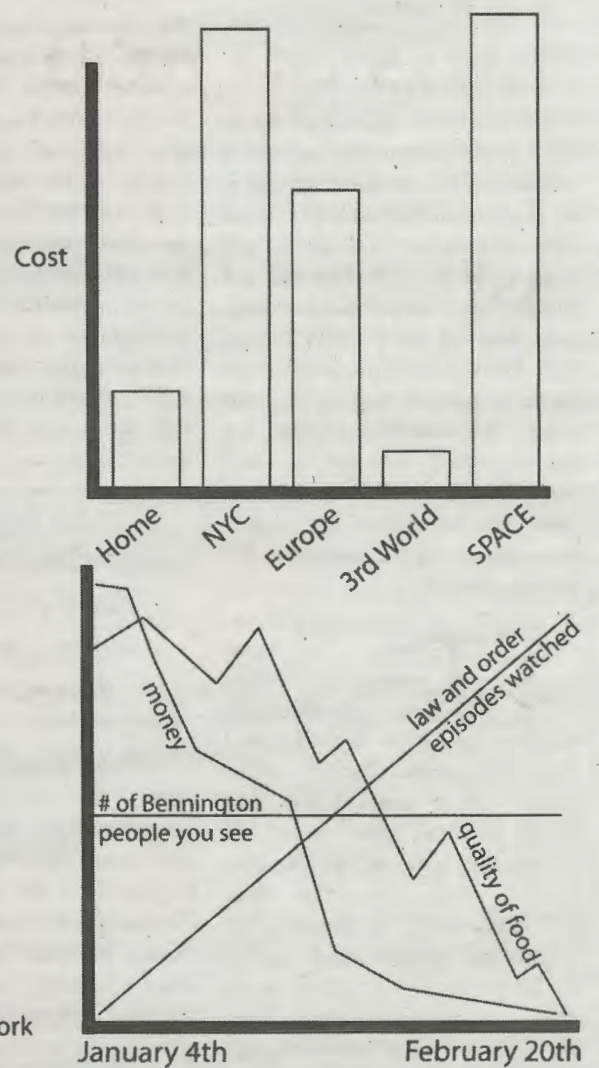
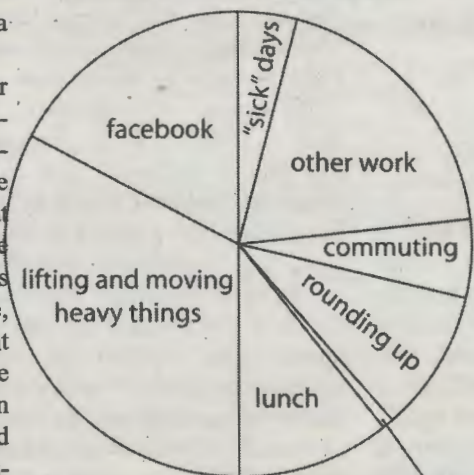
of high-fashion from the Midwest?). While most people make the mass exodus to NYC, it seems this year there is an abnormally high amount of people going to San Fran, meaning they'll come back just as poor, but due to SF's hilly cityscape, their glutes and thighs will be nicely toned. The other obvious advantage of everybody being in the same place, is, well, all your friends are there! Trust me, even if you get a super awesome job, 7 weeks with no one to hang out with is pretty shitty. My first FWT in So-Cal was spent mostly with In'n'Out Burger, Netflix, and a Chihuahua mix named Alex.

Some will brave the winter here in Vermont, completing independent studies and the new pilot program for freshmen. People who have stayed before attest that work is productive and parties are small and relaxed. But legend has it that when the students leave, the campus is overrun in the night by the geriatric yet spirited square dancers. Their parties have been known to last until 8:00 p.m. and their demeanor said to be "pleasant."

So whatever you're doing, wherever you're going, I wish you a productive and interesting FWT. And seniors, I'll see you around the collage tables at the conference. Don't forget your glitter pens!



Breakdown of FWT Hours



Graphs created by Michael Zimmer '10



Cartoon by Emily Tareila '10



# The Human Need for Conversation

## The Faculty Forum

By HENRY LYON '11  
News Editor

*Author's note:* The Bennington Free Press strives to uphold a standard of research and writing in its journalism, and in the October 31<sup>st</sup> edition we failed in our striving. In the rush of layout, and the publication deadline looming, the piece on the Faculty Forum was hurried, and incomplete. In order to amend this failure, and repair any misrepresentation, we are revisiting the subject, and retracting the words of October 31<sup>st</sup>. We hope that this article does justice to the nature of the Faculty Forum.

“There is an energy, latent in Bennington, which is not fully tapped,” said long time music faculty Allen Shawn in a conversation last week. He was speaking of his colleagues here at Bennington College, on the notion that “this is a community of fantastically interesting people and we’re so busy we don’t have much chance to just hang out.” This, the need to spend time together was the nascent impulse, from the perspective of Shawn, for

the founding of the Faculty Forum. He said that it is “first and foremost about the human need to get together and talk.” Shawn also expressed that the “Faculty Forum is just what it says it is. It is a forum for faculty to talk amongst themselves, and that it is not first and foremost place to talk about things that concern our interests as faculty; it’s more of a place for us to talk about the whole school in a way that we can talk about it as faculty from our angle.”

*“It began as something that didn’t have a charter, wasn’t approved or disapproved”*

“Secondarily,” Shawn said, “the Forum is about accomplishing goals.” In reciting his recollection of the forum’s beginnings, he continued: “It began as something unofficial, it began as something that didn’t have a charter, wasn’t approved or disapproved; just as student groups might form. There might be a student forum, or a staff forum, or a maintenance forum

that was just organized by the people in that group to just talk about anything.” In this postmodern world, “we each have our own perspective and our own responsibilities. That is, our own angle from which we view this place, and there are certain things we don’t have responsibility for.” And Bennington surely is post-modern. As we have no student, staff, or maintenance forums, there are other organizations that exist. These groups may be the cause for deferral of this human need for conversation. These external organizations are the unions that exist for the Dining Hall, Maintenance, Housekeeping, and Staff. About this Shawn drew a fitting analogy. He responded: “I think that starting with a purpose like that is different, that has a specific political function. If nine judges got together to chat about the Constitution it would be different than the Supreme Court. It’s like when the music faculty gets together in our meetings we generally talk about things we need to do. We have to actually decide to go out to dinner together to actually talk about life; we don’t sit around talking about health and our love lives in faculty meetings. We talk

about the senior concerts and whatever, and when you have a function first and foremost, that obviously changes the character. I would say that the Faculty Forum could evolve, and once it’s listed as an official organization that already is a change. Originally it was not listed as anything. And the NEASC descriptions, I don’t remember what it says, but the

*“I think that starting with a purpose like that is different, that has a specific political function. If nine judges got together to chat about the Constitution it would be different than the Supreme Court.”*

origin was a place to talk, a place to talk in confidence with ones colleagues. Fortunately the faculty gets along fantastically well, and it’s a fantastic community. It’s not like Yaddo, [the art and artist colony], where we could all have breakfast together and talk about the struggles we’re having finishing a poem. We rarely have that chance—we have Plan

meetings and you know how short those are—when we’re talking about individual students, so a moment to just hang out and have a moment to have whatever we want as our agenda is great.”

It seems that every professor who does or does not take part in the Faculty Forum has his or her own perspective on it. Because there is no agenda, individuals can dream up their own ideas about the forum, and their own hopes for its future, and Allen Shawn hopes for little change. When asked if he would like the forum to go in any particular direction he said, “I’m not sure. There’s a part of me that thinks that the informality of it has its benefits. I think it should morph into something that is taken for granted. That we have as a place to talk about things, inevitably it will feed ideas back into the community, and they might be slightly different than they would have been otherwise. I’d like to see that be an actual thing that happens, and that’s not much of an actual change. If it had an aspect of the one described in the last issue, I think that’s fine. It would have to be something that involved some changes. That would have to be something more official and I don’t think that was the original intention.”

# Bennington Bikes: The Borrowing System

*Bennington bike mentality, and the new bike project that seeks to change the bike borrowing system for good*

By ARIANA ERVIN '11  
Staff Writer

Walk around Bennington Campus for a day and you will realize one thing: bikes, in front of houses, Commons and buildings such as Dickinson and VAPA, are rarely locked. They sprawl on sidewalks and are tipped over on grassy lawns. Kids ride them to and from classes, and leave them at the doorsteps of houses. Because bikes are rarely locked, many students have come to see these bikes as community property.

“Some people see it as, if the bike’s not locked up, then it’s free for anybody’s use,” says Rich Scheffler, acting Director of Campus Safety, when asked about the bike mentality on Bennington’s campus.

Maddy Parks '11 is aware of this mindset, so when her bike went missing four weeks ago, she wasn’t worried.

“At first, I didn’t even realize (my bike) was missing. I let people use it all the time so I didn’t even know it was gone until I hadn’t seen it for a few weeks.” When it finally did come to her attention, she decided to look for it herself, rather than report it.

“I didn’t report it because it had gone missing before and I found it. I think it’s part of the way we treat bikes here, it’s okay for people to take them. I figured it would turn up somewhere.” Eventually, Parks’ bike did turn up, tucked into a shed near the Student Center Parking lot. But her choice not to report her bike

missing seems to be in line with a broader campus trend.

“I didn’t report it to security because, I mean, what can they do? Reporting it wouldn’t be any better than me just looking for it.

According to Scheffler, this isn’t the case. “Usually when a bike is reported missing we (Campus Safety employees) all start looking for it and it is usually located somewhere on campus, a couple of days later.” He says “maybe six to eight bikes have been reported missing or stolen this term,” and, to his knowledge,

*“The best way to control who has the bikes and when, would be through a check-out system at the library. It will be just like checking out a book.”*

“they have located all of them.”

Of course, this figure does not include the vast number of bikes missing or stolen that go unreported by students, such as Parks, every term. While the issue of stolen bikes seems to be relatively small, at least according to Campus Safety numbers, Scheffler says, at least on some level, missing bikes are still a concern.

“I don’t think it’s necessarily a problem, but it does happen. People take other people’s bikes. So in that sense, it’s a problem for someone. It’s a problem for the bike owner, but it’s not really a problem for us. Looking for bikes is just one more thing we end up

doing.

Of course, according to Scheffler, there’s a simple solution: bike locks.

“Students could curtail [missing bikes] by locking up their bikes. That action is definitely going to cut down on the number of them disappearing. Parks, who recently found her missing bike, agrees, but says she “hasn’t yet gotten around to buying a bike lock.”

The mentality that goes along with bikes on campus seems unlikely to change anytime soon, but a committee group, which includes Danny Brylow '10, is attempting to change it through the new community Bike Share Program. The Bike share program is the brainchild of Shane Chase '11.

“The idea for the bike share program is that we gather up a bunch of bikes, painting them a specific color, and making sure they all have an identification number. The committee group decided that the best way to control who has the bikes and when, would be through a check-out system at the library. It will be just like checking out a book.”

The program is still in the phases of development (it isn’t set to launch until next term) and Brylow says they are grappling with such details like the amount of time someone could check out a bike for, how many bikes to begin with, and charge of late fees for not returning the bikes on time.

While students such as David Williams '12 says he would “definitely use community bikes if they existed,” he remains wary

of their ability to work in the way they’re supposed to.

Scheffler too, remains hesitant about the new project, since he says it was attempted once before. “A couple of years ago they tried something similar to this. A student rounded up bicycles that were left on campus over break, made minor repairs to them, and spray-painted them bright pink and bright green. It was put out that these bicycles were for anybody to use. That lasted maybe a term. The bikes were left out in the weather, and when they needed repairs, they never got them.”

Eventually he says, “they were rounded up and disposed of.” Brylow says this time is different. “We (the student committee) are very aware that something like this has been tried in the past and

because of that, we are addressing some of the specific problems they had. Instead of being able to take the bike and ride it somewhere and leave it, we will have a formal check out system.” He also says ideas are in the works to both protect the bikes from the elements, as well as make sure they are maintained.

“We are thinking about having a design contest to build a specific bike rack that will have

some sort of protection from the elements. Also, we are thinking it might be possible to create a paid position for a student who would supervise the bikes, make sure they are all in working order, and perform maintenance checks on a regular basis.”

However the Bike Share Program pans out, Brylow says he remains “optimistic about its possibilities.” Maddy Parks does too. “I have always wished we had community bikes, I think that could be really good. That idea of being able to share bikes is nice. But it’s not nice when it’s my bike and I need it and it’s missing. I think that’s abusing the freedom of bike sharing on campus.”

Perhaps the new Bike Share Program will make the bike owners, and the bike borrowers, happy.



“Bike Culture” Photo By Kristin Tiedeman '10



# Copenhagen Cont'd

...Continued from page 1

by 2012 under the Kyoto Protocol. The current concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is about 385 ppm (parts per million). According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published in 2007, "It is projected that—with current policy settings—global energy demand and associated supply patterns based on fossil fuels—the main drivers of [greenhouse gas] emissions—will continue to grow. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have increased by almost 100 ppm in comparison to its preindustrial level, reaching 379 ppm in 2005. Should there be no substantial change in energy policies, the energy mix supplied to run the global economy in the 2025–2030 time frame will essentially remain unchanged—more than 80% of the energy supply will be based on fossil fuels, with consequent implications for GHG emissions" (Introduction, Executive Summary, IPCC.) In a later chapter, the report states that "some irreversibility will almost certainly occur. For example, there is a quasi-certain irreversibility of a millennia time scale in the presence, in the atmosphere, of 22% of the emitted CO<sub>2</sub>" (Ch 2.2.2, IPCC)

Political, economic, scientific, technological, and ethical issues all come into play here;

it is widely acknowledged that however difficult, making dramatic reductions in carbon emissions is crucial to the survival of our planet—and humanity—as we know it. "If the whole world comes to Copenhagen and leaves without making the needed political agreement, then I think it's a failure that is not just about climate," says Connie Hedegaard, Danish Minister for Climate and Energy. "Then it's the whole

*"If the whole world comes to Copenhagen and leaves without making the needed political agreement, then I think it's a failure that is not just about climate"*

global democratic system not being able to deliver results in one of the defining challenges of our century. And that is and should not be a possibility. It's not an option."

Just as governments are realizing the dire situation at hand and coming together to address climate change, global awareness is increasing and people everywhere are working toward promoting a more sustainable future. Taking a look at much smaller scale environmental issues, here at Bennington there are numerous efforts being taken toward a more sustainable campus. At the forefront of

the College's environmental initiatives is Bennington's biomass heat generator, which has replaced the College's primary heating source, previous a fossil fuel system, with a new biomass heating system. The generator, a heating system consisting of a single 400 hp boiler, supplies the campus with heat sourced from wood chips, a veritable source of renewable energy and an initiative which will result in a drastic reduction of the campus' carbon output.

Additionally, with a multi-year grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Bennington is establishing a new interdisciplinary environmental studies program. The program's director, Valerie Imbruce, was a visiting faculty member in Biology at Bennington in 2008–09 and is particularly interested in food, agriculture, and the environment. Her research and writing has focused on the globalization of agriculture and the influence of urban demands on agricultural systems.

The new program is part of the College's major new curricular initiative, which aims to address public needs of urgency, complexity, and importance. This includes the 2011 opening of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action, better known as CAPA, the goals of which are closely integrated with the new environmental

studies colloquium, an effort to bring in public speakers and organize campus events relating to environmental studies and action.

Among the College's student-led initiatives is the Bennington Sustainable Food Project, a student organization focusing on working to find a way to source localized food for the dining hall by building relationships with local farmers. Long-term goals

*"In a school that talks about having a sustainable legacy, food and where it comes from has to be a part of that discussion,"*

include increasing the locally grown food available in the dining hall, the implementation of a composting system, and creating a garden/farm program on campus that continues to produce from year to year.

"In a school that talks about having a sustainable legacy, food and where it comes from has to be a part of that discussion," says Claire Barber '13. Short-term goals want to work with the dining hall to establish a labeling system. Putting labels on things that are organic and local so that students will know about them so that people are as educated as possible. The Dining Hall is currently working

with Happenstance farm, and is looking to establish similar fruitful relationships with other farms that the school would work with periodically. Though it is difficult for a larger institution such as a college, to collaborate with farms mostly due to the unpredictability of farming schedules and crop yield, the quantity of food needed, and food transportation and storage, the Dining Hall is very committed to this project: what we face now is simply a matter of establishing connections with farms and farmers.

As members of the Bennington community, as well as citizens of an increasingly globalized planet, it is essential that we are not only aware, but also active when it comes to issues of sustainability and environment. This is not a time where apathy can be permitted to persist; action and initiatives on the local, regional, national, and international scales must be taken, and they must be taken now. As we approach the conference in Copenhagen, and as our nation and the world face the increasingly catastrophic consequences of our decisions, we are reminded yet again the urgency of the time in which we live, and the imperative that we take responsibility for our future.

## Final Sportz Jamz of 2009

By MONTY WILSON '10  
STAFF WRITER



### NBA Basketball

Who is the team with the best record after the first 10<sup>th</sup> of the season? It's not the Lakers, Celtics, Magic or Cavaliers... it's the Atlanta Hawks. Joe Johnson, Josh Smith and the crew have been rallying to wins against Boston, Portland, Denver and a handful of teams with losing records to suddenly be in control of the East. Their schedule begins to look tougher in the coming weeks

meeting Toronto, Chicago and Denver on the road. I'm really interested in seeing how long they can hold on to the top spot. What I think is even more surprising is the league's other 9–2 start, Phoenix—the same Phoenix that didn't make the playoffs last year and traded Shaq over the summer. All-star Amare Stoudemire has been leading the team with an average 19.1 ppg, meanwhile Steve Nash has been leading the league in assists, maybe trading Shaq was the best move the franchise has made in recent history, because if you look at where Cleveland is now with Shaq, it doesn't seem like he's really any kind of effective weapon anymore. Look for match ups between Miami and Toronto, as well as Boston and Orlando at the end of the week.

### NFL Football

After nine weeks we have two teams with perfect records, Indianapolis and New Orleans (Indie is ranked higher because they've played on more division game than the Saints). Anyone would expect an impressive season like this, not to mention that the ninth victory was basically handed to them by New England coach Bill Belichick's terrible call to go for a touchdown on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 at the 28<sup>th</sup> yardline with 28 seconds on the



clock. I can't help but give praise to New Orleans though, who have had a roller coaster of success and disappointment since drafting Reggie Bush in 2005, now they have the NFL's best quarter back ranking 106.1, in Drew Brees who has passed 2,559 yards this season with 19 touchdowns and 68% completion rating. It's hard to find wholes in New Orleans and they have a going into January. Many Saints fans are already talking about a perfect season for a team that has never been to a Super Bowl. Preseason favorites like Pittsburgh and San Diego have not had the phenomenal starts that Indie and NO have, but from the looks of the division tables they are still well on their way to making the playoffs.

### World Cup Soccer

The United States is going to South Africa 2010. Bringing with them Mexico and Costa Rica from the North/Central American confederation. Despite losing star forward Charlie Davies to a car accident, he's likely not going to get back to training for a while—and falling short in some uncharacteristic losses on the road, The US is in good shape to maybe make it out of the first round next year. In Europe the standard guard of sides have broken through qualifying round. Spain and Netherlands had perfect records, Germany and England looked very dominating. The only surprise is that runner up from the 2006 cup, France has to beat Ireland in aggregate play offs in the coming weeks to secure their spot as they had a pretty dismal start with new coach Domenech. South Africa had a very promising showing at the Confederations Cup last summer, as they

are the hosts they didn't need to even enter the African confederations qualifying, but they are still expected to make a good impression at the Cup. The real surprise is that New Zealand has secured a spot in the finals. Oceania (New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji and Vanuatu) have a half-spot reserved in the World Cup, meaning the top ranked team from Oceania has to beat the Fifth ranked team in Asia in order to qualify. This has not happened in a very long time as Soccer is not very popular in this area, they love their Rugby. Nonetheless, New Zealand beat Qatar, 1–0 and are going to South Africa, they probably won't be staying too long though.





# Council Cont'd

...Continued from page 1

be involved not only in their specific houses, but also "in the greater community", while Meier says, "We are seeing where needs arise and are trying to make sure other people are involved, and not just the House Chair body." Adding to that, she pointed out the importance of having people participate in projects that are actually relevant to them. "It should move towards interest and people participating in projects they are passionate about regarding the school," she says. They all agree that an elected student council would be a good idea, but that it would have to really come out of a need that the students have instead of the need for simply just having one for formality's sake. "I just don't think the need has been discovered yet," McMahon

concludes. If a Student Council did exist, the House Chairs said that they would be welcome to share in some of their duties, such as talking to Campus Safety or checking in with the Dining Hall.

Cathy McGath '10, Head of SEPC, thinks the need for an elected body is more pressing. In recent years, SEPC has been taking on more and more of Student Council's duties (being on the body, I can attest to the fact that our bounds have been reaching slightly further than the label of "academic" would allow) including the addressing of the need for an improvement in the Federal Work Study structure at Bennington. McGath feels as though much of our contact with the administration could become a lot more efficient with an elected

student group. "There has been a huge lack of communication as well as much miscommunication between students, faculty and the administration. A student council would provide a clear feedback loop for students to go through with their issues." In McGath's opinion, apathy is the biggest reason as to why we don't have an organized Council. "I don't understand how we can all be invested in our individual work, but be so detached from how our school is run, she says, obviously frustrated. "It's great that we have house chairs who are invested in our community, but they're not democratically elected. We need an elected body that can present a unified voice to the administration and one that is also representative of a wide range of students." McGath is also concerned that because House Chairs

are not student-elected officials, they can be "sidestepped by the administration as dealing with campus-wide issues is not the most important part of their job" and because they are not elected by the students.

When evaluating where we are now in terms of student representation, it seems the need for student council and where it would fit into our school is still very unclear. In terms of addressing a budget, we do have a functioning and active Budget Committee made up of students who were nominated and then invited to participate. There was a call for applicants in the early fall, but no one applied. This is in addition to an also active student Judicial Committee. Apathy does seem to be a problem, judging from the consistent lack of votes or applications that are received on this

campus. However, there is still the overarching issue of how a Student Council would function at a school structured as uniquely as ours is, not to mention what exactly their duties would be. In Fall of '08, Matt Nunes, frustrated and tired of the lack of interest and activity in Student Council, resigned his post as Head of the Budget Committee. This was after Matt's work in changing the budget committee went almost virtually unnoticed. He explains the prior process had been more of a "closed door" decision, while this was a way to give more power to the students in how the budget was allocated. In his official letter of Resignation he states, "The Student Council is entirely the making of the Students, and if the Students don't like it, they should change it." Easier said than done.



Bennington State University Student Council, Circa 1931

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# New Moon: A Hot Topic

By MICHAEL ZIMMER '10  
STAFF WRITER  
AND MIKE CAHOON '10

Thanks to the Internet, the BFP was able to get a special "advanced screener" of the highly anticipated Twilight film, *New Moon*. To avoid the same confusion we had, readers should know *New Moon* is not the latest seasonal flavor of the popular beverage "Blue Moon." Starring Kristen Stewart and her boyfriend, the latest chapter continues the story from the first one, about vampires, and now werewolves.

The film begins with a poignant enigma: images of a large estate, and a mysterious bedridden millionaire muttering in a soothing baritone "Rosebud," just before dropping a snowglobe. From there, Bella celebrates her birthday with Edward and the rest of the Cullen family. Unfortunately, they can't control themselves from going after her rich, chocolaty blood. Edward is forced to leave Bella barefoot and mortal, with only her trusty, shirtless, shape shifting dog friend to protect her.

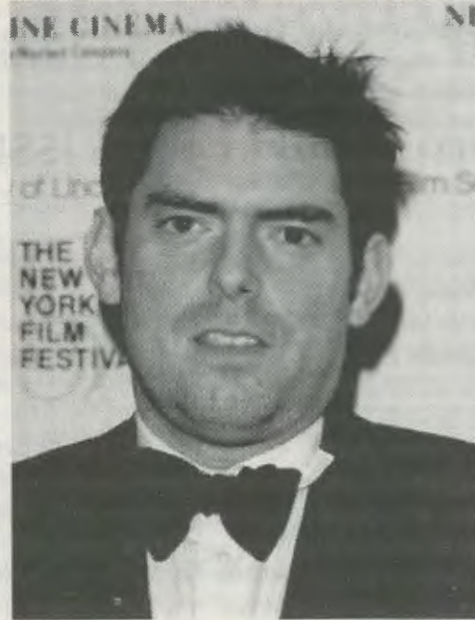
In this movie, the vampiric blood lust is best compared to the lust we all have for dangerously cheesy snack products. And just like our lust, the characters are driven to acts of violence to get what they need. Friends become enemies, enemies become friends, and Edward elicits a longing that can only be filled by Coke Zero and Hot Topic gift cards.

The sound track, released early due to mass illegal downloading, features popular musical acts such as Gilbert and Sullivan, Steely Dan, and Thom Yorke. Some bands contributed songs produced specifically for the film. Creedence Clearwater Revival wrote a new song titled, "Bad Moon Rising," an ode to Jacob's rising powers. Frank Zappa contributed in his own way, naming his child Moon Unit. But the track "Modern Major General" is still number one on iTunes, and remains both the thematic and tonal centerpiece of the sound track. You know

the old adage, "vaudevillians and vampires have tin-ears," but you wouldn't know from this sound track.

This film brings in a new director, Chris Weitz, well known for antagonizing the Catholic religion with *The Golden Compass*. The director for the first film, Catherine Hardwick, has only directed stories about vampires: *The Nativity Story*, *Thirteen*, and coming soon, *Hamlet* with Emile Hirsch. Apparently she was disgusted by the thought of working with werewolves. Chris Weitz's

new style brought a new life to the film that just like the ocean, under the moon, well it's the same as the emotion that I get from you, he's got the kind of lovin' that can be so smooth, yeah, gimme your heart make it real or else forget about it. [Ladies and gentlemen, Carlos Santana (Solo)].



New Moon Director Chris Weitz

## Cat Couture Tacky Trend or Too Cute?

By SARAH ST. LIFER '10  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Meow. Designers this season are thinking outside the litter box and feline fashion is storming the runways.

It started with Miu Miu's Lolita girls who wore sparrows, 70's flower prints, and of course, cats under the tents this past fashion week. Her pencil skirt was safe: white cats floating on a pale pink canvas. But the blouses, with the same prints, have sleeves that look like swimmies, a black collar, and fabric crossed over the bust to cut out and draw attention to a flash of flesh.

On her Vegas showgirl-esq sequin dress, the fabrics adorned with cats reappears, but only in small amounts in unexpected

places. Miuccia Prada explained that the collection is, "fresh" and discussed how "innocence can survive in this world" The clothes are expectably neat and prim, but the shapes and choice of playful prints could confuse the regulars on *To Catch a Predator*.

Wide-eyed black cats are perched on each breast on Clements Ribeiro's Ready To Wear Spring 2010 collection. And again at the hips of their navy cardigans. We also see a leopard print cat silhouette

on a black silk tee shirt. Not only in this collection, but in many, leopard print is showing up on statement dresses and booties.

Vanessa Seward was chosen as the designer to revive the house of Azzaro several years ago, and an embroidered feline on a white silk minidress carefully respects

the house's heritage. Like Miu Miu's leaping cats, this one's tail is lazily curled around to the back of the dress. The dress is much more elegant than the other designs, but just as playful.

Recently, Corey Lynn Calter's whimsical collection mixed floral-print minidresses with bright striped and solid separates that included cats on oversized sweat-shirts.

United Bamboo designers Miho Aoki and Thuy Pham created kitty-sized versions of their ready to wear dresses and will release a calendar of these fashionable felines in the near future.

Fashion Week Daily asked their readers in a poll if they would really rock the trend. 54 percent said yes. Are cat ladies finally having their moment?



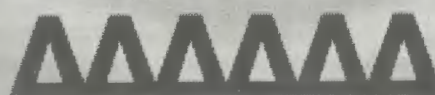
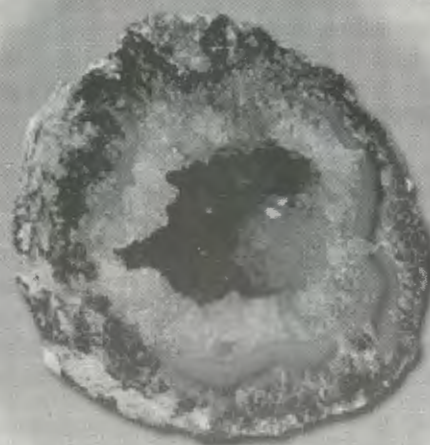
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## the magic is inside



### Real Politic:

Politics at Bennington are so shitty because the stakes are so low

### Tweet Highlights:

@DGaff: Dear college student blasting rap and playing along on a saxophone in the adjacent room: Bennington has a music building just for you.

@z000000: if you spend 4 years studying art and it isnt bullshit; you went wrong somewhere

### cool animals spotted on campus:

fisher cat  
huge skunk

Josh Lamorey

### Overheard At BNGTN

"Every meal of my life is a hunger banquet"

### Product Placement:

Silver Scion heard blasting Minimal Techno down first First St. just like in the commercials!

### I'll give ya some Mediation:

Susan Sgorbati punched a bobcat in the face and saved her own cat's life! (TRUE STORY)

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# Eating With Emily &

By Emily Gray Tareila '10  
STAFF WRITER

## The End of Term & DH Blues Issue

So I am totally bumming on the Dining Hall these days. Sadly, it is just inevitable at the end of every semester for me. I am so unmotivated and silly about the whole thing that I have been on the phone with my mom for hours at a time browsing through recipes to make for our Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas brunch-sad, right? Really, I'm just super excited to be in my home with my family enjoying delicious things.



Image courtesy Emily Gray Tareila '10

Thankfully, this past weekend, I was able to spend time with my very special pal Liz Meier's family when they visited this weekend. Liz '11, Henry Lyon '11, myself, Liz's parents and brother all put together an incredible meal for Liz's father's birthday. It was incredible. This issue of Eating With Emily will include only recipes to make at home, perhaps in conjunction with Thanksgiving or the holidays. Here are two dishes made for the birthday dinner. A Fall palette indeed.

### Roasted Butternut Squash and Chickpea Soup



Image courtesy of sense-serendipity.blogspot.com

(modified from Rouxbe cooking school)

This soup might be my new favorite. The bacon really puts it over the top and the frozen whipped cream? Genius!

- 2 medium butternut squashes
- .5 c. whipping cream
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- some sprigs of fresh thyme or rosemary
- .5 lb of bacon
- 1 can chickpeas
- 4-5 cups of chicken/vegie stock
- 1 large minced onion
- Salt and pepper



Image courtesy of Smitten Kitchen

Preheat oven to 375 F.

1. Cut squash into 1-2 in. thick slices. Place the cut side down, on a baking sheet, douse with olive oil/ salt and pepper and bake until tender about 30-40 minutes.

2. While the squash is in the oven, prepare whipped cream. Place a small piece size of parchment paper/tin foil on a plate. Whip cream until stiff. Add rosemary/thyme, sea salt and pepper. Form the whipped cream into generous dollops. Place the shaped whipped cream onto the parchment paper and place in the freezer. Leftover whipped cream can be used for other soups or sauces.

3. Cook the bacon over low heat until brown but not crispy. Drain over paper towels. Chop into one inch bits. Set aside. Add onion with a little sea salt and sweat until the onions are soft and translucent. Set aside. Include as little bacon grease as possible.

4. Cool the squash slightly. Using a grapefruit spoon if possible, scrape out and discard the seeds and stringy fiber. Scrape the pulp from the skin. Set aside.

5. In a food processor or in a blender, puree in batches the squash, onion, broth, and the chickpeas. Transfer to pot. If necessary, add stock to thin the soup to a desired consistency. Bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper for taste.

Warm soup on medium-low heat for 10 minutes to blend flavors. Ladle into soup bowls and finish with the frozen rosemary whipped cream, then garnish with bacon. Add a sprig of rosemary to make it all come together.



by faith f griffiths '11  
STAFF WRITER

## No one would believe me

I mean it – they scoffed. They laughed. It was terrible

Members of my house were making a late night chocolate mousse a few weeks back. They had gotten all the necessary supplies – heavy cream, chocolate, egg whites, sugar. Though a fan of all mousses, I sat on our kitchen counter (my favorite of perches) and told them about the vegan tofu chocolate mousses that I concocted during my stint at the Garden Street Café, a small vegetarian restaurant in my hometown. I was in charge of desserts there, which usually took me the entire morning (I am talking about one dessert per morning) – due to the fact that I had been working there quite a while and I was enough of a goofball that I sort of could, and did, get away with anything I wanted. I have learned that in many situations if you are a goofball and very cheerful you can get away with a lot. I use it for good and not evil.

Anyway, I got to explore many vegan desserts during this time – my cookbook of choice was called *Vegan Planet* and is written by Robin Robertson. I am not a vegan but vegan desserts hold a sort of magical glory in my eyes. Occasionally it pains me to use butter and eggs and I won't.

Anyway again – I am on the kitchen counter, no *Vegan Planet* but no fewer than seven vegan cook books at my side. We have a lot of vegan cookbooks. Some are punk, some are fancy, and some gourmet. I was comparing the vegan tofu chocolate mousses and rambling away about my tofu mousse endeavors to the regular chocolate mousse makers (who had heard these rambles already). Some of the recipes I found were lame and others satisfying. The problem was that we had no tofu. I went to the order board and boldly wrote "TOFU"

I was immediately berated and forced to switch it to "SILKEN TOFU". That night everyone greatly enjoyed the regular experience of chocolate mousse. But not I. I spent the evening thinking about how I would show them.



No one would believe me.

I mean it – they scoffed. They laughed. It was terrible.

The silken tofu arrived several days later. When the timing was right, I plopped it right into the cuisinart and decided to make up the recipe on the spot! I would be my own *Vegan Planet*.

This is an approximate estimate of what went down:

- two containers of SILKEN TOFU
- two tablespoons of honey
- half a cup of cocoa powder
- a third cup of raw sugar
- a handful of chocolate chips, melted in the microwave
- two heaping spoonfuls of raspberry jam

It swirled and swirled. It was beautiful. Slightly lumpy. Glorious.

I unveiled it after dinner. Though I wished to keep quiet as to the integrity of the mousse ("Is it real mousse or fake mousse??")

I had to admit that it was in fact tofu as one of my house mates is dairy-free (by her the was greeted with a rejoicing "Yeeeeeeaaaah").

I probably don't even have to tell you that the bowl was cleaned out rather quickly. There was only a little bit left. There is often only a little bit left of delicious food. Why is this? It is bothersome – not enough to wrap up. Sad to throw out. Everyone wusses out at the very end. I scooped up the little bit into my cup but even I could not do it. Not even a more bite.

I will spend a lifetime sticking up to vegan desserts. They are like the step-brother you are very cautious about because he just popped up out of nowhere into your life and now you have to live with him, but with time and enthusiasm you'll find that he's a cool dude and you will be life-long bros. This is a tough analogy for me to make as I do not have a step-brother nor would I be bros with him as I would be his step-sister.

One day I will write a cookbook of vegan desserts. It will not be punk or gourmet far and it will not be lame. It will be very sweet and cheerful and a goof ball. It will be so sweet, cheerful, and goofy that people will get great pleasure in owning it and concocting these glorious creations. It will be my big break and I will never work again.

No one would believe me.

I mean it – they scoffed. They laughed. It was terrible.

I hope that you will bake at least one delicious dessert during Field Work Term. I think it will make you happy. Maybe it will be vegan or maybe it will be very regular.





# Memedom: An Overview

BY DEVIN GAFFNEY '10  
WEB EDITOR

So y'all, we're taking a break from Know Your Protocol, which is so sad, because I can just see you being so upset about that. It's such an interesting series, and I know you hate to see it go. But, don't worry: we're going to talk about memes.

A meme, in its most basic definition, is a cultural gene. When I say Michael Jackson, you know what I'm talking about, you know all about the kid-touching allegations, and you might even know that he's from Gary, Indiana. The internet has fundamentally altered and expanded both the definition of what is "meme-worthy" as well as the range of memes. It's a special time to be alive, so let's get started.

EncyclopediaDramatica.com is probably the one-stop big box store for memes. I don't think I have ever gone there and not found a meme when I was looking for one and I usually learn about new memes from them. Built on a Wikipedia instance, the site is a collaborative encyclopedia documenting every funny thing you have ever seen on the internet. It's racist, sexist, pejorative, and otherwise "trollin'" attitude is part of what makes it so great, so don't get offended. Trolling, which I'll surely talk about sometime later, is an art unto itself and a central component to making the "lulz"

reality, so don't hate the player, hate the game.

Memes, for better or worse, tend to come out of a few avenues: 4chan, youtube, and somethingAwful are the heavy hitters. The second one you know about, but the first and third are less known to the non-internet popu-



lation. Both are forums, places where people can post on the page, people can reply, and pictures/links can be put up. They are basically open houses for discussion, which is what a forum, by definition is, so, if you don't get it, then you're not going to. Stop reading.

4chan was started by Moot, a guy who looks like a 12 year old, but has more ladies and blow than you'll ever know. SomethingAwful was started by Lowtax, who is a prick. 4chan and SomethingAwful are very different; whereas on SomethingAwful, you pay 10 dollars to join, and are bound to an account for every post you make, on 4chan, you post anonymously for free. For that reason,

SomethingAwful is kind of like a functioning state, and there are clear areas for distinct types of discussion. The posts are long, and when a meme comes from it, which is fairly infrequent, it is a slow process, and the meaning behind it is deep.

4chan kind of reminds me of a state of nature. Everytime you refresh the page, you are inundated with porno, perhaps even child porn, and a ton of racist or otherwise insensitive material. But, the memes come fast and hard, and are not afraid to fuck you up so violently that they have nothing left to do with you but leave you bleeding in the parking lot. It's awesome. It is this uncaring, disrespectful, completely appalling attitude that keeps people coming back for more, and for that reason, many "true" memes are things you really shouldn't laugh about.

Perhaps memes are best described through what it is most certainly not: Millhouse. Millhouse, from the Simpsons, is not a meme because he was never funny in the first place. Bringing up Millhouse in conversation is not inherently funny. I'm looking at you, Ian Engleberger ('13). Further than that, he is super not funny because people always talk about him, and constantly push the agenda that he is a meme. Thus, the statement "Millhouse is not a meme" is funny, because despite its patent truth, people

continue to challenge it. This then forces people to keep insisting that he is not a meme. It is in this begging of a response that the person A posting Millhouse images trolls person B. Person B, to their credit, honestly tries to assert the non-memeliness of Millhouse, but by having to defend an opinion, are being trolled. Person A has succeeded in forcing the person to do what the original intention was at this point; person A really doesn't give a shit about Millhouse, he just wants to control what person B will say next, and piss them off by doing so. So, while the statement "Millhouse is not a meme" is clearly true, the statement "'Millhouse is not a meme' is a meme" is also true. It is through the transitive nature of the trolling that Millhouse becomes a meme, through the fact that he is not a meme. Do you understand what I meme?



Perhaps a meme will help those who are stupid out. Take Battletoads, the Nintendo video-

game: is it inherently funny? Yes, they are toads, doing battle. That is funny, because in truth, toads do very little battling. Is it nerdy? It's an old Nintendo videogame. Let's dig into this example just a bit. Now, the point of the Battletoads meme is that you are supposed to call a Gamestop franchise and ask for this game which hasn't been in stores for years, probably more than a decade. Demand it, and maybe the manager will get upset and try their best to get their hands on it. We mustn't forget though, this can go dreadfully wrong. In one case in west Philadelphia, the manager of the store actually found and confronted the prankster, born and raised, at a basketball court and beat them up pretty viciously. The person was living with their mother at the time, and had this to say about the incident: "I told my mom what I had just seen. Then she got scared and said, 'you're moving with your auntie and uncle in Bel-Air.' I whistled for a cab and when it came near, the license plate said 'FRESH' and it had dice in the mirror. If anything I could say that this cab was rare, but I thought 'Nah, forget it, yo homes to Bel-Air!' I pulled up to the house about 7:00 or 8:00 and I yelled to the cabby, 'Yo homes, smell ya later!' Looked at my kingdom, I was finally there, to sit on my throne as the Prince of Bel-Air."

## Bennington Reflections

BY JONAH LIPSKY '12

Once graduated from college, life keeps going. The part about this that is salient is that Bennington College, no matter how fascinating and interesting an experience, is a stepping stone (one of many), towards the rest of life which holds ups and downs, joy and difficulty. Here are a few stories of recent graduates from the class of '08, what they are doing, and what their reflections on their time at Bennington are.

Chris Hammond '09 is pursuing his passion for education reform—an issue that became of interest to him while he was here at Bennington. "It started as a class with Brian Duff, 'Teaching and Learning,'" says Chris, "Then I talked to Ken Himmelman and Liz Coleman and took their Design Lab on Education reform."

At that point his interest in education turned into a new project that Hammond headed with other Bennington students that they named the Education Forum. It was a 1-credit course that they designed in order to address the issue of education reform.

Out of school, Hammond has been searching for work in a policy related organization, preferably in the NGO world. So far he has not been able to find a solid

position for which to move out (from home) and begin a career. "I would be happy with an internship or an entry level position, you know, getting coffee, whatever."

He mentioned that the real thrust of the position would be to build a record of credibility upon which he could apply to graduate school. Despite the fact that work has been scarce, he seemed optimistic; perhaps with a sense of purpose about following what he knows he wants to do in the professional world.

When asked whether he was surprised to have found a professional path that he was interested in pursuing, he said, "It usually begins as an idea and then becomes something else based on who is involved." This seems to be how it happened with his interest and progress with education reform classes. He also said that, from what he could tell, "it seems like that's the approach that they are taking to CAPA. That's how CAPA is going to have to happen."

In regards to how he had changed over the course of his time at Bennington, he mentioned how he did not measure his progress or personal development through the classes that he was taking but rather the people that he was relating to and with. Coming back from FWT or the summer, he said, "people are dif-

ferent and you are hanging out with other people. I changed and saw it in a way in relation to who I would associate with."

When asked to be more specific he said, "When I was a freshman I was looking for interesting dangerous people. When I was a senior I was looking for people who were kind and respectful to people."

Christie Goshe '09 has taken a more impulsive route towards finding meaningful work. On a whim, she said, she moved out to San Francisco with no job, and unsure of what she would find. However as it has happened, she found an internship working for a documentary film maker, which was her main passion and plan at Bennington.

Goshe found film by accident it might seem, as she did not know that it would become so central for her when she arrived at Bennington. In fact, she tried to transfer out two times but ended up staying. However despite the chaotic throws of finding out what she wanted to do, she said that "I would do it over again. [Bennington] trains people and it is about who you become on the way."

After she realized that film was central to her studies, other seemingly unrelated courses began to make sense. She says that when her advisor pushed her to take a

dance course because she was an architecture student, it made "total sense" to her. She said that she "saw the connection" and that "these things aren't alone."

Film for her was something that she knew she was good at. However, when her Plan Committee recommended that she follow that impulse, she was at first resistant. She says that following up on film was "the best thing I ever did," and "after that... everything came together."

The filmmakers with whom she is working are making films about Gay Rights. Their latest one, "Ask Not," has received positive, critical acclaim. Although she is still looking for full-time employment, she said that she is "glad to be doing work that I studied at Bennington."

Audrey Shulman '09 studied screenwriting at Bennington. When she began to take screenwriting classes she says that it was "the best moments." However it wasn't an interest that was evident the first moment she arrived on campus. For her it was an opening process, one that the plan process aided in the development of. She says that through the Plan process she began to be more vocal with her interests and was able to put aside the apparent contradiction between writing about what you want and not being "self-centered," as the

process can often feel. She says that it was "the support to follow your interests, that got me to do screenwriting."

At this point Shulman is working at the NBC lot in Los Angeles. She got an internship there that was designed to expose newcomers to the field of film/television to the business in an entry-level-position way. She has been there only four months or so but has found a community in which "everyone is nice."

Although Shulman is not doing exactly the work that connects with her deeply (she is making a lot of deliveries to production executives) she pointed out that she is getting there. "LA is where you go to write T.V. shows," she said.

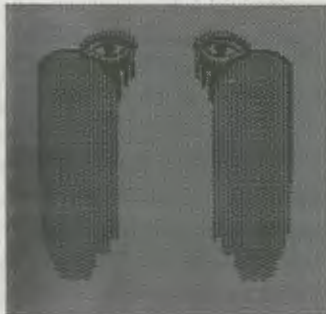
I had a good conversation with Andrew Barton '08, who among much else had a central piece of wisdom in reflection to his time at Bennington. He said "it is important to know that you have a hand in what your experience is." Barton was industrious about creating opportunities for musical concerts and film screenings that would not have happened were he not to have organized them. And he takes it with him on his journey. He said, "it is important to me to create the experience that I am having."



# Album Reviews: All My Friends Are Beasts In Love

BY WILL LULOFS '09  
ALUMNI STAFF WRITER

Bear In Heaven - Beast Rest Forth Mouth



I love Hometapes, the record label which put this record out, for a lot of reasons: they seem like very nice, unpretentious people for one thing. And either despite or because of this, they have racked up a consistently impressive catalogue in the past few years, from artists like deconstructionist troubadour Paul Duncan and the jubilantly precise duo Pattern Is Movement. And so my ears perked up when I saw the impressive reviews that *Beast Rest Forth Mouth* was receiving. Now that I've listened to it a few times, I'm just confused. Didn't Can make a much better, more interesting, more engaging version of this record several times in the early 1970's? I guess there are a

few decent songs on this record, but it all just sounds so rote, so flat, so unenthused. I don't want to sell them too short—this record doesn't mindlessly ape first-wave krautrock bands—but while the album has a convincing and arguably unique aesthetic, when you strip it all away, it's just not very good. I know these guys are capable of more because they have a sharp ear for period detail, and I hope they dig deeper on their next record. Maybe we'll see some real gems start to emerge. For now, however, this is a record full of melodies too obtuse to be salvageable, and rhythms too consistently plodding and self-serious to be worth a third or fourth listen. RIYL, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, or any of those other viral social experiments posing as unimpressive bands of the mid-2000's. ★★

Sharon Van Etten - Because I Was In Love



Sharon Van Etten is seriously skilled, considering how few tricks she allows herself. She's also seriously humble, and has a disarmingly natural feel for a strong melodic arc. She's also seriously pretty, which, when in the company of actual talent, always helps, not to be sexist. *Because I Was In Love*, which was released earlier this year, follows in the over-thirty-year-old footsteps of Sibylle Baier, another sad-eyed beauty with a nylon string guitar and seemingly not much else keeping her head above water. Van Etten's voice is certainly worlds apart from Baier, and not in a bad way, but the overall tenor of this record makes it a worthy comparison, even if it does sound younger, less weathered, filled with the patient monotony of a songwriter learning a craft rather than creating one out of thin air. Somehow the stretches of this album where nothing really happens aren't all that problematic; Van Etten's ability to emote over a couple simple chords without saying much of anything is impressive, and it excites me to think what will happen when she inevitably becomes a bit more interested in the infinite dilemmas of structure and timbre. While this record doesn't quite reach the consistently pithy melancholy of Baier's *Colour Green*, it shows

considerable promise. I expect her next album will be something to behold on its own terms. ★★★

Califone - All My Friends Are Funeral Singers



If The Books were not made up of two mild-mannered Northeasterners with a passion for musique-concrete, and were instead composed of four curmudgeonly Midwesterners with a taste for the leathery and the desolate, you'd have Califone. I'm not sure what this analogy does for this review, but just as The Books sound like Western Massachusetts, Califone's sound is quintessentially Chicagoan, full of electroacoustic echoes of other Second City bands like Gastr del Sol, Tortoise, and even of Wilco's more experimental moments. And like the Books, Califone has quietly peened away at its own brand of

sonic innovation, one that ably marries the warmth of wood and the human voice with the sterility of the microchip. *All My Friends Are Funeral Singers* is not quite the triumph of their previous effort, *Roots & Crowns*, but it is filled with small moments of rugged beauty. It is so seamless in its construction that I found myself wishing for a few more unrestrained crescendos, a few more jarring color shifts, and a few more hints of catharsis. Still, I can't think of a record from the past year which would be a better soundtrack to getting ready for work this winter in New York City while it's still dark outside. I'll be seeing all of you New Yorker FWT-ers sooner than it feels. ★★★★★



## Review Season Wraps Up

Senior Reviews are all finished and soon they'll be taken down—go check them out while you still can.



Liz King '12



Clarence Hamilton Poe '12



Will Moss '12

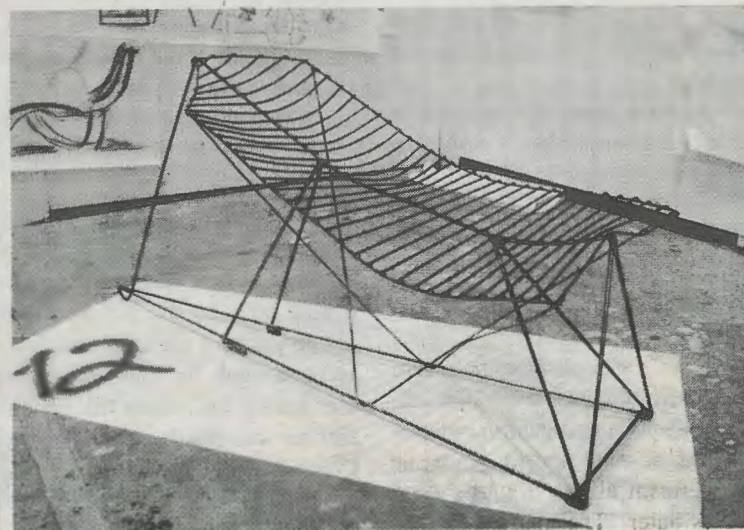
## What Is A Form for the Human Body?

BY HUGH ELTON '12  
ARTS EDITOR

Students in the intro sculpture class "What is a Sculpture?" have spent the past two and a half weeks on a big-time assignment: to create a "Form for the Human Body," however they interpret that. That's translated into a lot of unconventional designs for chairs and loungers, and now that the assignment is complete, sculpture professor John Isherwood is inviting the rest of the student body to try them out and cast votes for the best one. Get in there and cast your vote before Monday, and the winner doesn't have to pay for the materials they used. Just don't sit in the ones with signs on them telling you not to sit in them.



Photos by Hugh Elton '12





# Some Like It With Doo-Wop

By CONNIE PANZARIELLO '12  
FEATURES EDITOR

**“W**hy do fools fall in love?” is the question asked in Kathleen Dimmick’s version of Shakespeare’s classic comedy, “As You Like It”, as a duke’s disinherited youngest son Orlando (Santino Toretto '12) and his erstwhile lady love dressed in boy’s clothes (Amelia Meath '11) travel through the wilds of the Ardennes and among its unique inhabitants to find each other (a lovelorn shepherd, a melancholy wanderer and a wisecracking fool all serve to highlight and at times hinder the journey). “Why Do Fools Fall In Love?” is also one of the songs sung by the doo-wop group that serves as a chorus to the actions on stage (what, you didn’t know that doo-wop’s been around since the 1600’s?):



From left: Amelia Randall Meath '10, Santino Toretto '12, Ben Mankoff '11 and Maile Zox '12

According to Maria Diffabbio, “As You Like It’s” Stage Manager, “It was a unique show to work on because it combined great songs with text. It was wonderful and original in that sense.” The songs aren’t the only departure from the Bard’s version, as the set designed by Theatre and Animation faculty Sue Rees was simply but beautifully decorated with white ladders arranged neatly around the stage. This also provided great opportunities for the actor’s to show-off little-known acrobatic skills (Josh Gulotta '11’s ladder work was particularly admirable. See Picture.) Diffabbio explains, “We had a lot of fun with blocking on the set. The ladders gave us a concrete look to begin with, and it was a great canvas for Webster Marsh, our lighting designer, to transform it into the Forest of Ardennes [where the story takes place].”

The costumes, designed by Danny Michaelson, Emily Krug '11, Emily Woods-Hogue '10, Kaitee Tredway '11 and other members of Michaelson’s Costumes Projects Class, are responsible for bright, vibrant costumes of court and the more sensible clothing of the forest’s inhabitants (there’s also a wicked headdress that you must see to believe, worn quite well by Brittany Olinkewicz '10).

As Stage Manager, Diffabbio was able to see the whole show come together and develop into the spectacular of doo-wop and good old-fashioned Shakespeare the production has become. “I saw it from the raw beginnings to the final project and I watched the actors develop their characters. It’s awesome to watch and see everyone’s hard

work pay off.”

“As You Like It” will be playing Lester Martin on November 19th, 20th, 21st at 8 pm. By now the show has been sold out for quite some time, but come early and get your name on the waiting list!



Josh Gulotta '11

Photos by Connie Panzariello '12

## Art Faculty Interview: Paul Bloodgood

By IAN DOLTON-THORNTON '11  
STAFF WRITER

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Ian:** Has being here in Bennington influenced your landscape paintings?

**Paul:** Well the landscape is so prominent here, but I like the small moments most—late night skies, morning frost, color and light in the open air, and even though the paintings are meant to engage with these things, I go about it indirectly. I work from preparatory collages that are mash-ups of parts and details from my own work, found materials, other paintings—Pollock’s black enamel paintings, Cézanne’s late works, and the Late Ming Dynasty landscapes of Tung Ch’ing Ch’ang. The collages are meant to break up the usual foreground, middle ground, mountain sky orientation of conventional landscapes, and reconceive it as something that’s not static, not just a “view.”

**Ian:** Is the reason that you refer to that particular Ming Dynasty painter an aesthetic attraction or wanting to refer to a history?

**Paul:** Well, His work is very interesting. In the early seventeenth century, he’s working in an abstract vernacular that’s closely related to what happens in early modernism almost four hundred years later. The material takes

precedence over the subject matter, expression takes precedence over representation, etc.

I think that landscape is part of a larger energetic system—it is not really constant in form, structure or proportion and I also think it’s only there when it’s engaged with, so I guess I’m part of this energetic system, too. And maybe my paintings are meant to be evidence of this engagement.

**Ian:** Does the color in these paintings resonate with your work as a

colorist for Martha Stewart, or is it just that they both come out of a general artistic interest in color?

**Paul:** It’s different, because for Martha I’m making interior house paint colors and they have to work for specific applications: walls, ceilings, doors, so it’s a different challenge. But I would say that doing all this mixing—making 6 or 700 colors that are supposed to be usable in somebody’s home is great exercise.

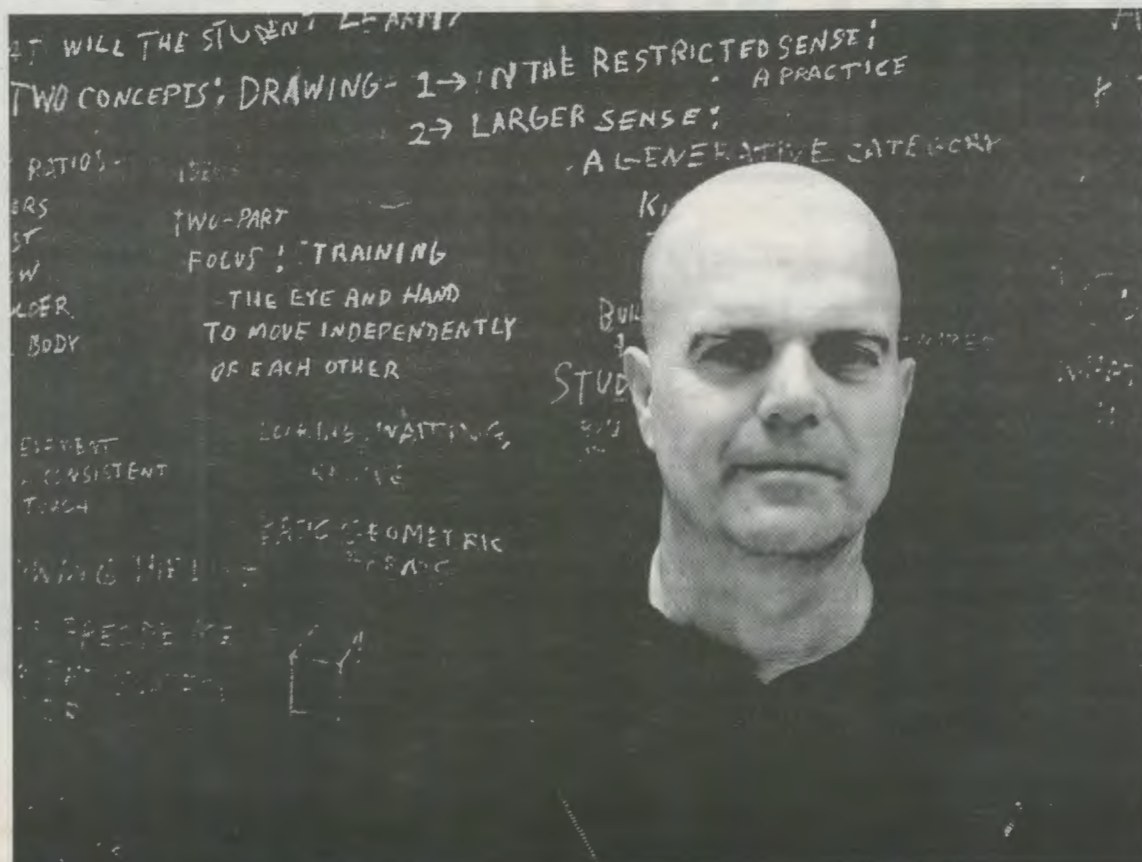
**Ian:** Another thing I wanted to ask you about was running a gallery space.

**Paul:** It started in an art-moving company I worked for in 1989. We had a little office and cut it in half and made it into a gallery. As an art-mover, after a number of years seeing it all, you get quite jaded by aspects of it as an industry, so we opened it for art-workers. After a few years of doing that, I had an idea of how I would curate. There’s a huge middle-

class of artists in New York. You can stand on the threshold of the art world as a career for a long time and not know how to get in. When I started curating, the whole place opened in a different way. I let myself.

**Ian:** I liked working in this space in my Intro to Painting class, having everyone together painting together.

**Paul:** When you have groups like this, people can help each other out, and people are at different stages. That’s how it works. It’s not about the idea, it’s about being persistent and disciplined. Manet would do many small paintings of Olympia after he painted it, partly to sell, but also partly just to revisit it. It takes pressure off the idea that every painting has to be the new big painting, or the new most important painting. I think maybe I have done some very good paintings in my career, but I don’t know which ones they are. A painting’s finished when it gives ideas for other paintings down the road. You can see the possibility of a painting ten years from now in something that happened in this painting. That’s the whole bread and butter of learning how to paint: learning how to keep moving, to not stop.



Bloodgood in his office.

Henry Lyon photo



# ALL I WANNA KNOW IS WHERE THE PARTY AT? AND CAN I BRING MY\_\_\_\_\_?

- ☐ CAT
- ☐ BAT (CREATURE)
- ☐ RAT
- ☐ HAT
- ☐ YOGA MAT
- ☐ D.A.T.
- ☐ SNAX
- ☐ DAD
- ☐ BACKPACK
- ☐ 30 RACK
- ☐ (TAKE A) NAP
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
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