

Eye on Editorials

EDITORIAL

SOCIALISM

Or How I Learned to Understand Economic Theory and Love Obama

By Paul DiPietro

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One of the last major issues in this election season is the negative connotation of socialism upon its being linked to Barack Obama's tax policies. The John McCain campaign, upon noticing the media dubbed "s-word" making it into national coverage, decided to bring it into the spotlight. Soon after, countless wingnuts at GOP rallies booed every time the word was brought up, making it out to be the bane of American society (never mind that the current economic system is already in tatters).

Good for them, I say, assuming that those good old Joe Six-Pack Plumbers know what socialism actually is, and I'd be willing to bet that the majority of them have all but a single clue. While he does politically stand to the far left, Mr. Obama is realistically not left enough economically to be considered as such. But, let us assume, for a moment, that Obama is indeed a socialist. Is it really that awful? As a socialist myself, I think not.

Socialism itself is essentially a polar opposite of the capitalist system our nation runs under. The general definition as given by the Oxford English Dictionary is "a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole", i.e., working "towards the greater good" (also see: "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need" -- Karl Marx). The system is structured to make sure that so long as any given person contributes to society, he or she should not suffer economically and be able to live a comfortable life. Every individual socialist, however, may support a different form of the system, varying in terms of wealth distribution, program accessibility, and market control.

My own personal theory has no regard for the rich; if you earn a high salary, you can afford to pay a high tax. The lower classes cannot. Obama's tax system, while heavily taxing the wealthy, is not representative of an entirely socialist system, in which the gap between individual classes may be less defined. Needless to say, if wealth distribution/tax breaks are given primarily to the middle and lower classes, the middle class, the true driving force of this nation (not the upper class with its trickle-down theories), will strengthen the economy via commercial spending. The rich become richer, but the poor grow richer, too.

But what happened, might I ask, to the days when republicans stuck primarily not to these right-wing morals, but instead their more important economic ideals? These people do not seem to acknowledge that the current capitalist system currently favors the top 1% of earners, and gives them little fiscal benefit. The only logical answer might be that they take pleasure in financial masochism during these trying times. I don't understand it, but these so-called "Joe the Plumbers" seem to understand even less.

Disco Roar WITH BRITTANY NEIMETH

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When is School Spirit Wrong?

I have been told on multiple accounts that I have no school spirit. I do not, actually, take this as an insult. Just because I do not want to chant "We are... Penn State!" or wear Penn State inspired clothing does not, in my mind, make me somehow less worthy of going to this school, Penn State University.

I think this past weekend's victory over Ohio State is a perfect example of school spirit run amok. For those who do not know, Saturday night after our 13-6 victory, thousands of students flooded downtown University Park and proceeded to riot. Yes, there was a riot because Penn State beat Ohio State. I'll just let that sink in.

Personally, I have always associated riots with social and political strife and not a college football victory, and the fact that there was a riot absolutely appalled me. I was surprised by the amount of people I

spoke with who were thrilled by the riot and actually hurried downtown to be closer to the chaos. Streetlights and trees were pulled up, cars were dented, and the riot police showed up and proceeded to mace people.

Now some said the police force was too excessive since they were spraying individuals in the face at random, many of which were on the sidelines not participating. I agree but at the same time wasn't it also excessive to climb on cars, destroy street signs and knock down streetlights?

In the end, the costs of repairs are going to be fed back to the students, which is pretty heinous considering the majority of this school did not rush downtown. That is life, though. We all pay for a small cross section of the population's mistakes.

In any case, if this is what is considered a 10 on the school spirit scale I'll gladly be considered a 5 and be on my way.

By Matt Kelly

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dorktower

HORROR HANG OUTS

So unless you have been living under a rock (or possibly an over-turned car if you live on Broad Street) then you may not know that the Phillies won the World Series and thus won the ability to have a parade on MY special day (no not my birthday, not my wedding day, Halloween). Now this parade did lead to some sweet things (extra credit points just for going to class on Friday anybody?).

So Every year I do a horror movie marathon, and with Halloween falling on a Friday there was no way I wasn't going to my marathon this year. This year I decided to do something a little different, instead of me setting up a schedule for the night I decided that as each person walked into the apartment they'd get to pick the next movie we'd be watching (from a list of horror movies of course, I wasn't about to spend my Halloween watching Never Been Kissed). Now I declared this year's marathon to start at 3PM, this means it would start be there 10 people or just I. In this case, it was the latter. So what did I, Mr. Halloween King, Pride myself on my DVD collection Matt Kelly pick? Hocus Pocus.

What can I say; I have a love for movies with talking cats. As I watched this movie I couldn't help but realize that... it's not very good. It's entertaining and it has that good old fashion bad 90's storyline and acting, but it's just a bad movie. This is far from a good start for this marathon.

My friend Sarah arrived and made her selection, which ended up being "Hatchet". If you read dorktower as much as I do (what can I say, I'm egotistical), then you'll remember that last issue hatchet was among my list of 10 movies to watch this Halloween. This is because I legitimately believe it to be one of the top 5 best horror movies of the new millennium. As always, it did not disappoint.

Sarah left and my brother showed up with his best friend's Dave and Ryan, full of

energy from the Phillies parade. Their movie pick was "Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer", clearly my brother and his friends are also readers of dorktower, what can I say, I write a well loved column. This movie is completely unsettling and that's why I love it.

At 6:52 we finally put to rest the question that had been on my mind for months, do kids trick or treat at apartment complexes. So Spiderman and batman took their kit-kat bars and were on their way.

The next movie we popped on was Jack Brooks, Monster Slayer. I'd just purchased it at Best Buy for \$5.99 on various recommendations. If you're like me and love just good, old fashion fun movies, this is the movie for you. It falls into that same vein as

Bubba Ho-Tep, Slither and Evil Dead 2.

My good friend Brian was next arrive and thus it was his turn to select. Go figure that the guy who hangs himself from hooks (or suspensions according to wikipedia) picked Clive Barker's S&M inspired gore-fest Hellraiser. Not much to say about this movie except that it's amazing and highly recommended.

To end the night my roommate picked the

James Woods 80's classic Videodrome. David

Cronenberg, much like David Lynch expose a whole new level of twisted perspective on society and Videodrome is a perfect example of this negative outlook on life.

So another Halloween comes to a successful end and I'm already planning future parties and costumes. As should you.

I'm hoping that some of you actually read last issue and had a little horror movie marathon of your own. If you did and you used my recommendations then I'd like to take this time to apologize.



Photo courtesy of Matt Kelly

The Lion's Eye

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