

BOOG CITY

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FROM A GROUP OF ARTISTS AND WRITERS BASED IN AND AROUND NEW YORK CITY'S EAST VILLAGE

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2012 Election: You Make the Call

BY CHRIS CASAMASSIMA
Contributing Editor

I asked the following question to a host of people: "In about 250-300 words, tell us about your choice of (or whether or not you'll vote for) president this fall, why you will/won't choose them and if/how their policies reflect your community's concerns." Here's what they said (replies are ordered by state).

Lafayette, Colo.
j/i hastain



It is always a choice NOT to vote. I would choose to not vote until there is a viable "other than these two poles" option-of-candidate who actually had a likelihood of winning, but people not being able to have an abortion is just abhorrent to me. So this year I will step in (knowing that my vote will probably not be counted correctly and that whatever is pre-decided about which of the poles will win will not be even remotely affected by my vote) if

only to say "you have GOT TO BE KIDDING ME" about some of the proposed legislation out there.

No, my needs are not even remotely being addressed by a particular candidate. I am an anarchist and I believe in things as seemingly extreme as trans-abled individuals wanting to live their lives with one of their arms surgically removed, because that is how they identify. Not only does no particular candidate cover my needs, even represent them, but in some cases my rights as a Gender queer person are even suspect. This is the body. This is my body. That is your sweet body. You may be infinite to yourself and I wish, oh I wish that there was a government that could morph with, hold, and sustain such sense.

j/i hastain is the author of several cross-genre books, including the trans-genre book *libertine monk* (Scrambler Press), anti-memoir a vigorous (Black Coffee Press/Eight Ball Press), and *The Xyr Trilogy*: a Metaphysical Romance.

Bowling Green, Ky.
Brent Fisk

I'm smack in the middle of a dark red state, so every four years I waste my vote. Still, I'm supporting Obama. Why people think a candidate will sync perfectly with their political philosophy is beyond me. It's about the preponderance of actions and beliefs. Obama is not perfect, but I never bought that Messiah crap the Republicans tried to hang on him.

Many criticisms leveled at Obama are the fault of an obstructionist legislative branch, and even when the Dems had



control of the House and Senate, he was poorly served by Pelosi and Reid. Instead of passing a raft of populist legislation, they dragged out the debate on health care and let divisiveness creep in. Give Republicans a year to work their dark arts, and they'd make most Americans fear ice cream and puppies.

It's not as if I don't see the value in a loyal opposition, but from day one McConnell's priority was to make Obama a one-term president. There are valid discussions to be had on the size, role, and efficiency of government, but Republicans turned it into a circus. And when it came time to select their candidate, did they give the American people a viable alternative to Obama? The Republican primary debates were like watching *America's Funniest*

Videos complete with laugh tracks and wiffle bats to the groin. And after all the performers were done with their shtick, and taking off their pancake makeup, Republicans went with the clown who least frightened the children.

Romney is the poster boy for entitlement. He thinks of the working poor as service animals or parasites, and his frequent gaffes show how sheltered he is. He wants the office more than he wants to serve. Obama is not perfect, but he's the only choice a rational person can make.

Brent Fisk is a librarian, writer, and city league basketball phenom. One of those three might be a slight exaggeration.



Katie Bohinc
Washington, D.C.
Utopia

**That Eros knows Nothing
Of the word Better**

Our only Hope

**All's fair
In Love and War**

**Our every
Demise**

Vote Tuesday November 6

2012 Election: You Make the Call

Lafayette, La.
Marthe Reed



I will vote again for Barack Obama, because he has worked assiduously to fulfill the nation's promises of justice, equality, and freedom. Facing an unimaginable economic crisis, he has worked to protect the interests of the middle-class against the rabid, debunked "pro-business" (read: trickle-down) theories of the Republican party, which owes its existence entirely to the far right fringe whose antediluvian notions have more in common with the Taliban's than are suited to the economic, environmental, and social realities of the 21st century.

It is Barack Obama who has assured the protection of health care for nearly all Americans. It is Barack Obama who has worked with our allies and via diplomacy as the first and primary means of engagement in international conflict.

It is Barack Obama who led the way on fair pay for women, in promoting a means to legal status for children of illegal immigrants, in standing up for women's rights and reproductive freedoms. It is Barack Obama who led the way in resisting the Defense of Marriage Act and undoing Don't Ask Don't Tell, in recapitalizing of the banks at almost no cost to the U.S. government, in kicking banks out of the federal student loan program and increasing Pell Grants.

It is Barack Obama who led the way in increasing fuel standards, in establishing the mechanism for closing our dirtiest power plants, and promoting green alternatives,

in protecting our rights and civil liberties through the appointments of Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court, in passing the Fair Sentencing Act that undid the racist distinctions between crack and powdered cocaine users. Do I need to go on?

Our nation can continue to make progress in fulfilling its promise to assure justice and equality to all its citizens and residents and creating a better future, or we can be afraid, give in to dangerous "comfortable" illusions, give in to irrational disappointment that the world did not change 180 degrees in four short years. Martin Luther King tells us, "In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Barack Obama has been a potent, vocal champion of justice, a fast friend in the face of calamity, ignorance, and upheaval. I will vote with pride for Barack Obama in 2012.

Marthe Reed's books include Gaze (Black Radish Books) and Tender Box (Lavender Ink); a third book is forthcoming from Moria. She has published three Dusie chapbooks.

Baltimore
Tree Turtle



On Sept. 25, 2012, President Obama appeared live on ABC Television's morning talk show *The View*. While lambasting the extremists who murdered the United States' Libyan Ambassador after a contretemps over an anti-Islam film, the President declared that, "There's never an excuse for violence."

Contrary to the President's declaration, America continually

excuses its own violence. While I understand the reality of stewarding wars begun by the former presidential administration, I am outraged by the warmongering of President Obama's administration: the drone killings, the indefinite detentions, and more.

I have always been an Independent who is undecided until the last moment that I enter the polling station to cast my vote. Few concerns are as important to me as fostering peace. I have never for a moment believed that any political candidate truly cares about peace. But I never give up hope.

For me it comes down to this: 1) Will I vote for Jill Stein's ticket (of the Green Party) and make a quiet statement against warmongering that nonetheless has little tangible effect on actual election results; or 2) will I vote for President Obama's ticket in hopes that his administration will finally make good within a second term on the many promises for peace that he made four years ago? (The other presidential candidate merits no mention.) It is tragic that peace advocates like me have such limited choices. Voting brings me no joy.

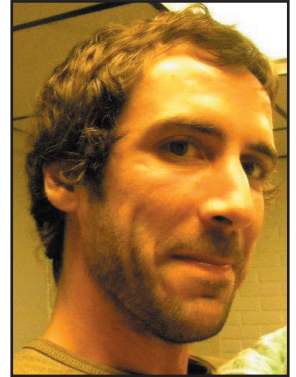
Tree Turtle (www.treeturtle.com) is the director of operations for the Kratz Center for Creative Writing at Goucher College, and a language arts teacher at Goucher and the University of Baltimore.

Lockport, N.Y.
Jared Schickling

The only thing I'm sure of is that my vote will not be "for" any of the options available to me as a voter. But, whatever it is, it will be a vote against the Republican Party because, as far as I can see, to vote for Romney and Ryan is to know for sure that you're voting against clean energy, fair elections, women's rights, biology, climate science, the separation of church and state, animal rights, workers' rights, the poor, the working class, the sick, the foreign, the arts, arms reduction, equal access to education, and diversity and tolerance.

But in terms of the language of this election—jobs, taxation, and

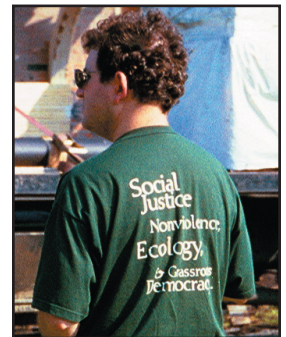
national debt—here too one is logically and ethically (but perhaps not emotionally) obliged to vote against corporate-libertarian top-down economic policies. If Romney's ilk wants to call itself the job creators, then they're



obligated to speak also of the wealth and commodity creators, who outnumber them, which they can't do while simultaneously serving their interests with any kind of rhetorical consistency. Even so, as the environmental catastrophe we're beginning to experience is invisible in this campaign, I feel the election to be a futile exercise.

Jared Schickling's latest books of poetry are t&u& lash your nipples to a post history is gorgeous and The Pink (both BlazeVOX [books]). He is a founding editor at Delete Press and the proprietor of ecolinguistics.

North Babylon, N.Y.
Ian Wilder



I am voting for Green Party presidential candidate Dr. Jill Stein. Dr. Stein has consistently supported the corporate and democracy reforms called for by the Occupy movement. She has chosen anti-poverty crusader Cheri Honkala as

her running mate. They follow the Green Party policy of refusing all corporate donations.

Stein will rein in the oversized U.S. military budget, which is larger than every other nation in the world—combined. There is no reason for us to be maintaining approximately 1,000 overseas military bases.

Stein is a supporter of a single-payer health care system. Neither Obama nor Romney will even mention single-payer. Government health care is done with 2 percent overhead, while private health insurance is 20 percent. Single-payer does away with hundreds of public and private bureaucracies. It frees doctors to concentrate on health, not using the right bureaucracy's form. It will free up innovators from taking McJobs to remain insured.

Stein wants to bail out the American taxpayer, not the banks and the corporate tax cheats. Obama and Romney mouthed the too big to fail bank propaganda that the foreclosure crisis is the fault of American homeowners rather than the criminal action of American bankers. Neither Obama nor Romney has even questioned the Federal Reserve's secret trillion-dollar bailout of banks, domestic and foreign. Dr. Stein would break up the big banks and nationalize the Federal Reserve.

Dr. Stein will immediately address the global climate change emergency that Obama and Romney have ignored. She has based her campaign on instituting a Green New Deal, which would shift the focus of our economy from a militarily enforced oil economy to a renewable energy job-creating one.

Please don't waste your vote on Obama or Romney. Dr. Jill Stein calls for us to replace the politics of fear with the politics of courage.

Ian Wilder is a former co-chair of the Green Party of the United States Presidential Campaign Support Committee. Wilder is secretary of the Green Party of Suffolk. He co-curates the politics and culture website www.onthewilderside.com.

North Babylon, N.Y.
Kimberly Wilder



Of course I will vote. I took all the time to register. The government already has my information, I might as well take a few minutes from a Tuesday evening to apply my tiny bit of personal power and give a message to the powers-that-be.

Who will I vote for? I will vote for myself. I will vote to preserve my personal integrity. I will not vote for someone who I do not believe in, nor for someone who has taken away my civil rights and threatened my very existence by supporting the Patriot Act and the National Defense Authorization Act.

I will vote to uphold my values. One of my main values is "Thou shalt not kill." So, I will vote in a way



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Series curated and with an introduction by Boog City editor David Kirschenbaum

2012 Election: You Make the Call

that demands an end to war.

There are several ways I can accomplish my voting goals:

1) Vote for a candidate who is against our current wars: Dr. Jill Stein, Green Party; Gary Johnson, Libertarian Party; or Peta Lindsay, Party for Socialism and Liberation. These are my antiwar choices in New York. In other states, peace activists could also choose candidates such as Roseanne Barr and Cindy Sheehan, running on the Peace and Freedom Party line.

2) Write in a very strong message such as "End The Wars," "Government Should Not Kill," or "No Wars for Oil." or

3) Write in a message or phrase put forward by the Occupy Wall Street movement. A while ago, occupiers had been suggesting "Mic Check for President." Now, I think "Nobody for President" is making the rounds. If www.occupywallst.org or www.nycga.net put out the call for a person or phrase to vote for, I will probably follow them. (Unless, the Democrats have totally infiltrated occupy by election day, and they are foolish enough to tell me to vote for the military-drone-supporting, NDAA-embracing, warmonger, Obama.)

Peace. Struggle. Voting.

Kimberly Wilder is co-curator at www.PeaceCouple.com. She is a poet, musician, peace activist, and early childhood educator. You can often find her temping at an office near you. She has interesting friends.

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tion related information. It pro-

vides nonpartisan information to

the public with general and state-

specific information on various

aspects of the election process.

Cleveland Marcus Bales



The Presidential Blues

They each have dissed the public schools
The troops get all the praise
They're both the same except for rules
For women and for gays.
I wish that there was something else
to see on the news
I've got the Presidential blues.
They each have many million bucks
And Harvard law degrees
They'd rather seize our homes and trucks
Than bankers' plushy fees.
I hope that you can see the reasons
I don't enthuse
I've got the Presidential blues.
They're Frick and Frack - whoever runs -
They'll mine and they'll drill:
The lesser of two Republicans
Remains an evil still.
There's not too much between them
but I've got to choose
I've got the Presidential blues.

BOOG CITY

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We all hope this election
Will end in the selection
Of someone who can turn this around
But in the circumstances
I just don't like our chances
They'll probably burn it all to the ground.
The strong and smart will overrate
Their value, right or wrong -
That's why we need a strong, smart state
To police the smart and strong.
I'm really close to thinking now
that I shall refuse
I've got the Presidential blues.
They're both inside the beltway: you
Can see them flinch and twitch
When common people tell them to
Go tax the freaking rich
I watch them strictly minding their
appease and accuse
I've got the Presidential blues.
May your elections take the turn
You hope for, not the worst.
But I think you can now discern
why I think I am cursed.
Oh, why should I believe at all
what either one spews -
I've got the Presidential blues.
I hope that this election
won't need a court's direction
Where everybody sues and sues and sues
or some dumb southern numb-nut
doesn't act the dumbbutt,
infected with Confederate blues.
But I have got a feeling
That we will end up reeling
In parties fueled with anger and booze
Cause I've got the attack-ad
the low-down crap attack ad
the chiding Biden lying Ryan
six billion dollar election costs
I'm voting for - no! I'm not saying! -
Presidential blues.

Not much is known about Marcus Bales except his poems have not been published in Poetry Magazine or The New Yorker.

Cleveland Joshua Ware

For the 2012 presidential election, I will vote for Dr. Jill Stein. As the Green Party's candidate, she provides an alternative to the "politics as usual" that the Democratic and Republican parties represent. Most of my friends (primarily my friends who vote Democrat and like to believe they're "liberal") tell how I'm wasting my vote casting it for a third-party candidate.

Another common line they feed me is: You're just

helping the Republicans win. From my perspective, though, casting a vote for one of the two corporate parties is a



wasted vote. It's an acknowledgment that you no longer believe in freedom of choice and willfully concede to the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on these candidates.

Casting a vote for third-party candidates is our last chance to exercise a sane and democratic voice. Moreover, if you think voting for a guy who signed a bill that paid banks over \$825 billion of taxpayer money to cover the more than \$825 billion of our money they lost in ill-conceived investments, then I've got a \$101,000-college loan bill I wouldn't mind sending you.

And don't even get me started on the guy who averaged \$21 million income the past few years. Even in his "off" year, 2011, Romney managed to bring in \$13 million. I make it a practice not to vote for dickheads.

Finally, Dr. Stein's arrest the other night while she attempted to access the grounds of Hofstra University on the day of the second presidential debate demonstrated that she is a true patriot and working in the revolutionary spirit of our country's founders; she is willing to stand up to political corruption and greed at the risk of her own well-being.

Joshua Ware is the author of Homage to Homage to Homage to Creeley (Furniture Press).

Austin, Texas Daniel Carter

Offshore investments and yachts flying the flag of the Cayman Islands seem like pretty decent ways to look at this election, especially when the question is regarding community. These are both vantage points from which to watch the rest of the world sink or swim; these are havens from the risk that surrounds them.

Like private housing developments surrounded by gates, regulations, and extreme social conventions, these are instruments that make life pleasant when the rest of the world maybe isn't. Further, this way of walling yourself off pushes harmful effects out onto the environment—by dumping waste into the ocean the yacht owner probably isn't going to swim in anyways or by taking money out of the system that contributed to its accumulation.

The Wall Street executive drinking champagne while watching protestors on the other side of the glass is a model of one kind of community, but not one that I want to be a part of or vote for. Prior to addressing the



needs of specific communities—like the historically poor neighborhood where I live; the large public university where I study and work; the groups of writers, artists, cooks, journalists, tech contractors, and teachers that I'm lucky to have as friends—there is a need to see the people living in those communities as working toward something worthwhile and as capable of creating something other than a drain on executive salaries.

The community I want to live in isn't on the ballot, but at least Obama seems to glimpse that it might be a possibility.

Daniel Carter is the author of two chapbooks, This Apparatus (Furniture Press) and Here Both Sweeter (forthcoming, Kent State University Press).

Alexandria, Va. Magus Magnus



The dual question of who for president and what issues affect one's community is a reversal of the familiar phrase, "think globally, act locally." For our answer, we're asked to think locally, in reference to our acting globally (voting nationally in the U.S., for an outcome of inevitable impact on the world). Furthermore, for my locale specifically—Alexandria, Va.—the local and the national are inextricably intermixed.

Alexandria is inside the Beltway, part of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, the population of which lives and works in the atmosphere of our nation's capital. So when it comes to presidential politics, the issues it concerns itself with are the issues of the federal

government itself, and the direction of the country.

Meanwhile, Virginia is a key swing state for this election, and so the distinction between capital-focused Northern Virginia and the rest of the commonwealth, with its regional culture and concerns is as apparent as it ever was (not forgetting—and certainly not accepting—that our area was excluded as the "real Virginia" according to the 2008 McCain campaign).

Increasingly, Virginia turns on its Northern Virginia hinge. Here in Alexandria, where the local is interlinked with the national, the battle is oriented to what's at stake in the general election, rather than to policy effects near at hand.

So, if a vote once again for Barack Obama is—as Dr. Johnson said of second marriage—"the triumph of hope over experience," nonetheless it is the only responsible global action to take for the sake of an America upholding inclusive ideals against the threat of wool-over-the-eyes-pulling plutocracy.

Magus Magnus' books include Verb Sap, Heraclitean Pride, The Echoes, and Idylls for a Bare Stage.

Please see CASAMASSIMA page 7

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Gimme an Off-Shore Account: Tales from the 2012 Election



BY CHRISTINA
STRONG
Contributor

Silly me, I thought voter intimidation was illegal and just a big no no! Boy was I wrong! Day is night, war is peace, and the nutjobs have crawled out of the woodwork and haven't even bothered to put on their white hoods. They're carrying guns and have ditched the Thorazine. Welcome, folks. It's crazy time! Crazy time! When it seems OK to be an ignorant, racist, creation-believing, gun-toting, 10th-amendment quoting, "education is elitist," homophobic misogynist crazy person.

Sorry, old lady! I know you've been voting for the past 60 years but not anymore! And do you really need that wheelchair? Budget cuts, you know! Oh wait, I see, you want to keep the wheelchair, but you don't want me to have one when I'm a disabled 80 year old.

Remember when women were property and couldn't vote? Me neither. They say times were simpler back then. How simple? 1965 pre-Griswold v. Connecticut, or 1848 pre-Seneca Convention? Or back to the 1600s when women were witches. I'm confused. Yeah, it was simpler all right. No plumbing, electricity, infrastructure, drinking water out of the tap. No school nearby for kids to go to. Women knew their place. Yes, it's always been a goal of mine to die giving birth to my 15th kid.

Ah, the simple life, living right off the beach

Does history repeat itself? Kind of, except that we are supposed to have safety nets like Food Stamps, and that's a government handout, you know, cuz, by gum it, if you're hungry, the last thing you need is food. You need bootstraps.

in southern California. Ah, it must be nice to have a house there. I love the beach too, and many islands. The Cayman Islands must be gorgeous, don't you think? It's the kind of place where you have to be really rich to even be there, unless of course you're the dishwasher or maid at one of the

many hotels. But hey, let's not think of the poor because those folks can walk right up to the emergency room and get treated!

But back to the tropical islands, because people like to paint them as paradises, fulfillment of fantasies such as wealth. Palm trees. Torquoise blue waters. Do you see the Isle of Man as a tropical paradise? No. But it is a tax haven. But who would want to go there when you have the Bahamas or Barbados or Bermuda. There's the Seychelles or good ole fallback Switzerland. If you like winter



outdoor sports, that's the place to go—lots of shopping for expensive watches! No capital gains tax, no corporate tax, no income tax.

Times have changed since the 1912 election! From sputtering Fords to car elevators in mansions! TV! TV ad campaign buys! The internets! Where anyone who has access to a computer can read the pros and cons about candidates! The oncoming death of newspapers and objectivity! Women and people of color can vote—well, kinda. A black man can become president! And so, the world didn't end but there's plenty more people in the Middle East mad at us. For good reasons. And there's a number of people disappointed within the United States.

In 1912 Debs got 6 percent of the vote and nowadays Dr. Jill Stein will maybe barely get 0.10 percent of the vote, not even enough to fill a stadium. But if you feel like you need to vote for her, go ahead, at least you are not undecided. Though to let you know, the Green Party got 0.12 percent in 2008 but do what you must. I understand.

Though I don't understand why you are

disappointed in your politicians. If we take as a given that all politicians are corrupt, why are you surprised that the current one is not up to your standards? It's not the lesser of two evils; it's just reality. The cold hard facts.

It could be worse. The years 1928-1932 seemed like a lot of fun, didn't they? It does seem obvious in hindsight that Herbert Hoover was going to suck bricks, but the majority of Americans voted for him anyway. They demonized Al Smith, Hoover's rival, because he was a Catholic. Even the KKK wasn't pleased with Smith, but then again the KKK hates just about everyone anyway.

It must have sucked so bad at the time. The country switched the other way four years later and booted Hoover's butt out. It took another eight years to get out of that hole.

Does history repeat itself? Is it like now? Kind of, except that we are supposed to have safety nets in order to not have Hoovervilles, safety nets like SNAP (Food Stamps) and the like, and that's a government handout, you know, cuz by gum it, if you're hungry, the last thing you need is food! You need bootstraps, but we're not giving you those either!

United States presidential election, 1980. The peanut farmer against the B-list movie actor cum governor of California. I knew Reagan was going to win, and I knew the world thereafter would become the haven of money hungry greedy pit of war profiteering scum masquerading as prime rib steak. It seemed obvious that Reagan was oblivious to people outside his bubble, which is to say, the rest of America. I knew that if Reagan was elected, the world was going to suck. And it did. I might be accused of "negative thinking" but I could not have predicted the Iran-Contra scandal, AIDS, the advent of the right wing so called Christian direct mail marketing whiz kids, the recession, Duran Duran.

Elections are quite weary, aren't they? Tiring, especially if you're a third-party candidate who got arrested and held for eight hours trying to get into a presidential debate—contrasted with the other two, who have to schmooze CEOs and "small business leaders" and maybe get to chat with a foreign leader or two, but on private jets, and probably have a better diet than you or I have.

They go on so long and cost millions of dollars.

You'd think around this time of year people would have made up their mind. This time of year is not a surprise; it coincides with the Olympics. The weather gets colder, especially if you live in the northeast United States. But who knows these days, last year New York City was quite warm. Too warm for January. Soon, the city will look a little like the Cayman Islands. Now is the time to start planning for palm trees. Invest in a kayak company. There's a stock tip.

Though what obscures the pomp and circumstance of the whole election time period is the actual voting process. Taking time off from work to go to an elementary school, or community center, or wherever else, mailing in your vote beforehand. Clearly this is a harder process if you live in more than half of the states in the country. Because if you have enough money, you can buy an election. Can you buy a vote? Well, you can make it difficult so they can't. In fact, you can pay for them not to vote!

Sorry pops, you fought in WWII but you can't vote, you don't have ID. Sorry your leg was blown off. Oh, do you want money for your loss and your sacrifice? Too bad.

You're a student here, but you live in another state, but you're here more months out of the year so you want to vote in Maine? You've got two forms of ID but you don't exist, but uh, pay off those student loans with interest, OK?

You don't need to have an ID to show up at the polls but you take it anyway because you're black, but you have the same name as some guy, who is also black, and a felon. You can't vote. Not only that, he can't vote either. You and he, both. Just because, well, you know why.

What do you need to vote? Mystery money! Voodoo economics! A hedge fund, or two! A shoeshine on the runway. If you're pretty well assured who you're going to vote for, you can also fire up the old XP or your snazzy smart phone and find your polling place. If you choose to sit this one out for cynical or external

reasons and know who you'd vote for anyway, there's always the fun job of canvassing. Going to another state, going door-to-door, asking people if they voted or are going to. Fun! Bring a warm jacket. And an umbrella. Over pack, you'll need to be creative.

Christina Strong has one foot on and one foot off the grid.

Elections are quite weary, aren't they? Tiring, especially if you're a third-party candidate who got arrested and held for eight hours trying to get into a presidential debate—contrasted with the other two, who have to schmooze CEOs and small business leaders.

CASAMASSIMA from page 5

**Fairmont, W.V.
Donna Long**



I was seven-years-old when I watched my mother burst into tears in the grocery store check-out lane. Someone had stolen the entire week's grocery budget for our family of six from her purse. \$40.00. We left the groceries behind.

My father owned his own business, but it wasn't taxes or health-care costs that kept him from thriving. He had chosen to use his WWII GI Bill on vocational training rather than a college degree. In the 1950s and

'60s, he made a decent living as a shoe repairman, but by 1970 there were fewer and fewer shoes being sold that people bothered to fix and his business limped along, mostly due to his skill in making shoes for people with prosthetics or other physical disabilities. Then, while volunteering with the Florida Highway Patrol, he was severely injured in a car accident and unable to work again. He was 48 years old; I was nine.

My parents instilled their blue-collar work ethic into each of their children. We all had jobs as soon as we were old enough. None of us finished high school. Today, I am the only one in my family with a college degree, which I would not have been able to earn without student loans. Although I am the youngest, I am far more financially secure than my siblings, none of whom have jobs that provide health insurance or retirement benefits.

So, I will not vote for a candidate who would not be able to fathom my mother's tears when the modest grocery budget was stolen; who profited by liquidating businesses and moving jobs overseas; who would gut veteran benefits; who would cut federal financial aid, or turn it over to private banks altogether. Nor could I vote for a candidate whose running mate has even less empathy for less-than-privileged citizens than does the candidate himself. The irony, of course, is that my parents and my siblings all vote Republican. I am the only Democrat among us.

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**Wall Street Victory Party:
Election Day
Tues., Nov. 6, 2012
4:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Zuccotti Park
Broadway & Liberty Street
New York City**

On Election Day, why wait until the official tally comes in? After all, here on Wall Street, we are always the first to know who won. At the true epicenter of American power, the 1% will mingle, pour some bubbly, and then call the elections early. Regardless of which party snags the seat of power, we have already won!!!

**JOIN US IN A TOAST AT 5:00 SHARP AS WE
DECLARE WALL STREET THE WINNER!!!!**

**A note on proper attire:
Be sure to dress in your 1% finest!**