

HARVARD REVELRY MUMMERS PLAY
DECEMBER 2009
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DRAFT OF DECEMBER 12, 2009

ROOM Room, room, brave gallants all!
 Pray give us room to rhyme.
 We've come to show activity,
 Upon this wintertime.
 Activity of youth, activity of age.
 Such activity you've never seen on stage!

 Our play starts here, right here in Harvard,
 After the fruit has all been gathered.

APPLE FARMER (*accompanied by TREE*)
 Here comes I, the Apple Farmer,
 My fruit's the best in all of Harvar'.
 And I'm so proud of them you see,
 I brought along my fav'rite tree.

ROOM This tree is quite clever I must say,
 To still bear fruit at the holiday.

TREE Trees have a way to make the season nifty
 That does not require an X-box 360.
 And trees also have very little demand,
 For owning a copy of The Beatles Rock Band.

ROOM But you must like the Beatles! Come to my abode,
 Try playing along to Abbey Road.

TREE If you were a tree, you'd know there's no discussion
 About playing any but wood-based percussion,
 That means drumming myself, at the risk of concussion.

FARMER I'd be sad to have my friend to the doctor's go,
 For woodenly trying to drum like Ringo!

TREE The doctor's no fate for which I care
Trees still don't have Universal Health Care.

ROOM Well, never mind my friends, let's set our aims,
For something other than video games.
Let's celebrate the season's delights
By decking our tree with Christmas lights.

LAMPLTR Here comes I, Harvard's lamplighter.
I've come to make this tree shine brighter.
That's why I've brought some strands of these
Battery-powered L-E-Ds.

TREE This tree will be of lights excluded,
If she forgot "Batteries Not Included."

*LAMPLTR places light garlands on TREE, the FLUTES play the tune to
"Candles in the Window". Meanwhile CHILDRENS CHOIR gathers to sing
their song.*

CHOIR Candles, candles, in the windows,
Glowing, glowing through the night;
Shedding, spreading cheer in darkness,
Lending, sending hope in light.

What are the stories candles would tell to me?
What do they say with golden light?
They promise that, though the darkness cover me,
Love is shining through the night.

LAMPLTR There! (*TREE lights up.*)

FARMER, ROOM, AUDIENCE *Ooooooh!*

TREE A few lights glowing incandescent
Makes a tree feel luminescent.

DRAGON Stand on head! Stand on feet!
I want kiloWatts for to eat!
I am the dragon: here are my jaws!
I am the dragon: here are my claws!
I am the dragon: here is my electric power station!
(*DRAGON presents a pinwheel.*)

ROOM The dragon wants kilowatts for to eat?
 Whatever happened to devouring meat?

FARMER This dragon changes diets every few years,
 But who would have thought he should feed on Amperes?

TREE For years he has fed on trees and their trappings.
 This tree is relieved he now feeds on things zapping.

LAMPLTR But why not food that's steak-ish and fillet-ic,
 Why now choose to eat food that's Voltaic?

DRAGON I've changed my diet because I'm now on a mission,
 To reverse all you people's CO₂ emissions.
 I'm starting here, and I've set my sights
 On all of these wasteful Holiday lights!

ROOM Who'd have thought that one from the breed of Smaug
 Would carry the torch for three-fifty-dot-aug.

TREE And doesn't a dragon breathe fire and smoke,
 That with greenhouse gas does our planet choke?

LAMPLTR Oh no! I hope he doesn't demand
 Possession of light-up Christmas strands.

DRAGON You can keep those lights shiny and newfangled
 In which this tree's hopelessly entangled.
 Plus, I've set my sights on something better by far;
 I'm taking the Harvard pageant Christmas Star!

DRAGON grabs the star
 and velcros it to her costume.

DRAGON Your star has been hid. I'm not telling you where.
 Complain all you want, but I don't care.

FARMER This dragon's mom should tell her to play fair.

TREE Without the star, the pageant's stage will be bare.

LAMPLTR And think of all Harvard's broken hearts,
 When next year's pageant un-star-lighted starts.

ROOM And one star alone won't make the climate shift!
Even with no star, global warming persists.

DRAGON Here's my plan: I won't give you your star back,
Until the world's climate is back on track.
Now go home and curb all your energy lossage.
Until then, your star, I'm holding it hostage.

ROOM You want us of our SUV's to be rid?

DRAGON Replace them with cars that run on hybrid!

LAMPLTR This dragon's plan is something heinous.
We don't all have an electric Prius!

FARMER And how will the rest of us get to school?

DRAGON I care not. Ride a horse. Or a donkey, or mule.

ROOM Now this dragon really has our world in upheaval.

FARMER And he plans to impose transportation medieval.

LAMPLTR And I can't just buy a Prius, I fear
On my allowance that would take forty years!

DRAGON You must change your ways. It's my final decision.
Plus: change is good. Ask any politician.

ROOM I wish he'd not said that: it's always a jinx
To ask in a politician, methinks.

OBAMA Here comes I, Barack Obama.
Since change's the topic of this drama,
It's necessarily my karma
To come and confront the dragon's dogma.

TREE The President's here in our apple tree land?

LAMPLTR Perhaps our star lights of this worm he'll demand!

ROOM But why come to Harvard? Don't you have work to plan
In far-flung places whose names end in "stan"?

OBAMA Mine's a full-service White House, don't you know?
We're expected to walk on H₂O,
And deal with crises, even those dragony.
But this? We'll need ten War Room sessions to study!

FARMER Can we get our star back by being scholars?

TREE Perhaps we could use some stimulus dollars?

OBAMA Gotta go. But I'm on this, so don't be nervous.
And come be my guests: just ask Secret Service.

DRAGON Climate change is bigger than leaders and nations.
I've still got the star, and you've still got emissions.

ROOM The problem is so global and so big.
Can anyone help us out of this hole to dig?

SARAH Here comes I, I'm Sarah Palin,
I hail from Wasilla from where I've come hailin',
And to set you sailin' on a course that's clear sailin'
I'll do what I do when in the votes I'm trailin':
I'll promise a tax cut! It's a trick that's unfailin'!

LAMPLTR I'm not sure pruning taxes will dragon subdue,
I don't think she receives a form W-2.

TREE Talk of pruning and cutting is making my limbs sore.

FARMER Aren't tax cuts for governors – and you govern no more?

SARAH Governing! That's just for some other schnooks.
I've come here to promote and sell books.

ROOM So what's your de-dragoning qualification
Since you don't govern and don't lead the nation?

SARAH How about: a personality that bubbles like soda,
And grammar the same as that has Yoda.

Let me try somehtin' that usually works mostly,
And get him to leave if I just talk real folksy.

DRAGON I've heard enough now of all you people's clamor,

You can't put me off just with dubious grammar.
The mission's too great. It's time now to act,
Or shall I start quoting you Al Gore's facts?

ROOM A third politician to us will be sent?
Is there room on this stage for a vice-president?

TRUMPET plays the Darth Vader music, as CHENEY enters.

CHENEY Here comes I, Dick Cheney I am.
I've come to call this dragon a scam.
As an oil man, it's my job to arrange
Doubts in your mind about climate change.

FARMER I expected Gore. They sent us the wrong veep!

TREE Two ex-politicians! That's enough to weep.

CHENEY I'm no longer a veep. It's even greater
When you're a right-wing commentator.
I'll tell all my listeners to go to this Smaug
And write angry words on his Facebook blog.

LAMPLTR I'm not sure that will rattle Dragon's cage.
I think he has fled the electric age.

CHENEY Here's how I'll get him to go places thithers.
I'll go on the air, and say that he dithers.
And if that fails, here's my plan consecutive:
I'll call in oil company executives.

SWORD DANCERS enter, dressed as oil company executives. They surround DRAGON menacingly.

DRAGON My work's not yet done curbing greenhouse gasses.
But each thing has its time, and each thing passes.

Advances to the front of the stage.

First comes Christmas,
Then comes Spring.
Like Winter I must die,
Then come as Spring to life again.

Dance the sword dance now for me.

SWORD DANCERS perform a dance, ending with their swords locked around DRAGON. They draw their swords and DRAGON falls.

FARMER Doctor! Help, please, a doctor!

ROOM Is there a doctor in this house?

TREE A tree surgeon?

SARAH A taxidermist?

LAMPLTR An electrician?

DOCTOR Here I am, Doctor Aflack!
The town's best doctor who can quack.
There's none like me, and it's no jive,
To make the dead come back alive.

ROOM Can you cure the Dragon?

DOCTOR Both electric and batteried, I cure them all.
I cure the short, I cure the tall.
The young, the old, the hot, the cold,
The living and the dead.
(Stumbling over the corpse of DRAGON)
What have we here?

FARMER A Dragon's been dead seven minutes.

TREE Can you cure her?

LAMPLTR And have her give back the star?

DOCTOR A Dragon's dead seven years, and I can cure her!
Take these here my pills.
Take one tonight, and two in the morning,
And swallow the box at dinnertime.
If the pills don't square things, the box sure will!

They're chocolate-coated...

*DOCTOR tries various tricks to revive DRAGON,
all to no avail.*

ROOM This doctor will not cure our ills
 By means of bicycle pumps or pills!

FARMER And why should it be heretical
 For dragon to have coverage medical?

TREE Could Congress please move for adoption,
 Any bill with a public option!

LAMPLTR I should just give up and call it a night.
 No doctor, no dragon, no star, no light.

GORE Here comes I, I'm Al Gore,
 I'll help get Dragon off the floor.
 The things we can do, there's just zillions galore,
 So there's no need to weep and deplore.
 No need to resort to travel of yore,
 No need for technology to ignore.
 But we must act now, so I do implore
 That you listen to me, and try not to ... be distracted.

TREE I wonder who chose to open the door,
 And let in politician number four!

ROOM But how will we put climate change on the skids?

FARMER Because after all, we're only kids.

GORE Do your own small part to change our climactic fate,
 And Dragon will surely resuscitate.

During the next few speeches, OBAMA and CHENEY enter quietly.

LAMPLTR I know how we can cut back on Amps;
 We'll change the bulbs in all our lamps.

TREE I'll turn off the lights when I leave the room

ROOM I'll sweep the fridge coils with this here broom.

FARMER I'll walk to school when the snow has abated.

ROOM And I'll keep the car tires well inflated.

DRAGON begins to rouse and sit up. Beckons over ROOM, FARMER, TREE, and LMPLTR. DRAGON then backs the star, and LMPLTR places a strand of lights on DRAGON's wings.

GORE These mummies have the right solution
To deal with CO₂ pollution.

SARAH I better accept this climate change notion,
Or most of my state will float into the ocean.

CHENEY Although I'd prefer to sit on the fence,
I must say these mummies make a lot of sense.

OBAMA Our hopeful future does demand
That as one people we must take a stand

Reluctantly, CHENEY and SARAH join hands with OBAMA.

ROOM And so together (*add LMPLTR*) let us band,
(*add FARMER*) And take the work (*add TREE*) in our own hands.

DRAGON (*Rises and sings*)
Good morning gentlemen,
A-sleeping I have been,
And while I was asleep,
I did have the strangest dream.

But now I am awake,
Alive unto this day.
Our town shall have its star,
As our audience had its play.

ROOM Our play is done we must be gone,
We stay no longer here.
We wish you all, both great and small,
(*All join in*)
A Happy, bright New Year.
ALL bow at the front of the stage while MUSICIANS play a rousing tune.

THE CAST, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

ROOM	Connor
FARMER	Maddie
TREE	Paul
LAMPLIGHTER	Hannah
DRAGON	Kate
BARACK OBAMA	Cameron
SARAH PALIN	Ariel
DICK CHENEY	Jamie
DOCTOR	Harry
AL GORE	Collin