

DAILY HAMPSHIRE
GAZETTE

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader to talk politics at Amherst College

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AMHERST — Consumer advocate and former independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader will be at Amherst College Tuesday evening to discuss third-party and outsider candidates and the role they could play in the 2016 election.

Nader's talk, which comes at the invitation of the nonpartisan student group Amherst Political Union, will be held at Stirn Auditorium in the Mead Art Museum from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Liam Fine, co-president of the Amherst Political Union, said Nader's presentation will focus on the 2016 presidential election.

"We also expect him to talk a lot about the roles of third parties in general and political activism in general, including unresponded-to letters," said Fine, referring to the 2015 book "Return to Sender" that collects letters Nader has sent to Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush since 2001 that yielded no responses.

Fine said Nader's talk is part of a speakers series he organized this semester with co-president David Atkins. They brainstormed potential speakers and then contacted speaking agencies, before settling on Nader and getting assistance from college officials to bring him to campus.

"Given the demographics of the town of Amherst and Amherst College's population, we figured he'd be a pretty big draw," Fine said.

Earlier this semester the Amherst Political Union hosted Douglas Bandow, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute, specializing in foreign policy and civil liberties.

The Nader event concludes with a book-signing in the Stirn lobby. There, local bookstore Amherst Books will have "Unsafe at Any Speed," Nader's 1965 book focused on the automobile industry's refusal to add safety features to cars, and "Return to Sender" available for purchase.

If the auditorium reaches its 200-person capacity, people will be directed to Merrill 2, where Nader's talk will be live-streamed.