

My Goth! This fall, funereal fashion meets the homey housewife

BY JINM SKITTISH
Scarlet Poseur

This fall, fashion has gone retro. Bell bottoms, platform shoes, and knee-length skirts, which have long been the staples of this year's wardrobe, are now being banished from closets forever. What is the newest old fashion? Here's a hint: It puts the Vamp back in revamped style.

Goth fashion has been an offshoot of American style for quite a while, but it has only recently gained popularity among the fashion elite. In Paris and London, shows centered around the "funereal aesthetic" have received a lot of press. Kate Moss, with her waxy complexion and extremely thin frame, has been the model receiving the most attention. Hungarian designer Antoine deNoir featured her in a modern version of the medieval

style.

DeNoir copied a desk from the club set and adapted it for high fashion. He dressed Moss in a skin tight ankle length dress made of the darkest red velvet. He prepared the velvet by washing it repeatedly until the fabric was well worn. After sewing the deep V-necked dress, he tore the left sleeve partly off and ripped the hem, creating a slit up the side. Underneath this, he dressed Moss in a black mesh body stocking. Black army boots and a five inch long cross were her only accessories. DeNoir's entire Lestat collection is available from Saks Fifth Avenue in New York with affordable price tags ranging from \$1,000 to \$23,500 per piece.

The majority of the models in deNoir's show wore pale yellow foundation, dramatically dark eyes, and black lipstick. In ad-

dition, Moss had a black tear drawn under her right eye. There were a few models made up with purple smudges under their eyes in order to mimic illness.

The Goth aesthetic incorporates the style of the 13th century Medieval Germanic people it is named for, plus the modernity of sadomasochism. Only on a Goth will you find lace and leather, or velvet and chains, in such a wonderful combination.

Color and cotton are now being laughed at in the same way black polyester took a beating from designers in the mid-eighties. Black lace, velvet, leather, and "fishnet anything" are the new wardrobe staples. The only colors allowed are black, a dark blood red, or any color that resembles decay. No more bright or pastels in your closet!

Makeup and hair take on different rules than they ever have previously in fashion history. The rules are the same for both men and women, a fashion first. The key word for both is "unnatural." The goal is not to look better than what Mother Nature has bestowed, but to look more ghastly. The hair must be big and unnatural. This is the only part of the body that is allowed to have any color, as long as it is obviously fake and anything but cheerful.

Mock-up is a must for both men and women. The face must be as pale as possible without resembling a mime. The only use



Exactly the connection between the Worcester Art Museum's ongoing Grant Wood exhibition and our model's desire to pose as "American Gothic" is unclear. Perhaps these fine examples of the Goth conservative wing will soon be appreciating other "Modern Masters" such as Bartok and Picasso!

Write for Living Arts!
Or Mr. Blonde will
cut your ear off.

**That's a *Reservoir Dogs* joke.
Aren't we witty? And cultured?
Wouldn't you like to play with us, now?
Please? No one else will and we're lonely.**

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

'Fire at Will' misses mark with bad puns

BY WILLIAM W. WILLIAMS
scarlett staff

Clark's radio station has quite a bit to offer this campus, including the potential to become more than a depository for toilet jokes, or so I've always thought. So when I saw that the Radio of Clark University (now trading under the call letters XRCU) was offering a weekly radio serial, in the spirit of the 1930s classics like "The Shadow" and such, written by a Clark student and starring Clark students, I thought that potential may at last be fulfilled. Unfortunately, I was mistaken.

"Fire at Will," airing Sunday nights at 7pm, is humorous, but its wit seems distinctly lacking in any intelligence. Writer David Reed ('98) means well, but his outlandish premise lacks both imagination and sufficient scientific basis in reality to make it more than passably entertaining.

The basic premise of the first episode is that a college (presumably Clark) student is struck by a meteor but survives with only minor injuries (warning enough). Then, for no apparent reason, he develops the power to

see aliens disguised as people. The plot then degenerates rapidly into something only distantly approaching coherence about a bounty hunter from another planet and a wisecracking computer and chocolate cake (more on this later). It has the classic trappings, from a covert alien invasion to a damsel in distress, but it never manages to crawl out of the X-Files-induced paranoia muck that so obviously inspired it.

This is not to say that it is not funny. I often found myself laughing as I listened to the first episode, which thankfully lasted only twelve minutes, but it was not the brand of humor I had hoped for. The script was long on puns and short on story, and while some of the jokes were humorous, I found more to laugh at in what pitifully passed as sound effects. (Is this what they've been spending Student Council's money on?) But this sort of thing is expected and excusable. The show was still entertaining, even if for the wrong reasons.

The cast was very strong and one cannot help but think that they could do better than this

slop. Sophomore Jan Zukowski did an excellent job as both a stoner and a confused, sarcastic college student, making a completely unbelievable character at least partially believable. Jennifer Kilbane ('97) was able to bring a much-needed humanity to the show in the form of a wisecracking computer who bosses everyone around.

Junior Elsa Berendes was sadly under-utilized in her role as the main character's girlfriend. Her big scene came when she was kidnapped by aliens and needed to be rescued by the men of the story. And here I thought this was a progressive radio station. Sundrop Carter ('97), Jeremy Goodman ('98), Randy Mack ('96.5), Betsy Hopkins ('97) and Dave Bernstein ('98) round out the talented cast. The cast is expanding for future shows and the new members will undoubtedly be just as talented as the present members.

For all its shortcomings, "Fire at Will" is not a bad show. While the humor is sporadic, it is still entertaining and would definitely be worth listening to if it were not for the show's complete lack of credibility. Here is where the

show really loses any power it might have had to capture this campus' imagination: the premise is just too ridiculous.

There is an ongoing debate of the possibility of the existence of extraterrestrial life which this reviewer is going to avoid, but there are more practical problems with "Fire at Will" that I cannot ignore. First of all, there is never any adequate explanation of how the main character, George, is able to see the aliens through their human disguises. Is this a normal reaction upon being hit by a meteor, or was that simply a coincidence? Granted, most of Clark doesn't care about the explanation, but those of us that do are denied any kind of information on the subject.

Furthermore, the process of turning people into chocolate cake is never explained, either. How can the molecular structure of a human being, a complex collection of many kinds of molecules, be reduced to a piece of chocolate cake, a much smaller collection of entirely different molecules? Maybe some physics majors out there would care to explain that to me. And while you're at it, please tell me how

these aliens can travel through time. I learned somewhere that such travel was impossible due to the paradoxes it would create.

"Fire at Will" is a show with considerable potential, but first it needs an overhaul. More variety of characters would be a good start, hopefully with less stereotyping. But the main problems come in the logic department, and until those difficulties are fixed, no one will be able to enjoy the humor to its fullest potential. Aliens are no longer much of a stretch for the American public, but changing human beings into chocolate cake—extra moist, no less—is a concept that only the most deranged portion of humanity could ever accept without some kind of scientific base.

Likewise, some originality of story would be a plus, though I realize originality on this campus is at a premium. In the end, there is no doubting that "Fire at Will" has a considerable sense of humor. However, it suffers sadly from a lack of logic and imagination, and finally falls short of the mark.

[*Fire at Will* is on XRCU-91.5 fm and Ch. 11 Sundays at 7pm.]