

What can you say about the 1996-97 academic year? Well, if you had the chance to live it all over again, a lot. So we're giving you the chance. The following pages contain our special "Year in Review" feature, which we hope will make Clark's history a little more real for those of us who are already forgetting the tragedy, comedy, and tragicomedy of the last 12 months. So lest we become doomed to repeat it, here is our history...

The Year in Review 1996 - 97



Photos courtesy *The Scarlet* (Annie Tsui, Jessica Grindstaff, Erica Lam, Janice Cooper), and Naomi Miller, Chris Condon, & staff

The Top Ten News Stories of the Last Year (whether they were reported on or not) by Randy Mack & Emily Sachs

(in no particular order!)

THE SOPHOMORE MEAL PLAN FIGHT
The controversy began when first-years were notified in a letter mailed to their boxes in mid-March that a meal plan requirement for sophomores was going to be implemented at Clark. First-year students were the first to react to the proposed changes, setting up a petition in the GS and getting several hundred signatures.
Student Council then took the helm of the first-year-rights ship. President Chris Condon, who was involved in choosing Bon Appetit as the food service provider during the previous spring selection process, worked with President-Elect (and first-year student) Casey Frantz to fight the requirement. Frantz and Dennis have met four times to discuss removing the requirement, delaying the implementation of the requirement for another year, and/or finding lower-priced meal plan options than are currently available. Frantz says that little progress

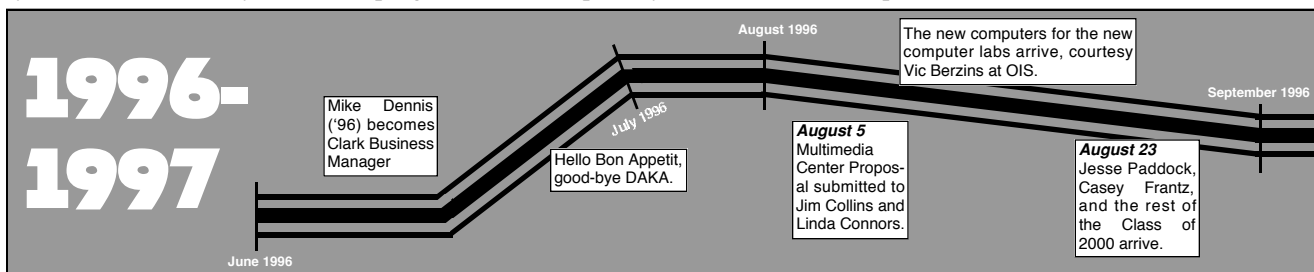
has been made on these suggestions.
A forum on April 8 brought more than 30 students together with Bon Appetit representatives, Business Manager Mike Dennis, and other administrators to discuss their concerns. Dennis said that the opinions expressed by students at the forum would be considered in plans for the next year. These plans did not necessarily include removing the requirement.
On April 29, a protest by nearly 20 students, mostly first-years, was held at the UC. At one point the protesters, recycling sit-in chants of the 60s, formed a wall by sitting cross-legged on the floor in front of Bon Appetit and yelling at the "scabs" who stepped over them.
Later that evening, the protesters met to coordinate activity for the upcoming weekend, eventually protesting at both the Trustees' arrival on campus for their semi-semesterly meetings, and the public launching of Campaign 2000, Clark's latest money-raising initiative.
The primary basis of student complaints

is based on the line in Synergy, the University policy book, that states that meal plan is optional for sophomores and upperclassman. Administrators have said that the increased revenue to Bon Appetit would mean higher-quality food, and the requirement would foster a greater sense of community. Dennis insists that the requirement not only makes good business sense (the University is concerned about a potential \$300,000 deficit projected if more students are not on a meal plan), but that it is good for the school.
Contrary to statements made by Dennis, the requirement is something that has been planned since meal service providers were originally invited to bid during Spring of 1996, according to the university's "Request For Proposal" (the Clark side of the food service contract). Students are additionally upset that notification was delayed until March of 1997.

- Featuring:
- the 1st Annual Clark Awards, the "Wheaties"
 - the Top Ten News Stories of 1996-97
 - Your timeline to the last year, in all its craziness

WINGOOD VS. WHEATBREAD
On October 23, 1996, WheatBread editor Randy Mack reported 500 copies of their latest issue missing from the University Center. The Scarlet picked up the story, and reported that Dean of Admission Harold Wingood admitted taking the issues, explaining that they were "bad for Clark."
What followed was three months of stone silence, followed by three months of chaos: reacting to three months of administrative silence over what they consider a fl...

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The Year in Review is continued on the following two pages...

The Year in Review

continued from previous page

grant freedom-of-speech violation, WheatBread initiated the "Wingood Payoff Watch," a 28-day countdown during which Dean Wingood supposed to pay \$5449.89 or WheatBread would bring the media, lawyers, and investigators onto campus "like the horsemen of the Apocalypse."

When the 28 days were up, Mack filed criminal charges against Wingood, prompting the attention of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, the Boston Globe, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and Worcester Magazine. Mack says that he sees Wingood's violation as a symptom of a larger problem at Clark, and is merely using his indiscretion to incur change in the structure of the school, especially concerning students' rights here.

On February 17, exactly five months after the initial release of the removed WheatBread issue, and five days after the charges were filed, Wingood issued an apology to the community, taking issue with the Scarlet's reporting, but admitting wrongdoing with regard to WheatBread. He later issued an apology to the Scarlet for publicly questioning their reporting.

Between filing charges, and the date of Wingood's hearing, May 7, Mack had meetings with Vice-President Jim Collins, Chief of Police Stephen Goulet, President Richard Traina, and Dean of Students Denise Darrigrand. Darrigrand and Mack are working on finalizing the Student Bill of Rights, and the Student Freedom of Information Act, two binding documents that guarantee students the rights implied by the concept of higher education.

At the hearing on May 7, the charges against Wingood were dismissed. "Of course they were [dismissed]," said Mack, "What we charged him with was absurd: technically, his actions weren't against the law. We simply used [the charges] as leverage against the administration to get our rights officially protected once and for all."

A law is pending in the Massachusetts legislature that would make removal with intent to prevent the reading of free publications illegal.

THE SPECIALTY STORE VACANCY

In August, the Barnes & Noble "Specialty Shop" abruptly moved out of the UC, where it had been since the building's construction, and left a very public gap in our campus center. Groups immediately jumped to claim the space, and the replacement decision was given to the badly misnamed University Activities Board (UAC).

The UAC solicited proposals, and then took 7 months to decide to give the space to none of the proposals. After four months of hand-wringing and general paralysis, StudCo VP Tom Roy resigned the committee in disgust.

Eventually, the space was turned into a tv lounge, although this is ostensibly temporary. The UAC more than proved its ineffectualness in the one big decision they had to make last year.

THE NEW STUDENT INITIATIVES

Three major student initiatives were started this last year: the Multimedia Center of Clark (a.k.a. the MC²), the Dana Commons Student Center proposal, and the Students In Need (SIN) organization. In a unique way, each idea promises significant changes in the way the student body functions on this campus.

The MC² was proposed by the leaders of three campus media groups, and has since come to be supported by Student Council and every media group except the yearbook. The idea is to move the media organizations into close proximity so that the groups can share resources, eliminate redundant spending, and learn from each other's successes and

failures. This in turn would improve our media and generate improved campus communications.

The first floor of Dana Commons was targeted as the ideal site of the MC², but when Linda Connors and Dave Milstone allocated space early this May, they did not make the necessary reallocations, and while the MC² has made progress this year, there are still a few steps left to be taken.

The Dana Commons Student Center idea has been suggested for years, but it is only recently that steps have been taken. Ideally, the second floor of Dana Commons would be converted into a 24/7 student hang-out, with all kinds of games, live music, a wide variety of food, and maybe even alcohol.

Tom Roy, StudCo VP and then-member of the UAC, has sent out a letter to everyone requesting input about the idea, and a formal proposal is currently being made. Although the administration's intentions toward the second floor of Dana Commons are rarely explicit, the popular support for the idea and the value to student life (not to mention the ease and inexpense of implementation) suggest that Dana Commons may one day be back in student hands.

Student In Need (SIN) is group founded by student Ryad Mouline after Abou Fall had to resign as Treasurer of Student Council and leave school because his native currency devaluated.

SIN raises money for students who find themselves in financial hardship, such as Fall, by coordinating fundraisers, passing around collection buckets, and using the media to generate support. Fall, for example, was helped by both a student performance group concert and an article in Worcester Magazine, which is credited with catching the attention of the anonymous benefactor who gave the money necessary to keep Fall in school.

DENISE DARRIGRAND

When Catherine Maddox-Wiley left Clark, students were left wondering what kind of replacement we would get—our third Dean of Students in five years. The answer is Denise Darrigrand, who has proven to be an invaluable student asset and savvy navigator of the political channels at Clark.

Denise's laudable actions this year are too numerous to list completely, but she has been instrumental in setting up the new Rape Crisis Center, helping Chris Condon struggle against Telecommunications, working out the Student Bill of Rights, getting the Meal Plan protesters a private audience with Jim Collins in the middle of the Campaign 2000 kick-off, and many other important parts of last year.

Darrigrand has also radically restructured the Dean of Students office, including extending the office's hours into the evenings, and promoting Director of Housing Dave Milstone to help compensate for the firing of Assistant Dean of Students Barbara Engram.

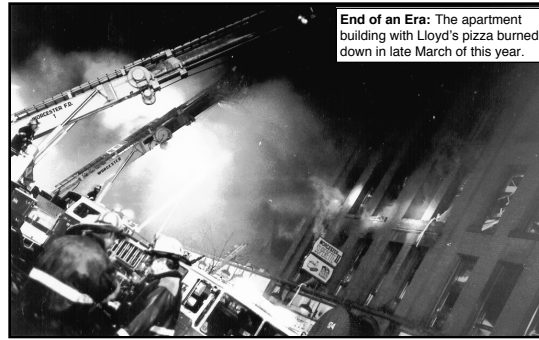
After only nine months, Darrigrand's presence can be felt in all areas of student life, sometimes subtly and sometimes obviously. Though her administration has not been without criticism and the occasional public misstep, the new Dean of Students has made it clear that the needs of the students will not go on deaf ears any longer.

STUDCO VS. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

When students returned to school last August, they found that Telecommunications, run by Paul Bottis out of the Physical Plant building, had slapped a \$1.00 charge on all toll-free calls originating from residence halls. At least that's the number the red Telecommunications pamphlet said: in the ensuing 2 weeks, the charge dropped from \$1.00 to \$.50 to \$.25 to \$.00 as Chris Condon led Student Council in an ultimately-successful fight against administrative exploitation.

Condon's most public strategy was setting up a table with a petition in the UC—it got over 1000 signatures in two days—but what people weren't privy to was the behind-the-scenes work Condon put into the fight. Behind closed doors, Condon begged, threatened, cajoled, schmoozed, and struck deals with Bottis and other administrators, until Telecommunications agreed to waive the fees for a year pending "further research" into the matter.

Condon's fight demonstrates how a student can parlay public support into political leverage, using



End of an Era: The apartment building with Lloyd's pizza burned down in late March of this year.

that in turn to play the administrative game on their terms. While next year's toll-free calls are being thought over, Condon's efforts stand as a blueprint to getting things accomplished within the system at Clark. It was an auspicious way to begin the year.

LLOYD'S FIRE COMMUNITY REACTION

On the night of March 30, hundreds of students looked on as a five-alarm fire burned through the building at 974 Main Street. The fire left 40 residents homeless and destroyed community businesses including Lloyd's Pizza, a Clark favorite.

The Clark community's reaction during the fire included opening the Admissions House so the Red Cross could help victims, and students bringing food and drinks to the victims and firefighters.

Following the fire, students like Trina Heinsch and Renee Cammarota led Clark's efforts to help the victims, now living in temporary housing.

Dana Commons was made into a makeshift donation center. By the end of the two-week collection period, the "pit" and the rest of the lobby were completely filled with piles of clothing, food, and household items for the families, and even toys for the victims of the fire.

Clark raised over \$3,000 through fundraising, change buckets in the UC, and a WheatBread t-shirt sale (which alone generated \$2,400).

The speed and efficiency of Clark's response to the disaster has set a standard that bodes well for future university-student-neighborhood relations.

ROC-U GOES XRCU

When ROC-U was started in 1992, the goal was always to get the student station into the airwaves. Five years later, ROC-U has left Channel 11 of the CCN cable line to take to the skies as XRCU—95.1 FM (ok, not totally: you can still listen to them on tv if you want). The 11 milliwatt station can be heard all the way from Maywood Street to Downing Street, and just wait until the other transmitter gets working!

Having a working, functional radio station brings Clark closer to the community standards of other colleges, and has important implications for public messages, safety-related updates, up-to-the-minute news reports, and disseminating information on this challenging campus. Credit goes to the out-going E-board of David Bernstein, Zack Ordynans, and Bill "Not Steve" Evans, all of whom are stepping down, possibly due to exhaustion. Clark will never be the same thanks to their work.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL GRANT NIXED

Last summer, University VP Jim Collins' office spent months putting together a proposal for funding from the Olin Foundation to pay for building a state-of-the-art Environmental School building. The site chosen for the new structure was the Downing St offices and parking lot, which would have dislocated administrative offices galore.

In February, the university learned that its proposal was rejected "out of hand," according to Provost Fred Greenaway, and consequently, there is little chance of the Environmental School being built in the near future. The Environmental School itself took the defeat in stride, commenting that they didn't need a building anyway.



From the Mud Comes... Vice-President Suzanne Botta, President Casey Frantz, and Secretary Bethany Nadeau at their first Student Council meeting as an E-Board.

May 18
Graduating seniors finally get the fuck out of here.

May 10
During the public launch of Campaign 2000, students confront Jim Collins, who reveals the meal plan situation is being reconsidered.

April 17
The Scarlet's Slacker and WB's U Putz Magazine are released together in a double-barreled parody fest-o-rama.

April 9
Spree Day 1997: "Clark State University"

April 3
The apartment building containing Lloyd's Pizza burns down.

April 2
Students rally in Red Square, and present a petition to overturn the meal plan requirement.

March 24
Five Clark students are arraigned on charges of kidnapping and assault and battery, after the prolonged abuse of a first-year student visiting Hughes Hall.

March 21
First-year students notified of a required meal plan for their sophomore year.

March 20
The Scarlet defies good taste and prints front page photo of dead squirrel.

March 7
2 students mugged by strangers in Maywood Hall.

March 5
Clark Women's basketball, the #1 seed in the Northeast region of NCAA, loses 88-81 to Emmanuel College.

March 1
Tuition increased by \$900.

February 25
Frosh Casey Frantz elected StudCo President.

February 24
Marie Amoure Farina, Assistant Director of Physical Plant, leaves.

February 20
Polar Soda's stolen polar bear found in Clark students' CT. home.

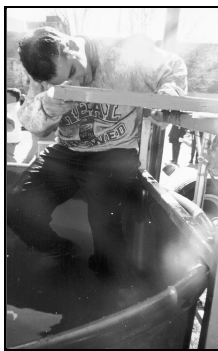
February 10
WheatBread editor Randy Mack files criminal charges against Dean Wingood.

February 5
First unidentified naked man streaks women's locker room in Kneller.

January 30
Anne DeSorbo hired as new Manager of UC.

January 17
StudCo Treasurer Abou Fall resigns in light of financial hardships. Friends of Abou start SIN (Students in Need) and raise enough funds to keep him in school until his December graduation.

January 13
WheatBread bills Dean Wingood \$5449.89 for the missing issues.



Dennis in the Dunk Tank: New Business Manager Mike Dennis got in hot water with freshmen when he announced a mandatory meal plan for sophomores halfway through March. Students protested in protest.



StudCo President 1996-97: Chris Condon fought to turn over charges on tollfree calls, and did.

1996-1997

September 5
Amherst resident dies of possible heroin overdose while visiting friends in a Clark-owned house.

September 21
Two visitors start a fight at a BSU-sponsored dance. Someone pulls a gun, and one of the men shatters a glass door as he flees.

September 24
Four hundred students vote in new representatives, including Bullock Hall rep Bob Sweet, who won with the slogan "Put the Stud Back Into StudCo."

October 8
Two hundred students attend a BSU forum on racism.

October 10
Bill Cahillane leaves for UMass-Amherst after being UC manager since its opening.

October 23
500 copies of WheatBread reported missing.

October 30
Hope Lonstein, Coordinator of Evening Safety & Services, leaves Clark after her position was eliminated.

November 3
Rat found in a toilet at 114 Woodland Street, "The Global Environmental House."

December 17
Nearly 1000 students show up for free midnight breakfast during finals.

January 13
WheatBread bills Dean Wingood \$5449.89 for the missing issues.

September 1996 **October 1996** **November 1996** **December 1996** **January 1997**