

A Guide to... Spinoza?!

(frequently asked questions)

By Mollie Wittstein with Aidan Reynolds and Randy Mack

Who is this "Unofficial Mascot of Clark University"?

According to the 101 Things To Do At Clark list that Admissions hands out and you see hanging around the freshman dorms, the mascot of Clark is a dog called Baron. Baron has not been seen for at least 4 years. Spinoza, on the other hand, has been wondering the Clark campus since about 1992.

Spinoza became Randy Mack's cat in 1993, after he followed Randy home. Throughout the years, Spinoza has lived in at least seven different apartments and houses and in three different

states. Most of this time has been spent in the Clark neighborhood, except for six months Randy and Aidan both were not at Clark. Spinoza's Clark territory was from Loudon Street to Maywood Street, between Main Street and Florence Street, with the exception of one house on Hawthorne Street where there was an unresolved territorial conflict with the resident kitty.

Spinoza, because of WheatBread, Bulletin postings, and his tendency to go anywhere on campus at anytime, has become the most famous cat at Clark University. Along with most of the residence halls and the University Center, Spinoza has been spotted in places such as Cinema 320, the darkroom in the Little Center, and a bakery near WPI on Park Avenue. Spinoza receives more recognition when walking through campus than President Traina (and he's much more friendly).

Why would "Nozie" be perfect as Clark's mascot?

He would be, but he would have to be recognized by Student Council and go through the "official three semester waiting period." He's too busy with his own projects to bother. Also, he's too cool to deal with StudCo. Last time he saw Casey Frantz, he shredded his freckled legs and gave him a black eye.

Why "Spinoza"?

Spinoza was, according to Bertrand Russell, "the noblest and most lovable of the great philosophers." Spinoza lived his philosophy. Spinoza realized that God and nature were one and the same. He believed that to love God, is to have knowledge of God, and to love nature is to love God.

The story that Randy tells is that during Professor Pakaluk's philosophy class outside, they were having a discussion about Plato's theory of reincarnation. A cat wondered by, and Professor Pakaluk said, "See that cat, he could be the reincarnation of some mediocre philosopher, such as Spinoza." When the cat followed Randy home, everyone realized what a great name Spinoza is for an intellectual cat..

Does Spinoza have a last name?

Well, in WheatBread's first parody of the Scarlet, the "Cougar of the Week" was Spinoza Mack. In the second parody it was Dr. Spinoza D. Mack-Reynolds. Spinoza is a code name anyway, so it's not that important.

Where the hell did he go? Is he with Randy?

It was a very sad day when Spinoza left Clark early last June. He meowed pitifully during the whole car ride. Randy has moved to New York City, where Spinoza would not be happy. Spinoza is temporarily living with Aidan on Highland Street, right near WPI. He has a big back yard to play in,





and other cats to terrorize. However, Spinoza is back to his old tricks...

Phone call received last June

Caller: Hello, this is Bonardi's tuxedo? Are you the owner of Spine-oza?

Aidan: Uh, yeah.

Caller: Well he's in our store.

Aidan: Okay.

Caller: He's not lost is he?

Aidan: Oh no. I know exactly where he is now.

Caller: Well, do you want to come and get him, he wondered in.

Aidan: No, just leave the door open so he can leave when he wants to.

Caller: Well, we have air conditioning.

Aidan: Oh, well jut let him out when he meows.

Caller: Well we tried that, and he just keeps coming back in.

Aidan: Well maybe he likes you folks. He even matches your decor.

Caller: Oh he is such a sweetie, but I think he might bother some of our customers.

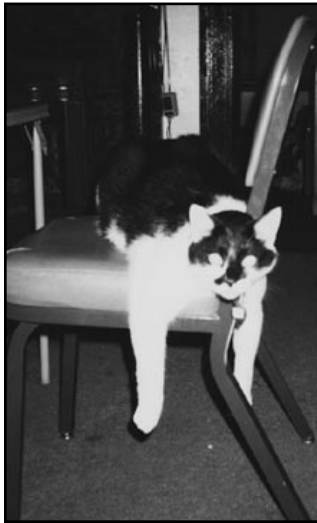
Aidan: Well then I guess you're going to have to put him out.

Caller: But he's giving me that awful mournful look, and he looks so comfy on top of that stack of bow ties.

Aidan: Well fine, let him stay, as long as he doesn't annoy anyone with allergies.

Caller: Well, I guess I should let him out, but can I feed him first?

Aidan: No, he'll never come home.



Why is he so god damn fat? He eats better than I do, for god's sake!

Randy and Aidan: "It's not fat, it's muscle!" Um, whatever, guys. The truth is, he has not only been fed by everybody, he catches a lot of his own food. Since his move, he has been known to be fed by at least two other people: an unidentified woman on Fruit Street, and Aidan's landlady.

Will he ever come back to Clark?

Maybe.

Who are Spinoza's kitty friends?

Spinoza has had two kitty friends with which he shares his cat food. The first was Fast Eddie Winnipeg, who was struck and

killed by a car last December. Spinoza misses him dearly. The second is Wiley Inappropriate Wittengstein, who joined Spinoza last February. "Wiley," rumored to be inbred, (though it's not true!), has been a good companion for Spinoza. Spinoza enjoys stalking him in the apartment and in the back yard. He also enjoys licking his head. Spinoza is also sensitive, when Wiley lost the end of his tail the end of last July, he didn't bother him quite as much. For a few weeks last May, he also shared quarters with Bill Evan's ferret Nicki. Nicki was a bit too much for Spinoza to handle.

Little known facts

He has been called Jerry and also "Moo-Ow." (Some of Spinoza's early Sanford friends thought he looked like a cow).

He weighs almost twenty pounds.

He's male (not pregnant).

Spinoza once answered the phone.

Spinoza and President Traina were both subjects of Choose-Your-Own-Clark- Adventure books.

Rumor has it that Dean Milstone told Campus Police that if an RA reports Spinoza in a dorm, they should take him to the Animal Shelter to be put to sleep. (This was reported by RAs in Wright, Johnson, and Sanford. WheatBread can neither confirm nor deny this rumor.)

Things Spinoza has killed and eaten

Pigeons, Squirrels, Chipmunks Earthworms, Starlings, Student council members, Lots of bugs, Mice

Things Wiley has killed and eaten

One bird, something invisible to everybody else, his own tail, my feet, Aidan's feet (well they smelled dead anyway!), and an asparagus.