

MORE WORDS ABOUT STUDCO, BUILDINGS, AND FOOD

By Mike Iceland

the **REAL DEAL**,
continued...

Some of them provide the opportunity for personal and communal growth. Others are for people who didn't get to be RAs.

MEDIA GROUPS/ARTISTIC GROUPS: The media groups at Clark form the Multimedia Center, a structural and spiritual conglomeration that has assembled itself for the school's benefit and despite the administration's determination not to get involved (for the most part). The artistic groups perform music, dance, and theater. These are some of Clark's most valuable groups, for they consume few financial resources and produce an enormous quantity and variety of entertainment. Generally all of these groups work very hard and are a great experience.

RESUME: These groups exist primarily for the purpose of noting involvement (or even better, executive board positions) on one's résumé. Examples include the Pre-Law Society, honor societies, Student-Alumni Relations Committee, the Economics Society and SPOC.

Conclusion

Well, you're stuck here. Might as well make the best of it.

This article is already three days late, but let's hope the editors accept it anyway*. Well, if we think about it, that's how Clark's Student Council runs on a good day anyway, isn't it?

You might think from that comment that I'm a bit down on Council. Let's just say I'm quite disenchanted. But maybe that is due to the fact that I don't have a class representative or that my hall rep (representing over 150 students) was voted into office by 25 people and I have yet to see the guy in person. It goes back further than just this recent election, though. Student Council is supposed to hold regular meetings and office hours in order to conduct business and also to keep the student body informed of what they are up to. The fact is that, as of the time I'm writing this article (the first week of October), they have only held two official meetings since the start of the academic year.

In my personal opinion, that is pretty pathetic for a group that is scheduled to meet every Sunday night at 6 pm and handles the entire monetary base for the university's "social life." Go see a meeting sometime. They'll ask you why you're there since it is unusual for anyone to show up unless they are asking for money. Let's face it, Council is a bank.

StudCo, as some like to call it, has been trying to prove to us that they are more than a bank, that they are going to have an impact

on the social life, and will improve things around here. One student told me that he had been talking to a Council member about getting soap dispensers put into residence hall bathrooms. He said that they told him it was a representative project and to look for results soon. Well, guess what people! Nearly, if not all of those representatives have relinquished their offices to newly elected officials, and I have yet to see the announcement of the completion of any representative projects from last year. If I am wrong, and some things were accomplished, please point this out and let me know.

Let's just take a minute to look at the recent inner workings of Council. Casey Frantz resigned as the president of Student Council on September 14, along with Maywood Hall Representative and Chair of the Budget Committee Rob Leeman. This was after an unexplained absence of the president for three weeks.

When asked by *The Scarlet* if he was still on Council prior to this announcement, Frantz stated "I don't want to talk about it." At this time, there is still no announced reason for his resignation, but the common consensus tends to say that the president was on Academic Probation.

Recently added to that list of resignees were Dave Carter of the Judiciary Committee and First-year Representative Ron Saykin. What does this mean to us as students? Well, not a whole lot

apparently, from the reaction that I have (not) noticed. The Council Constitution states that a special election will be held within three weeks time (from Frantz's resignation) for a new President. That three weeks expired on the day that this article was written (Sunday, October, 5). So, who cares, right? Well, even if no one else cares (which appears to be the case), the Judiciary Committee is an appointed group responsible for making sure that the Constitution is followed. But apparently they are too busy following through on impeachment proceedings (due to violation of attendance policies) of Council members who left office at the end of their term on October 2. This is hard enough since the Judiciary no longer has enough members to function, seeing as how there was no alternate for Mr. Carter's vacancy when he left.

Where does this leave us now? It leaves the students of Clark University blindly following a bright star through a dark, dark night. That star would be our vice president, and acting president, SuZanne Botta. Botta is standing in and doing all she can as she has stepped up to hold the fort. But she has said that she won't run for President since she has some specific goals that she would not be able to accomplish in such a capacity. Why is it that the one person in Council focused on making a difference has been side-tracked? This is because the top official who we all had the power to (not) elect has all but disappeared from the face of the campus.

I said "a dark, dark night" before because as far as I personally believe, the Constitution of our Student Council is null and void since it seems that it is not being followed anyway. The only way that things are going to change is if we start to give a damn and stand up for what we want and need. This is a covert group meeting in secret, deciding what to do with our money without even asking what we want or telling us where it's going. If we're lucky it won't end up with the University's endowment invested in the Worcester Trolley Company (ask me about it sometime).

Well, the response from the person on the street just about sums it all up. Asking a friend walking by what she knows about StudCo, she said, "I don't really know anything about it," as she shrugged her shoulders. We have an idea of where most of the \$25,000 that we pay goes. Why is it that no one

cares where \$400,000 worth of students' money is spent every year? The fact is that they went over that amount by tens of thousands of dollars last year. Council used to have what basically amounted to a backup bank account. You can say goodbye to that as the representatives responsible for keeping track of it have left office**.

One who hasn't left office, though little is heard from her, is the Student Council Secretary. Tom Roy, ex-vice president, put it rather succinctly on the VAX Bulletin (in the StudCo folder) about a month ago. He said, "Are we communicating now, Bethany? Hear my cries!" His message still awaits a response. Just so you know, the Constitution states that the Council Secretary is also the chair the Council's Communications Committee. Hmm...

Well, I think I've shared my opinion. There is more, but I don't know if I can keep your attention any longer (that is, if you even made it this far). Look to the future, but don't watch for it. We need to take control and not sit in the back seat any longer.

I just got an email from a friend who called two days ago because she thought she was having a bad week. Then yesterday she got in a car accident which totalled both cars. Let's start grabbing for the wheel before Student Council hits a wall head-on.

Editor's Footnotes:

* Don't push your luck.

** Problems with the Cumulative Surplus account have nothing to do with the fact that new reps. have joined Council. Student Council still has this "back-up bank account," it's just running a little low because of overspending last year.

