

Transfer Now!

25 REASONS TO LEAVE CLARK

By Zack Ordynans and Emily Sachs with Nicole Imbrascio

The Administration only cares about your money, Student Council only cares about satisfying the Administration, and for the most part, the students just don't care.

In no particular order, here are 25 reasons why students are unhappy at Clark.

Student Council. Clark's Student Council has proven again and again that they are only effective as a tool of the administration. Instead of providing real leadership and proving to us (instead of telling us) that they aren't a bank, this year's model has already: voted on issues that most members were "not allowed to know about" because of administrative pressure, appointed people that they were given no background information on, effectively handed \$14k of student money over to administrative control with the creation of the Programming Council, and ignored every previous precedent that they could find. This StudCo even ignored the traditional view of discouraging conferences by sending itself to a conference. In Florida, of course.

All this, from a Council lead by someone who claimed that, "I have a feeling that our Council is going to have to clean up from the mistakes of past sessions." Maybe they should spend a little time cleaning up their own mistakes before they attempt to fix history.

Atwood Hall. As Clark's primary theater space continues to crumble, apparently there are no intentions of improving the space in the near future. In the 1996 Academic and Financial Plan, the renovation of Atwood Hall was listed as the school's tenth highest priority for renovation, ranked behind suspicious goals like closing Downing Street and improving the athletic facilities (which were partially renovated last year). The seats and lighting equipment are falling apart, the acoustics are bad, there are holes in the roof, and the paint design screams "Dunkin' Donuts."

"There is a resurgence of interest in theater at Clark this year, but it's a shame that Atwood is the only student theater space. Atwood Hall is the albatross around the neck of student theater." Senior theater putz Nicole Imbrascio continued, "Also, how embarrassing is it to have convocation and Nobel Prize winners speaking in a space that's ugly and run down?" Good point, Nicole!

Clarkies are apathetic. The problem here isn't with the social life, or with communication-- it's with you. Events are usually well publicized, and when there aren't posters all over campus, there's still ClarkWeek, The Scarlet, and The Wall (or whatever they're calling it now) to give you some choices on a Friday night. It's easy to complain about the lackluster events taking place on campus, but much more difficult to try to plan events that people will attend and enjoy, and that are affordable to a student organization. No matter how many times students demand it, booking the Dave Matthews Band is not an option with PEC's budget.

The activities are out there. So instead of complaining, do something. Or plan something. Or write something for The Scarlet or WheatBread, questioning my right to ask you to do anything.

President Richard Traina. Clark's former absentee landlord recently moved into a house that cost the school over \$1,000,000 to renovate, with the justification that living in the neighborhood would allow the President a greater involvement in campus events and closer ties to stu-

dents. However, since the move "Trainaspotting" is just as rare now as it ever was. And don't even think about bothering him at home with any of your questions about Clark (see WB #9, "The Untold Tale of The Forged E-Mail From President Traina").

Poorly allocated space. The lack of adequate space on this campus for student groups remains a problem. The implementation of the Clark Multimedia Center (grouping all of the campus media organizations on the first floor of Dana Commons so that they can share resources and equipment) has been somewhat of a success, but the so-called "Red Room" remains unused by the International Development department as the once and future Clark Cable Network's equipment continues to melt in a closet in Sanford. And the Small Business Development Center may bring in rent money for the school, but the students-- who, after all, pay close to \$25,000 in rent to Clark each year-- deserve the space for student organizations. (See WB # 5 for more about this topic).

The Computer Science Department. "The computers are outdated-- both of them," reports Senior Tom Gibson, a student in the department. "Actually, there's three, but one of them is in a professor's office and we can't use it."

Such is the state of Clark's Computer Science Department, which is technically only a



French professor Martine Voiret. Victim of a strange tenure decision.

branch of the Math department. Of the three computers that Gibson mentions, all of them belong to one of the two full-time computer science professors in the department (the two other professors also split their time with teaching math). According to the secretary, Theresa Shusas (herself a part-timer, oddly enough spending the other half of her time at women's studies), there are 33 students either majoring or double-majoring in Comp. Sci. Does that then make it 16.5 students/computer?

Dean Harold Wingood. Clark's Dean of Admissions actions were neither "sagacious" nor "appropriate" when he tossed 500 copies of a WheatBread parody issue in a recycling bin last year. He later bragged about the incident to the then Editor-in-Chief of The Scarlet, otherwise failing to address the incident until a lawsuit was filed against him. A n d when he finally did "apologize" (5 months later), he managed to do so in a way that attempted to justify his illegal actions, and accused The Scarlet of printing false information.

Everyone else is doing it, so why shouldn't you? If every other Clarkie decided to jump off a bridge, wouldn't you? Why be an individual when you can be a "pea in a pod" (whatever that means)? Over the last 5 years, 352 students have left, and boy are they having a blast!

Dean Denise Darrigrand. Darrigrand was caught in a possible lie to The Scarlet (11/20/97) while talking about a complaint that she filed against WheatBread. A s s i s t a n t Dean of Students Linda Brown Connors had told several people that she had filed the mysterious complaint against WheatBread which lead to the freezing of the organization's funds, but anonymous sources who have seen the complaint told The Scarlet that the complaint was filed by Dean of Students Denise Darrigrand. When Darrigrand was questioned about the complaint by The Scarlet, she denied that a complaint ever existed. W h e n Judiciary Chair Evie Hristova confirmed to The Scarlet that a written complaint did exist, Darrigrand contradicted her earlier statement.

"I'm trying to think. Did I write them a letter? I might have." When Connors was asked by The Scarlet why she had admitted to filing the complaint, she expressed her surprise that Darrigrand had been interviewed and had no comment about the situation.

Parking. There's nowhere to park.

The Goddard Library. Once you get past the shock that this thing was ever built (some people who still haven't gotten over that shock insist that the library is an alien spaceship), you realize what a pain in the ass this building really is. Who has ever heard of a building where there is no ground floor, and the second floor is really the lobby? What about all of those creepy narrow staircases and mysterious rooms? And why does it have to be so damned hard to find a book or journal?

T h e r e ' s an old rumor that Jerry Garcia used to hang out in our library and do drugs, but I don't believe it. I can't imagine anyone spending time in that building unless they absolutely had to.

Hidden Art. Unknown to most of the university, Clark does have a collection of art works - a moderately valuable collection including 25 paintings that originally hung in the home of our dear founder, Jonas Clark. How can you see them? You can't. Most of C l a r k ' s art is in the basement of Goddard L i b r a r y, locked in a sort-of secret, secured, alarmed vault. The vault also contains many other, newer art works, the value of the entire collection approaching \$1 million. Even our art history department doesn't have immediate access to the collection. Plans are sketchy for allowing the collection to be made public; even so it's years (or years of alumni wining and dining) before Clark has an art museum - the pride of many of the country's finer institutions of higher education.

The Tenure Process. If you feel as though there is something lacking in your course load, your classroom, or your general academic life, it's probably a few professors. R e c e n t l y, Clark has lost two vital faculty members: David Venturo of the English Department (who was denied tenure for his failure to publish enough) and Martin Voiret of the French Department (who was granted



Modern mystery of architecture and inefficiency: the Goddard Library.

tenure by the Clark Committee of Personnel but denied by Traina). "Why?" students have demanded of the Administration, banging on Traina's office door, and the answer given is: "The tenure process is a complex process. My job is not an easy job and I cannot discuss personnel cases with students." Thanks for the clarity. Although tenure protects and gives security to faculty members, the achievement of tenure is an obscure form of torture. T h e three main requirements for achieving tenure are: teaching, research and publishing and faculty committee involvement. Professors who put their students ahead of publishing are not heavily rewarded at Clark.

WheatBread. Why go to a school where the students are so bitter that one of the student publications runs a cover story advising people to transfer?

Programming Council. It sounds like a great idea: a StudCo appointed committee given a budget and the responsibility of making sure that there are always events going on at Clark. When you look at the details, however, it all gets a little fuzzy. The Programming Council (PC) has a function that overlaps with a number of other student organizations and Student Council, a questionable appointment process, and allows administrators a greater power in the distribution of the Student Activities Fee. Worst of all, interviews for PC committee members won't even begin until December 4, already the end of the first semester.

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Mike Dennis and "Daka" Jake Lippman. Both were members of the Class of '96 who were hired immediately after graduation. Mike Dennis founded Grind Central while still a student, and was rewarded for losing thousands and thousands of dollars with the thankless job of Business Manager. Meanwhile Lippman, who was popular among Clark students and worked over 12 hours a day as a manager for Bon Appetit, was fired by the company after he refused to relocate to a christian liberal arts college (oxymoron?) in Pennsylvania. He was given three days notice. Dennis, on the other hand, was instrumental in the implementation of the sophomore meal plan requirement and still has his job. To his credit, Dennis exemplifies the slimy attitude that Clark seems to love in it's employees. "Daka Jake" just didn't quite fit that mold.

Worcester. Sure, it's not that bad for a dying industrial city. But it's not really a city, and it's not a small town either. It's in the ugliest part of a relatively ugly state, and Clark is in the ugliest neighborhood of the city. It's the armpit of New England. It's a college town, but it's not. The weather sucks. Isn't there somewhere else that you'd rather be living?

Lack of Unity. Clark has a lot of foreign students and students from all over the country, but everyone here seems to spend all of their time with people that look a lot like themselves. Students from Connecticut eat lunch with other people from Connecticut, and people from the Middle East eat with other people from the Middle East. Cultural organizations don't help either; in fact, they only encourage this isolationist mentality. There's nothing wrong with spending time with whoever you feel most comfortable around, and it's important to remain in touch with your own culture. But it is so rare at Clark for people to come together, regardless of cultural background, to do anything other than going to class. (An exceptional organization on this front is Asian Society, who recently sponsored a forum in Tilton to promote unity at Clark.)

The Environmental School. The school is one of Clark's biggest Admissions attractions, but no one seems to quite understand what the school is, anyway. It doesn't have a building, and it's not a major. It's not a con-

centration or minor, either. The program consists of 7 interdisciplinary courses and a first year seminar (which combine to fulfill 6 perspectives), in addition to a senior research project and capstone course. The Environmental School actually only adds an environmental focus to a different major.

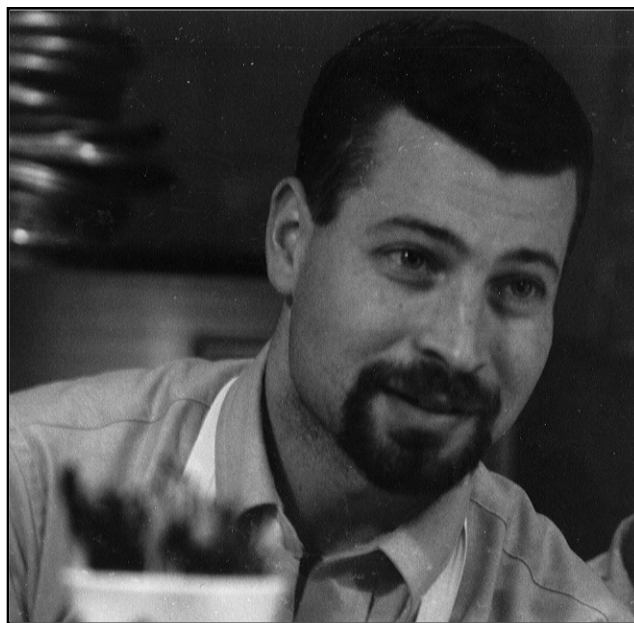
Tom Roy was the first student enrolled in the program, but he left the program during his sophomore year. "The school doesn't give students an adequate background in science, which is important to the subject. It's a liberal arts exposure to environmental issues, which is not what I'm interested in."

Theft of the Thom Rezza Fund. Not reported by The Scarlet, on Wednesday Nov. 19 the Thom Rezza fund, amounting to less than \$10 in loose change, was stolen from the General Store. According to Manager Dave Spach, "it was the same day the Downing Street offices were broken into. We'd just emptied it we roll quarters and nickels... and we'd just done that the previous weekend, so there was less than \$10." The prime culprits are local Worcester kids, Spach says. A new sign has been added to the collection can in the G.S. which says, "Do not steal me again."

Spach adds, "We've moved it, oh, four inches closer to the register. [We're] just keeping a better eye on it now." The fund assists Rezza, a one-time General Store manager and Clark alumnus who was injured in a diving accident a few years ago.

Conferences. Last year, many organizations including The Scarlet, MassPIRG, BACCHUS and COUNT spent thousands of dollars of the SAF to send at least a dozen students to conferences out of state. Were you invited? Probably not. Neither were we. Most recently, Student Council sent three of its members to Florida along with other "representative" students [see next entry], for a Student Leader convention.

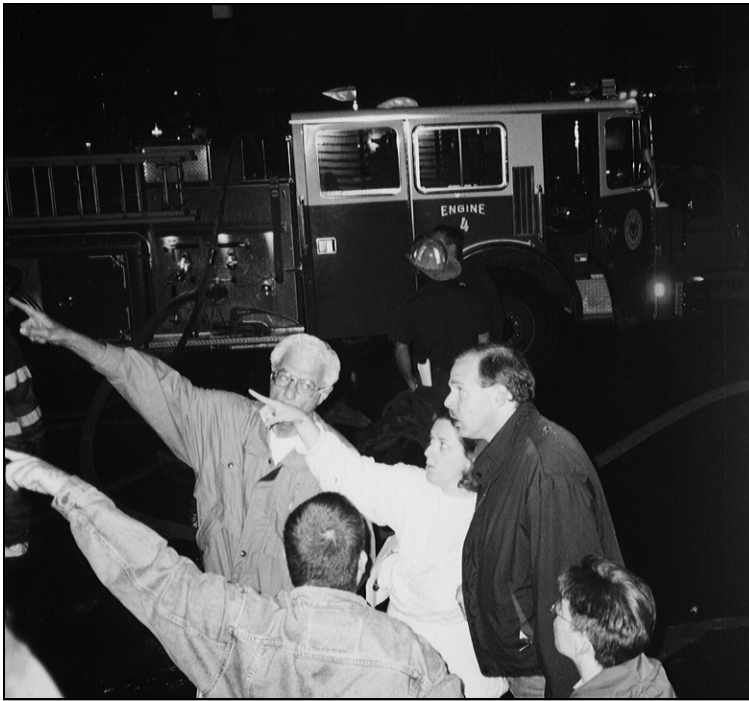
Last year, The Scarlet used \$3,900 from their budget and ad revenue as well as \$400



Daka Jake Lippman, a favorite Bon Appetit worker amongst students, is no longer among us.

from council to send 7 people to a student media convention in Orlando. In the spring, The Scarlet is planning to go to San Francisco. "I'd send 20 people if I could," says Editor Sam Begner.

Linda Brown Connors. Budget Chair Bob Sweet announced at a recent Student Council meeting that he had noticed that Programming Council (which still isn't completely formed) has already spent 25 percent of their annual budget, all of the money going to something called Collegiate Conferences. In fact, Collegiate Conferences is the sponsor of the Florida convention attended by Student Council, Linda Brown Connors, and a group of students more-or-less hand-picked by Connors. Kirsten Osterlind, (who was instrumental in creating the Programming Council but has no current involvement), Jim Strickulis (who will be a Programming Council Co-chair), Matt Robbie (invited for his work with Orientation), and Amy Warner, who is attending for reasons that are not entirely clear. Connors says that funding for the convention came from her own university budget. According to Sweet, however, Connors did use Programming Council money (specifically slated for on-campus activities) for the convention. He says that when he asked her about the unauthorized spending (Linda was acting on behalf of the still-inactive, SAF-funded Programming Council), she admitted to doing so. Connors



In order to counteract imminent confusion over class location (see article), President Traina has committed countless class locations to memory, promising to direct students (as seen here). Note Denise Darrigrand and David Milstone huddling together for warmth.

has since transferred the funds from her account back to Programming Council.

They force you to eat their food. Last year the university made a surprise announcement that all sophomores would be required to be on one of the meal plans offered by Bon Appetit, still in its first year of operation at Clark. Students revolted at the revolting idea of having to eat veggieburgers, rubber chicken sandwiches, and mushy mozzarella sticks for another year. Vaguely-attended protests and petitions lead to a sort-of compromise making the price of the base meal plan under \$1,000. More meal plans were created as well.

Because They Don't Want You To Know Where the Classes Are. In their infinite wisdom, it was decided that Clark students only need one copy of the course listing book. What they forgot is that class locations are not listed in the pre-registration course catalog, and students use post-registration catalogs to find the location of their classes. Without the handbooks that are passed out at the beginning of the semester, students will only have access to the locations of classes that they already chose the previous semester.

Save money: transfer within the consortium. You've gotta love a program that allows students to take classes at any of the schools within the city's 10-school consortium. How can this help you? Live off-campus with your friends, take Clark classes, but pay Becker or Worcester State prices.

How to Transfer:

A Guide to Making a Quick Getaway

By Emily Sachs

So you say you want to transfer? Well here's the dirt on how to do it. It's easier than you think, and a whole lot of fun! What are you waiting for? Go to it. Right now. We're serious.

1. Choose a school.

For Clark students, the overwhelming choice for transferring seems to be anything big. In the last five years, 352 Clarkies have left the school without graduating. Of those, 234 indicated their destination. The top choices? Boston University (20 Clarkies have gone there), New York University (13), UMass-Amherst (11), Boston College (6), and Worcester State (6).

If distance is your thing, try University of Colorado at Boulder (5). According to Al LeFebvre of Clark's Office of Institutional Studies, about two-thirds of those were freshmen and sophomores. "You'll find that at any institution," he says. What does this mean to you? Get started on those applications!

2. Obtain the appropriate signatures and recommendations.

Sophomore Leslie Offenbach, who had planned to transfer to Brandeis this year, says that the process was surprisingly easy. "It's really not complicated," she says. Most schools require only a transcript and two recommendations (and, of course, getting accepted -- but we can't help you with that part). One recommendation comes from a professor of your choice.

The other recommendation needs to be from the Dean of Students. This can be obtained by meeting with any dean from that office; just tell the secretary that you would like to make an appointment with one of the deans at their earliest convenience (afternoons are generally better for such meetings). They won't even ask you why you're leaving, so you don't need to think of a constructive reason or a polite way of saying it. "They didn't talk to me at all," says Offenbach.

3. Leave.

See? It's very easy. Not too taxing at all. And you still have time to buy a souvenir sweatshirt from the bookstore.