

The Scarlet

The Student Newspaper of Clark University

VOL. CIII, No. 3

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024 • thescarlet.org

Protesters 'Die-in' at Mournful Hillel Event

By Leo Kerz & Morgan Parisse
Web Editor & Layout Editor

Over 40 people participated in a 'die-in' protest during a Hillel event last Monday night at the Red Square.

The event, organized by ClarkU Hillel, was a commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the October 7 attack in Israel.

The program started at 7 p.m. with opening remarks from the club's leadership, followed by a song and a moment of silence. About 40 people attended the event and gathered in a large circle around the red square.

After various statements, the group came closer together, creating a smaller circle. Shortly after, at 7:20 p.m., protesters started the die-in. A die-in is a form of protest in which protesters simulate being dead. Protesters, who

were masked to protect their identity, calmly laid down on the grass and sidewalk around the Red Square, surrounding those participating in the event.

The event continued as planned after the protesters made themselves visible.

At 8:30 p.m., the event ended with impassioned remarks from ClarkU Hillel Vice President Jacob Vetstein. He briefly acknowledged the protesters' by stating his strong disagreement with their presence.

Protesters also left at around this time, shouting "Free Palestine" as they walked away from the Red Square.

Six police officers were present for most of the event. Some were on shift to stay the entire time, and others were on patrol and stopped by.

Vetstein was asked for comment after the event



Protesters (above) and event participants (below) on October 7, 2024 at Clark University's Red Square. Both photos by Leo Kerz.

had completed. "We are just here to mourn the lives lost; that's all we're here to do," Vetstein said.

Jeff Narod, who is employed full-time by the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts as Executive Director of ClarkU Hillel, was asked for comment the next morning.

"I am proud of the kids and that they are honoring their heritage," said Narod.



**ALSO
IN THIS
EDITION:**

News

*Hurricane Helene's
Devastation and
Hurricane Milton's
Approach*
By Abbi Gilbert
Page 3

Opinions

*New Seltzer flavors,
Same Expectations*
By Daniel B Hewitt
Page 6

Living Arts

Takes Flight
By Morgan Parisse
Page 8

Sports

*From "Pommel Horse
Guy" to "Dancing
Star"*
By Morgan Martin
Page 12

The Scarlet

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ava Orofino

MANAGING EDITOR
Cyd Abnet



NEWS EDITOR
Sophia Lindstrom

SPORTS EDITOR
Morgan Martin

OPINION EDITORS
Rowan Compton | Gabe Schmick

LIVING ARTS EDITOR
Weslee Tyler

WEBSITE EDITOR
Leo Kerz

LAYOUT EDITORS
Alistair Borg | Morgan Parisse

SOCIAL CHAIR
Porter Orvetti

TREASURER
Ryan McDowell

2024 - 2025

STAFF

Lily Daher	Abbi Gilbert	Noah Severence
Ricardo Diaz-Kirk	Jacob Goldman	Meghan Swedberg
Lucianna Dubon Soza	Kennedy Griffin	Paddington Wetlaufer
Andrew Ferrari	Marcus Palumbo	

LAYOUT TEAM

Alistair Borg	Rowan Compton
Leo Kerz	Morgan Parisse

Established in its current form in 1939, The Scarlet is an entirely student-run newspaper covering Clark University and its campus in Worcester, Mass. Our publication is intellectually and editorially independent of the University.

Our paper strives diligently to serve as both a critical and objective fact-reporting publication and as a platform for student expression at Clark. We value truth, integrity and diversity in our practices and publications. We believe that journalism is a profession built on trust. To earn and maintain that trust with our community, we commit ourselves to these values – and to the promise that we will always seek to deepen their importance.

The opinions expressed in The Scarlet do not necessarily reflect the official position of the University or its faculty or staff. The Scarlet reserves the right to refuse any submission for any reason. The Editors may alter any accepted work or retract it at a later date at their discretion.

QUESTIONS OR TIPS?

Please contact us at scarlet@clarku.edu

FOLLOW US!

thescarlet.org • [@theclarkscarlet](https://www.instagram.com/theclarkscarlet) • [@clarkscarlet](https://www.facebook.com/clarkscarlet)

Op-Ed: The Espresso Machine in the Library

By Isla Butler

It happens like it's happened so many times before. I walk into the library filled with the most futile of all emotions—hope—only to see what I have been dreading. The sign is still there. In nice handwriting, there is a message on a small chalkboard in front of the cash register: "SORRY! Espresso Machine is Out of Order." The sign, which seems to have become a permanent fixture to the Cougar Cafe, is complete with a sad face, as if it is apologetic. When it was first installed, it went unnoticed and I carelessly ordered a caramel iced latte, and was asked in response, "Is an iced coffee okay?" I don't consider myself a coffee snob. I do not ask for beans watered by a virgin's tears or milk from a cow only milked every other Tuesday, but I do enjoy a latte, far more than any other alternative.

I drink iced coffee, and I am grateful for it. Compared

to what others may or may not have, it seems almost insufferably privileged to complain that my coffee wasn't quite right—but it's been weeks.

I mentioned that the espresso machine in the library had been broken for a while to my friends, and they agreed, soon becoming a running joke between us. I text them before entering the library, "Today's the day I can feel it!", only to sullenly update them that the machine was, in fact, still broken. There is an unspoken addendum between us, "if it is fixed at all."

I ask the baristas, who are consistently some of the nicest people I have ever met, if they know when the machine will be fixed, and they tell me they don't.

I noticed more and more "Kaffe Inn" cups around campus, so I decided to give them a shot and ordered a caramel macchiato. It is delicious, but at nearly \$7

for a drink, it is more of a special treat than a daily cup of joe. I would like to order a caramel macchiato from the Cougar Cafe using my pre-paid dining dollars. Clark is a great institution that deserves great coffee. We figured out rocket science but can't figure out how to make the range of drinks offered at literally any other place; even McDonald's offers a macchiato.

I am hesitant to submit this. As I write, I feel more and more like a whining child, or worse, a "Karen." And I know this is insignificant, to quote Fiona Apple, "none of this will matter in the long run," but here and now, to the Clark community, it matters. Things don't have to stay this way forever. When things are broken, we can fix them, and if things are broken beyond repair, we can throw them out and start again, but if we say nothing, if we continue to pretend that an iced coffee is the same as a latte, nothing will change. And if we do not stand up and complain about the small things, we will be out of practice when it's time to stand up for the big

WE ARE ACCEPTING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

Do you want to talk to The Scarlet and our readership directly?

The Editors will consider signed letters of 250 words or fewer to be published in print and online.

CORRECTIONS:

In our last edition, in a photo spread of the Women's Cross Country team, we forgot to include the names of: Abigail Gahagan, Lily Carey, Ruby Krasnow, Mary Elena Morales, and Wynne Dromney.

The Scarlet regrets this error.

Hurricane Helene's Devastation and Hurricane Milton's Approach

By Abbi Gilbert
Staff Member

Touching down on Thursday, September 26th, 2024, and continuing until the 29th, Hurricane Helene devastated the southeastern region of the United States. The Category 4 hurricane has left hundreds without their lives, thousands without their homes, and millions without power.

Hurricane Helene caused landslides and flash floods across Florida's Gulf Coast after growing from a Category 1 into a Category 4 hurricane within a day. In The New York Times article titled "Helene's Intensification Was 'Aggressive.' Here's Why," authors Hank Sanders and Judson Jones identify that this intensification occurred due to record warm ocean temperatures. These temperatures cause storms to develop into hurricanes at an alarming rate.

Sanders and Jones note how fast winds were also a major factor in the storm's quick advancement in classification. Being labeled as a Category 4 hurricane out in the Gulf of Mexico is unusual and was a reason for concern among researchers.

Destroying a large part of Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, and notably western North Carolina, the death toll remains unknown. Many are still reported as missing

or unaccounted for. Helene is identified by BBC News writers Ana Faguy and Brandon Drenon as being the deadliest hurricane to have hit mainland U.S. since Hurricane Katrina back in 2005. In an AP News article by Bruce Schreiner, he reports that the current death toll of Helene is around 230 and counting.

The storm had over 140 mph winds with a 15ft storm surge. Landing at nighttime, many woke up to homes and communities destroyed. While the hurricane was later downgraded to a tropical storm, it continued to cause devastation in the Carolinas, damaging roads, houses, and lives.

Asheville, North Carolina, located in the state's western mountains, was hit hard and is still being cleared by volunteers and workers alike. Farms in western North Carolina have similarly been destroyed, ruining crops. The AP News piece by Bruce Schreiner goes on to identify how the state has been asking for and receiving money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This money goes to clean-up efforts and provides assistance for survivors of the natural disaster.

Sanders and Jones talked with Dr. McNoldy, a hurricane researcher working for the University of Miami. In their New York Times article the writer's note McNoldy's distress

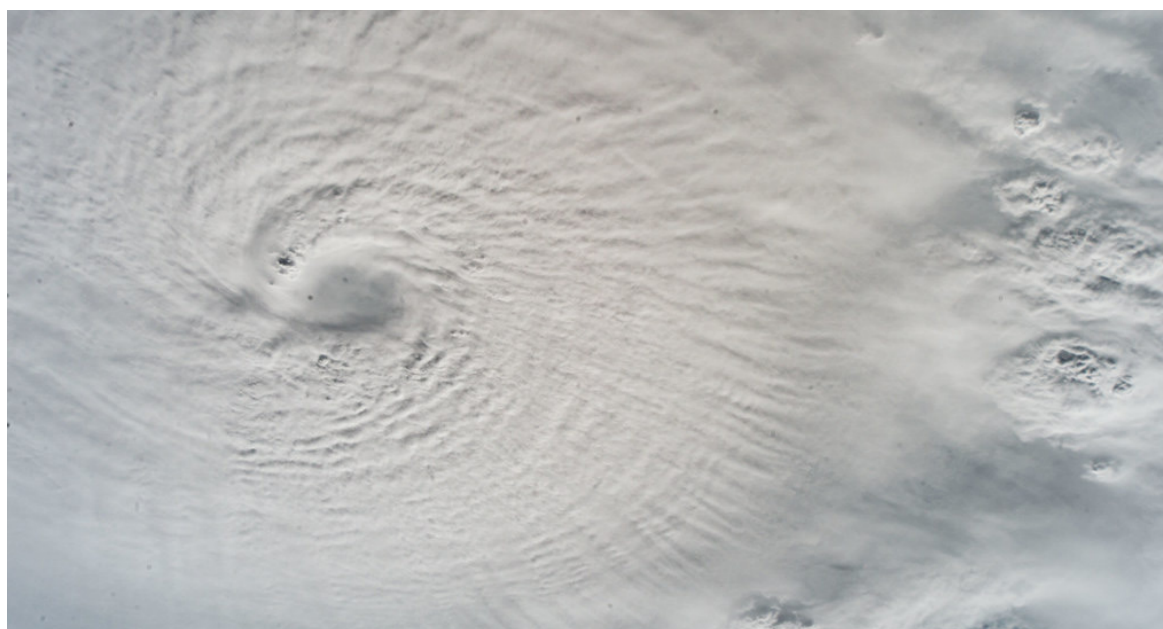


Image of Hurricane Milton moving at 175mph at 257 miles above the Gulf of Mexico captured by an external camera on the International Space Station. Uploaded to Flickr by user NASA Johnson with Creative Commons License.

at how people evaluate weather forecasts. McNoldy how people are often misled by the hurricane's projected cone map shown on their television and don't accurately interpret the widespread damage that can be caused by the hurricane.

Now, not even two weeks after Helene made landfall, another hurricane is set to hit Florida on October 9. Currently labeled as a Category 5 hurricane, the storm also had a rapid growth in categorization like Helene. Hurricane Milton will hit similar locations in Florida as Helene, adding even more stress on communities previously affected and those in surrounding areas.

As volunteers work to prepare the area for the coming week, others are still working to fix damaged infrastructure and homes impacted by the last storm. Currently, Milton is not

projected to curve back into Georgia or the Carolinas. However, as pointed out by Dr. McNoldy, the cone projection is not always accurate, and preparations should continue to be made by surrounding counties.

An AP News article by Mike Schreiner and Haven Daley, titled "Hurricane Milton is a Category 5. Florida Orders Evacuations and Scrambles to Clear Helene's Debris," focuses on Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis, calling for an evacuation of the area in heed of Milton's approach. While scientists say that the storm will slow down, possibly to a Category 3, the area is vulnerable from the previous storm and is thus predisposed to large damages.

Ron DeSantis wants increased efforts to be placed on the state's gulf coast, notably the Tampa Bay area. This is because

objects and infrastructure damaged in the last storm can become projectiles in high wind speeds. Schreiner and Daley note that flash flooding is a large worry for residents as the high waters from Helene persist.

After the devastation from Hurricane Helene hitting the southeast not even two weeks ago, many are tired and worried about the additional destruction of Hurricane Milton. While many are reluctant to evacuate Florida, their Governor is urging them to get out while they can.

As water temperatures in the gulf increase, storms such as these are likely to reach high levels of categorization. It is hoped that Milton will downgrade before reaching land, however, it remains likely it will stay at a rating of at least Category 3 or above.

Student Activist Group to Step Down From RSO Status

The group cites Student Code of Conduct changes.

By **Cyd Abnet**
Managing Editor

See You Students for Justice in Palestine (See You SJP), formerly Clark Students for Justice in Palestine, announced on October 4 that they were both changing their name and stepping down from the status of being a Registered Student Organization (RSO). This comes after the organization officially became an RSO in March of last year.

The announcement was made via a post to their Instagram, now renamed @seeyou.sjp.

“Clark Students for Justice in Palestine is no longer a Registered Student Organization (RSO). Swipe to see why, and what’s next for us,” reads the first slide in bold, green letters.

See You SJP cited the new updates to the Student Code of Conduct and RSO manual as to why they did not want to continue as an official Clark student organization.

“We as club members would be punishable for any pro-Palestine activity on campus that violates the Code of Conduct, even if we had no involvement in or prior knowledge of it,” the post says.

Additionally, See You SJP cites a new policy set out by Clark admin that requires the names

of four e-board members as well as ten general members in order to be registered as an RSO.

“This means that 14 people could face disciplinary charges for activities they had no involvement in,” the post reads. “We refuse to hand over the names of our comrades to an administration that has repeatedly made it clear they will only use that information to surveil and repress students.”

The announcement directed readers to a September 4 post for more information on specific code of conduct changes that have affected the decision.

The most notable change cited is the new ‘Freedom of Expression and Community Values’ policy, which See You SJP alleges “controls when, where and how [students] can express themselves.”

The ‘Freedom of Expressions and Community Values’ clause was originally separate from the Code of Conduct, but is now included. Violations of Clark’s Community Values are now ranked in the same category as assault, harassment and hate crimes according to page 15 of the 2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct Guidebook.

The ‘Freedom of Expression and Community Values’ policy states

that “the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of speech and expression; both for public safety, and to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the institution.”

The policy also notes that “The University recognizes that causing discomfort and even causing offense is not, of itself, a basis for limiting free speech.”

“

We as club members would be punishable for any pro-Palestine activity on campus...

In total, the policy allows the University to regulate when, where and how students express themselves if the school deems it disruptive.

See You SJP notes in the post that “In the past, Clark University has used this ‘Community Values’ policy to target students for pro-Palestine speech such as dorm room signs, social media posts, and writing on public whiteboards,” noting that changing the

policy to be included in the Code of Conduct now allows such actions to be a punishable offense. The referenced whiteboard incident is chronicled in detail in a February 23 article in The Scarlet.

To finish, the post encourages students to “be creative, be brave, be careful,” citing avenues of action such as continuing to pressure Clark University administration to divest from Israel, making club purchases in line with Palestine Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) standards and hosting events about Palestine through already existing organizations.

It is currently unclear whether or not the Clark administration will respond to these statements.

The post is quick to note that this will not be the end of Clark SJP.

“We are still Clark students horrified by our institution’s active participation in the genocide of the Palestinian people,” the post says.

The organization will now be renamed See You SJP, removing the ‘Clark’ from the name as Clark bars organizations not officially recognized by them from using the University’s name. This decision allows the group to continue its operations, despite not being directly affiliated with the school.

See You Students for Justice in Palestine was reached out to for comment via Instagram but did not respond.



The Scarlet Holds Fall 2024 Speaker Series Event on Reporting Sexual Violence

Alistair Borg
Co-Layout Editor

The Scarlet hosted 4 guest speakers in the newspaper's first event of the semester, "Scarlet Speaker Series: Journalism and Reporting on Sexual Violence, Minimizing Harm: How Reporting on Abuse Impacts Survivors". Treasurer Ryan McDowell organized the event.

The speakers were Professor Kathleen Palm Reed, Barbara Dorris, David Clohessy, and Wendy Murphy. The speaker panel was moderated by Clark psychology Professor Andrew Stewart.

Kathleen Palm Reed is a professor of psychology at Clark. She has a focus in dating violence and other issues related to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and interpersonal violence.

Barbara Dorris is a survivor herself and has trained volunteer leaders worldwide in organizing and defending victims



of abuse with SNAP (Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests).

David Clohessy, also a survivor, assisted in the establishment of local support networks in over 65 cities with SNAP.

Wendy Murphy is an attorney who specializes in cases involving women and children. She has made significant contributions to Title IX litigations on college campuses.

A key point made by several speakers is that the autonomy of survivors is essential to proper

journalistic coverage, and that their wishes must always be respected.

All panelists agreed that visibility is key to prevention. They said that when survivors speak out it lets others know they are not alone, and lets perpetrators know that they are not immune to justice.

Other important factors discussed were the role institutions play, with a focus on the Catholic Church and universities that attempt to minimize their reporting through legal or financial loopholes.

The Scarlet Speaker Series is held yearly, meant to invite experts to better inform our work.

All photos by Leo Kerz.



New Seltzer flavors, Same Expectations; Reviews of Polar Seltzer Winter 2024 Flavors

By Daniel B Hewitt
Contributing Writer

Polar Seltzer, a brand made since 1882 has introduced an exciting lineup of new flavors for 2024, and I decided to give them a chance and dive into them. Each one has its own unique profile, but the challenge lies in figuring out which ones really pop and which fall flat. Here's my breakdown of the five new flavors, ranked from best to worst.

1. Nectarine Grapefruit

This was, without question, the standout flavor of the bunch. From the first sip, there is a strong, sharp grapefruit flavor that takes over, leaving a memorable tartness on the tongue. There's a hint of something softer behind it—presumably nectarine—but since I'm not totally familiar with how nectarine should taste, I'd compare it more to a mild plum-like flavor. It fades in gently, giving the drink a layered experience. The grapefruit dominates at first, but then mellows out, leaving the softer notes behind. The way the flavors work together feels balanced, with a refreshing finish that lingers. It's a great choice if you like your seltzers bold and full of citrusy punch.

2. Blood Orange Cranberry

Coming in at a close second, the Blood Orange Cranberry offers a bit of a fruitier experience. The orange flavor comes through slightly stronger than the cranberry, but both fruits are present, combining to give a pleasant if not overly complex, citrus-berry experience. It's a well-rounded seltzer, with just enough cranberry tartness to cut through the sweet orange, but not so much that it overpowers the blend. If you're into balanced fruit flavors that don't hit too hard, this is a solid option. The simplicity might not be as exciting as the grapefruit, but it's still an enjoyable drink.

3. Elderflower Starlight

This one is a bit of an enigma. The smell isn't as potent as the others—it's a faint, almost berry-like aroma, but not something easily identifiable. The flavor is similarly subtle, without any one note standing out above the rest. It's the smoothest of all the flavors I tried, making it easy to drink but less memorable compared to the stronger fruit profiles. Elderflower Starlight feels more delicate, like a whisper of floral and fruit, but it might leave you wishing



Image Courtesy of Creative Commons lisenec

for a little more oomph. Still, if you prefer a more understated seltzer, this one could easily be a favorite for its smoothness alone.

4. Frosted Boysenberry

This was the most “fizzy” out of all the flavors—so much so that it ended up splashing out of the can when I opened it, making a mess! The berry aroma is strong and pleasant, but the flavor doesn't quite live up to the smell. It's surprisingly mild, especially after that initial burst of berry fragrance. There's nothing particularly wrong with it, but it lacks the punch you'd expect from such a bold aroma. The carbonation seems to take center stage here, leaving the flavor as more of a background player. For those who like their seltzer super fizzy, this could be a great option, but flavor-wise, it doesn't leave a lasting impression.

5. Spiced Pear Cider

Unfortunately, Spiced Pear Cider was the least enjoyable flavor for me. I

went in thinking it might be too bold, and it lived up to that expectation, but not in a good way. From the first whiff, it gave off a strong, almost perfume-like scent—loud and intrusive, not the inviting kind of spiced aroma you might hope for. The pear is there, but it's more of an afterthought, muted by an odd mix of spice that doesn't really work. The “spicy” notes don't blend well with the pear, leaving the flavor disjointed and not particularly refreshing. If you're a fan of more intense, spiced drinks, you might enjoy it, but for me, it was a miss. The smell and taste clashed, and it was just too much overall.

Overall, Polar's 2024 lineup offers some winners and some not-so-great options, but there's definitely a flavor for everyone depending on your preferences. If you enjoy bold, citrus-heavy drinks, Nectarine Grapefruit is the one to try. If you like a more balanced and subtle approach, Elderflower Starlight or Blood Orange Cranberry are good picks. But if you're wary of overly strong, perfumey flavors, I'd steer clear of the Spiced Pear Cider. The variety is there, but not all of the flavors hit the mark.

Coke Thinks Twice!

By Gabe Schmick
Opinions Editor

Several months ago, the popular soft drink company Coca-Cola launched a new flavor known as “Spiced” as a part of their permanent lineup of flavors. This month, however, Coke announced that they would be discontinuing their newest flavor due to lower than expected sales.

This comes at a time when other popular soft drinks are gaining popularity over the traditional, more mainstream soft drinks. In fact, Spiced was announced as a competitor to the drink Dr. Pepper which has surged in popularity in recent years, even surpassing Pepsi as America's second favorite soft drink. Coke plans on trying once again to add a new flavor to their permanent lineup, they plan on releasing this mystery beverage sometime in 2025.



Image Courtesy of Creative Commons lisenec

We Just Want Food: The Higgins Line

By Abbi Gilbert & Grace Hurdle

Staff Writer & Contributing Writer

“People don’t go to college to wait in line,” said Clark Sophomore Conner Dunham when asked about the wait times at Higgins.

After the introduction of The Table at Higgins, there has been a noticeable change in wait time when we go to eat. What started as a quick tap-in has evolved into around a twenty-minute wait. Even upon reaching the front of the line, there’s an awkward moment while you and the staff member at the desk wait for the system to load.

This inconvenience has created a lot of anxiety in Clark students. Not knowing how long the line will take causes many to resort to finding food elsewhere, such as at The Bistro.

Connor believes that the Higgins experience is comparable to last year, during which the food was good at the start of the year, and quality declined as the year went on. Connor agrees that the lines have been noticeably longer, having spent around fifteen minutes waiting to eat.

He explains that he doesn’t resort to other food options, he told us how he believes that “The wait time at The Bistro is equally as long as the wait for Higgins.”

Connor guesses that something with the system changed, but he doesn’t know if the wait time could be solved with another program. He would like to hear from The Table and the Clark administration “that they are aware of the situation and are working to fix the problem.”

Sophomore Hazel Crossman says that the wait time absolutely affects her decision to eat at Higgins. Hazel said that she instead chooses to go to The Bistro or “Wait and eat at a less convenient time.”

She states that the line is especially long when classes get out and around more popular eating times, such as dinner.

Hazel said that she usually waits ten minutes in line and if the line hasn’t moved, she’ll leave and come back at a different time.

This, Hazel says, affects her study time since she has to “Stop studying to go eat.”

For her, it is more convenient to eat after class, however, she is now unable to do so because of the long lines.

On Mondays, Hazel has only thirty minutes to get into Higgins between her class ending and her work shift at the Goddard Library.

She said she has “Yet to get into Higgins in that thirty-minute window.” Often, during this time, the line stretches outside the

University Center door into the green.

The length of the Higgins line has repeatedly forced Hazel to order from The Bistro, subsequently making her late to work or forcing her to leave in the middle of work to pick up her food.

However, she recognizes the staff is working hard to check people in as fast as possible, and that “the wait time is not a reflection of their efforts.”

A Clark senior we interviewed notes how she similarly has faced long lines at The Table at Higgins that have forced her to seek other options, such as ordering ahead at The Bistro. Having stood in line for around 10-15 minutes, she said the lines have created a lot of stress for her in planning ahead for meal times, especially between classes.

When asked if the long lines have deterred her from getting food at Higgins she says, “For sure. Not worth it.”

This is the case for many students at Clark. While she and others note how the food has improved since last year, the waits do not make up for the improvement in quality.

Similarly, we are frustrated with the long lines of The Table at Higgins. It should be a priority of the university that students have timely access to food. Clark



‘Monday Night Line at Higgins.’ Photo taken by Hazel Crossman.

students pay good money to have uninhibited access to food, yet time and time again we find ourselves waiting for a service that should be easily available.

The issues with the system should be addressed by the administration due to the constant pressure it places on students’ schedules. It has been over six weeks now with the current procedure in place, and there have been no

noticeable improvements or attempts for improvements disclosed to Clark students.

We look forward to seeing if any changes will be made in the coming weeks.

Worcester's City Medical Director Wants to use VR as a Gun Safety Tool

By Porter Orvetti
Social Chair

Last week, the Worcester Public School Board voted against teaching gun education in Worcester Public Schools by using Virtual Reality headsets.

The goal of the proposed program was to expand upon the Safety Quest program used in the

Worcester Public School System. Safety Quest is a mobile classroom bus that is meant to teach

kids how to deal with hazardous situations, including escaping a house during a fire, crossing the street safely, and spotting potential hazards around the home. Inside the bus are multiple touch screens and virtual reality headsets for students to learn with.

Safety Quest is made primarily for middle schoolers and has been traveling to Worcester Public Schools throughout the year. Dr. Michael Hirsh, Worcester's current medical director in the Division of Public Health believes this bus could also be used to teach kids gun safety skills in the event of a school shooting. He first brought up the idea at a Worcester Public Health meeting on September 9.

However, many educators within Worcester are opposed to the idea, not



Oculus Headset on a floor. Photo by William Parisse.

wanting to have weapons in class education. In an interview with the Telegram and Gazette,

Hirsh continued to push for his idea for the program stating that “With the rising number of child fatalities due to firearms, we thought we could include it in the van... the graphic design company that did all of the work creating these modules for Safety Quest, they are incredibly

sensitive. They have worked on presentations for children and they know what colors to use, what music to use.”

For now, the program has been voted against, but Hirsh hopes other programs for gun safety can still happen in the future.

Hirsh's claim that Safety Quest can perfectly create presentations for children seems questionable once you look into the program's current material. Safety

Quest's introduction video reads like an outdated PSA from people trying to seem trendy for the middle school audience.

It features a character that begins by mentioning she has 20 million subscribers on YouTube, then telling the audience to join the “safety squad” and that she needs our help to get “safety trending worldwide, no cap.”

She goes on to tell the audience to “get ready to play gucci games to become a safety savage” in a clear attempt to connect with the young audience the videos will be shown to. While these types of PSAs have existed for a long time and may work for something like safety of crossing the street, it's difficult to see them working for teaching the difficult and grim topic of gun safety.

This is before even considering what this would look like in Virtual Reality, an experience designed for its realism by placing you directly into the eyes of someone. In a gun safety experience for Virtual Reality, Safety Quest would need to build something that teaches what to do during a school shooting without creating anxiety and mental health problems in children. Finding an effective middle ground to do both seems like an impossible task.

The idea of using Virtual Reality seems even more unreasonable, considering that Worcester schools are already required to do lockdown drills at least twice a year. Gun safety teaching in schools has been on the rise as school shootings continue to rise around the US. According to Everytown, 95% of schools in the US do some type of lockdown training to prepare for a possible school shooting. However, there is very little information on how successful these programs are at preventing school shootings.

These programs, while having the goal of educating and preventing death from school shootings, inevitably create fear in school children. Proposals like using Virtual Reality or games for teaching does not solve these issues but only worsens them. The only real solution to stopping school shootings is banning assault weapons and tightening background checks to prevent school shootings by limiting the amount of guns. We need to stop putting the burden on school children and onto our lawmakers to ban the guns that cause tragedies to take place.

The Choice is Simple, Vote Yes on Four to Legalize Psychedelics

By Gabe Schmick
Opinions Editor



There has never been a better time to legalize psychedelics and de-escalate the war on drugs. Former US President and main architect of the war on drugs, Richard M. Nixon, described marijuana as “not particularly dangerous,” which he said in 1973. Two years after formally launching the so-called “war on drugs,” an undertaking by the administration and every proceeding administration since to administer harsh sentences for those selling, distributing, or using drugs.

On the ballot in November, Massachusetts voters have a choice: either continue the anti-drug chicanery or finally legalize another substance that (shocker!) is also not particularly dangerous: psychedelic mushrooms.

There are active campaigns both for and

against the measure. The main opposition to the campaign is The Coalition For Safe Communities. Which is an organization that claims that if question 4 passes, it would lead to an “unregulated black market” and that question is a “danger to children.”

These simple taglines are reminiscent of campaigns in the mid to late 2010s aimed at stopping the legalization of marijuana. Ironically, The Coalition For Safe Communities even lambasts edibles and marijuana as being a cause of a supposed increase of drug intoxication in children. The chair of the organization Dr. Anahita Dua, has admitted that psychedelics could be useful in “certain disease processes,” but added that we do not have enough data to conclude the psychedelics should be legalized.

On the other hand, the organization supporting the ballot measure, Massachusetts for Mental

Health Options, has tried to rebut critics. They say that the substances are not addictive, are comprehensively regulated, and greatly benefit people with severe anxiety and PTSD. Places where psychedelics have been legalized have not seen widespread negative effects.

In the Netherlands, where such products are legal, less than 1% of Dutch people actually use them. In addition, Oregon has legalized them, and out of the over 12,000 legally administered doses, only four have led to hospitalization.

It should also be noted, the ballot measure does not allow storefronts for products to be sold recreationally; rather, they would be sold in licensed facilities employing professionals and trained therapists.

As the United States battles a mental health crisis, it is clear we must look for any way to get people the help they need. Ballot measure four would allow patients to try an alternative to traditional medicine that has many studies behind it showing that it can be used to provide life saving care.

Vote yes on four, end the war on drugs.

Peapod is Back from the Dead



By Sydney Emerson
Contributing Writer

Clarkie improv group The Peapod Squad’s Friday the 13th “Back from the Dead” show took place on September 13 in Jefferson 218. Charlie XCX ser-enaded the audience as they packed themselves like sardines into the lecture hall.

The location was changed last minute from the Grind to Jefferson because of a possible fire hazard, but this did not affect turnout at all. Every seat was filled, and people were standing in the back and sitting in the aisles to see this not-to-miss show.

The Peapod Squad started the show by asking the audience to yell mean things. When they felt they had been insulted enough, the group continued with the show by addressing the change in location. This resulted in The Squad leading the audience through chants of “No more Grind.” The show continued with The Peapod Squad playing a variety of improv games

using suggestions from the audience, the first of which was a debate.

Audience members called out all sorts of prompts and The Peapod Squad settled on debating apple cider versus pear cider. Team Pear Cider had the pear phones from “iCarly” and “Victorious”, while Team Apple Cider featured a man whose father had been killed by pear cider.

Other skits from The Peapod Squad’s show had characters and topics such as Dobby from “Harry Potter”, crazy grandparents, roller skating, Burning Man and more.

There’s a feeling of magic when one is in a room full of people laughing at the same thing. The Peapod crew certainly have the ability to cast this magic, as they had the entire audience laughing the whole time. Needless to say, seeing the Peapod Squad perform is an experience you do not want to miss and I would recommend that you catch their next show.

Photo by Sydney Emerson

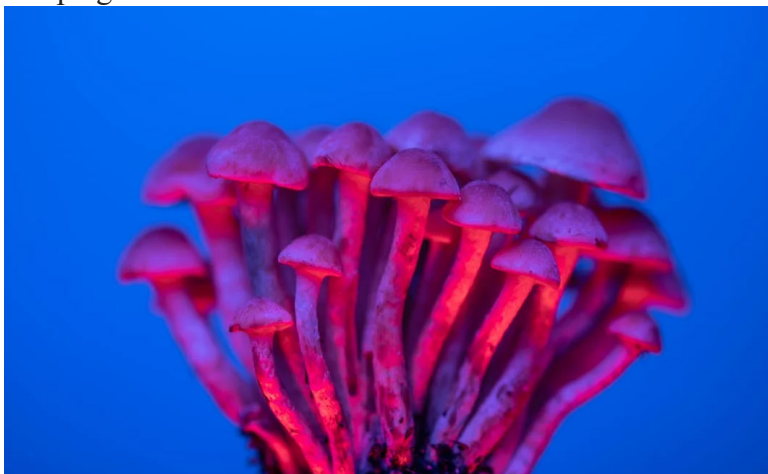


Photo of Psilocybin mushroom, Uploaded by Marek Piwnicki. Licensed under Creative Commons.

Taking Flight

By **Morgan Parisse**
Layout Editor

For 51 years, the Adirondack Balloon Festival in Queensbury, New York, has occurred in September. This year, it was held from Thursday, September 19, through Sunday, September 22, with almost 70 hot air balloons taking flight.

History

Walter Grishkot founded the balloon festival in the early 1970s with a mission to extend Warren County's tourism season beyond Labor Day. At the time, hot-air balloons were rare in the U.S., making the event a unique attraction.

The festival's early years were hosted at Adirondack Community College, now known as State University of New York (SUNY) Adirondack. However, as



the event grew, it needed a larger space. It eventually found its home at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport in Queensbury, New York.

What sets this festival apart from others of its size and stature is that it is organized by a not-for-profit

organization. Volunteers play a critical role, raising the necessary funds and relying on community support to keep it running.

The festival has become a global event, attracting balloonists from all across the United States and

international pilots. Over its four-day span, the festival now draws more than 10,000 visitors, making it a staple and a beloved tradition in Lake George.

The Festival

The festival began Thursday evening at Crandall Park in Glen Falls. At 5 p.m., they held opening ceremonies, with food vendors and kids' activities. At 5:30 p.m., up to 15 balloons took flight. Following the flights, there was a musical performance by the NY Players and Balloon Moonglow.

As the sun rose Saturday morning, balloons took flight over the Adirondacks. At 5 a.m., food vendors opened for business, serving hot apple cider, hot chocolate, coffee, and ice cream.

More small businesses sold merchandise, including balloons, jewelry, and clothing.

Once the pilot and team had set them up, the balloons took flight. Before the festival began, people could contact pilots and ride in specific balloon baskets with them at the festival. Balloons continued to take flight for an hour and a half after the first balloon took flight at 6:30 a.m.

At the start of the balloon launch, the balloons are laid out carefully on the grass while the crew set up the basket and the flame. Once the basket was prepared, it was placed sideways on the ground, and the deflated balloon was securely attached. A large fan inflated the balloon, gradually filling it with air until it began to take shape. As the balloon





fully inflated, it lifted the basket upright, signaling the next stage. Once the pilot was ready, the crew untethers the basket from the ground with a graceful lift, the balloon ascended into the sky, marking the beginning of its flight.

By 8:00 a.m., all the balloons had taken flight. There were 12 special-shaped balloons, including penguins, spider pig, a Tasmanian Devil, a peacock, a dinosaur and a dragon. Most of the special shapes took flight; however, the Tasmanian Devil and dragon did not. There was also an option for a tethered balloon ride, allowing people to go up briefly.

The airport was open to visitors all day with vendors. Many guests brought chairs and blankets to set up for the day's events. On Saturday, there

were several musical performances, and in the evening, there were up to 50 balloon flights.

In the late evening, there was an event called "Lighting Up The Night"—Airport Moonglow. Twenty balloons were set up the same way they were in the morning but were tethered to the ground as it was too dark to fly safely. The balloons lit up the entire airport, and their flames were set off to music. However, this event was anticlimactic as the balloons started deflating later in the evening.

The festival concluded on Sunday, with hot air balloons taking flight and the sun rising again. Gates closed mid-morning.

All photos taken by Morgan Parisse on September 21, 2024 in Queensbury, New York



Editorial: The State of Freedom of Speech and Protest at Clark

By Rowan Compton
Opinions Editor

Trigger Warning: Genocide, Israeli-Hamas Conflict. This article discusses themes that may be uncomfortable to many in the Clark community. The Scarlet condemns violence, harassment and suppression in all forms.

Clark has recently come under significant criticism due to perceived significant restrictions on the freedom of speech on campus. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) ranked Clark at 214th of 251 in their rankings of freedom of speech on college campuses.

Clark has a long history

of protests and counter-culture speech on campus. During the Vietnam War, the campus was buzzing with anti-war slogans and protests. A crowd of about 100 students and faculty even traveled to Washington D.C. in October 1967 to protest American Imperialism on the National Mall.

During the 1980s, the student-run organization, South African Divestment Coalition successfully campaigned to get Clark to divest its endowment from apartheid South Africa. This movement succeeded. In February 1986, the University administration announced that they would divest from all companies that had business dealings

in racially separate South Africa.

Not all of these protests were in the distant past however. Since 2017, there have been at least three major protest movements here at Clark. Some of these were (in chronological order) a significant push to get the university to divest from fossil fuels (which failed), a push to get the university to disarm Clark University Police Department (which failed), and the ongoing push to get the university to divest from Israel.

In a previous interview with the Dean of Student Success, Dr. Kamala Kiem, I asked for a breakdown of where exactly the endowment is invested.

This request was refused. Dr. Kiem said that “at least two” other student groups were also looking for this information and their requests also got rejected.

An endowment breakdown was available to students arguing for divestment of fossil fuels in 2017. When asked why the same standard does not apply in 2024, Dr. Kiem said, “None of our current leaders in relevant positions were involved in the graduate student’s 2017 project, so we cannot speak to decisions that were made then...” Clark administration could not answer why this time is different. This is an open call to the administration to articulate why exactly is this information restricted when it was previously available?

Since this interaction (which was in the spring of last year), the Student Code of Conduct has changed. These changes are a significant departure from the previous policy.

In the most recent version of the Code of Conduct, the Community Standards Policy has been replaced with “... We encourage all of you to avoid using slogans, clichés, or behaviors that contribute to feelings of uneasiness. When we encounter concerning

remarks, we address them as an institution. We thoroughly investigate each incident. Furthermore, we promptly remove any language once it is brought to our attention. Students or student organizations found violating these shared community values will be held accountable through the conduct process.”

These changes in the Student Code of Conduct are not some far away, almost abstract writing on a seldom referenced piece of stone. They are already significantly impacting campus. This very article contained the phrase “illegitimate Israeli state”. This was edited out due to concerns about these newly implemented free speech policies.

Related, an organization formerly known as Clark Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is no longer a registered student organization. Rather than having to abide by these restrictive changes, SJP refused the idea of registering as a student organization. Instead, they are no longer affiliated with Clark at all, rebranding as SeeYou SJP.

This puts them in a similar position as a fellow praxis group, the SeeYou Collective. Neither are in any official capacity



Shaich Family Alumni and Student Engagement Center (ASEC). Photo by Morgan Parisse.

affiliated with Clark, but they work largely in and around the Clark community.

The Student Code of Conduct also has a concerning line regarding strikes and protests on campus, saying that “Students may not disrupt the orderly processes of the University that involve teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other activities.”

The goals of protests, both on campus and elsewhere, are precisely to disrupt these daily, orderly proceedings. This line implies that simply participating in an on-campus protest could be grounds for disciplinary action.

It is not just the Clark community that is recognizing these changes in free speech on campus. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), ranks colleges by freedom of speech on campus. In 2023, Clark ranked 188th of 248, this past year saw a fall of 26 spots. The 2024 rankings showed Clark at 214th of 251 American universities.

Other private small northeast colleges in general received much higher rankings than Clark. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, for example, was ranked 46th, Bard College was ranked 73rd, and Wheaton (Mass.) was ranked 158th. With nationally recognized organizations such as

FIRE calling out Clark on its restrictive free speech policies, it is not only Clark students who are feeling as if Clark is intruding on free speech.

The timing of these new restrictions is highly suspect. To me, these new changes seem to be a direct response to the pro-Palestine actions that occurred on campus last year. In particular, the new code of conduct would allow admin to punish students for posting pro-Palestine slogans in public places and pro-Palestine protests.

We saw that last year when the administration attempted to punish students for posting pro-Palestine slogans, but due to the wording of the Code of Conduct at the time, the students were not subject to disciplinary action. However, now with these changes, it is likely that these students would have been punished for their praxis.

Clark will lose money if it is forced by student action to divest from the Israeli industries. Reshuffling assets to not be invested in Israeli industries would require significant funds and labor-hours to complete. However, other universities have divested from Israel, and Clark itself has divested from other apartheid regimes in the past. To put it simply, Clark administrators could divest from a genocidal state and are choosing not to.

In an attempt at fairness

(or perhaps guilt for giving tens of thousands of dollars to this institution), I contacted the Dean of Student Success, Dr. Kamala Kiem, to ask some questions. The following answers have been edited for brevity, though the excerpts here are direct quotes. Some questions and answers have also been omitted for conciseness. Please see full questions and answers on our website.

Why was the code of conduct changed to punish individual club members for actions of the club - a significant departure from previous policy?

Dean K: Because the Code of Conduct did not clearly provide for due process for our clubs and organizations, the change you refer to was made to ensure fairness and due process for all.

Are these changes related to recent protests on campus?

Dean K: No. These changes were made as part of our annual review process to identify any gaps in due process and opportunities to add clarity to our Code of Conduct.

Do you/the administration believe that these new policies will quiet pro-Palestine speech and action on campus?

Dean K: The intention of our policies is to advance our values as a University, including our commitment to the free expression of differing perspectives. We

unequivocally support students exercising their First Amendment rights, including freedom of speech, expression, and protest.

These answers speak for themselves. I could write some long soliloquy about these responses, analyzing each word, but instead I will just say the following:

To claim that punishing members of a club for actions they may not be involved in is ensuring fairness and due process for all is laughable. To claim that the administration just happened to identify that these changes needed to be made now of all times is shameful. To claim that the policies of the university, which now include so-called “institutional restraint”, is in line with the First Amendment is at best dodging the question, and at worst a deliberate attempt to misinform the student body.

There is a genocide ongoing in Palestine, and not only are Clark administrators complicit in this, by restricting freedom of speech on campus, they

are tacitly encouraging it by keeping their Israeli investments. Rather than condemning the illegal and unjustifiable invasion of Gaza, Clark administrators are enabling it.

Clark students have forced the university to divest from racist unjustifiable regimes in the past, and we must do so again. **DIVESTMENT NOW!**

Views in this article, as with all articles in the Opinions section, are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Scarlet as an organization, or Clark University as a whole. It should be noted however, that The Scarlet Eboard has endorsed institutional divestment from Israel.

If you are struggling with personal loss, stress, or mental health, due to the ongoing conflict or anything else, please contact Clark CPG at 1-508-793-7678.

Author received a free pair of socks from FIRE in March of 2024.



Why I'm Voting Third Party: A Snippet

By Kennedy Griffin
Scarlet Staff

A statement about voting third party usually results in vitriol from those who feel stuck to the dated two-party system. The same arguments about why the left should vote for Democrats that we hear over and over are once again being repeated during this election cycle. These arguments are simple and easy to believe, which is why they are used repetitively. The purpose of the arguments is to keep us stuck in the exact same two-party despondence that we will continue to be stuck in unless we collectively do something about it. What I'm talking about, of course, is "Well, the Democrats are a lesser evil," or "But a third party vote is a wasted vote," and the quintessential "But, Project 2025." To counter these arguments in a concise way would require too much research and too much effort. This is why I, as someone who regularly puts in too much effort, wrote this piece.

I am not towing the line with Harris, and I encourage other leftists to do similar. These are my responses to the concerns about this choice.

"I don't particularly like Harris. But she, and by association Democrats, are less evil than Trump

and the Republicans."

Not really. The only difference is that Democrats are trying to appeal to left-wing voters that care about issues such as workers rights, climate change, abortion, and social justice issues. Republicans are appealing to people who couldn't care less about any of those. Thus, it's easy for Trump to be overtly bigoted and greedy. It wouldn't be easy for Harris to do so. To highlight what I mean by this, let's talk about immigration, abortion, and Palestine.

If you tuned into the 2024 debate between Trump and Biden, you probably remember that Trump was blaming immigrants for everything under the sun. Some may remember the outrage caused by one of the more infamous policies Trump passed – the decision to detain immigrant children, but turn down their families. He later ended this policy in response to criticism, as documented by NPR's Richard Gonzales in "Trump's Executive Order on Family Separation: What it Does and Doesn't Do," in 2018. The Democrats have thus earned a reputation for being slightly kinder because at least they don't separate children from their families at the border. Yet, this simply is not the case. Rebecca Morin of USA

Today published "Biden Continues to Use Title 42, a Trump-era Immigration Policy..." in 2021, which reported on Biden's usage of Title 42, a policy Trump enacted during the pandemic to turn away undocumented people in order to prevent the spread of COVID. Under Biden's extension of the policy, immigrant children were taken in, and their families were sent away, which sounds awfully familiar. The Department of Health and Human Services released photos of the conditions, revealing that unaccompanied immigrant children were sleeping on mattresses with tin foil blankets. Not too far off from Trump-era policy. Although accused of being the "Border Czar" by conservative opponents, Harris's job was merely to assess root causes of immigration, wrote NPR's Sergio Martínez-Beltrán and Jasmine Garsd earlier this year in "Harris' Struggles with Immigration Policy Expose Political Vulnerabilities". Yet, she is also remembered for one of her greater blunders in Guatemala, where she told the Guatemalans simply, "Do not come." In 2019 during a campaign for president, Harris had cited a proposal for Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients to have a pathway to

citizenship. Biden and Harris later promised something similar in 2020, which never came to fruition. This theme of promising something that never gets mentioned again will come up once more when mentioning abortion.

Many of us are still outraged over the overturning of *Roe v Wade* in 2022. The restoration of nationwide abortion rights is a common thing the Democrats run on. In 2009, Sheryl Gay Stolborg wrote "On Abortion, Obama is Drawn into Debate he Hoped to Avoid," in the *New York Times*, chronicling Barack Obama's fence-sitting on abortion. Back in 2007, Obama had promised to codify *Roe v Wade* with the Freedom of Choice Act, going as far to say it was the first thing he would do as president, only to later declare it not his highest legislative priority. With the overturning of *Roe v Wade*, Democrats had a new thing to campaign on, with the promise of a slim chance that we'd manage to get our rights back, but with no plans to protect such rights from future right-wing attacks. Many may also point to the slim chance that Democrats would ever relax support for Israel.

So, let's talk about Israel. You would be hard-pressed to try and get Democrats to budge

on their support for them. The relationship between Biden and Netanyahu was explored by Reuters's Matt Spetalnik, Jeff Mason, and two others in their "'I am a Zionist': How Joe Biden's Lifelong Bond with Israel Shapes War Policy," published last year. Yes, Biden declared himself a Zionist. Biden and Netanyahu have been lifelong friends, and during Biden's 36 years in the Senate, he received the biggest amount of donations from pro-Israeli groups. With such an incredible profit to be made, why stop the support for the genocide of Palestinians? Harris herself likes to flip-flop on this issue. This is best explored by Josephine Riesman and S.I. Rosenbaum in their article titled "Kamala is Sending a Subtle Message on Israel. Is Anyone Listening?" published for *Slate* this year. Sometimes she has made comments on separating anti-semitism from anti-Zionism. She has received less money from pro-Israel lobbying. However, she's also made a speech to the Democratic National Convention about endorsing Israel's "right to defend itself," and later following up with a nod to Palestinian self-determination. Some are hopeful about her

The rest of this article is available at [TheScarlet.org](https://www.thescarlet.org)

Impregnate That Man!

A Review of “Alien: Romulus”

By Alistair Borg
Layout Editor

Disclaimer: This article is written from a cis-normative lens because we live in a cis-normative society. The author is transmasculine. Content warning for mentions of sexual violence.

“I said, ‘That’s how I’m going to attack the audience; I’m going to attack them sexually. And I’m not going after the women in the audience, I’m going to attack the men. I’m going to put in every image I can think of to make the men in the audience cross their legs.’” – Screenwriter Dan O’Bannon about “Alien” (1979).

I will be reviewing the most recent installment of the “Alien” franchise, “Alien: Romulus”, with a focus on the original allegory of sexual violence and whether it fulfills the writer of the 1979 movie’s professed goal of making men in the audience feel what women feel daily. With the death of Roe v. Wade, I expected “Alien: Romulus” to bring out the big guns and stay true to its roots. Could there be a more perfect time to release film about forced birth and sexual violence?

The first “Alien” movie is a male-dominated environment, which is essential to the plot

with Ellen Ripley being consistently undermined by her male peers. Not listening to Ripley is how the ship becomes compromised when her decision to not allow the first victim of xenomorph impregnation (a man) back inside is overridden by the men around her.

Now to examine “Alien: Romulus”. The first victim of xenomorph impregnation was a woman. As you may infer, this was a poor decision. In fact, zero men in “Alien Romulus” were impregnated. The male characters just died in other non-sexual ways, rendering them meaningless to any overarching theme or message. If women are being sexually violated instead of men, the goal of the plot has clearly been lost.

The worst part of the movie, by miles, was when a pregnant character injected herself with a serum made of xenomorph and human DNA (which, I must say, did not make sense because the protagonist said she did not trust the serum yet brought it with them for no reason other than furthering a plot point). The baby morphs into a horrific half-breed in an absolutely horrific birth scene. In a shocking turn of events, Dan O’Bannon was on the three person writer team (listed last on IMDB)



A plastic model of a Xenomorph. Licenced under Creative Commons.

Why has he backed down so pathetically from his initial goal? Was he overridden? Is he burnt out and unable to execute his ideas?

There was solid sexual imagery in “Alien: Romulus”, including a vaginal-sack where xenomorphs crawl out of, but that is not enough. One “wall vagina” cannot make up for the lack of pregnant men.

Despite this, the concept for the half-breed creature was interesting and I did genuinely enjoy that. The android from the “Alien” (1979), who stated he “admired” xenomorphs, took it one step further and created a serum for the “perfect organism” in

“Alien: Romulus”. I just wish more thought and care was put into the movie with respect to the original. The concept could have been something truly awesome and unfortunately fell short and backfired horribly.

I wonder if it is even possible to have an “Alien” franchise today, with the amount of modern cash-grab movies made with no soul. With “Alien” in particular, movies don’t want to be male dominated even when that is what makes the story powerful. We live in a strange feminist limbo, where we are both moving forwards and backwards, often performatively, but that is for another article.

Overall, “Alien:

Romulus” did not live up to its predecessor, but I don’t think anything ever could. I do think it was entertaining though, and I didn’t hate it. However, the only people squirming and crossing their legs were the women in the audience, signaling yet another failure of Dan O’Bannon’s goal (despite his apparent presence in the writers room).

From “Pommel Horse Guy” to

“Dancing Star” Worcester native and Olympic bronze medalist Stephen Nedoroscik is one of the “stars” on Dancing With the Stars this season

By Morgan Martin
Sports Editor

ABC’s Emmy award winning reality show “Dancing With the Stars” premiered its 33rd season on September 17. The show pairs professional dancers with celebrities to compete weekly in hopes of taking home the “Len Goodman Mirror Ball”. This season began with 13 teams, one of which has Worcester native and Olympic bronze medalist, Stephen Nedoroscik.

Nedoroscik gained popularity at the 2024 Summer Olympics where he competed as a member of the U.S. men’s national gymnastics team. Nedoroscik specializes on the pommel horse, and supported Team USA in bringing home their first bronze medal since the 2008 games. Additionally, Nedoroscik won the individual bronze medal in the pommel horse final, scoring a 15.300, this being the men’s team first individual medal since the 2016 Olympics.

While Nedoroscik’s display of talents and accomplishments were celebrated across the country, that was not the only reason he gained attention during the summer games

this year. Being that Nedoroscik specializes in pommel horse, many of the gymnastic routines did not involve his participation—causing him to rest in between his routines. Photos of him sleeping off the mat circulated the internet, turning into a viral meme.

Additionally, Nedoroscik was often referred to as the “Clark Kent of pommel horse” as fans compared his removal of his glasses before routines to the comic book character Superman gearing up for action.

Since the Summer Olympics ended Nedoroscik’s fame has only continued to grow. The Olympian appeared on both the Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and the Today Show, and continues to receive attention across social media.

Currently, Nedoroscik is competing on Dancing with the Stars, and is the first male gymnastic Olympian to participate on the show. He has been paired with professional dancer Rylee Arnold, denoting their team as “Team Arnold Pommel”—a spin on the iced tea beverage and American professional golfer: Arnold Palmer.

Arnold and Nedoroscik kicked off week one of Dancing with the Stars by performing a jive to the



Queen song “Don’t Stop Me Now”. Nedoroscik poked fun at his recent online fame by throwing his glasses off stage and winking to the audience at the beginning of their performance. The judges Carrie Ann Inaba, Derek Hough and Bruno Tonioli each gave the team sevens out of ten, granting the pair a score of 21/30. This score marked the team as having one of the best routines of the night.

Week two had an “Oscar night” theme, to which Arnold Pommel performed an energetic jive to the “Superman Main Theme.” The performance was an obvious nod to the internet’s

comparison of the star to the infamous comic book and movie character. The team earned a grand total of 22/30 points, Hough and Tunoli scoring the duo as 7/10 and Inaba an 8/10.

“Soul Train” was the theme for this Monday night’s episode of Dancing With the Stars. Arnold Pommel performed a quick step style dance to the song “Superstition” by Stevie Wonder. While the judges offered many critiques to the performance the duo still managed to earn 30/40 points (a guest judge caused an alteration in total number of points). Inaba and guest judge Rosie

Perez both scored the team an 8/10, while Tonioli and Hough raised 7/10.

Nedoroscik and Arnold are projected to do very well in the competition, many speculating the potential for the duo to be finalists this season. With both the display of commitment Nedoroscik has shown for Dancing with the Stars and his online presence, it is likely that America will vote in his favor. Thus Nedoroscik has the ability to not only add “Len Goodman Mirror Ball recipient” to his resume, but also bring additional pride to his home city of Worcester.

New Club Basketball Team Promotes Inclusivity

By Weslee Tyler
Living Arts Editor

This semester, a new team has been added to the roster of club sports on campus: All-Inclusive Club Basketball (AICB). Although AICB is new, the idea has been in the works for some time. The absence of a woman's club basketball team was felt among students, prompting several to come together and form their own team. As AICB President Ella Assouramou says, "I knew of Club Basketball but did not feel it was a space where I could fully enjoy playing the sport. So, I wanted to start a basketball club that

was tailored towards women and non-binary folk who enjoyed playing basketball."

The term "all-inclusive" is designed to promote a welcoming space for female and non-binary Clark athletes. According to Assouramou, "All-inclusive" is a term I used to define a space for female-identifying people and those who feel comfortable in female spaces. I believe the club promotes this by emphasizing that it is a club that is tailored towards women and non-binary folk and promotes this through inclusive language."

AICB intends to be a welcoming space for people to join, encouraging players

of all skill levels to join, regardless of gender. As Vice President Josephine Peterson explains, "It's important to have an all-inclusive club basketball on campus because it allows players with little experience or those who simply want to learn, to join without feeling excluded. It provides a space for people from all backgrounds and skill levels to play, learn, and enjoy the sport."

Although the team is still figuring out the structure of practices, they will be generally skill-based, working to grow the abilities of both new and seasoned players. According to Publicity

Chair Abbi Gilbert, "The club is open to people at all skill levels, whether you have played your whole life, just a little bit, or have never played basketball before." AICB believes in making Clark sports more accessible, as Gilbert says, "This is a big step for club sports and can get more people involved in healthy and fun competition."

Currently, AICB practices will mainly consist of drills, scrimmages and friendly games. However, when looking toward the future of the club Assouramou states "If the club decides to take a competitive route, there would be practices that are

focused on game skills."

Weekly practices will take place on Mondays from 7 p.m to 8 p.m in the Kneller and are open to all. The club is also seeking an additional weekly practice time at the Dolan field house. Students interested in AICB should visit the team's Instagram page @aicb.cu or contact the team via Engage to learn more.



THE NEXT TWO WEEKS IN

CLARK ATHLETICS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
CROSS COUNTRY

OCTOBER 19: 10:00 AM AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

WOMEN'S SOCCER

OCTOBER 12: 1:00PM VS W.P.I

OCTOBER 19: 2:00PM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

OCTOBER 23: 7:00PM VS MOUNT HOLYOKE

OCTOBER 26: 1:00PM AT EMERSON COLLEGE

VOLLEYBALL

OCTOBER 17: 7:00PM V EMERSON

OCTOBER 19: 12:00PM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

OCTOBER 22: 7:00PM VS BABSON COLLEGE

OCTOBER 26: 6:00PM AT TRINITY COLLEGE

MEN'S SOCCER

OCTOBER 12: 12:00PM AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY

OCTOBER 19: 1:00PM VS SALVE REGINA

OCTOBER 23: 7:00PM AT W.P.I

OCTOBER 26: 1:00PM VS ANNA MARIA

FIELD HOCKEY

OCTOBER 12: 12:00PM AT WHEATON COLLEGE

OCTOBER 14: 4:00PM AT SALVE REGINA

OCTOBER 19: 2:00PM VS M.I.T

OCTOBER 22: 7:00PM VS SALVE REGINA

OCTOBER 26: 1:00PM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

MEN'S TENNIS

OCTOBER 18: 4:00PM VS BABSON COLLEGE

ROWING

OCTOBER 20: HEAD OF THE CHARLES

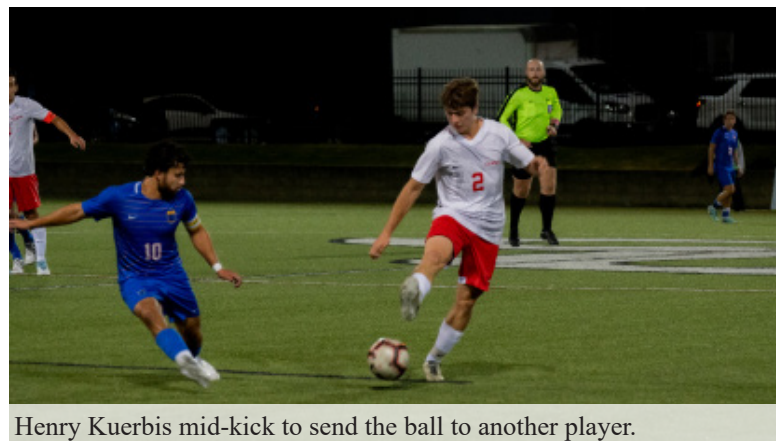
OCTOBER 26: WOHNTOWN CHASE

Men's Soccer Wins 4-0

All Photos By Declan Hanscom on October 2, 2024 against WSU.



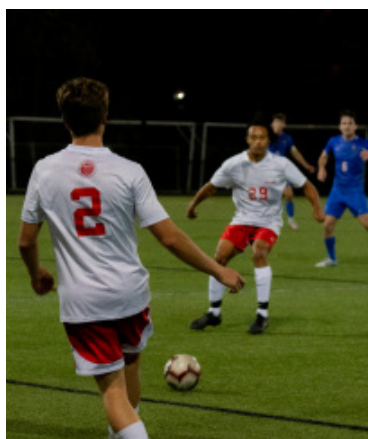
Middle Marc Kim dribbles the ball up the field.



Henry Kuerbis mid-kick to send the ball to another player.



Goalie Diego Marin leaps to make a save, stopping the opposing team attempted goal.



Henry Kuerbis passes the ball to Charles Lopez



Middle Graham Summers completes a header sending the ball way from the goal.



Forward Charles Lopez runs the ball down the field.



Middle Carter Benoff, number four, dribbles the ball up the hill.



Defender Henry Kuerbis battles for possession against a Worcester State player.

Clark vs. Middlebury College

All Photos By Declan Hanscom on September 4, 2024



Defender Camilla Daigle



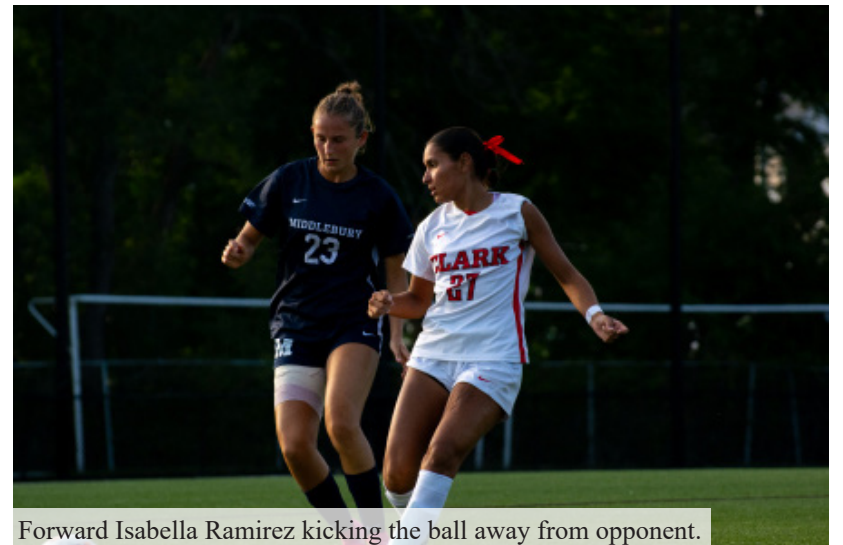
Defender Sadie Cohen tries to get the ball from opponent.



Goalie Anabella White



Defender Camilla Daigle holds the ball.



Forward Isabella Ramirez kicking the ball away from opponent.



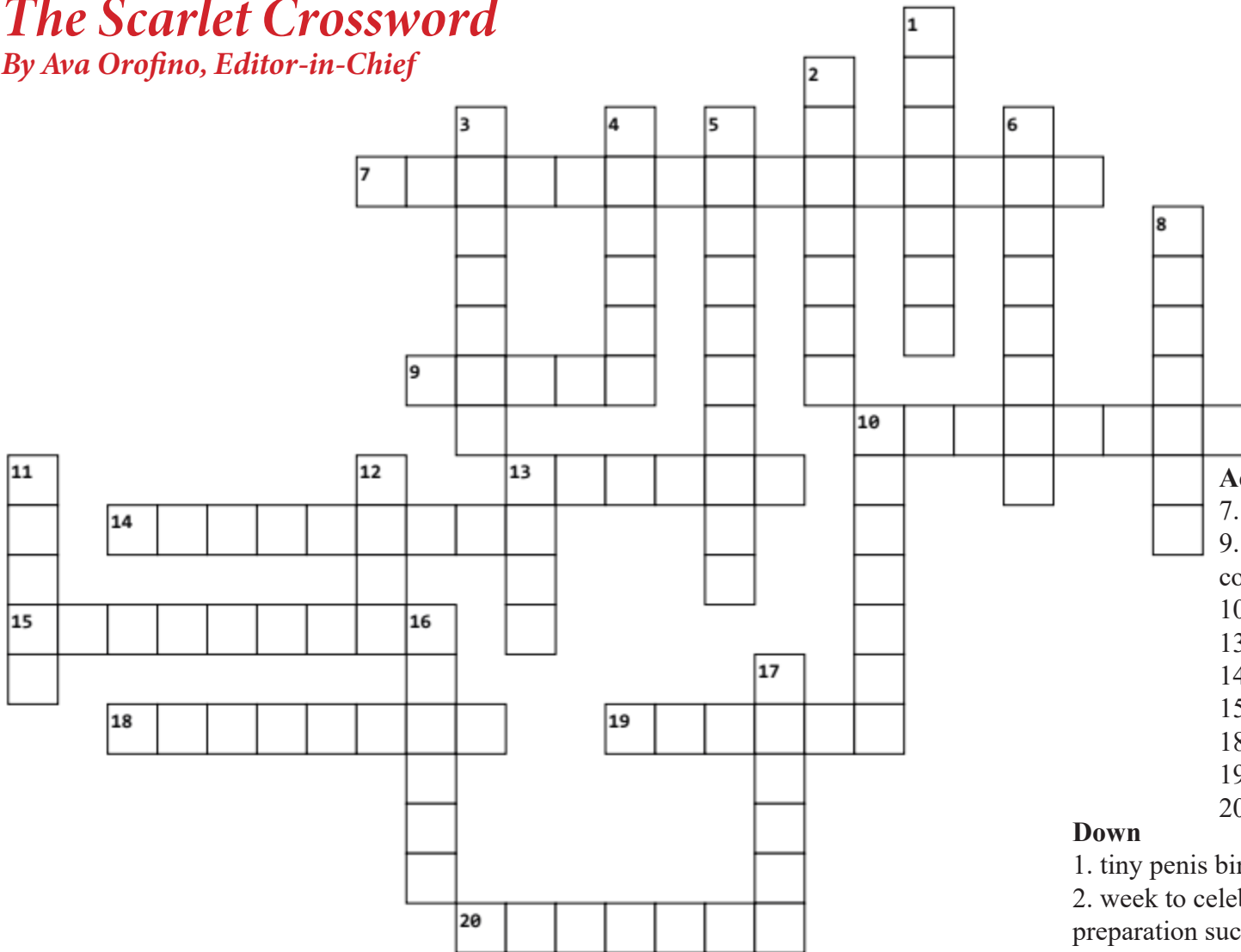
Defender Ashlee Samuel dribbles the ball down the field.



Goalie Anabella White kicks the ball.

The Scarlet Crossword

By Ava Orofino, Editor-in-Chief



Across

7. profession that works with medication
9. what some planets and wives have in common
10. board game that ends friendships
13. where you may meet your match
14. Massachusetts's state flower
15. singer Carrie
18. what Dodd Hall has a lot of
19. San Diego baseball dads
20. a cozy fall style

Down

1. tiny penis bird that has colorful wings
2. week to celebrate this mammals hibernation preparation success (2)
3. a new coffee shop that opened on Park Ave (2)
4. a prickly plant
5. this is one thing, ego is another
6. the little center is home to this unique type of theater
8. a princess movie about hair
10. they stick together
11. Clark's unofficial mascot
12. list of tasks
13. a tiny cut
16. what America (or at least MA) runs on
17. tiny rocks that sometimes make pavement

"Choosing Dating Profile Picture"

by Paddington Wetlaufer



Are you interested in joining The Scarlet?

-Comics

-Photos

-Media Reviews

-Sports and Esports

Please email us at scarlet@clarku.edu with your concept for the paper!