

# The Scarle

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## Clark Commits to Admissions Equity

### Even Without Affirmative Action

by **Sophia Lindstrom**  
*News Editor*

A number of prestigious colleges and universities have released their admissions data for the first time since the Supreme Court case *Students For Fair Admission v. Harvard*, which overturned affirmative action nationwide. Unlike these schools, a majority of whom saw a decrease in admitted Black and African American students from the 2023-2024 academic year, Clark University has always done things differently.

Along with other institutions, Clark University submitted an amicus curiae brief—a legal document submitted by nonparties to provide their perspective on a case—showing their support for affirmative action in principle. However, Clark

never used affirmative action and instead works to “diversify their applicant pool,” according to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director Margo Foreman.

The latest available Common Data Set published by Clark University was posted for the 2021-2022 academic

year—this year’s seniors.

Emily Roper-Doten, Clark University’s Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Assistance, explains that admission for domestic students of color has fluctuated in recent years, but did not undergo the same drop that other

schools experienced: 29% in 2022, 37.5% in 2023, and 33% in 2024. Roper-Doten explained that these schools are highly selective and also report their enrolled student population rather than their admitted student population.

“Affirmative action affects the decision-making process,” Roper-Doten said. “It did not cover

recruitment, where we continue to invest in our access and partnerships.” Clark University Admissions is involved in community-based organizations and nonprofits focused on expanding college access to first generation and low-income students. These include the Idea Schools in Texas, Opportunity Network in New York City, and Chicago Scholars. Admissions staff travel

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## Worcester Releases Five Year Plan

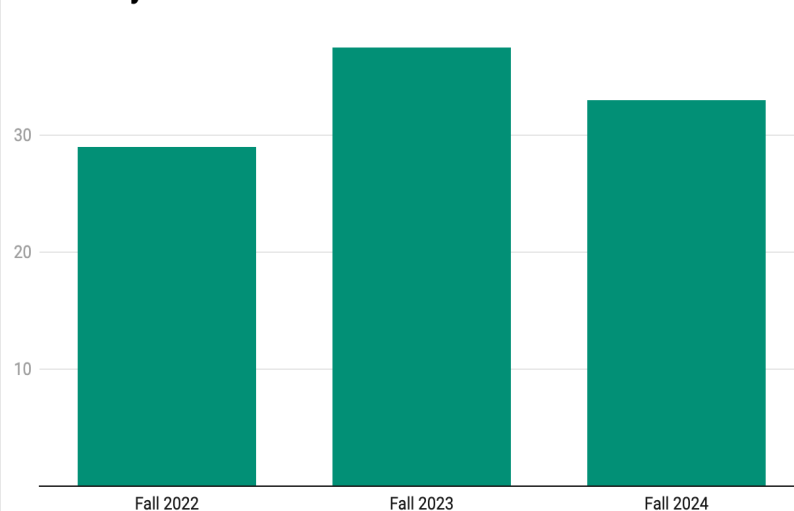
by **Effie Hossfeld**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Worcester City Manager’s Office, headed by Eric Batista, released their latest five-year financial plan entitled *The Fiscal Year 2025-2030*. FY2025-2030 draws heavy inspiration from the previous plan, FY2020-2024, with specific focuses for the next five years.

The City Manager’s Office used surveys from the Worcester community, self-study, and statistics to create this plan, which they label a “comprehensive guide” for the city’s future. They are partnering with services including MassDOT (Department of Transportation), Worcester public school systems, and public libraries to improve the city.

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**Percentage of Admitted Domestic Students of Color at Clark University**



*Data from Clark University, created in Datawrapper by Sophia Lindstrom.*

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# The Scarlet

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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.

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## Editorial: The Importance of Civic Duties

Chat, I'm scared. As a woman, as someone with loved ones who need gender affirming care, as someone who has been affected by sexual violence. I understand that an abstained or third party vote may feel like you are supporting leftist issues and that you're acting in the best interest of oppressed people everywhere. However, I'd argue that the larger leftist issue is preventing fascism from ruling our country. Voting third party or simply not voting at all is a vote diverted from a candidate who, while certainly not perfect, will prevent fascist ideals from taking control. It's simple math, and at the end of the day, one candidate IS much worse than the other. Do your



Photo of Cyd Abnet. Photo by Cyd Abnet.

research so you know what and who you're voting for. Protect people you care about and make sure you're registered to vote (deadlines are coming up). Please request your absentee ballot or go to the polls. Most of

all, use your vote wisely. We're all counting on you.

**Cyd Abnet,**  
*Managing Editor*

### 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:

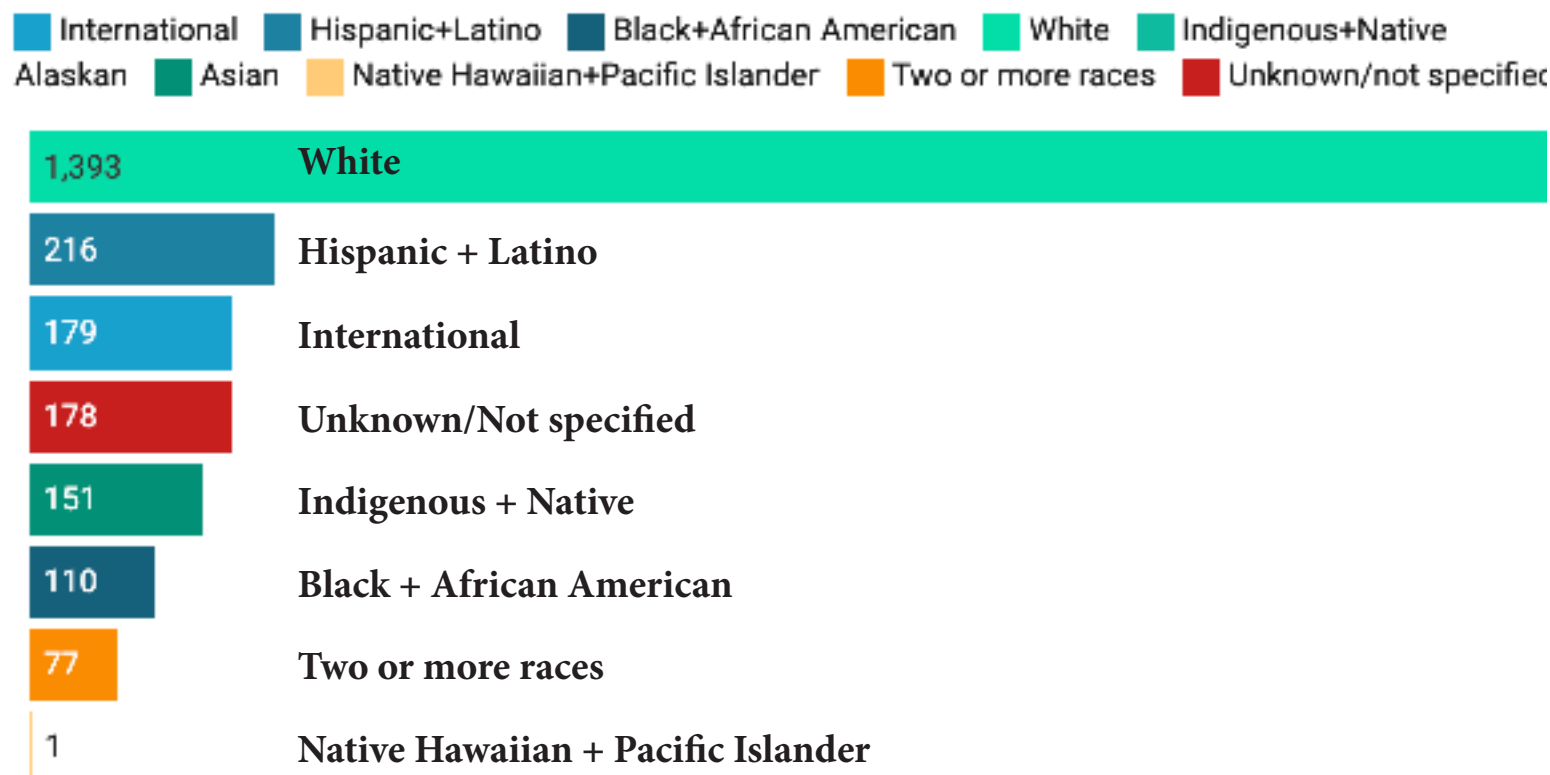
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to these locations to build relationships and find students.

“If we’re looking at an area, we’re looking to see... do we have schools that are represented that have high populations of students of color, or have high numbers of free and reduced lunch,” Roper-Doten explained. A new group of Student Ambassadors called the Access Team are also working on outreach efforts and making one-on-one connections with prospective students. “Personalized outreach can really make a difference,” Roper-Doten said.

Roper-Doten emphasized that the challenge is not just diversifying the applicant pool.

## 2021-2022 Admissions



Data from Clark University. Created in Datawrapper by Sophia Lindstrom.

like to see a larger budget for.”

Undergraduate Admissions are also providing virtual programming, academic panels, and support services to prospective Clarkies. They work with Peyton Wu, Director of Identity, Student Engagement, and Access (ISEA), to develop this programming.

This year, FAFSA rollouts are expected to once again be delayed from 10/1 to 12/1, or even later. The admissions team also aims to “build communication streams” about FAFSA so that students can “feel comfortable despite delays.” Clark will continue to require the CSS profile, a

different financial aid form in addition to the FAFSA.

Because of these measures, Roper-Doten does not believe the FAFSA crash will have the same impact on enrollment as it did on last year’s admissions cycle.

Another concern is the admissions “cliff,” caused by decreased birth rates during the 2008 Recession. Roper-Doten says that in response, admissions is working to find prospective students worldwide to maintain numbers.

This month, Roper-Doten flew to Tennessee on a recruitment trip. They installed a regional admissions representative in California last year and

are launching a partnership with an international recruitment platform to “help build the pipeline for enrolling international students.” Roughly 1,200-1,500 international schools are involved in this program. In the past, Clark University has partnered with the United World College Scholars Program according to the university’s website.

Students who graduate from a UWC school are eligible for up to \$15,000 in need-based grants, in addition to merit scholarship consideration for “up to the cost of tuition.”

According to Roper-Doten, “More students who are coming from a whole range of backgrounds are

really seeing Clark as a place for them. But we’re not losing our backyard... we’re still recruiting in New England.”

For this next admissions cycle, Clark admissions is looking ahead and beyond: at recruiting more students from diverse backgrounds, increasing its international student population, and building relationships with recruiting programs nationwide.

“Developing programming and outreach opportunities during the post-admission period, between admission and enrollment, is crucial.”

Clark University Admissions is providing travel stipends through the organizations they partner with to provide students living far away the opportunity to visit Clark. When asked about the funding for travel stipends, Roper-Doten said “it is certainly something I would



*Continued from p.1*

FY2025-2030 lays out actionable tasks that center values such as DEI, innovation, collaboration, and professionalism.

The document cites increasing cross-departmental communication, improving DEI initiatives, gaining better technology, and centralizing responsibilities as ways to improve organizational measures.

In total, the plan has six focuses: economic growth, public health and safety, reducing housing prices and homelessness, creating a strong government with financial stability, increasing quality of education, and establishing a cleaner city.

These focuses will “deliver exceptional public services and municipal operations that are rooted in equity, innovation, and integrity, and centered on people,” the document says.

The FY2025-2030’s objectives for public health and safety target gun violence and drug addiction, especially in the context of children and families. It plans to reduce harm in both violent crime and substance abuse by educating the community, tracking statistics, and enhancing law enforcement. The city also says they will place a focus on racial health inequalities through educating the community and health providers.

The objectives for creating more affordable commodities and housing center around lower-income families. In their goals for

minimizing the increasing cost and inaccessibility of housing, FY2025-2030 mention veterans, immigrants, people of color, and unhoused individuals.

One of the goals is to establish a “Day Resource Center” to increase the access of resources such as healthcare to the unhoused. FY2025-2030 plans to partner with unnamed nonprofits to meet the needs outlined in this section.

In addition to affordable housing, the City intends to better the public school system. FY2025-2030 concentrates on supplying better educational resources such as books and e-books, and better infrastructure for learning. The document charts the course for developing a “School Capital Maintenance Fund with a startup investment of \$1 million” with the goal of providing satisfactory environments for children to learn. The City also wants to increase language and math literacy by creating physical and online programs that target young children and their families.



*Photo of Worcester City Hall.  
Photo Licensed by Creative Commons.*

FY2025-2030 also includes multiple “clean city initiatives.” The City plans to decrease pollution such as litter and gasses from transportation and to increase attractive green and blue spaces for economic and social development. Additionally, the document puts a spotlight on encouraging job growth and small businesses. It also lists tourism, arts and culture, and better public parking as areas of growth.

“To be the best managed city in the country, we must implement sustainable, efficient systems that will enhance and maintain our organizational health and maintain a strong financial position,” the document says.

The entirety of the plan is documented on the City of Worcester website, where you can learn more about what the City plans to accomplish in the coming years.

## Worcester Public Joins Vision Zero Planning Team for “Walk Audit” on Park Avenue

**By Leo Kerz**  
*Web Editor*

Over 40 members of the public participated in a walk audit on Thursday, September 12 at evening time on Park Avenue from the intersections of May Street to Chandler Street.

The walk was led by Worcester Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) Commissioner Stephen Rolle along with city planner and author Jeff Speck.

The walk audit took place as a part of a series of five total walks on different key roads that the Worcester’s Vision Zero planning team found to be most prone to deaths and severe injuries in crashes using data from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

“Today we’re doing a walk audit, in which we are taking our lives in our hands and walking along one of the least safe streets for pedestrians in Worcester, to see what we can do to make it less dangerous,” Speck explained.

The purpose of a walk audit is to inform planners more objectively on the pedestrian

experience using an in-person evaluation of the design of street and sidewalk infrastructure.

Stantec, a global engineering consulting company, and Speck’s own design firm, Speck Dempsey, specialize in urban environments. They are partnering with the DTM to help them complete their Vision Zero plan launched February of this year.

Vision Zero is an international movement with the goal of eliminating pedestrian and cyclist deaths in communities by focusing on street safety using proactive planning, data, and design for city streets, explained Speck.

The Vision Zero Safety Action Plan project is funded by a \$200,000 federal grant from Safe Streets for All, a program overseen by the federal Department of Transportation. The completion of the planning and further commitment will make Worcester eligible for more federal funding to implement the project.

Everybody who attended the walk audit was given a clipboard and sheet of paper with checklists under key categories of street and sidewalk infrastructure.

The section of Park Avenue subject to the walk

audit had been marked by several people for its dangerous design in the Worcester Vision Zero Survey, a tool the City is using to assess priority areas for the project.

Just two days before the Park Ave walk audit on September 10, City Councilors unanimously approved a proposal to reduce the citywide speed limit from 30 down to 25 mph

The action comes after City Manager Eric Batista and Mayor Joseph Petty declared a Road Safety and Traffic Violence Crisis in an August 1 official statement.

“You can see it here today, just from our walk,” Rolle said. “People are traveling at a high rate of speed. There's a lot of ... evasive maneuvers that you see. A lot of that is tied to the four-lane configuration... It's loud,

it's noisy, it's idiotic.”

After about 15 minutes of safety briefing and site introduction from Commissioner Rolle and Speck, the group started walking away from the CVS on the corner of May Street and Park Avenue toward Chandler Street on the sidewalk on the west side of Park Ave.

Armed with checklists and professional guidance from Speck, the group of public auditors jotted down notes on sidewalk width, vehicle speed and loudness, streetlights, crosswalks and more.

Ben Rajotte, city employee and member of the public who attended Thursday's walk audit, lives in the neighborhood and walks to work every day.

“If it was up to me, I would delete all of Park Avenue,” Rajotte said. “Just turn it into an actual park.



Group of auditors at the corner of Chandler Street and Park Avenue, Worcester, MA. Photo by Leo Kerz.

But being realistic, I think give it a road diet, put bike lanes, and put trees and make it just a more pleasant place to be.”

A road diet is a popular redesign posed for roads with high speeds and high numbers of vehicle accidents.

“I really do think there is potential for the four to three road diet that Jeff talked about, particularly South of Chandler Street,” Commissioner Rolle said. “There wouldn't be any loss of capacity or throughput... but it would significantly increase the safety... they're (drivers) more likely to be going the speed limit.”

The Scarlet asked Karin Valentine Goins, who attended the walk

audit, about what she hears in her capacity as the leader and co-founder of the local advocacy group Walkbike Worcester.

“There's a lot of people who would like to ride a bicycle more... but they feel too afraid to,” Valentine Goins said. “They look around at other communities and they say, ‘Why can't we have that?’”

Will Talbot, Clark alumnus and Assistant Planner for the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission, agreed.

“I just don't feel safe enough to bike along a street like Park Ave and it's unfortunate because I love biking,” Talbot said.

Commissioner Rolle emphasized the importance of the ongoing review process.

“It's not just a plan that says we need to do A, B, C and D,” Commissioner Rolle said. “It needs to set up a process for how that gets accomplished, how departments work together and coordinate, how budgets get allocated, what policies need to take place.”

As a part of the Safety Action Plan process, the Vision Zero team is looking to establish a system where they can communicate progress of the project and data on their impacts to the public via an online website, said Commissioner Rolle.

Commissioner Rolle said he hopes to see the Worcester Vision Zero Safety Plan project completed by the end of the year.

*Everett Beals contributed to this report.*



Jeff Speck (Left) leading auditors down Park Avenue. Photo by Leo Kerz.



# Everyone Hates WPI for What They Did.

## Are The Haters Right?

By **Sam Espach**  
Contributing Writer

On September 13, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) finalized its plan to purchase two hotels in Worcester, the Hampton Inn & Suites and the Courtyard Marriott, for \$46 million intending to convert them into student dorm buildings. This plan wipes out 230 hotel rooms, over a quarter of Worcester's hotel capacity. It also deprives the city of real estate in a 'soon-to-be thriving' neighborhood, one hundred hotel jobs, and, as estimated by the Worcester Economic Development Coordinating Council, over \$1.6 million in annual tax revenue (as a non-profit institution, WPI is exempt from all forms of taxes). One shudders thinking about the already-underfunded public schools, the deteriorating roads... It would be no exaggeration to say nearly EVERYONE is pissed off.

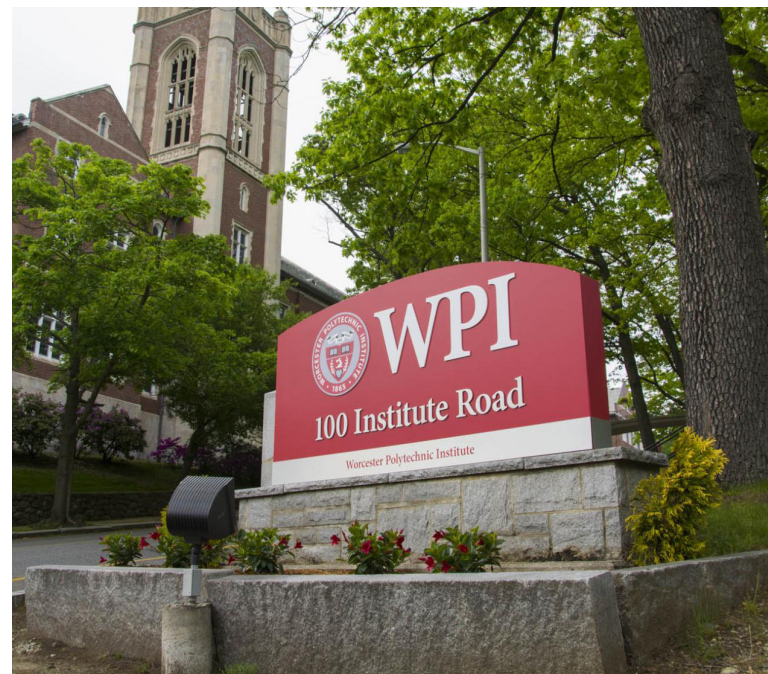
For the past few years, WPI has been buying properties and expanding its reach into Gateway Park (where the hotels are located) so much that Reddit user u/mkg1138 commented, "they've become an insatiable beast that swallows properties whole, growing ever stronger." And it's growing fast; over the last decade,

WPI's undergraduate student population has increased 30%. Since the university guarantees housing to all freshmen, upperclassmen must compete for limited beds or squeeze by in Worcester's extremely tight, 1.7% vacancy rate-housing market. There is little doubt that WPI needs more student housing. The addition also cheapens on-campus living at WPI (currently the most expensive in the city at \$10,000 per year), enriches the social scene of the school with additional dorms close to campus, and should marginally lower rent in Worcester by alleviating demand.

While no one can deny this housing crisis, many argue the university has solutions that don't involve giving middle fingers to anyone. For example, a couple of miles away, Clark University intends to build new high-rise dorms on Main Street as opposed to buying them out. Meanwhile, quite a few parking lots and empty fields sit idly on WPI's campus. WPI could also, if the situation was so dire, enroll fewer students in the next graduating class—in fact, many students and faculty complain about WPI's 'overadmittance' policy. It is also worth noting that soon, colleges

and universities nationwide will face a demographic cliff; that is, starting around 2026, significantly fewer people will be applying to college due to the lower birth rates associated with the 2008 financial recession. In these conditions, is a new dorm building really needed? Many would suggest not.

Viewed from a capitalist-libertarian lens, however, WPI is entirely in the right. The capitalist would enthusiastically say: "Just let them expand!" More students brings more economic opportunities in Worcester and more demand for small business retailers, especially those in Gateway Park with the addition of new dorm buildings. And guided by the invisible hand of laissez-faire, higher hotel prices should incentivize developers to build more hotels in the city, thereby returning everything WPI took away. In fact, one might now direct attention toward the city government rather than WPI, asking what legislative steps are being taken to push this process along and develop the city. While the tax revenue cuts and economic losses will admittedly hit hard short-term, the next few years (theoretically) should bring more economic development than a couple three-star hotels could ever



The main entrance to Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA. Photo courtesy of WPI.

generate.

Now we could debate the economics at hand for a while. However facts and figures hold no water against the anger WPI has spun in Worcester and the trust it has violated. Most city officials, local organizations, and Worcester-ites feel betrayed as \$170 million of public funds have been invested into decontaminating Gateway Park and converting its old industrial buildings into a mixed use development. This construction establishes a hub for biotechnology, creates jobs, adds to the tax base, and brings more research and innovation into Worcester. WPI essentially gets to reap the benefits of the project while paying

zero taxes to the city.

What's more, WPI made no mention of the hotel acquisition proposal to local officials in meetings despite intending to buy them for quite some time. In the words of City Manager Eric Batista, "you almost get the impression WPI was trying to deceive people with what their intentions are." Regardless of intentions though, the consensus is that WPI stabbed Worcester in the back.

Were they stabbed with the knife of economic opportunity?

Or rather, stabbed by an insatiable beast?

## Beverage Review: September edition

By Gabe Schmick  
*Opinions Editor*

### Coke Oreo

Admittedly, I was browsing the soda subreddit when a peculiar looking can caught my eye. It was none other than the illusive Coke Oreo. This flavor would vex me as much as the infamous Coke Spiced. I should've heeded my warning to "think twice," but alas, my carbonated intuition got the best of me. I purchased the beverage at the bistro, a departure from my usual voyages to the local 7/11. The beverage appeared mundane; the caramel colored Beverage looked like a normal Coke, but little did I know that this was no ordinary cola. It smelled exactly like oreos which intrigued my pallet; upon drinking the beverage, I was in shock. Not only did it taste exactly like Oreos, but I found the taste to be even better than regular Coke. The texture was weirdly crumbly, almost as if the Oreos had been blended and mixed in with Coke. The cookie flavor itself was heavy in the taste with the creme filling being present in the mere aftertaste. Still, I'm going to give this flavor a whopping 8/10.



### Mountain Dew Voodoo 2024

Last year, I reviewed the Voodoo 2023, which I thought was not only one of the best Mountain Dews ever made, but also one of the greatest sodas I ever had. The previous flavor had been cherry airheads, which offered a pristine flavor that would shock any Mountain Dew consumer. This year, they have seemingly partnered with strawberry Starburst to create a strawberry mystery flavor. I found the flavor to be enjoyable, but overall could not compare to the excellence of Voodoo 2023 6.8/10.



## Clark Sets The (Harvest) Table: A New Dining Experience

By Ava Orofino  
*Editor-in-Cheif*

Clark University announced last spring that it would switch food providers from Sodexo to Harvest Table. The move occurred over the summer, and Harvest Table began service in the fall. New and returning students maneuvered through this new experience as the semester started.

According to its website, Harvest Table is a food service provider that promises to serve communities with food options from "down the street and around the globe."

This past summer, two stations, The Chicken Shack and The Burger Joint, opened in the University Center. Both stations introduced Clarkies to Grubhub, the online ordering service, and customizable options for burgers and chicken sandwiches, including pretzel buns. Later, more updates were added, including structural and dietary changes.

### The Table at Higgins

Though not structurally different, The Table at Higgins (previously called Higgins Cafeteria) provided students with many new stations and meal options.

Chobani yogurt and the fruit bar will be available all day, along with Kosher, Halal, and allergy-free options.

Napkin Talk is a new "suggestion board" where students are encouraged

to make comments on meal options they would like to see in the future. There are sticky note responses on almost every napkin.

New stations and choices exist; All Good, Cumin & Clove, Entree, Plant Power, Modern Kosher, Street Eats, and Saute. The other stations will remain the same throughout the semester, which Harvest Table claims will allow for a well-rounded group of choices, even during off-meal times.

All the meals are made from scratch daily, with locally sourced ingredients. Sydney Adnew, Harvest Table's Guest Experience Manager, said, "Our commitment to sourcing 20% of our ingredients from vendors within 150 miles of campus ensures that the food you enjoy is not only delicious but also supports local businesses and promotes sustainability." Harvest Table is creating a micro-farm inside Higgins, managed through Babylon Farms, a hydroponic indoor farming company, to grow fresh produce for the kitchens. Additional spices will be available to give even more flavor to your meal.

The dining hall's hours for the fall 2024 semester will be 7 AM to 8 PM. Breakfast is served until 11 AM, lunch until 2:30 PM, and dinner from 5 PM to close. A light lunch option will be available during the odd hours. These hours and the menus can be found online as well.

### The Bistro

The Bistro was remodeled over the summer. The diner counter behind the drink refrigerators was replaced with more seating and

refridgerators.

"These changes are designed to encourage a sense of community, making it a place where students can not only enjoy great food but also gather, relax, and engage with one another in a bright, open setting," Said Adnew.

Napkin Talk was added to the Bistro entrance, allowing for even more opportunities for suggestions to the Harvest Table management team.

Harvest Table partnered with Grubhub for the new Bistro. The mobile app allows students to order ahead using their meal card, which is ready for pickup when they get out of class. There is also the option to order non-swappable items using either their Dining Dollars or credit/debit cards. Grubhub and Topanga, a reusable packaging company, would be used "to revitalize and modernize the Green Box program, making it easier and more sustainable for students to enjoy eco-friendly meal options." Said Adnew.

Since the switch, most of the swappable meal options have remained the same. A new soda fountain was installed during the renovation, so soft drinks remain a side option.

The other side options include french fries, but now also incorporate side salads and tater tots. Sushi and poke bowls are now being sourced from Basho, a sushi company, instead of Wild Blue Sushi, which is available daily.

The Bistro hours will remain the same as last year.



# The Trump Trial Line Changed Me

By **Marcus Palumbo**  
*Scarlet Staff*

As you were finishing your finals at the beginning of this summer, you may remember that there was one story that seemed to draw the collective beady eyes of our most esteemed news organizations. This story was, of course, the criminal trial of former president Donald Trump. Many aspects of this trial were newsworthy: it being the first criminal trial of a former president, the salacious events at the center of the case, and the possible implications a conviction might have on the outcome of Trump's current campaign for the presidency. These elements would draw the attention of anyone, but this particular event drew me in for a

unique reason: I do mock trial. If you weren't already aware, Clark's mock trial team prepares to represent both sides of a fictitious court case to gain non-fictitious legal experience (and just have loads of fun). Given this, perhaps it was inevitable that I would eventually find myself in lower Manhattan, trying to catch a glimpse of history.

To set the scene, a quick logistics crash course. The courtroom where the trial took place prioritized giving space to journalists covering the trial. However, this "trial of the century" did have to save some spots for the public (thanks OI' Constitution). We knew that typically, only the first five people got a spot in the actual courtroom, while the next dozen or so had a shot at getting into an overflow

room, where cameras would livestream the action directly from the actual courtroom. This was still more than you would see on the news, but not enough to satisfy our inner Aaron Burr. We wanted to be in the room where it happens.

## Sunday, May 19th

Given these premises, my brother and I wanted to ensure that we had a spot at the front of the line. Surely, arriving 24 hours in advance would put us first in line! However, when we arrived Sunday morning, we were extremely disappointed to find that there were already eleven people lined up ahead of us.

After talking with two people in front of us (a pro-Trump lady and an anti-Trump elderly man

who described himself as a Hobbit), we started to get our first glimpses into the subtle nuances of The Line. The Line is an entity with norms and customs, much like a small country. Traditionally, whoever was lucky enough to be first in line started a paper list, putting their name down first. Whenever anyone else joined the line, the list keeper would add their name to the list, and write down the date and time they started waiting. Of course, this list had no official power. Therefore, the only way the list had any power was if people believed it was legitimate.

Through additional conversations with Trump Lady and The Hobbit, we learned that there were also customs surrounding what it meant to "count" as being in line. They both took the position that one could take time away from being physically in line to rest for a few hours or get food, as long as you had another person from your group there to hold your place. My brother and I broadly agreed with this and started taking alternating shifts.

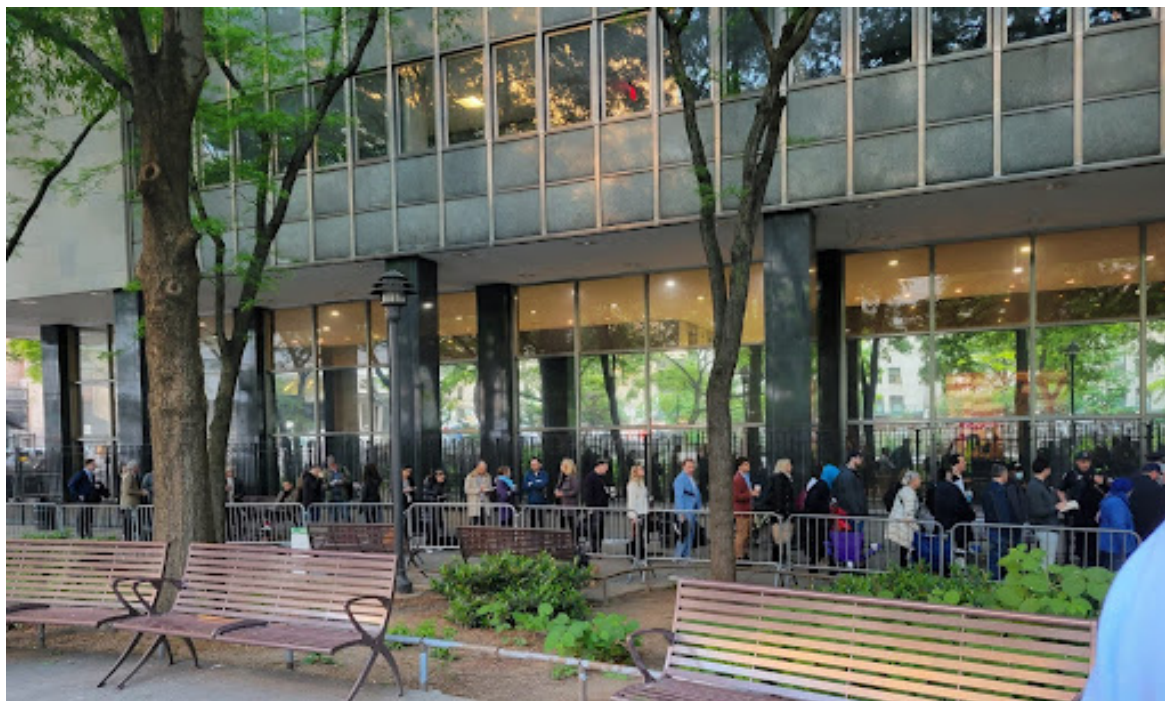
At this point, my brother and I had hatched a plan with Trump Lady and The Hobbit to start counting people waiting to get in on Tuesday. Since we didn't have a separate place to form this line, we had to be ready when the Monday

line finished to jump in and assert the legitimacy of our new Tuesday line.

However, late that night, our situation changed dramatically again, as a result of a man who I will simply refer to as The Chairman because of the expansive two person folding chair he brought with him for sleeping. While conversing with The Chairman while my brother was taking his turn to sleep, it became apparent that we had very different conceptions of what it meant to "count" as being in line. He believed that, while it was necessary to leave the line at some points, one should not physically leave the line for more than an hour at a time and certainly shouldn't be sleeping in hotel rooms. Due to this, I decided that if my brother and I wanted to ensure that we were in the first few spots of the Tuesday line, we needed to adhere to the strictest definition of being in line. So, at around 1:40 am on Monday, I called my brother to come back from the hotel, and our official waiting began.

## Monday, May 20th

On Monday morning, the line grew as people waited for the court lieutenant to come out of the courthouse and distribute passes for the day – a dozen yellow overflow room



Members of the media lined up next to the line for the general public. Image Credit: Jared Palumbo





Marcus Palumbo holding the line list, exhausted after a long period of negotiations at the Trump trial on Monday, May 20, 2024. Photo courtesy of Marcus Palumbo.

passes, and a handful of the coveted green passes for the main courtroom itself. The press had also started setting up to broadcast from outside the courthouse. At the same time, a small group of us who were interested in forming a Tuesday line were sitting off to the side, patiently waiting for when the Monday line would end. For the Tuesday line, we had started a new list on a young gentlemen's notebook. Since he lived in the city, I'll call him The Local.

The instant the Monday line subsided, we kicked into action to secure the new line. We made our way into the fenced area where the Monday line had previously been and organized ourselves according to the list as it was written. However, The Local had done some thinking and decided he was going to go home. Depending on how he felt, might come back tomorrow to try and snag a later spot in line, but agreed

to leave the notebook so the list could be maintained.

This meant control over the Trump trial line list was passed to me.

Around the same time, people started coming out of the woodwork, claiming (sometimes quite aggressively) that they had been here longer than others and should be placed higher on the list. As the list holder, they all came to me for an answer to their demands. At first, I tried explaining to them that I didn't really have any power because the list didn't have power. Sure, I could move people's names on the piece of paper, but I couldn't physically move people unless they agreed to move themselves. So, I told them they would need to work out an agreement with that other person if they wished to move their place in line. Yet, the people kept coming with demands, so I had to broker compromises.

I found ways to take one person aside and say:

"look, I'm on your side, but the other people are being really unreasonable, so I can't get you everything that I want, but I can move you a little," and then I'd turn around and talk to the other person and say practically the same thing. I felt like the Speaker of the House trying to wrangle votes on a controversial bill. Although it was a little dishonest, I needed the majority of people in line to believe the list was a legitimate and accurate reflection of their place in line. That would ensure they would fight to preserve the list against any future attempts at cutting. After a couple of hours of negotiating and politicking, I finally had resolved most of the disputes, and The Line started to settle and become more fixed. Miraculously, my brother and I had managed to keep ourselves within the first four spots in line. So far, our plan seemed to be working.

The person who was first in The Line was actually not

planning on going in herself but was holding the spot for a relative arriving from out-of-town. When that relative arrived and took over the number one spot, I decided to pass control of the list over to her. I believed her assertive Mom energy would mean she could better stand up to the unreasonable demands that some people were likely to make of the list as opposed to my political science major vibes.

### Tuesday, May 21st

As the sun rose on Tuesday, the officers started to lock in the line, and the anticipation continued to build. I was hesitant to believe we would actually make it inside. Yet, the line pushed up to the front, and after the media were sent in, it was time for the general public. First was The Mom, who flew in to take over the spot her relative had been holding. And then The Chairman, rushing to pack up his folding chair. Next, came my brother and I. An officer came out of the courthouse, handed all four of us green passes, and had us walk across the street to the courthouse. And that was it. Those four green passes meant we were the only members of the general public who would be allowed to sit in the actual courtroom that day. Somehow, against all odds, we had made it.

This article is getting fairly long, so I won't go into the details of the court

proceedings – though I'm planning on writing a separate piece about the experience in the courtroom that day. Instead, I will leave you with my main takeaway, which surprisingly enough, was that thoughtful and considerate political discussion is still alive in this country. Despite the general shouting-match-vibe of American politics, I experienced a lot of constructive and respectful dialogue across political differences. An event like the Trump Trial is likely to prompt very different responses and incite intense emotions, and we did witness one or two instances where people outside the courthouse had verbal confrontations.

Yet, in line, I had many nuanced conversations about politics with people who I disagreed with. I spoke to a pro-Trump cop about having a fairer tax code and term limits for judges and legislators, and with many anti-Trump people like myself about Biden's microchip production policy. The tone never reached anywhere close to a shouting match, and curiosity to understand where the other person was coming from moved discussions forward. In the end, I came away from the trial feeling somewhat hopeful because I saw firsthand that discourse isn't dead in this country. If it can survive at the Trump trial, it can survive anywhere.



# Meet the Clarkies Who Keep the Lights On

## *A Tour of Clark's Central Utility Plant*

By **Everett Beals**  
*Editor Emeritus*

When classes start, Jonas Clark Hall is abuzz with activity – and it's not just in the classrooms and offices. Students arrive on campus and a steady, rumbling hum emanates from the basement. It's from the beating heart of Clark's campus, in the Central Utility Plant.

The source of noise is an 18-cylinder, 2,000-kilowatt Cummins engine. The huge machine is used for cogeneration. This means that it burns natural gas to produce electricity, while excess heat is captured to contribute to Clark's steam and hot water networks.

Together with three large boilers, the Central Utility Plant satisfies most of the University's space heating and hot water needs. And when classes are in session, about three-quarters of Clark's electricity needs are met by the cogeneration engine.

### Plant History

Clark's original cogeneration facility (which burned diesel as well as natural gas) was an advanced, national model of efficiency when it came online in 1982. The University's system was one of the first in the country, and ever since, Clark's Central Utility Plant has been considered an industry

leader. The original engine was replaced in 2013 due to concerns about age and efficiency.

The work done here, as Clark's Human Resources describes it, is an "essential service" to the campus community. That means occasionally working on holidays, or at 3 a.m., or when the University is closed.

While the plant is fully online – outside of the summer months – it is staffed 24 hours a day by operators who monitor the university's heating and electrical needs and make adjustments when necessary. Clark's energy independence affords it a certain amount of



*Bob finds his old CU Power Company bomber jacket, made by Richie Kendrick.*

bargaining power with the power grid. When the Plant produces excess electricity, it can be sold to the grid – and when needs are high, Clark buys from the grid.

The vast majority of maintenance work and repairs are done in-house. Chief Engineer Mark Leahy, a well-respected authority on cogeneration, has organized his staff and the facility to make sure of it. The Plant maintains its own welding room, filled with an expansive and carefully organized stock of spare parts. An inventory of chemicals is kept to run tests and maintain the engine.

### A Visit to the Central Utility Plant

After I was introduced to the facility through a class with Prof. Chris Williams about getting to net-zero carbon emissions, I became curious about what it took

to run this critical piece of campus infrastructure.

For my final project in Intro to Digital Photography, I decided to ask Leahy if I could use the Central Plant and its employees as my subjects. Leahy was kind enough to arrange a visit, where I met Bob Brazawskis '86, a long-time plant employee and Clark alum, and Deverton Beauvais, a new hire.

I snapped the pictures as the pair toured me around the facility. In total, there are four plant operators (they're hiring now for a per diem position, if you want to join the team). Together with Leahy, the Plant's employees have made their workplace a second home. The walls are covered in decades of Patriots memorabilia, and each locker has been decorated. This is one of those special kinds of offices that feels



*The 18-cylinder 2000 kW Cummins cogeneration engine.*





Bob with Boiler Number One.



Bob and Deverton Beauvais monitor the plants



Spare parts in the welding room.

lived in.

As I tagged along, Brazawskis showed me and Beauvais the ropes. Operators have many responsibilities, he told me: they monitor levels on the equipment and make regular safety checks, perform chemical tests, and adjust the flow of steam, water, and electricity to meet campus needs. They're also expected to perform regular maintenance, which requires plenty of heavy lifting, ladder-climbing, and other demanding work. Due to the high level of

engineering and safety knowledge required for work around high-pressure steam systems, operators must have a state Fireman's License. After all, this is no simple office. Homey as the crew's common areas may be, safety is of the utmost importance here. The boiler room can get pretty warm, while the cogeneration engine itself is loud enough to require ear protection. And 2,000 kilowatts is no joke.

Brazawskis started working for Facilities Management while he was

a student at Clark, using the money to help pay for each semester as best he could. He got the offer to join the Central Utility Plant staff before he even graduated. Brazawskis has seen a lot change at Clark, he said. But a lot has stayed the same. He regaled me with stories of past professors and presidents, Spree Days gone by and his time in Richie Kendrick's "Power Company" – the power lifting club Kendrick started in the basement of the Kneller Athletic Center.

Brazawskis still has his custom-made Clark Power Company bomber jacket. He fondly recalled how Kendrick was beloved by Clarkies, as well as the Worcester community, for welcoming everyone – staff, students, faculty and neighbors – to the club.

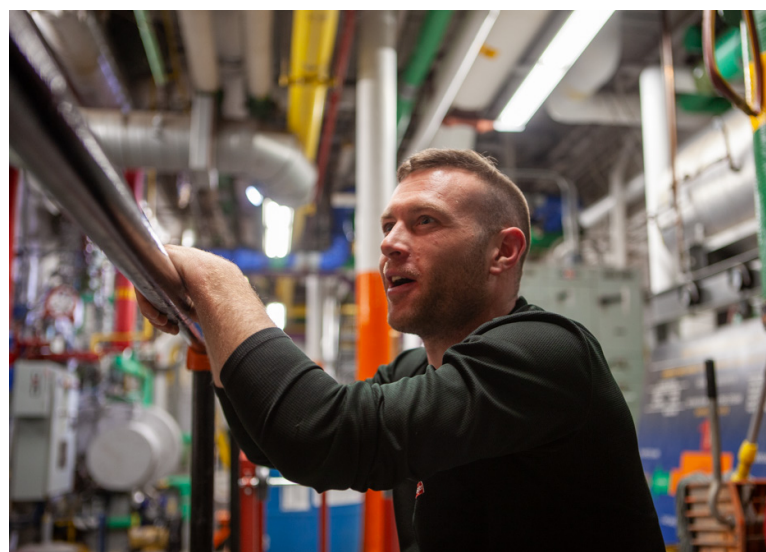
While the Central Utility Plant isn't generally open for visits, I was certainly made to feel welcome there. Next time you walk past Jonas Clark Hall, take a look through the windows across from the library.

You'll get a view of the Clarkies and the machines that keep our classrooms lit and our dorms (sometimes very) warm.

*All photos were taken on Wednesday, April 26, 2024 by Everett Beals.*



Bob shows Deverton a picture of the original engine being installed in the 80s.



Deverton explains heat exchangers.



Bob shows Deverton how to conduct a test.



# Kick Out The (Game) Jams: IGDA's First Game Jam Of The 2024 Fall Semester

By **Adrien Laroche**  
*Contributing Writer*

With the incorporation of Becker College's venerated game design program into Clark's academic offerings in 2021, as well as the construction of the new Center for Media, Arts, Computing, and Design, it's no surprise that Clark has a very active chapter of the International Game Developers Association (IGDA).

The IGDA is a nonprofit organization focused on fostering connections between developers of all kinds, from programmers to artists to localization writers. Over the weekend, from Sept. 13 to Sept. 15, Clark's IGDA chapter gathered numerous developers to inaugurate the 2024 Fall semester with their Harvest Game Jam. The Scarlet was able to speak with IGDA Vice President Alex Supron ('25) and Event Coordinator Maya Patten ('27) on the planning and organizing side of the game jam.

Please note that the questions and answers have been modified for clarity and conciseness.

**For the uninformed, can you briefly explain what a game jam is?**

**SUPRON:** Yeah, so a game jam is basically an event that happens over a set period of time. It's not restricted to any amount of



*A crowd at Harvest Game Jam on September 15 2024 at Clark University. Photo by Frances Alldrin '28.*

time, but we run [for] 48 hours, so it's a set amount of time where developers get to create a game in that amount of time that they then have to present afterwards. It can be competitive, it can be not competitive, but [this game jam has] awards for the best.

**Do you have plans for any more this academic year?**

**SUPRON:** We run two to three game jams every semester, so you'll be seeing three to six throughout the entire [academic] year.

**Is there anything you find particularly rewarding about the organizing process or putting it together?**

**SUPRON:** I like the club stuff. It's just fun.

**PATTEN:** Yeah, I think that when you're organizing it, you obviously get to brainstorm different themes and stuff, and it allows you not only to see what people in the program like to make games on, but also [what] you can make in the discussion process. You can come up with ideas for things for your classes and stuff, which is always really fun.

**SUPRON:** On the organizing side, it's just fun to provide that opportunity for students. We're helping people.

**How did you come up with the theme**

**for this jam?**

**PATTEN:** We have event teams and me and two other people on one half of the event team kind of just sat in a room a few times and brainstormed different themes, made like a list of things that we could use this time and next time, and we kind of just all discussed and came to one that we thought would be most interesting for everyone to make a game on.

On top of getting a look into the logistical side of the event, IGDA President and game jam participant Brien Rondeau (MFA '25) took time during the closing hours of the jam to give some insight into

the process of making a game in just 48 hours.

**What was the process of developing a game in such a short time frame like?**

**RONDEAU:** I always start with a pretty extensive sit down with the entire team where we just sort of talk about the theme and the first ideas that come to our head. So we were just talking about other games that we thought had similar vibes to the theme. So we talked about Mr. Sleepyman, which is a small indie platformer game where you play, like, a little sleepy dude in a dream world. We talked about Don't Wake Daddy, which is like a board game from the 90s, just sort of the mechanics and how they lend themselves to the theme, and then we just sort of focused on the one that we all thought was the most fun and exciting to work on.

**Is there anything you're particularly proud about with this game?**

**RONDEAU:** We did a lot of art for it, which was, like, because normally we will either stick in 3D or 2D, but this time we did both, because we have the mazes and we have the 3D environment. So I'm pretty proud of the art team. We outputted a ton of stuff in a really quick amount of time and it all looks really good, in my opinion.

**Do you think there are any particular**



**benefits, even for people who maybe aren't super experienced in coding, to doing a game jam? Do you think there's any kind of skills that can be gained here?**

**RONDEAU:** Yeah, definitely. I think a lot of traditional artists, and I'm an artist, so maybe I'm coming more from an art perspective, but I think a lot of traditional artists could learn a lot from how quick you have to iterate in a game jam, where you might make the background for a menu, for instance, and then everything about the menu changes because the entire idea shifts, because you're running out of time and you have to learn how to really quickly fix that piece of art so that it works for the new menu. And I think that learning how to make your art as non-destructible as possible; meaning it's easily changed without fundamentally changing the art, is really important and super helpful. If you're coming from, like, if you've only ever painted before, it's a different workflow, but it's a really great way to dip your toes into starting digital art.

**Would you recommend doing a game jam for just anyone?**

**RONDEAU:** I think you'll definitely be thrown into the deep end, but the only way to get ready to do a game jam is to have already done a game jam. So you just should do it, and it might not be the best experience you've

ever had, if you've never done anything [like a game jam], but you'll make some friends and you'll get a cool game out of it, or at least have tried, and that's, it's better than nothing.

In the end, the jam had 11 teams working, some in groups and some solo. The resulting games were judged by a panel of IGDA affiliates from the gaming industry; one of Demiurge's 3D artists Kevin Lyon, former Unity developer Emily Ryan, New Blood lead developer support Scott Gurney, and Epic Games associate producer Robby Williams. Sleep Shack, developed by Ronan Wolf ('27), took home 'Best Overall', with Dream Shift by Ojany Santos ('27), Chris Kuntz ('27), Lucian Terhorst ('27), Muhammad Suhayb Malik ('27), Matthew Zaluski ('27) and Justin Smith ('27) as the runner-up.

'Best Visuals' went to Oneirophobia by Nino Zappala ('28), Sammi Bosque ('25), Bianca Brezinsky ('26), Nicholas Lyons ('28), Asher Rosenfield ('28) and Celeste Rocchio ('26), and Wake the Cluck Up by Jacob Berman ('27), Josh Kahn ('25), Griffin VanderGheynst ('25), Jack Wallace ('27) and David Rosengard ('28) was voted 'Most Out of the Box'.

**People interested in playing the games produced during the Harvest Game Jam can find them all on itch.io.**



*A crowd watching a Harvest Game Jam presentation on September 15 2024 at Clark University. Photo by Frances Alldrin '28.*



*People watching the Harvest Game Jam Presentation on September 15 2024 at Clark University. Photo by Frances Alldrin '28.*



# Album Review: “Short n’ Sweet” by Sabrina Carpenter

By Weslee Tyler  
*Living Arts Editor*

Those not paying careful attention to the intricate world of pop music may have heard “Espresso” by Sabrina Carpenter on the radio about a thousand times this summer and assumed she was a new artist. While this would be a reasonable assumption to make, in reality, Sabrina Carpenter has been in the music industry for years.

Despite releasing her first album in 2015, Carpenter has flown largely under the radar until 2024, often written off as just another Disney starlet. While other artists like Olivia Rodrigo skyrocketed to stardom, Carpenter trudged along with modest album releases and minor movie roles. Her career had a slight uptick when she signed with Island Records in 2021 and subsequently released her fifth album “Emails I Can’t Send” in 2022, which peaked at number 23 on the Billboard charts.

Carpenter’s breakthrough came when she opened for Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour in 2023 and 2024. This gave her access to a massive audience hungry for another pop girl sensation. Swift’s support gave Carpenter’s career the final push it needed to launch her into the upper echelons of pop music.

Her singles “Espresso” and “Please Please Please” were both huge successes, the latter earning Carpenter her first Billboard chart topping hit. Soon after, on August 23rd of 2024, she released her newest album, “Short n’ Sweet”.

Despite being in the music industry for over a decade, this 2024 version of Sabrina Carpenter does feel like a new artist. After years of trying, Carpenter and her team have finally honed in on an aesthetic and sound that works. “Short n’ Sweet” Carpenter is not the forgettable Disney Channel star or the villain in Olivia Rodrigo’s failed relationship; she is something new and entirely her own. The new Sabrina Carpenter is a girl’s girl, fun and sexy, with seemingly innocent 1950s looks and lyrics chock-full of cheeky innuendos. This latest album gives her the chance to reintroduce herself.

Don’t get me wrong, I was all aboard for the Sabrina Carpenter hype train; I even went to an official “Short n’ Sweet” midnight release party. However, on my first listen, this album didn’t wow me. I felt it lacked cohesiveness. The order of the songs failed to take the listener on an emotional trajectory, and some even felt like they were from a different album entirely. Fun pop anthems like “Taste”

and “Juno” seemed out of place surrounded by sad girl ballads like “Lie to Girls” and “Don’t Smile”. The lone country song “Slim Pickins” seemed very out of place, almost like a Kacey Musgraves reject that was given to Sabrina at the last minute.

That being said, not a single song on this album is bad. In fact, most are excellent. Producer Jack Antonoff’s influence is clear; his signature dreamy synth instrumentals feature in many of the songs like “Sharpest Tool” and “Please Please Please”. One of the strongest tracks, “Juno”, has a 1950s-esque bubblegum-pop beat that contrasts deliciously with its explicit message. Underneath the great instrumentals, a second or third listen of “Short n’ Sweet” reveals some witty and truly delightful lyrics. Some of my personal favorites include, “What a surprise / Your phone just died / Your car drove itself from LA to her thighs” from the song “Coincidence” and “Come right on me / I mean camaraderie / Said you’re not in my time zone but you wanna be / Where art thou why not uponeth me” from “Bad Chem”.

In a genre that has become bogged down with exhaustive emotional authenticity, “Short n’ Sweet” is breathing life back into pop music. There



*Sabrina Carpenter performing,  
Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons License.*

are no heart-wrenching breakups here, just silly flings that come and go. In the context of this album, failed relationships become self-deprecating, sad little stories to laugh about with your girlfriends. Men are playthings to have fun with and discard, a flip of the patriarchal typical narrative.

“Short n’ Sweet” paints a picture of young adulthood that is exciting and sexy with just the right amount of melodrama. Unlike her pop genre contemporaries, Sabrina Carpenter is not trying to be a soul-bearing tortured poet; she is just having a good time.



## Spring/Summer 2024 Horror Reviews

By **Paddington Wetlaufer**  
*Scarlet Staff*

For those who don't know, I am the unofficial horror reviewer at The Scarlet. To greet a new spooky school year, here are the movies I watched from last semester to the summer.

### Night Swim

This is likely the most boring movie I have watched this year. It takes the barely interesting concept of an evil wishing well pool and does nothing with it. The strange, almost comically poor acting and the unimpressive scares make for an incredibly disappointing watch, especially when I liked the trailer fairly enough. If you're wondering if there's any more to the plot, don't worry. There isn't.

2/10



### Imaginary

When single mother Jessica returns to her childhood home with her two daughters, she discovers the imaginary friend she left behind. The first hour or so is mindless and uninteresting, while the last few scenes are a strange CGI nightmare landscape of such an uncreative spirit dimension that we don't even get to see past one hallway. The plot includes the extremely overused trope of 'ritual to summon/destroy the entity,' which gets increasingly dull every time it's used and turns the movie into a repetitive scavenger hunt.

3/10

### Immaculate

American nun Sister Cecilia is invited to a convent in Italy to care for elderly nuns when she becomes part of a sinister plan to birth the messiah. The invoking of the Virgin Mary is not very compelling and reads as more pretentious than poignant. Spoiler alert, but I'm pretty sure every priest is aware that artificial insemination and immaculate conception are not the same, even if the people at this spooky Italian convent beg to differ.

4/10

### Late Night With The Devil

Late Night With The Devil is like being in a trance in all the best ways. The dreamy retro aesthetic of a 70's television show turns into a nightmare when charismatic host Jack Delroy, played by David Dastmalchian, is faced with a possible demon in his studio. Following the death of his wife and the hiatus of his show, Jack returns to the screen with a special Halloween episode. Dastmalchian perfectly sells a sympathetic man trying to move past his grief, convincing the audience that he is just another victim in this tragedy... or so he says.

7/10

### Longlegs

FBI agent and 'half-psycho' Lee Harker is investigating a series of murder-suicides, and all clues lead back to her. The chilling atmosphere and disturbing imagery paired with the only dolls I've ever feared make this film worth the watch. While Nick Cage's performance leaves a little to be desired, the rest of the film makes up for it multiple times over. If you want to be scared, watch Longlegs.

9/10

## Women's Volleyball Digs in and Kills WPI in Rivalry Game

**Rowan Compton**  
*Opinions Editor*

With the return of classes (and exams), comes the return of Clark Athletics! Clark athletes are hard at work on the court, in the pool, on the field, and on the track. There are few times in the school year with so much activity in the Kneller Athletic Center.

Currently, Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Rowing and Tennis are all in season. Additionally, both sexes of Swim and Dive and basketball teams are in preseason.

The Women's Volleyball team is off to a hot start to their season so far. As of September 25th, they have registered seven wins and only four losses. In addition to this impressive feat, they are currently undefeated when playing at home in the Kneller. On Tuesday, September 24th, our Cougars swept rival Worcester Polytechnic Institute three sets to zero in an away game. The first set was a dominant 25-11, the second set finished 25-15, and the last set ended with a score of 25-20.

In this intense game, 2023 NEWMAC (New England Women and Mens Athletic Conference) All-Academic team member, Victoria Pastor '24, notched 13 kills and four blocks.

Other team leaders were senior Camille Sterling, who successfully got six kills and one block, and Sofia Scherrer del Llano who also notched six kills.

Clark's rivalry with WPI across athletics is ongoing, and in recent memory. Going back to last year, against WPI, the Cougars in all sports have won four of ten contests against the WPI Engineers. Considering the quality of the athletic facilities at each school and the total attendance figures, Clark is punching well above its weight.

With such exciting action in our own backyard, there has never been a better time to go support the Cougars. Volleyball's next game is at home Saturday September 28th at 1:00pm, where they compete against Springfield.



# Cross Country Running to

All Photos By Declan Hanscom at the Cross Country meet on September 7, 2024.



Abigail Gahagan and Lily Carey pose for a photo.



Ruby Krasnow in the middle of the race.



Mary Elena Morales poses with her proud mother



Women's Cross Country Team in a huddle.



Wynne Dromey runs up the hill during a race.



# the Finish Line of the Season

All Photos By Declan Hanscom at the Cross Country meet on August 30, 2024.



Men's Cross Country Runner, Gage Delgado mid race.



Men's Cross Country Team runs together.



Men's Cross Country runner, Miles Caponi.



Men's Cross Country runner, William Pulvino neck in neck with other runners in the race.



Men's Cross Country runner, Noah Katz.



# Women's Field Hockey Team

All Photos By Declan Hanscom at the Cross Country meet on September 20, 2024.



Greer McCarty runs after the ball during a game against Simmons University.



Becca Murphy during a game.



Greer McCarty races opponents to the ball.

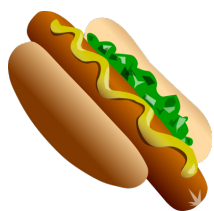


Elizabeth Cacciapaglia fights for the ball against a Simmons University player.

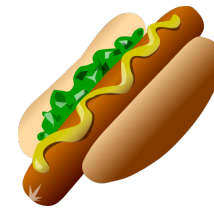


Alison Kopec in possession of the ball.





# Joey Chestnut Defeats Kobayashi in an 83 Dog Smackdown



By Cyd Abnet  
Managing Editor

Joseph Chestnut, American folk hero, was banned by Major League Eating from taking the stage at The Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest on July 4 of this year due to a new partnership with Impossible Foods. In lieu of the traditional, Netflix held a Labor Day competition which created an opportunity for a rematch between Chestnut and his longtime rival Takeru "Tsunami" Kobayashi. The pair are not on good terms, with Chestnut accusing Kobayashi of faking a jaw injury in a talking head on the broadcast.

Clips of Kobayashi's past career were shown during the special. This included a cut scene of Kobayashi storming the Nathan's competition in 2010, which resulted in Kobayashi being dragged away in handcuffs by authorities. This event occurred due to his refusal to sign a contract with Major League Eating and subsequently being barred from the competition. After this incident, he was placed on probation for six months and has not returned to compete against Joey Chestnut since. The rematch is historical for this reason alone.



Competitors chomping at The Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. Courtesy of Creative Commons License.

The broadcast included other small competitions, including one in which Matt Stonie, winner of the 2015 Nathan's Famous competition with 62 dogs, raced against 3 Olympic athletes in a mini hot dog eating contest. This event was followed by Leah Shutkever, one of the top competitive eaters in the women's division, breaking the world record for the most watermelon eaten in 3 minutes. The main event came towards the end of the broadcast after extended talking head interviews with both Chestnut and Kobayashi.

A twist that was

introduced to the Netflix competition that is not present at Nathan's is that contestants could not dunk their hot dogs into water before eating them. Kobayashi advocated for this rule, as he thought it was unsightly when contestants had their faces covered in wet hot dog bun remnants. Chestnut expressed concern about this, but it did not end up affecting his performance. Halfway through the ten minute stretch, Chestnut was seven dogs ahead – a lead that Kobayashi never caught up to. Kobayashi finished the competition with 66 hot dogs after

judges subtracted one due to the amount of bun that was leftover in his mouth after the competition's end. While this did not beat Chestnut, it was an improvement on his personal best.

Chestnut finished the competition after eating a total of 83 hot dogs and buns, beating his own previous world record of 76 hot dogs and buns that he set at the Nathan's Famous competition in 2021.

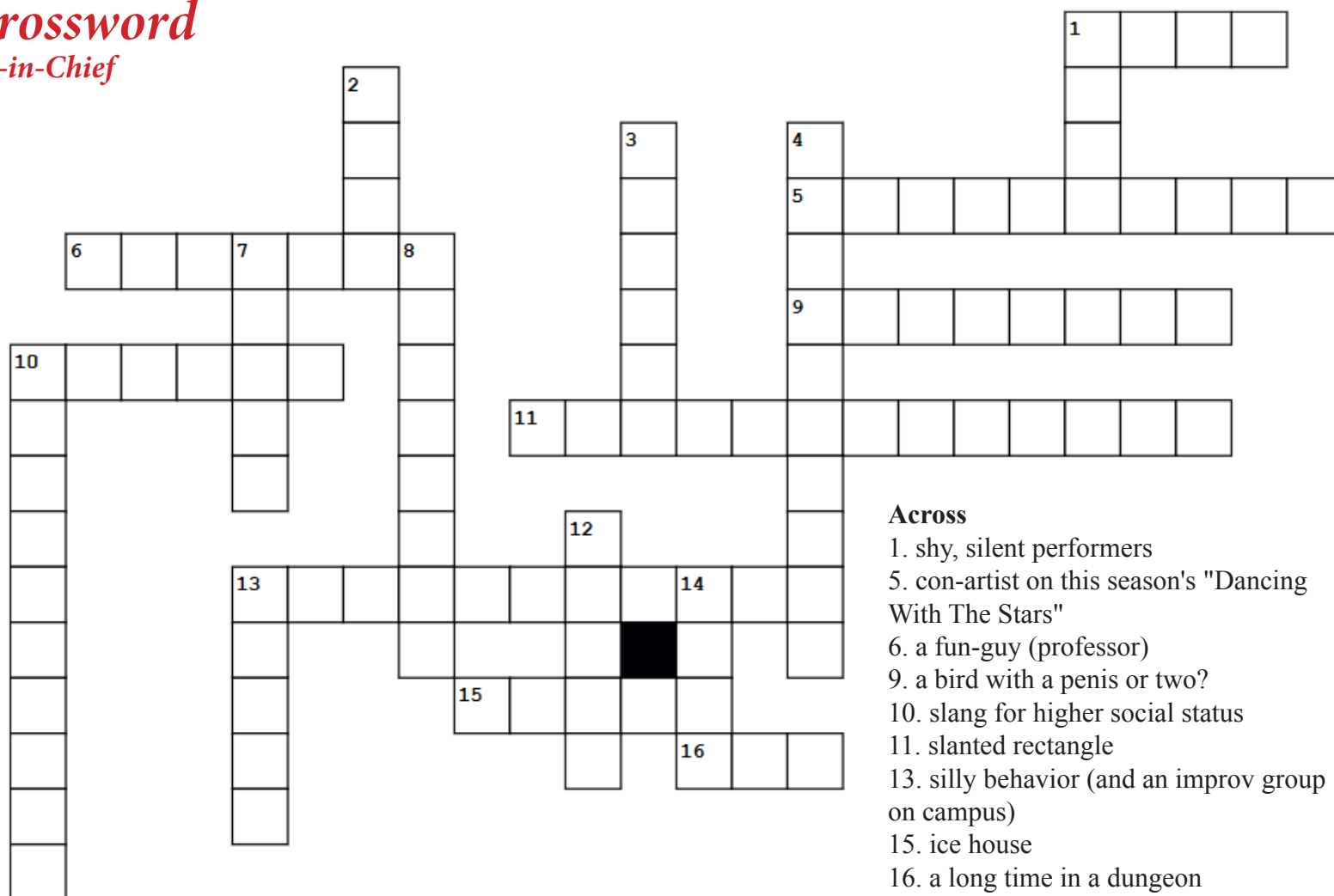
The 'beef' between Chestnut and Kobayashi was apparent, as at the finish of the competition both men stood turned away from each other so as to not make eye contact as they

waved at the crowd. When asked about the rivalry, Chestnut said, "We [aren't] always nice to each other, but I love the way we push each other to be our best."

While it's still unclear whether Chestnut or Kobayashi will be allowed to compete in The Nathan's Famous competition in 2025, the Netflix competition allowed for both to compete despite the restrictions placed on them by Nathan's.

## The Scarlet Crossword

By Ava Orofino, Editor-in-Chief



### Across

1. shy, silent performers
5. con-artist on this season's "Dancing With The Stars"
6. a fun-guy (professor)
9. a bird with a penis or two?
10. slang for higher social status
11. slanted rectangle
13. silly behavior (and an improv group on campus)
15. ice house
16. a long time in a dungeon

### "The Death of Caesar"

By Andrew Ferrari



*The Death of Caesar*

### Down

1. a small mammal and a system of units in chemistry
2. Charli XCX album with a notable green color
3. an animal and a street adjacent to Clark
4. neurological condition that makes you 'eepy
7. what love can be, according to Netflix
8. low brass instrument with a slide
10. exercising the mind
12. Davis of "How to Get Away With Murder"
13. good or bad vacuum cleaner review
14. a succulent sometimes used for healing

**Are you an artist interested in joining  
The Scarlet?**

- Comics
- Photos
- Digital Art

Please email us at [scarlet@clarku.edu](mailto:scarlet@clarku.edu) with  
your concept for the paper!