

The Scarlet

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The State of the BDS movement at Clark; CUSC Updates Student Body

By Sophia Lindstrom
& Morgan Parisse
News Editor &
Layout Editor

On November 11, Clark's Undergraduate Student Council (CUSC) emailed undergraduates to provide an update on actions taken following a referendum vote last March. 772 students participated in the referendum, which addressed divesting endowment funds, adhering to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement and stopping purchasing from Amazon. This constitutes 33 percent of the student population.

What is BDS...Or, the Short Version

BDS describes themselves as a Palestinian-led movement using similar tactics as the anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa to "pressure Israel to



Various items protestors brought to the Strike For Palestine on Oct. 10. Photo by Leo Kerz.

comply with international law." The organization encourages followers to comply with three tenets: boycotting institutions and groups with monetary ties to the State of Israel, encouraging companies to divest from Israel and Israeli companies, and to pressure governments to impose sanctions on Israel. BDS has seen a

surge in engagement and followers in the face of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

However, TIME Magazine concedes that many feel that its focus on Israel is "unfair." In fact, the Anti-Defamation League calls BDS one of the world's most controversial boycott movements.

The primary concern is that this focus on pressuring

Israel specifically is anti-Semitic, or could lead to increased antisemitism. According to TIME, 33 U.S. states have implemented laws that punish support for BDS as a result.

Student Council Progress

In the November 11 email, CUSC broke down their progress

"CUSC" continued on pg 3.

Oct 7 2023

Hamas Attacks Israel

Hamas launches attacks on southern Israel after decades of oppression. Almost 1,200 people are killed and 251 people are kidnapped. Israel begins extended counterattack.

March 10 2024

SJP Divestment Campaign Begins

Clark Students for Justice in Palestine (later renamed SeeYouSJP) launch a social media campaign with the goal of getting student organizations to endorse institutional divestment. Over 40 clubs, including The Scarlet join the campaign.

April 4 2024

CUSC Approves Divestment Question

After weeks of debate, Clark's Undergraduate Student Council drafts and unanimously endorses four questions regarding institutional divestment from Israel. The questions are prepared to be sent out for a student-body-wide referendum on divestment.

April 12 2024

Student Body Approves Divestment

The undergraduate student body approves all four divestment questions by margins of over 50%, giving CUSC a wide mandate to act.

Oct. 7 2024

Hilal Memorial; SJP Die-In

On the one year anniversary of the renewed conflict, Hilal hosts a vigil for Israelis killed and kidnapped. SeeYouSJP protests the killing of Palestinians with a silent die-in during the ceremony.

Oct. 10 2024

Strike for Palestine

SeeYouSJP organizes a Strike for Palestine. They call for students, staff and faculty to cancel their events or walk out and protest at the front gates of the University. Dozens join the protest. CUSC holds a meeting discussing their summer activities.

Nov. 11 2024

CUSC Updates Student Body

CUSC provides information to the student body. This update provided information about how CUSC has been working to ensure more local vendors and outlined their efforts to work with Administration to achieve the demands of the student body

A timeline of the Israeli-Hamas Conflict and BDS action at Clark. Graphic by Rowan Compton.

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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.

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Editorial: Thank You

Clarkies,

Can you believe it's almost December? With the fall semester coming to a close, we want to thank you for following us along these past few months. The ongoing support and eagerness our writers, readers, and students have for this newspaper is heart-warming

Since September, The Scarlet student writers have covered important issues that matter to the Clark and Worcester community, such as Worcester Precinct voting data and the new dining provider, as well as dorm-friendly Oreo Ball recipes and Club Squash features!

With a record-breaking **100+ articles submitted**, published, and printed over the course of **six print editions** this semester, it has been our greatest pleasure being able to inform (and entertain) the community.

We are looking forward to covering even more news, opinions, arts, and sports (and more crosswords) for the Spring semester. See you then!

Happy Holidays,

The Scarlet Editorial Board

As tuition and the cost of living rise, students take care of each other.



Our mission at **The See You Collective** is to combat financial insecurity in our campus community, guided by the principles of radical equity, respect, and dignity. Our work is to **redistribute funds** directly to Clarkies who use them to pay for housing, tuition, medical expenses, transportation, and food.

Learn more @theseeyoucollective on instagram!

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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 the article Trump Wins, Worcester Remains Blue, A sentence implied ballot question 5 would increase the tips of minimum wage workers. Additionally, percentages were incorrectly reported as 0.XX%, but it should have read XX%.

The Scarlet regrets these errors.

“CUSC” continued from pg 1.

on implementing each of the four provisions on Clark’s campus.

This follows a CUSC meeting held on November 7 in which a public comment was made claiming that the referendum passed last semester was not “properly addressed,” as well as an October 10 “Strike for Palestine” protest at the campus gates.

CUSC was busy over the summer, meeting with Clark University President David Fithian and Dean Kamala Keim to begin charting a path toward divestment. They also researched alternative vendor lists to help clubs achieve compliance with BDS. CUSC requested to meet with the Board of Trustees (BOT), but did not receive a response either from BOT or from Fithian, who sent a follow-up message on their behalf.

CUSC Treasurer Kelechi Akabuogu created a vendor list to help clubs use alternatives to Amazon for purchases. CUSC has also collaborated with Student Leadership and Programming (SLP) to use tax-exempt vendors for their supplies such as Walmart, Target and Party City, all of whom comply with BDS.

CUSC has also been encouraging registered student organizations (RSOs) to use this list, and regularly check the BDS Movement’s website to ensure compliance. As of November 15, no purchases have been made

through Amazon using CUSC’s club budget.

However, CUSC has faced some obstacles in implementing BDS, primarily from Clark University’s current dining vendor, Harvest Table. Harvest Table asserts that they cannot “take a political stance,” though they have replaced some items that were flagged by BDS. Harvest Table has also prioritized focusing on buying from local vendors and providers to better comply with the movement

Equity and Inclusion Response

On November 12, The Scarlet received an email from CUSC Equity and Inclusion Representatives Molly Joe, Jordan Alexandre, Melissa Bento, and Stephen Gibbons explaining that CUSC “has not forgotten about the referendum” and that they are “trying to make progress.”

“We as Representatives have limited power so long as those above us are unwilling to allow change,” they wrote. “We, like you, are only students, navigating an opaque and bureaucratic system that is designed to protect certain interests. Our goals will only be achieved if enough of us are unwavering and persistent.”

The Scarlet reached out to the CUSC e-board and received an emailed response on November 17. CUSC writes that student support of the referendum has been “overwhelming.”

Student leaders and the representative council both voiced support for complying with the referendum throughout Halloweekend. This included avoiding Amazon for all Halloweekend purchases. and helping RSOs find alternative vendors to Amazon.

“We encourage all undergraduate students to go to their representative’s office hours and to voice their thoughts about divestment,” they said. “We can try to perceive as much as we want, but we would rather act on actual thoughts from the student body.”

CUSC writes that their largest obstacle to implementing the referendum has been the student body itself, due to “low voter turnout” and “low engagement numbers” on last semester’s referendum vote.

“As we all know this is an issue far outside of Clark University and CUSC elections as well, but this continues to impact our ability to act on behalf of the entire student body,” they wrote.

CUSC offered office hours as an opportunity to boost engagement with the student body.

“We would love to get some feedback from all of you,” CUSC wrote. “This would better inform how representatives vote in meetings. Our mission as CUSC is to serve all of you and we would welcome input.”

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Administration Backpedals on Code of Conduct Change

By Rowan Compton
Opinions Editor

As of October 25, Clark University officially changed the Community Values portion of the Student Code of Conduct. The changes removed a paragraph which stated that speech made by students and clubs which made others feel “uneasiness” could be held to disciplinary action.

“We encourage all of you to avoid using slogans, clichés, or behaviors that contribute to feelings of uneasiness,” the original policy read. “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.”

The new version of the Community Values policy in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook is a simple shortening of the previous. It is two sentences long and ends with “each member of the Clark community plays a crucial role in upholding these values.” It does not say anything about holding Clark community members accountable to these community values.

The Scarlet met with geography faculty member

Dr. Gustavo Oliveira, who is a member of the University Conduct Board (UCB), to learn how and why these changes were made. The UCB is “led by the Dean of Students and includes invited students and staff, and three faculty appointed by the Steering Committee of the Faculty Assembly,” Oliviera said. “The faculty on the UCB represent faculty interests in University governance, such as maintaining academic freedom and freedom of expression.” These concerns were first raised by the UCB over in the spring and intensified during the summer and school year.

The University Conduct Board and Chair of the Faculty met regularly with representatives from the administration to discuss faculty concerns with this policy.

The Scarlet also met with Political Science faculty members Dr. Ora Szekely and Dr. Robert Boatright. Both faculty members identified as particularly active in the discussion to change the Community Values Policy.

Dr. Szekely and Dr. Boatright were both members of the Free Expression Task Force. The task force created the Speech Rights and initial Community Values policy under President David Angel during the 2017-2018 academic year, wherein Dr. Szekely performed the

role of co-chair. The goal of the initial policy was “[to] maximize freedom of expression and protect people who have not always been very well protected at universities,” Dr. Szekely said.

As a result of their work in the Free Expression Task Force, both Dr. Szekely and Dr. Boatright had concerns upon learning of the Community Values Policy.

“The original language [of the Community Values Policy] at the beginning of this [academic] year, in our opinion, was incompatible with the speech policy,” said Dr. Boatright, outlining some of the concerns that Dr. Oliveira voiced.

The Political Science faculty members in conjunction with the Chair of the Faculty, Dr. Kristen Williams, discussed their concerns with Dean Kamala Kiem. This group worked with the University Conduct Board to change the Community Values policy.

“We requested that the language in the Code [of Conduct] that we thought was in conflict with the [speech] policy, be struck, and it has been struck,” said Dr. Boatright.

However, Dr. Szekely and Dr. Boatright were careful not to blame anyone. Boatright stated that University policies are a “process of getting it right.”

The professors also touched on Clarkies patrolling their own speech.

“Even if the specific task is not met, do not be discouraged. The process of participating in a movement has other consequences that you may not recognize at the time but are still powerful and important.” - Dr. Szekely

“Classmates police each other's speech in a way that I think can dramatically inhibit what people say,” Dr. Boatright said. “The thing I worry a lot about is the climate on campus.”

“I’ve broadly been really impressed with the questions that students ask, with the conversations that those events have allowed to take place,” Dr. Szekely said. However, she was unclear about how students discuss outside of the classroom or University-sanctioned events.

Dr. Szekely reiterated that faculty are committed to the ongoing functioning of the institution.

“Clark is a place where really broadly, faculty really care about the institution, and really care about students,” she said.

This deep concern for University happenings are why faculty were so concerned about the changed freedom of expression policy. Some faculty felt that their concerns were not being heard, and so tensions rose between faculty and the administration.

Eventually, these tensions lead to an open letter to faculty and administrators by a few faculty members regarding the previous (now changed) Community Values policy. This open letter had specific names and issues these faculty members had with the disciplinary process. As it contains such details, The Scarlet cannot publish this letter. The specifics also make it difficult for the Administration

Majority Rules: Ranked Choice Voting

By Abbi Gilbert
Scarlet Staff

Following the first ranked choice voting election in the United States, the movie *Majority Rules* focuses on Alaska's 2022 Congressional Race between Mary Peltola, Sarah Palin, and Nick Begich III.

While the movie does jump around to other states who have been attempting to implement the legislation to have ranked choice voting, there is emphasis on Alaska's special election in 2022 to replace Former Congressman Don Young, who passed away while in office.

Watching this highly contested election, the first in American history to have an open primary and a ranked choice general election, highlighted how much influence this change can have on American politics and how candidates campaign.

An open primary means that when voting in your state's primary election, regardless of one's identified party, voters can select any candidate. This type of ballot allows independent voters to cast a vote, which is not available for voters in states with closed primaries.

Voters in closed primaries must select a party to identify and vote with, this being either Republican or Democrat. This aspect of voting is not only annoying for many independent

to respond directly, said Dr. Oliveira, and as such the Administration has hired an outside lawyer to address this issue.

In response to this open letter the Administration has suspended meetings with the University Conduct Board, effectively shutting faculty out of these discussions. The University has hired an outside law firm to review their Code of Conduct and the disciplinary practices of the administration in addition to other legal services. Until this review is completed, it is unclear how disciplinary action for violations of the community values statute will be handled.

Following the conclusion of that review, faculty governance such as the University Conduct Board will be able to work with administration to address the student conduct process. Until then, or until administration responds to various written questions submitted by faculty, faculty are in the dark about disciplinary practices.

"We have long functioned under a shared governance model in which administration, faculty, and our Board of Trustees are involved in institutional decision-making, with specific roles and responsibilities determined by the specific task at hand," Director of Marketing and Communications, Jill Friedman, said in a written interview with *The Scarlet*.

Friedman also said that the hiring of an external lawyer was part of a "return

to an earlier practice of utilizing external legal counsel." According to Friedman, managing the internal review of the Code of Conduct is "part of their overall support of the University."

In regards to the walk-back of the restrictive earlier policy, Friedman said that the policies were updated to "to ensure consistency and clarity across our policies," mirroring what Drs. Szekely and Boatright said.

However, this attempt at clarity has created an opportunity for confusion in the short term.

This bureaucratic limbo puts protest movements on campus in a sticky position. As of now, according to the Code of Conduct, protestors should be more free to campaign loudly and openly for their causes than under the previous policy. However, with the nebulous way the University will handle any conduct cases that do arise, groups may not be so bold.

Dr. Szekley added that regardless of whether protest movements achieve their stated goals, the act of working together to achieve them can still be very helpful, and lead to movement in the right direction.

"Even if the specific task is not met, do not be discouraged," Dr. Szekely said. "The process of participating in a movement has other consequences that you may not recognize at the time but are still powerful and important."



A pro-ranked choice voting button from Minnesota, distributing by "FairVoteMN". Photo licensed for use under Creative Commons.

voters, but increases the effort cost of voting and typically decreases voter turnout. This change to open primaries thus allows many more voters to have a say in primary elections, and, in turn, the general election.

With the implementation of an open primary, voters of all party identifications will be able to select four candidates to move on to the general election. These four candidates are selected regardless of party identification and can come from any group affiliation in any number.

Once the four candidates have been chosen, there are more options open to the typical voter. Voters casting their ballots will be able to rank the candidates in order of their first choice to their fourth.

Voters can rank certain party candidates higher than the others, labeled by Sarah Palin as "Rank the Red" in the movie. However, this strategy did not work for Palin, as voters were less inclined

to do this than expected.

When it comes to counting the votes, if there is not a clear winner who possesses at least 50 percent of the state's vote, the votes of the candidate with the least amount of first place votes gets reallocated. Now, these ballots will give their second choice to another candidate. This pattern will continue until there is a final decision with a politician with 50 percent of the vote or more.

While this change may seem small, it tends to decrease party polarization. In this system, voters select, and rank politicians based on what they know and what they believe is best for them regardless of their party affiliation. Without the ability to rely solely on party affiliation when voting, candidates in the Alaska race demonstrated their increased efforts to attract voters of different groups. This new style of voting allowed Peltola to win, even when she was not originally expecting to.

Meet John Magee: Clark's New Interim Provost

By Daniel B. Hewitt
Scarlet Staff

On its face, a provost is simply a senior academic administrator, but for John Magee, Clark's newly appointed interim provost, the job is much more than a title. As he puts it, it's about juggling "all the components of academics" to create an environment where student learning thrives.

Magee first came to Clark as a professor in 2011 and has served the University in both faculty and administrative positions. Each one, he says, prepared him to take on the interconnected, wide-ranging duties of the provost's office. A proud "Clarkie" through and through, Magee's focus remains firmly on one thing: student success.

While Magee might be more comfortable in a button-down shirt than a suit and tie, his passion for Clark's mission is clear. Whether overseeing undergraduate programs, supporting faculty, or fostering a culture of inclusivity, Magee's says his vision for the future of Clark University is rooted in the belief that higher education is about more than just preparing students for jobs—it's about teaching them how to learn, and to adapt, for whatever comes next.

Career Path and Current Role:

Magee's career at Clark began in 2011 when he joined as a professor in the Math and Computer Science Department. In 2020, Clark created a standalone Computer Science Department, which Magee chaired until the Spring 2024 semester. He applied for the position of dean, a role that deepened his administrative experience.

In September, Magee was appointed as interim provost after Sebastian Royo stepped down temporarily for health reasons. Magee credits his path as one that has evolved through "compartmentalized responsibilities" in teaching, research, and advising.

As interim provost, Magee explains that his work brings together "all the components of the academics," as he collaborates with deans and department chairs to create an environment that fosters student learning. His focus is to "enable student learning," emphasizing that while Clark offers resources and a structured educational setting, it is ultimately up to students to engage fully in these opportunities. This administrative role spans multiple areas of student life, including oversight of the undergraduate college, graduate programs, professional studies, research, and student life.



John Magee in the Provost Office at Clark University. Photo by Daniel Hewitt.

Challenges in Higher Education:

Reflecting on the challenges facing higher education, Magee points to shifts in public perception and affordability. He recognizes that the rising costs of higher education can put it out of reach for some students, but he remains a firm believer in the value that higher education, and particularly a liberal arts education at Clark, can offer.

"We're not training you to do a specific job," he said, noting Clark's emphasis on "learning how to learn" as a crucial skill for lifelong adaptability in diverse careers. According to Magee, Clark graduates develop a well-rounded skill set that makes them highly adaptable in the workforce.

When it comes to tuition, Magee is keenly aware of concerns about its rise and strives to balance these realities with financial aid. He notes that while Clark's tuition increases have been moderate compared to other institutions, the administration continuously works to support students through substantial financial aid. Looking ahead, he hopes Clark can continue to expand financial resources to make education accessible to a more diverse group of students.

Addressing Campus Activism and Inclusivity:

In recent months, Magee has witnessed student activism on campus, particularly around issues concerning global events like the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict. He values the importance of upholding everyone's rights, including the right to protest, while ensuring that students' educational needs are met. Magee acknowledges that balancing these rights requires respect from all sides, and he encourages open expression and dialogue without disrupting the learning environment.

Future Directions and Enrollment Trends:

Looking to the future, Magee highlights demographic shifts affecting college enrollments, especially a decline in the Northeast. This trend, coupled with a lower birth rate in the aftermath of the 2008 Financial Crisis, has prompted Clark to anticipate slightly smaller incoming

Professor Enloe Gives Lecture On What it Means to Be a Feminist in Wartime

By Olivia Case
Scarlet Staff

There are few topics today more pressing than feminism, and few topics today more timely than war. This October, Women and Gender Studies Professor Emeritus Cynthia Enloe gave a talk at Clark sharing how her academic work combines these two subjects. For decades, Professor Enloe's work has focused largely on feminism in the context of international relations. She has conducted work not only here at Clark, but internationally. Her career has included Fullbrights in Malaysia and Guyana, and guest professorships in Japan, Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Iceland. Professor Enloe is the author of 15 books including her most recent novel, *Twelve Feminist Lessons of War*. "It's in the best of Clarkie traditions to care about the world, to try and seek out and think about the world, to try and make a difference in the world and try and learn more about it," Professor Enloe said. She began her talk with two questions for the audience: "What do feminists do during war that their country is involved in? What do feminists do when their country is at war?" "I'm asking, not why is it

hard? But what makes it so hard? So that you'll actually follow the breadcrumbs back to who's trying to silence them in war," says Professor Enloe. "It's a tough question, but it's a Clarkie question. Because it's a question that means you investigate. One of the things that I've always admired about the Clark intellectual and political environment is that you investigate. That you try to actually find answers." Professor Enloe then spoke about a meeting she recently attended in Geneva, Switzerland, where she spoke with two Syrian feminists. "In my village, I get together with women and we try to take down roadblocks by convincing the opposing militias to dismantle the roadblocks for an hour so that the humanitarian aid convoy can come through," one of the women explained. Professor Enloe said of this, "That's feminist work." "I run an informal, nonstate, small daycare center that's open to children and their mothers up to the age of twelve because the government doesn't see that as dangerous," the other Syrian woman explained. "We spend time working on reading and math skills, on why it's important not to be recruited into anybody's armed militia. And we try to help mothers,

especially of boys, to come up with their own thinking and their own strategies to keep their ten-year-old sons out of militias." Such women are motivated in their feminist work by the ways in which, due to sexism, women are harmed by war disproportionately. "Women are the most impacted during these wars. They often feel the consequences of it the most, and so women are going to try to do what they can to try and at least decrease the negative impacts and the harm of it, which probably means the war ending sooner and disrupting war plans," an audience member said. "That gets pesky, that gets in the way, where women are supposed to be seen in just this very passive role, the victims. They're supposed to help men, but when they get in the way of men, that becomes an issue." "Militarism is gendered," Professor Enloe added. "It doesn't mean that all men benefit from war: they don't. Ask any Russian man who's trying to escape Putin's conscription. Militarism isn't good for most men either, but it's really bad for any expression of women's rights." According to Professor Enloe, in countries at war, war effort is prioritized over women's rights. The platitude, "we'll get to that later," is too

often spoken towards feminists during war by typically male leaders. "But later never comes," explains Professor Enloe. "By the time you are 'allowed' to raise reproductive rights, you're allowed to raise women's economic autonomy, you're allowed to call out domestic violence abusers, by the time you're allowed to raise these issues the patriarchal power system is even deeper than it was when you first wanted to raise them." Though women even in war are capable of speaking for themselves, because sexism is so ingrained, their voices too often go unheard, Professor Enloe explained. In any given war, without the voices of women experiencing it, without the voices of feminists, the dominant narrative surrounding it will be incomplete. "What I found if I don't find out something about what it's like to be a feminist in any warzone I'm interested in, I will not know the reality of that war, for men, for women, for girls, for boys," Professor Enloe said. "I will not actually be realistic about what that war is." "We're not all specialists, we're certainly not all experts, but we all can be curious," she continued. "We can all wonder."

classes in the coming years. While the applicant pool has increased due to the availability of the Common Application, Clark's acceptance rate has become more competitive. However, Magee says that the overall number of students has remained stable.

Passion for Technology and Community Spaces:

Outside his administrative duties, Magee is deeply passionate about how technology impacts people's lives, especially those with disabilities. He reflects on the significance of his work in computer science, where his interests span from assistive technology to the effects of social media on attention spans. In addition to his academic pursuits, Magee played a significant role in the design of Clark's MACD building, a student-centered space with collaborative areas and a newly launched makerspace, which includes resources like 3D printing and sewing.

John Magee's journey from professor to Interim Provost has been one of increasing responsibility and influence at Clark University. His focus on inclusivity, learning accessibility, and fostering student engagement reflects his dedication to creating an academic environment where students thrive. As Clark looks to the future, Magee's vision for inclusive, adaptable education seeks to guide the institution forward.

Student-Run E&I Program Cuts Hours for Workers

By Kennedy Griffin
Scarlet Staff

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation (E&I) program at Clark University is the organizer behind entrepreneurial events on campus. They host the small business pop-ups on Wednesdays, the thrift store and ClarkTank. They also provide a platform to support student-owned businesses, according to the Clark Student Ventures website, which is student-run. But, recent cuts to student employee hours behind the scenes are affecting what events the program can run.

The Scarlet spoke with two student workers in the program about cuts to their hours. Both opted to stay anonymous to protect their employment status, and will thus be referred to as Employees A and B.

“It is very valuable to hire students, and it’s a great opportunity that it can hire so many different types of people,” Employee A stated. According to this employee, E&I is the biggest minor on campus with the biggest team of student workers, excluding research.

“If you really have an idea and you wanna do it, you can do it. It’s student-run and student-based,” Employee B said. “The internal stuff is done by students. The marketing is done by students.”

Both workers had been a part of the program since at least last year. “Last year I actually had hours and pay,” Employee B said. “It was a lot more structured, so there was much less worry in terms of everything.”

But there has been a huge difference for this year since the former boss left her position. The employees allege that their former boss promised consistent fall employment. However, there was significant lag during the onboarding process, referring to the process in which an employee is integrated into their position.

When asked if the workers were onboarded for this year, Employee B answered, “I think. But I don’t have hours. I am a substitute, if somebody needs it.”

Employee A, currently onboarded, said that the entire reason they were given hours is because the current boss sacrificed 16 of his hours to give 4 hours a week to 4 different people.

“The only people onboarded were the thrift store workers at the start of the year,” the employee explained. “The people that ran the pop-ups, website, and the social media marketing all had problems with onboarding.”

This worker stressed that the current boss who sacrificed his hours for them is a graduate student. “He is also just a student in



The outside of Carlson Hall, home to the Clark University School of Business.
Photo taken by Morgan Parisse.

a position where we used to have a full-time person employed,” they said.

But with so few workers onboarded, E&I is struggling to stay afloat. The workers said that the thrift store’s hours were cut and that there’s no word on ClarkTank, either. There used to be an E&I podcast, which has since been discontinued due to budget cuts. There are way less events taking place than there were last year.

For a bit, even the student website was down. “The website was shut down until we fought for the students running it to get their hours back,” Employee B said.

“Because it’s a student-run program, you need students to run it, and if

you don’t have students to run it, it’s not gonna be a functional program,” Employee A explained.

I asked both of the workers what they believe is happening. It’s hard to tell for sure, because they allege that there has been a huge lack of communication, especially involving Andrea Aiello, the Associate Dean of Clark’s School of Management. She oversees the current supervisor of the program.

Employee A described their efforts to get onboarded this semester. After weeks of silence when they were supposed to have received word about being onboarded, a team of workers had attempted to contact Aiello multiple times, hoping to

meet with her, to no avail.

After some digging, they found out that David Jordan, the Dean of the School of Management, supervised Aiello. Dr. Jordan’s secretary informed them that they would instead have to meet with Aiello first, even after Aiello had ignored their previous attempts.

“She was polite, but she shot down the possibility of us getting onboarded,” Employee A explained. “Our current boss had to jump in and sacrifice his hours. We got onboarded early October, when it was supposed to be late August.”

Employee B reiterated the problem of communication: “The position has no hours to it, no structures, and nobody checking in.”

Clark Accessibility Network Advocates for a More Inclusive Campus

By Morgan Parisse
Layout Editor

The Clark Accessibility Network (CAN) is a new student initiative that advocates for accessibility improvements across campus. Formed last semester, the group has officially become a club on campus.

CAN was founded by students who were advocating for accessibility on an individual level and saw a need for collective action.

Co-President of CAN Else MacIlroy shared that the club was established because “We realized we were all advocating for accessibility on Clark’s campus individually.”

CAN has two main goals. The first is to advocate for accessibility improvements on campus and connect students with the right resources when they face barriers to accessibility. The second goal is to create a community for students registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Before the school year began, CAN participated in the Bridge to Clark Early Orientation, supporting incoming SAS students. Members also sit on Clark’s Accessibility Committee and engage in regular meetings with Clark Administration.

With an inconsistent style of communication down the hierarchy, it is difficult to parse the true source of the problem. Employee A wonders if Aiello is a major part of the problem.

Additionally, the worker was skeptical of Clark opening up a new 3D Printing lab at the same time as hour cuts were implemented.

“It’s an interesting thing that they’re having these budget issues but can afford to do that,” they said.

Employee B leaned on budgeting issues being the source. “Clark lost tons of money because of the FAFSA issue,” they said. “They’re clearly scrambling to make money.”

“I don’t think it’s a specific person at fault,” the student said. “It’s a collective fault. Maybe Andrea is told by the higher-ups to save money here, and she’s taking that information and creating her own story with it.”

The hour cuts have had a negative effect on the workers for the program. Employee A made around \$150 a week, and Employee B \$77 a week, last year. After the cuts, the former now makes \$60 a week and the latter is not paid.

“I was going into this year knowing I’d have a certain amount of money per week,” Employee A said. “I was spending money knowing I would have this income. I rely on my student employment to pay for a lot of school supplies. Suddenly not having that

for a month was bizarre.”

“It sucks,” Employee B said. “I can feel the passion dying inside people, including myself. It’s kinda sad. We all loved this program so much.”

Both workers are hopeful that this will eventually be resolved.

“I think the first step is making people aware that it is happening,” Employee A said. “Things like the pop-ups and the thrift store are so universally loved. It is out of touch to deem the people running these things as unnecessary. We need the funding that we had last year to come back.”

There is also an effort to find a boss that will replace the graduate student currently in the position.

“We interviewed some of the candidates, but we don’t have a say at the end of the day,” Employee B said. “The people at the top don’t know what they’re looking for. They don’t know what they need from a lower point of view.”

“I wish for a better future for other students to fall in love with entrepreneurship as much as I did,” this student worker said. “This program is the reason I switched my major and why I’m on this path in life. Whatever happens, I hope it is beneficial for students in the future.”

MacIlroy explained. “The information is still private within University Police.”

CAN has also brought two additional issues to the attention of Clark administrators. First, creating a low sensory space on campus for neurodivergent students. Another area for improvement is the limited testing spaces on campus. SAS only has one small room for students who require testing accommodations. To address these barriers along with any other barriers students are facing, the group encourages students to use the Barriers to Access form, managed by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), to report problems and advocate for change.

MacIlroy says that CAN hopes to collaborate with more clubs and organizations on campus as they grow. Whether registered with SAS or not, students can contribute by reporting broken accessible doors and other barriers via the Barriers to Access form.

“Even if you don’t personally rely on things like accessible doors when you notice they are broken, you can support other students on campus by filling out this form,” MacIlroy said.

Those interested in joining CAN can contact Else MacIlroy at emacilroy@clarku.edu.

“We also work to advocate for improvements on campus and share feedback through having members of our E-board on Clark’s Accessibility Committee, meeting with Dean K and SAS, and meeting with different offices on campus,” MacIlroy explained. “This allows us to share where students are running into barriers and make sure the University is aware of our concerns.”

Students in CAN have voiced concerns over negative experiences with University Police (UP).

“CAN members met with Lieutenant LaPlante and learned that UP doesn’t have access to any student health information, so when they are called to support a student, they arrive with no information,” MacIlroy said.

CAN was able to collaborate on a solution with Lieutenant LaPlante to develop a voluntary form for students to disclose neurodiversity, physical health conditions, and mental health conditions.

“What this means is that if someone were to call in about this person when the dispatcher looked them up, they would be able to see notes with information like “call an ambulance immediately” or suggestions on how to interact with the person when they become unable to communicate verbally,”

Higgins Micro-Farm: Micro-Failure or Budding Success?

By Adin Petricoff
Contributing Writer

Harvest Table Culinary Group has made a number of changes aimed at offering students healthy, local and sustainable meal choices since taking over dining services at Clark University this summer. Perhaps the most visible of these changes has been the installation of a vertical micro-farm in Higgins at the beginning of this semester. According to a banner next to the unit, the micro-farm aims to provide greens to students at a lower environmental cost.

According to Clark student Owen Chase, this banner does not tell the full story. Chase owns the business Just For Fun Farms, which grows and sells microgreens to local restaurants as well as at farmers markets and the Clark Collective pop-up on Wednesdays.

Chase said that he reached out to Harvest Table before the company took over dining services at Clark to see if they wanted to buy microgreens from his company. Harvest Table seemed interested, but wanted Chase to get product liability insurance, a standard procedure in the industry. Chase says that he obtained the proper insurance over the summer and tried reaching back out to Harvest Table about

selling them microgreens now that he has the proper paperwork. He initially received a response from Harvest Table, but as of November has not obtained a reply from the representative who buys their produce.

Meanwhile, the micro-farm in Higgins has failed to grow any produce since its installation in August. The first batch of planted crops turned yellow and began to die after a few weeks. The dead crops were then removed and the farm sat idle, with the lights on, several weeks later. New seedlings were added a few days before Family and Friends Weekend but those appear to be yellowing, similarly to the previous batch.

“When the leaves are yellow it’s an obvious sign there’s not enough nutrients,” Chase explained. “These hydroponic systems are thousands of dollars and there’s extensive research so they know exactly how much you need to add and when you need to add it. So that shouldn’t have been a problem unless they don’t have nutrients at all or don’t have someone working on it.”

The cost of the micro-farm’s failures are not insignificant. Although a unit price is not available on the Babylon Micro-Farms website for the “Galleri” farm model installed in Higgins, units roughly half

the size, such as the STEM Garden, retail for \$6,495. The website does reveal that the Galleri farm in Higgins consumes 13 kilowatt hours of electricity per day.

Since the micro-farm lights have remained nearly the entire time since the beginning of September, this means that over 800 kWh of electricity have been used to power the dying microgreens in Higgins. This is more electricity than the average American household uses in 3 weeks, according to the U.S Energy Information Administration.

Some students are frustrated with the failure of the micro-farm project to get off the ground, especially given its cost.

“Whatever work, labor and money has gone into

this thing could be better used in other places,” Oliver Briskin, an English major, said. “It seems like lip service to sustainability.”

“It’s a little ridiculous because the plants were clearly struggling, and they just put new plants in without changing anything as if that was going to yield different results,” says Lucy Bonat, a biology major.

Chase has a more upbeat perspective; “I think the farm is good,” he concluded. “Long-term it’s definitely a good investment because it’s so much cheaper to grow the produce yourself. But right now it’s not growing anything and it’s only good if they can grow the produce.”

Chase is separately in talks with Harvest

Table to sell them microgreens directly.

“Selling in the community where I started, going to a higher level in that community, would be really cool,” Chase said. “What could be better than a business that started at Clark selling to Clark?”

When reached for comment, Harvest Table reiterated their commitment to getting the micro farm working: “We are working with Babylon Farms directly for assistance in this matter and are dedicated to get our system working well, as it does across many of our locations,” they wrote.

Additionally, the dying greens were recently removed and the following sign was posted on the micro-farm:



Harvest Table’s sign announcing their working with Babylon Farms to fix the micro farm. Photo by Adin Petricoff.



What Does Trump's Re-election Mean for the Climate?

By Amelia Kulzer
Contributing Writer

After the news of Donald Trump's re-election, the fate of the climate is now a hot topic. Trump claims that climate change is a "hoax", despite National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) data stating that "at least 97% of active climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are most likely due to human activity". In The Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025", from which Trump is widely expected to adopt many principles, there is a continuance of environmentally harmful actions from Trump's first presidential term. This includes an increase in fossil fuel production.

Greenhouse gas emissions, which predominantly come from burning fossil fuels, trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, warming the planet. According to NASA, fossil fuel levels reached an all time high last year, with 36.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We have also witnessed record breaking temperatures this year, and we can only expect it to increase.

In 2017, Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. The legally binding treaty focuses on climate change mitigation, adaptation

and finance. Goals of the agreement include limiting the global average temperature increase to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and eventually down to a 1.5°C increase.

There must be an immediate reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions, meeting net-zero emissions by mid-century to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. Transitions to renewable energy across multiple sectors including transportation, industry, and electricity generation are also key action items. President Biden signed an agreement to re-enter the United States into the Paris Agreement back in 2020, but we can expect that Trump will once again withdraw the country from the treaty.

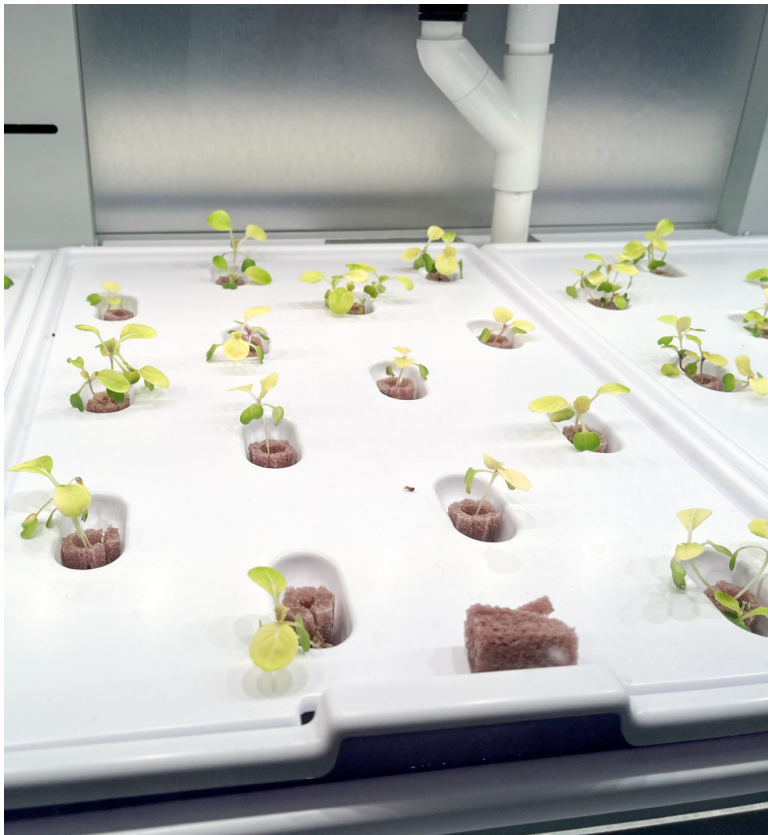
In Trump's first presidential term, he targeted air pollution prevention policies, totaling 28 rollbacks. He also struck 12 rules on drilling, advancing fossil fuel production in the country.

The Trump administration also rolled back on federal protections of streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act regulates waterways, and includes policies to prevent pollution from factories and sewage treatment plans. These rollbacks and weakened environmental

protections put citizens of the United States at risk of dealing with polluted water and air. A study done at Harvard predicted that Trump's environmental policy changes during his first term could potentially lead to an additional 80,000 deaths per decade.

During Trump's latest presidential campaign, he threatened to make even more radical changes in terms of climate acts. According to Carbon Brief, a climate science publisher, Trump's second presidency could result in an additional 4 billion tons of U.S. emissions by 2030. The United States is currently the second largest emitter of greenhouse gasses, responsible for a whopping 12.6% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. Under the Paris Agreement, there is a goal of 50-52% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030, but under Trump's administration we can expect only a 28% decrease. With Trump's pledge to "drill, baby, drill", there can be even more of a setback with limiting emissions.

Significant action against climate change needs to be made by 2030 in order to effectively mitigate the worst effects that could come from climate change. With Trump's second term starting in 2025, and a limited amount of time to make changes, the stakes are even higher than before.



A close-up of the microgreens growing. Photo by Adin Petricoff.



Harvest Table's microgreens farm. Photo by Adin Petricoff.

How a Housing Discrimination Exposé Launched Ronald Kessler's Career

By Morgan Parisse
Layout Editor

In 1963, Ronald Kessler was an editor of Clark University's student newspaper, The Scarlet.

One article inadvertently led to a 60-year career in journalism and becoming a New York Times best-selling author.

Kessler enrolled in Clark in 1962 and signed up for The Scarlet as quickly as possible.

He had worked on the Belmont High School Newspaper and wanted to continue journalism. He was co-news editor, then co-features editor, and then co-associate editor. During his time with The Scarlet, he delivered the copy to the printer once a week.

Kessler said, "I would take care of the printing process and bring the copy to the printer at midnight on my BMW motorcycle."

He did not always want to be a journalist. However, he changed his mind after investigating housing discrimination in the area surrounding Clark. The article "N-word Discrimination in Housing Found to be Common Near Clark" led to Kessler's subsequent career in journalism.

The Article

The seed for a story was planted after Kessler heard from a civil rights activist that landlords surrounding

Clark were not allowing people of color to rent properties. This sparked Kessler's interest, and he began investigating.

Kessler and a team of student investigators began calling landlords who were advertising apartments for rent. The team uncovered evidence of racial discrimination. Ten of the 26 landlords consulted refused to rent to people of color. In addition to these 10 cases, 11 other cases of discrimination in apartment rentals were brought to the attention of The Scarlet.

The editors of The Scarlet decided to remove Kessler and his co-news editor, Charles-Joseph Kovacs. They were fired "on the grounds that they lacked qualifications to become editors-in-chief in January," said an article clipping from The Telegram on October 15, 1963.

"I don't think these editors were prejudiced, but rather, they were jealous of the attention I was getting as the editor because I was doing a lot of crusade stories and stirring up things on campus. I think they just resented the attention I was getting. That's my guess, but I obviously don't know," Kessler said in a recent interview.

Eventually, The Worcester Telegram picked up Kessler's article, which appeared on page one in the city section of the paper, on Oct 5, 1963, leading



Photo of Ronald Kessler. Image courtesy of Ronald Kessler.

to an investigation by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

The local chapter of NAACP took notice, inviting Kessler to speak with them. Kessler said, "It was glorious to be able to uncover factual information that led to this investigation by the Massachusetts Commission against discrimination and the publicity which alerted people 'you better not discriminate or you could face consequences.'"

The Telegram wrote three articles relating to landlord discrimination in five weeks.

Many Letters to The Editor were written during this time about Kessler's article and the removal

from the editorial board.

"...How his writing could possibly have led the editorial board to vote for Mr. Kessler's expulsion is beyond my comprehension. If Scarlet's editors have a sense of responsibility to a society is beyond my comprehension. If Scarlet's editors have a sense of responsibility to a society that needs men who think and write like Ronald Kessler, it will restore him to their staff with an appropriate apology," said Robert W. Baker, the associate professor of psychology. Baker also compared Kessler's writing to a New York Times article. Baker also wrote,

Kessler still remembers the support of this professor

today. A month after being removed as editors, Kessler and Kovacs were reinstated as co-feature editors on Nov 7, 1963. The Telegram wrote a piece reporting that the editors were reinstated.

Reflecting on this early experience, Kessler said, "All of that was miraculous to me, to get results, and that's what I've been doing ever since."

His Career

The article's impact launched Kessler's career. His writing provided connections and introduced him to influential figures, including Joe Aboody, a Worcester restaurant owner.

Aboody introduced Kessler to a columnist at The Worcester Telegram,

and soon after, Kessler secured a part-time reporting job. After finishing his sophomore year in 1964, Kessler dropped out of Clark and went to a full-time position at The Telegram. He spent the next six months reporting in different counties around Worcester.

Kessler continued on to become an investigative reporter and editorial writer at the Boston Herald for three years. In 1968, he moved on to the Wall Street Journal as an investigative reporter based in the New York Bureau.

Two years later, in 1970, he began writing for the Washington Post for 15 years. In 1985, he left to write books. Kessler has written 21 books, seven of them New York Times bestsellers.

Kessler has investigated and written about sensitive topics, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Secret Service. He explained that reporting on the FBI and other high-profile organizations is challenging.

“Challenging, which is what I enjoy. I enjoy penetrating these organizations and institutions, which are so important, but at the same time, I go off course and engage in abuses,” he said. “If it’s too easy, I don’t want to do it.”

Kessler was the first person to write about how FBI profiling works. He explained that the FBI profilers appreciated his interest in what they do

and that he loved learning about it. When he wrote the article, he did not have an agenda when approaching them. He just told it the way it was.

Throughout his career, Kessler has adhered to one guiding principle: presenting new, impactful information.

“I hate duplicating other people’s work or boring people,” he said, emphasizing his passion for original reporting. Kessler also only writes if he will publish new information that will impact people. That has been his guiding principle since his article for The Scarlet in 1963.

Kessler’s passion for investigating and his commitment to presenting an honest story have helped him build a reputation for fair reporting on both sides of the political spectrum. His story on FBI profiling for The Washington Post was the first of its kind, and Kessler was careful not to push an agenda. He presented the facts as they were, earning respect within the agency for his approach.

Through each story he has written, Kessler has stayed true to his writing, investigating principles while uncovering impactful truths and presenting them with integrity.

As an editor for The Scarlet, he was “having a ball because what I was doing led directly to results or at least people being more enlightened. That’s what I love to do.”

For Kessler, it was not just about an article but about the start of his career.

In Major Win for the Political Establishment, Voters Reject Ranked Choice Voting

By Gabe Schmick
Opinions Editor

What was once a ballot measure that voters of both parties agreed upon was a good idea for the sake of American democracy and has now faced bipartisan opposition in the 2024 elections. Ranked choice voting is a system of voting in which candidates are ranked, with a ranking of one being your most preferred and four being your least preferred candidate. The movement for ranked choice voting gained its first victory in Maine in 2016.

Maine had a long history of third party candidates running for office, which culminated in the 2010 gubernatorial election in which 4 candidates received more than 5% of the vote, resulting in Paul LePage becoming governor with only 37% of the vote. This followed in 2014 when LePage won again without receiving over 50% of the vote which many Democrats argued was due to third party candidate Elliot Cutler being on the ballot and acting as a “spoiler candidate.”

The way that ranked choice voting is that if a candidate does not reach 50%, the tabulation would be moved to the second choice and so on. Activists have argued that

having ranked choice voting allows third party candidates to have a chance at winning, stops extremists from taking office, and stops “spoiler” candidates. In 2016, a new ballot measure that enacted ranked choice voting passed, giving the state a new way to conduct elections. In 2020 Alaska followed suit and enacted ranked choice voting through a ballot measure as well. Because of these developments, advocates of the initiative felt that they were poised for many more states to join, especially because it had been made a ballot measure in several states in the 2024 election.

Unfortunately for democracy, voters across the board rejected such ranked choice voting ballot measures. It was rejected in red states such as Idaho and Montana, blue states such as Colorado and Oregon, and purple states such as Arizona and Nevada. In addition, these measures were rejected usually by double digit margins, with some even reaching 60% “no.” Why this occurred is, to me, a mystery given previous surveys have indicated that Americans support ranked choice voting. Even more confusing is that many are tired of the two party system and want a viable third party option which could only



occur with ranked choice voting. Why Americans would reject such a measure will be studied for centuries. Americans love to complain about a two party system, yet they vote to keep it in place it; Americans claim the cost of living is too high, yet they vote against a minimum wage increase (see Massachusetts and California), and of course, Americans complain about politicians being in office too long yet vote for the same ones every time. Make no mistake, despite the buzz about Americans “hating the establishment,” they did everything in their power to further empower it. Go Establishment!

“13 Keys” Election Predicting System Fails for First Time in 40 Years

Gabe Schmick
Opinions Editors

Allan Lichtman, professor of American history at American University in Washington DC, has been widely regarded as one of the most accurate predictors of presidential election outcomes.

In 1984, Lichtman co-created a prediction system alongside Soviet geophysicist Vladamir Keilis Borok that could accurately predict the outcome of presidential elections based on historical data. The criteria is based on “13 keys,” or 13 different ways to win the White House.

If the candidate of the incumbent party has at least 8 of these keys to be considered true, they win, but if they are majority false, the opposing party wins. These include the incumbent party gaining seats, having no primary contest, the incumbent president seeking reelection, no major third party candidate, the economy not being in a recession, real per capita economic growth during the term equals or exceeding mean growth during the previous two terms, the incumbent makes a major policy change, there is no social unrest, there is no major scandal, there is no foreign/military failure, there is a foreign/military success, the incumbent party candidate is charismatic,

and the opposing party candidate is not charismatic.

For example, these are the keys that Barack Obama got when he ran in 2008, with blue being a key that favored Obama and red being a key that favored McCain:

Key 1: Midterm Gains	Blue
Key 2: No Primary Contest	Red
Key 3: Incumbent Seeking Re-election	Blue
Key 4: No Third Party	Red
Key 5: Strong Short-Term Economy	Blue
Key 6: Strong Long-Term Economy	Blue
Key 7: Major Policy Change	Blue
Key 8: No Social Unrest	Red
Key 9: No Scandal	Red
Key 10: No Foreign/Military Failure	Blue
Key 11: Major Foreign/Military Success	Blue
Key 12: Charismatic Incumbent	Red
Key 13: Uncharismatic Challenger	Blue

Lichtman has made these predictions in every presidential election since 1984 and has gotten each one correct. However, Lichtman said that Gore would win in 2000, and therefore, many people claim that he hasn't had all his predictions correct. But he still contends that the 2000 election was stolen and that the wrong person was inaugurated president. Lichtman was even a part of the independent investigation surrounding whether voters were disenfranchised in Florida. Most people shrugged this off; after all,

the election was so close and still contentious even today that many people still regarded Lichtman as a “Nostradamus.”

Lichtman gained national attention when he appeared on Fox News in September of 2016, saying that Trump would win. Many pundits found his claim preposterous, but they soon were proven wrong. This launched Lichtman into the spotlight, earning him a New York Times interview in 2020 to predict the Biden versus Trump election, where he correctly predicted that Joe Biden would win.

However, this year was a different story. Following the infamous June 2024 Presidential debate, Lichtman took to the media to urge the Democrats not to replace Biden because it would endanger his keys. Supposedly, the Biden Campaign and former chief of staff Ron Klain were aware of the keys system and were using it as an argument to stay in the race. This rumor is unconfirmed, however.

With Biden dropping out of the race, the incumbency key was lost. Lichtman feared the loss of another key, the primary key, and that the Democrats would hold a “mini primary” as proposed by former House Democratic whip Jim Clyburn. Fortunately, the Democrats united behind Harris as the nominee and saved this key. With Harris

as the nominee, Allan made the following prediction after the convention:

Harris Wins! T: 9 | F: 4

Key 1: Midterm Gains	Red
Key 2: No Primary Contest	Blue
Key 3: Incumbent Seeking Re-election	Red
Key 4: No Third Party	Blue
Key 5: Strong Short-Term Economy	Blue
Key 6: Strong Long-Term Economy	Blue
Key 7: Major Policy Change	Blue
Key 8: No Social Unrest	Blue
Key 9: No Scandal	Blue
Key 10: No Foreign/Military Failure	Red
Key 11: Major Foreign/Military Success	Blue
Key 12: Charismatic Incumbent	Red
Key 13: Uncharismatic Challenger	Blue

Lichtman took to the media to announce his prediction of a Harris victory. Each time he came on he would be asked if he stood by his prediction, to which he always said yes. On the day before the election, Allan reiterated his prediction, claiming “the keys will prevail.”

Lichtman live streamed his reaction to the election, confident in his system, but as the results came in, he slowly realized that he would be wrong. In the election postmortem, Lichtman explained that there were many unprecedented factors in this election that caused it to be false, such as widespread

misinformation, the late and unexpected ousting of Biden, and misogyny.

Though some onlookers believed the model to still be right, Lichtman merely interpreted them wrongly. Jokingly dubbed “the great key schism,” some online have argued that some keys actually should have been given to Trump but were instead given to Harris. One example is the economy key as although it wasn't true, many people believed the U.S. was in a recession, which may have affected the keys involving the economy.

Others have argued that Lichtman is biased against Republicans, given that he is a Democrat, and he even unsuccessfully ran in the Democratic primary for Maryland Senate in 2006. Some say this has led him to falsely say that Trump doesn't get the charisma because Lichtman himself doesn't find him charismatic, yet Trump has broad support amongst independents according to exit polls.

Whatever the reason for the keys' failure, Professor Lichtman has said that he will reevaluate the keys in order to figure out if he was wrong in interpreting the keys or if the model is broken altogether.

How to End Trumpism Forever

By **Marcus Pulumbo**
Scarlet Staff

After the heartbreaking results of the presidential election, there has been no shortage of definitively-stated takes about what went wrong and how the Democrats need to change going forward. At first, I was hesitant to add my voice into the fray, but after seeing some particularly egregious takes, such as Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton's suggestion that Democrats would win if they stopped talking about trans people so much, I began to feel the need to set the record straight on what is actually needed for Democrats to win and Trumpism to be defeated. You might understandably question how writing this in the student newspaper of an already liberal college will help change anything, but, I believe it matters a great deal. As presumptuous as it sounds, we are the future of the Democratic Party. Many of us will go on to have some role in decision making on the left, whether through non-profits, advocacy groups, or elected office. That is why I view it as extremely important that we all collectively have a clear understanding of the path forward.

First, let's start with a positive aspect of this election. Voters across the country, in both red

states and blue states, voted to pass ballot measures that enacted progressive policy goals.

And yet, Democrats still lost in all those red states. Why?

It clearly cannot be that these voters just do not support progressive ideas. The success of the ballot measures provides evidence against that.

The reason is that voters across the country did not believe Harris was going to fix the very real economic problems they faced.

You may wonder, how is that possible? Trump's policies are so obviously terrible for the working class! I understand; I feel the same way. But for a moment, take yourself out of our Massachusetts liberal arts college bubble. Pretend you've forgotten all about the events of Jan 6th and all the unhingedness of the previous Trump Administration. Now, listen to Trump as he speaks about the elites in Washington not caring about you and your working class community. Listen to him talk about free trade agreements that shipped jobs overseas, destroying the livelihoods of entire towns. Listen to him talk about how prices have gotten too high for basic goods. Can you see how someone might feel like he really sees the problems you face and has your back?

In order to have won, Harris and the Democrats

needed to address those problems head on and take economic policy positions that would dramatically help working class people. You might say "but Biden and Harris already did this?" To some extent, that's true. Biden enacted policies that made things better for working people. However, as much as I hate to say it, in politics, it matters not just what you do but how you talk about what you do. In other words, rhetoric matters. Compare hearing a politician say, "The CHIPS and Science Act is bringing back good paying American jobs by forging positive incentives for companies to construct manufacturing plants" versus hearing a politician say, "the elites are shipping away your jobs and robbing you of your livelihood. I will take on the elites and bring your jobs back". One of the reasons populism works is because, when people are suffering, they want someone to blame. Trump has turned that blame towards a vague depiction of elites, as well as towards immigrants and minorities. To counteract this, we Democrats need to have an entity to blame. Of course, we should absolutely NOT be like Trump, who used minorities and immigrants as scapegoats to blame. That's cruel and evil. Instead, we should forcefully blame the group that deserves the blame: the corporations



and billionaires who lobby to keep wages low and prices high and pocket more money and more money for themselves. Besides being the group responsible for harming the working class, forcefully blaming and calling out these groups with antagonism will give our message the kind of populist zeal it needs to resonate with people who have become disillusioned with the system.

Throughout history, the ones in power have sought to divide the population against themselves through any means possible. By creating artificial divisions, those in power keep the lower classes fighting amongst themselves instead of banding together as one class to fight the universal exploitation they all face at the hands of the elites. This is precisely what Trump and the Republicans have done. They get people worked up over race, abortion, and immigration so that we fight each other instead of realizing that the CEOs and billionaires who essentially run the Republican party are exploiting us all. Now, this does not mean that we, as

Democrats, should abandon these fights, but when we talk to Republicans, it is important to provide this framing. After all, if you take away the main reasons Republicans have been taught to hate those groups, all that hate and anger can be directed where it is deserved: at the corporate class.

To get people to vote for Democrats, we need to show them that we believe in and will fight for pro-working class positions they likely already agree with. We need to show them that we're on their side. But we need to prove it, too. Changing rhetoric is essential, but once in power again, Democrats must enact big changes to our economy to make working people's lives better. If we do that, we can eliminate the widespread discontent that acts as kindling to fuel right wing populism. That is how we defeat Trump himself and whoever attempts to succeed him as king of Trumpism. While Trump will eventually go away, the disillusionment that fuels him won't go away on its own. It is up to us to fix it.

Clark Women's Basketball Routs Fitchburg State in 65-Point Blowout Win

By Casey Campellone
Contributing Writer

The scarlet and white Cougars hosted the Fitchburg State Falcons in a non-conference matchup on Wednesday, Nov. 13. Over 100 people were in the stands for this “White-Out” game, which the Cougars won in convincing fashion with a final score of 94-29.

Almost every player on the team scored a goal in this game. Graduate forward Alaina Schatzbel especially stood out, scoring 13 points, nine rebounds, three steals, and two blocks. In addition, sophomore Kailey Rios and freshman Cyriah Coleman both scored 15 points to lead their team to a blowout victory.

The story behind the resounding win lies in the great defense by the Cougars, holding the Falcons to a shocking 16.4 percent on field goals. For anyone not looking at the box score, that means Fitchburg State made only 11 of their 67 shot attempts. The Cougars were able to make the Falcons turn the ball over 33 times, nearly double the turnovers the Cougars had. Good defense also leads to good offense, with 42 of Clark's points coming off a turnover, and 25 off of the fast break.

Head Coach Bridgette Reyes shares “Last night's win wasn't about the scoreboard- it showed what we're capable of as a team. It's a stepping stone,

but more importantly, it's a reminder that we are building habits for the rest of the season. Now we continue the momentum and take the next step forward together.”

Coming off tournament victories against Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Anna Maria College in the Worcester City Championship, claiming the title of Worcester City Champions, the Cougars are at a 3-0 start to the season. The Cougars are having a great start to their winter, and as Coach Reyes said, hope to keep the momentum going.

Roll Cougs!



Alyssa Bordonaro commanding the offense.
Photo by Morgan Parisse



Emma Drefs dribbling toward the hoop.
Photo by Morgan Parisse



Emma Drefs about to shoot a layup.
Photo by Leo Kerz



Emma Drefs.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Alaina Schatzabel.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Catherine Antwi
Photo by Leo Kerz.



Emma Drefs.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Jacqueline Faulise.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Alaina Schabtzabel.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Catherine Antwi.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Bella Galatt.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Cyriah Coleman.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Elyse Cho.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Ashley Leighton.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Emma Drefs.
Photo by Morgan Parisse.

Why The Democrats Lost, and How They Can Win

What the Democratic Party Must Learn From 2024

By Zachary Rutherford
Contributing Writer

Given Kamala Harris and the Democratic Party's loss of both the popular vote and the electoral college, their failed strategy must be placed, studied, and corrected within the context of similar elections in similar countries this year.

Global Context

Across the world's most affluent democracies, 2024 has been a year of "change" elections—those in which the party in power is unseated. This change has occurred regardless of the ruling parties' ideology or place within the political spectrum of their countries. Conservatives have been unseated in The United Kingdom and Japan, moderates and the center-right in France and Austria, and now moderates and the center-left in the US. The victors, in most cases, have been populists, often right-wing. Their messages are familiar: "the system" is not working for most people, the promise of financial security for hard work is hollow (for you), societal benefits owed to working people are being given to undeserving others (like immigrants), the elites are out to get you (and aren't very bright), and fundamental changes are needed.

They are largely correct. "The system" is not working for most people. The promise is broken, but not because of immigrants. While each nation's change has been caused by country-specific systemic issues, post-COVID economic shocks, especially inflation, are near-universal factors. In many cases, inflation made the cost of living untenable months before it caught people's wages up. Even in the best case, the "typical psychology" of incumbents: wage increases are thought to reflect hard work and talent, while price increases are thought to be the government's fault.

The Harris Campaign

In the US, post-COVID inflation was blamed on the Biden administration in exactly this way, despite the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, which helped to secure a soft, non-recessionary landing. But Americans still felt (and indeed were) financially insecure, and while the Harris campaign did emphasize her working-class upbringing (Trump's a billionaire, she worked at McDonald's) this was undermined by her refusal to distance herself from Biden, who voters blamed for inflation. Harris eventually chose to abandon such messaging, allegedly at the behest of her brother-in-law, Uber's chief legal officer.

Fundamentally, in the face of a status quo unfavorable to a majority of Americans, the Trump campaign ran against that status quo, while the Harris campaign ran against Trump. The fact that the Harris campaign started so late could have been a benefit if it had noticed the global anti-establishment headwinds and made a populist pivot to capitalize on them.

Crime may have been the same story, which a supermajority of Americans consider an increasing concern, both in their communities and nationally. This has shaky grounding: while rates of some crimes did rise under Biden, others fell. One explanation is that homelessness reached record-highs in this time period, which Americans may associate with local crime. Homelessness rates are generally highest in the bluest states and cities due to rent control, zoning, and environmental protection laws that dissuade affordable housing construction. Insufficient housing supply raises home and rental prices, increasing homelessness, and gradually forcing Americans to move out of blue states and into more affordable red ones. That Americans in this situation, or soon to be in, may resent the Democratic Party as a result should be no surprise.

This economic

explanation does not ignore the tremendous growth of non-white support for Trump—it explains it. Before the 2016 election, Chuck Schumer explained what might be called the Democratic Party's strategy since Bill Clinton. "For every blue-collar Democrat we lose in Western Pennsylvania," he claimed, "we will pick up two moderate Republicans in the suburbs in Philadelphia, and you can repeat that in Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin." That is—faced with an inflection point between progressive, working-class populism and moderate, highly-educated establishment politics, the Democratic Party chose the latter—exactly the opposite of what Bernie Sanders had run on. Sanders's approach, it should be noted, was most successful with nearly every demographic that shifted right this year, especially Hispanic Americans. The truth the Democratic elite have denied is that while racial issues are of critical importance, they do not, in national politics at least, truly supersede class. Black and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately working class—there is no way to sideline the White working class without sidelining the majority of Black and Hispanic Americans, too.

This is not to deny that racism and sexism among many White Americans

could be a factor behind many votes against Harris, but overall, White Americans were the only racial group to vote for Harris in higher margins than for Biden, driven by a wealthy, college-educated wing—in many cases the left-wing children of Schumer's suburbanites.

Last, evidence that Harris went "too far left" or "too far right" is as of yet as contradictory as it is scant. There is at least as much evidence to suggest that her campaign was perceived as "too far left" on Transgender athletes and DEI by Democrat-Republican swing voters as there is to suggest that it was perceived as "too far right" on Gaza and labor by Green/etc.—Democrat swing voters. While many have criticized the Harris campaign's decision to show off support from the Cheney family, any negative impact from doing so (outside of majority-Arab-American cities) seems likelier to stem from the Cheneys being seen as "the establishment" than from being seen as Republicans. There is, after all, a long history of campaigns reaching across the aisle for endorsements, and the Democrat-Republican swing voter population is far larger than its Green/etc.—Democrat counterpart.

Dear Clark, Why Didn't We Have Veterans Day Off?

By Gabe Schmick
Opinions Editor

November 11 was Veterans Day, a federal holiday in which we remember those who have served in America's armed forces. Originally, Veterans Day was called Armistice Day, as the day is also the anniversary of the armistice of the First World War. However, this was changed in 1954, and the name change was signed into law by President Eisenhower. This day may not be important for some, but this day always reminds me of a quote from the Kurt Vonnegut novel *Breakfast of Champions*:

"I will come to a time in my backwards trip when November eleventh, accidentally my birthday, was a sacred day called Armistice Day. When I was a boy, and when Dwayne Hoover was a boy, all the people of all the nations which had fought in the First World War were silent during the eleventh minute of the eleventh hour of Armistice Day, which was the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

It was during that minute in nineteen hundred and eighteen, that millions upon millions of human beings stopped butchering one another. I have talked to old men who were on battlefields during that minute. They have told



The American Flag waving in the wind. Image courtesy of Defense Visual Information Distribution Service.

me in one way or another that the sudden silence was the Voice of God. So we still have among us some men who can remember when God spoke clearly to mankind.

Armistice Day has become Veterans' Day. Armistice Day was sacred. Veterans' Day is not."

This day is a significant day in history, a day in which people that had been forcibly conscripted by unelected monarchs lay down their weapons and stopped fighting a war, the cause of which most high schoolers today don't even know the cause of. The day is a remembrance of how we as humans forever have strived to one day be at a time when we can truly say that the end of a conflict will be the "War to End all Wars" that's what we thought when The

Armistice was signed and why so many soldiers and civilians alike celebrated the end of what had been the most nightmarish conflict the world had ever seen.

On the other hand, why on Earth did Clark not cancel classes? This day is a federal holiday, and most working people in this country take this day off. In addition, I am pretty sure everyone who goes to a liberal arts college in Massachusetts could use a three day weekend, given the "events" this country has had recently. The ice cream man coming to campus was great but that's small potatoes compared to a day off especially given the magnitude of the situation affecting aspiring intellectuals at liberal arts colleges in the Northeast.

Family Weekend

By Matthew Williams
Contributing Writer

Clark University Family Weekend is a time of celebration for the students and their families, friends, and loved ones. Every year, there are many activities for families to attend together. This year, Clark made sure to go all out. As a student in their senior year who attends with their family every year, I wanted to cover why Family Weekend was a must go for Clarkie Families. I thought it was important to tell all Clark had to offer this weekend. The Clark family weekend had many activities, including painting pumpkins, making pandas with bamboo trees, a clothing maker that created Clark themed designer, caricatures, fun family games, a red cougar megaphone filled with popcorn, a photo booth, family bingo and time with the mascot, Jonas the Cougar!

My personal highlights were the clothing designer and the caricature artist that my family and I enjoyed

having a conversation with. The clothing designer is a Worcester resident named Qlynton, who runs the Waveznewage clothing brand and had the chance to work with Clark to give the community his designs. The designs were creative and showcased Clark to those who enjoy being fashionable. The caricature artist was the daughter of the artist from past years. She came to family weekend to carry the family tradition of making portraits for the families who came for the weekend. This is what makes this weekend so special is the thought and care Clark does to make memories for families no matter what year their student is in.

I thank Clark for always having high standards for events such as family weekend. It was a pleasure to go there once again to showcase the type of events and fun they create for me, my family, and many others. I recommend going to this event and many others for the best Clark experience.



AI Sucks Water, Electricity, Energy, and in General: Generative AI's Massive Environmental Impact

By **Effie Hossfeld**
Scarlet Staff

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a hot topic, and honestly, I am tired of people discussing it. I'm tired of AI in my google and Instagram searches. I am tired of Character AI. I am tired of Deepfakes. I am tired of accidentally pressing a button on my keyboard that pulls up the most hideous chatbot that is Microsoft Copilot. If I could go my whole life without hearing the term "Generative Artificial Intelligence" ever again, I could die happy.

Of course, the common ethical gripes most AI critics highlight are how it steals from artists and sucks the soul out of human creation, enables CEOs to fire mass amounts of people, and panics college professors and high school teachers into trying their best to curb the rampant cheating within academia.

However, I am interested in the massive negative environmental impact of AI.

According to a study done by Alex De Vries in *Joule*, a monthly peer-reviewed journal, ChatGPT-3's training phase required 1,287 Megawatt hours which is more energy than what Japan, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia used in 2023 combined.

ChatGPT-3 is the

third edition to OpenAI's Language Learning Model (LLM). A single ChatGPT query and Google AI search both use 3-watt hours of energy per response, which is ten times more than what a Google search would use without AI.

In 2023, there was an average of eight billion Google searches per day, or 98,379 per second, according to data from Statista. Which means Google AI search results could use as much as 295,138 watt-hours per second, which is enough to power the average Massachusetts house for 15 days.

So, we know that AI uses a significant amount of energy, but what does that mean for the environment? As stated by Towards Data Science, ChatGPT has a daily carbon emission of 414 kilograms of carbon dioxide or equivalent. That is enough to drive 1,059 miles in an average car. Yearly, that would be 151,110 kilograms of CO², or enough to power 19 average American homes.

All this energy generates massive amounts of heat, meaning they need some way to cool it down; data centers use cold water and outside air assistance to do so.

To cool data centers down, AI needs two types of water usage:



A server room. Licensed for use by Creative Commons.

water consumption and water withdrawal. Water consumption means that once the water is used, it evaporates into the environment or becomes unusable. Withdrawal means the amount of water that is withdrawn from a freshwater source.

Since the training phase for a generative AI program uses an extreme amount of energy, the phase also needs an extreme amount of water to cool the data center down. According to Professor Shaolei Ren at University of California, the training phase for a large language learning model like ChatGPT "can consume millions of liters of fresh water". To put that in perspective, one million liters of fresh

water can fill 400 Olympic size swimming pools.

Shaolei Ren has also estimated that an average conversation with ChatGPT-3 or around 10-50 responses can consume up to a half liter or a standard plastic water bottle's worth of freshwater.

Google's yearly report has said that their water usage has risen by 20 percent from 2021 to 2022 and that 15 percent came from areas with "high water stress". While Microsoft's report said water usage has risen by 34 percent in the same period. It also said that 42 percent of the water came from places with "high water scarcity".

However, scholars and activists have been criticizing the lack of

transparency that companies such as Google and OpenAI have on exactly how much water and energy their data centers consume. Most of the current information comes from estimations and comparisons to similar technologies.

So, before you ask ChatGPT a question about your homework, to write an essay for you, or a question you could simply Google, I want you to think about the impact that search could have on the environment.

Because currently, no one knows for certain the exact impact that those searches could have. I do not think using an unknown amount of electricity and water is worth it to know a robot's opinion on that paper you have to write.

The Best Album You (Probably) Didn't Hear This Year: The Lemon Twigs' *A Dream is All We Know*

By Allison Rinehart
Scarlet Staff

With the plethora of excellent albums coming out in just the last couple months, the hunt to be named “Album of the Year” is on. But, what if we already got it on May 3? Enter The Lemon Twigs’ 5th album “A Dream Is All We Know.”

The Lemon Twigs are brothers Brian and Michael D’Addario, hailing from Hicksville, New York. In the recording studio, Brian and Michael are the sole songwriters, arrangers, producers, and mixers. They also play every instrument on their recordings.

The Lemon Twigs released their first album in 2016, “Do Hollywood,” while they were both in their teens, and in the past eight years they’ve released five albums. Each of their works take from different genres and inspirations (their second, “Go to School,” is a full-length rock opera.) This newest record is part of a particularly prolific period for the boys, releasing this album about a year after their last, 2023’s also-excellent “Everything Harmony.”

But, let’s get to the music: their work is best described as melodic pop-rock, with influences from 60s and 70s acts like The



The Lemon Twigs' records and posters sprawled across the floor. Photo by Allison Rinehart.

Beatles, Beach Boys, and more obscure bands like The Left Banke. This is not to say their music is derivative: the energetic, artfully composed music on this record stands on its own as great and innovative work.

Opening with the sunny, optimistic track “My Golden Years,” Michael takes the mic to sing about making every minute count during the golden age of his life. I am in love with the extended outro on this one, with stellar harmonies and detailed drum patterns. This song was also my first introduction to the band, which I found shortly after it was released as a single on January 2.

Also in the tracklist is the gorgeous “In the Eyes of the Girl.” Having a more 50s vibe, it’s a perfect

slow-dance song about the narrator finding redemption and new belief in life after meeting his loved one.

There is also the wistful, melancholy “I Should’ve Known Right From the Start,” and the jangle-pop celebration “Church Bells.” But my favorite track on the album is the (almost) title cut, “A Dream is All I Know.” This one is all about trying to find meaning for your life through your dreams and aspirations, and how it is “all I have got to show for my being here.” With a memorable chorus, multiple unexpected turns, and thoughtful lyrics, this song is the best representative of the Twigs’ vision for this record.

Closing with the glam rock sendoff “Rock On (Over and Over)” the band

bemoans that “it took too long to say...rock on.” And off they go, after 12 tracks clocking in at 34 minutes, none overstaying their welcome but always keeping you guessing.

I had the privilege of seeing The Lemon Twigs live this year, from the front row. They sound not just as good, but better than they do on the recording. Their talented touring band, which includes bassist Danny Ayala and drummer Reza Matin, set a high standard for live playing. At one point they did a musical carousel where everyone changed instruments, and each member sounded just as proficient on their new one. They also have premiered a few new songs on their current tour, so let’s hope the wait is not too

long for the next album.

In conclusion: “A Dream is All We Know’s” dedication to musicianship, while exploring fun and innovative song ideas, is why it is my album of the year. The Lemon Twigs are on a creative winning streak, and they’re only getting better. I have no idea what they are going to do next, and that’s the most exciting part of it.



At the Iron Horse in Northampton, Mass. Photo by Allison Rinehart.

The Eras Tour: A Retrospective

By Morgan Parisse
Layout Editor

LONDON, ENGLAND—Swifties and 92,000 of their closest friends crowded Wembley Stadium for a magical night of music on August 17, 2024. Fans gathered to watch Taylor Swift take the stage for her 138th show of the Eras Tour.

The Eras Tour is not just a concert. It fully celebrates Swift's career, spanning her evolution as an artist over nearly two decades. The show lasts three and a half hours and features a set list of 43 songs and two surprise songs.

The atmosphere was electric from the moment the two-minute and 30-second countdown clock appeared. To set the scene before Swift emerges on stage, she uses the big screen to make a house with all the eras, audio clips from different songs, and sayings from albums.

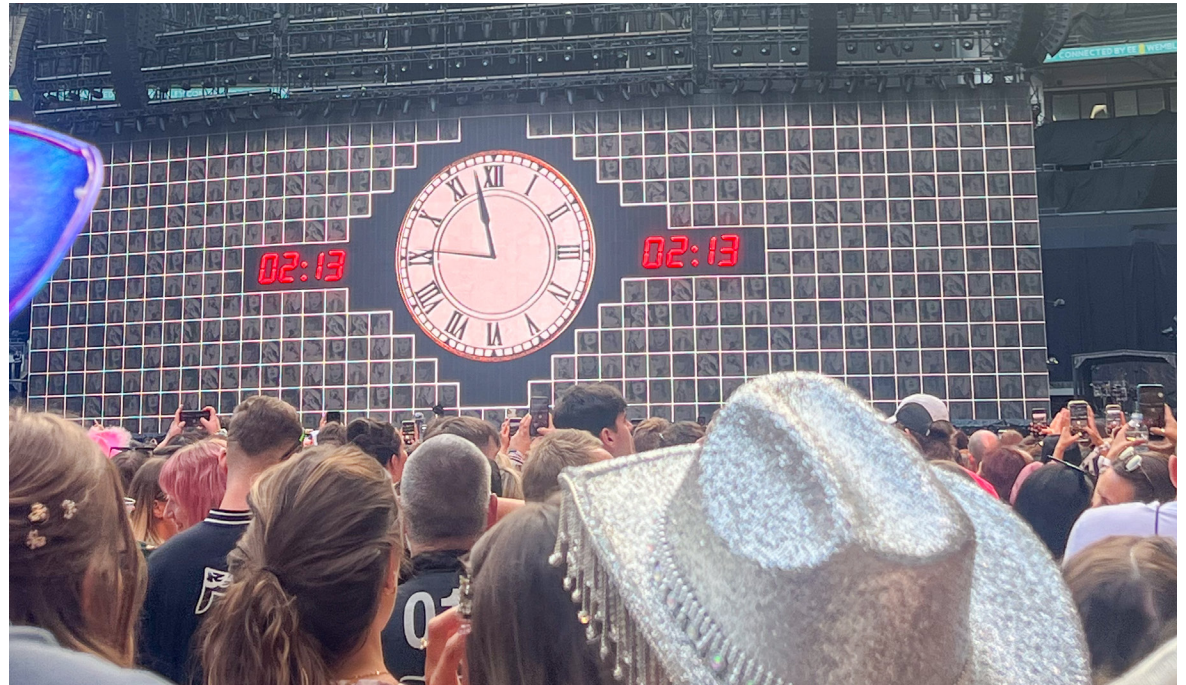
Swift kicked off the concert with a bang, performing hits from "Lover" like "Cruel Summer" before seamlessly transitioning into the nostalgia-fueled "Fearless" era, with fan favorites like "Love Story" and "You Belong With Me." Each section felt like a self-contained experience, as Swift deftly moved between "Folklore's" acoustic heartbreak and "1989's" shimmering pop anthems, ensuring there

was never an energy lull.

Swift has many little moments in the show that make the experience better. During a bridge in "Fearless," Swift and the crowd held their hands in the shape of a heart. In the Red era, she has a couple of traditions. During the song "22", she places the 22 hat on a selected fan's head; for this show, the chosen fan, a young girl, looked shocked that it was happening to her.

During the song "We Are Never Getting Back Together," a backup dancer, Kameron Saunders, says, "Nah, bruv." Saunders says this line at every performance but changes it depending on where the show occurs. When performing in a country where English is not the primary language, he makes an effort to say the line in the local language.

Every show, Swift plays two surprise songs, one on the guitar and one on the piano, between "The Tortured Poets Department" and "Midnights." For this show, the first surprise song caused a lot of excitement through the crowd. Before she began singing, she said to the crowd, "So I'm going to do a song I've never done on the tour that's one of my favorite songs ever just because you're that awesome and you deserve something of this caliber." She sang "I Did Something Bad" for the first time on the tour.



The countdown clock to showtime. Photo by Morgan Parisse.

The flow between eras was impressive, with dramatic costume changes on and off stage and visuals marking each transition, enhancing the storytelling and captivating fans for the entire show.

The stage design and production were nothing short of spectacular. Lighting and color schemes played a crucial role, with each era having its distinct palette, such as the golden hues for "Fearless" and moody purples for "Midnights." The massive stage featured towering LED screens that changed to reflect the mood of each album, from the dreamlike forests of "Folklore," which is Folklore, and "Evermore" combined into one to the vibrant, neon cityscapes of 1989.

Swift's outfit changes were seamless, aligning

with each musical transformation. The changes on stage were rapid and well done; most of the time, you did not realize it occurred until she appeared in a new outfit. She had 16 costume changes throughout the whole show.

The choreography was equally impressive. The backup dancers were highly talented and looked like they were having fun, which added to the overall atmosphere of the concert. As for Swift herself, her moves were minimal and enhanced by her backup dancers.

Props and set pieces, like the cabin from "Folklore" and the snake from "Reputation," added layers of storytelling to the performance. One of the most innovative aspects was the interactive wristbands given to the audience,

which lit up in sync with the music. This turned the entire stadium into a sparkling sea of color and made the audience feel like a part of the show. The attention to detail elevated the production, transforming the concert into an immersive theatrical experience.

The audience interaction was terrific, with fans' energy driving much of the concert's magic. When you enter the stadium, the crowd is excited, and the atmosphere is friendly. Everyone is excited to be there and be a part of it. Fans sang along to every word, creating powerful, stadium-wide harmonies during songs. Some songs had high-energy beats, while others were slower and more emotional. Fans also traded friendship bracelets before the show; some even traded with the police.

Swift was highly engaged, frequently pausing between songs to address the audience with heartfelt speeches or quick things to introduce a song. She would look out into the audience during songs, wave to the front row, and connect with others. Near the beginning of the concert, she complimented people's outfits. Swift's warmth and personal engagement made the crowd feel seen and appreciated, amplifying the sense of community and emotional connection.

Swift's effort during the concert is visible through her singing. Her voice soared effortlessly through every era, adapting to the emotional tone of each song. Swift demonstrated impressive control and range by delivering the delicate falsettos of "Folklore"'s "Cardigan" or the bold, full-bodied vocals

in "Red"'s "All Too Well (10-Minute Version)."

The transitions between eras were smooth and often included clever reinterpretations of old songs that fit their new contexts, ensuring each performance felt fresh and emotionally resonant. Swift's ability to shift seamlessly between tender ballads and high-energy anthems demonstrated how hard she worked during the show.

The Eras Tour was an unforgettable experience for me. By the end of the show, it was clear that it was not just a concert. It was a shared experience of nostalgia, empowerment, and joy. The crowd's energy and Swift's genuine connection with her audience made it personal and unique, even in a massive stadium of 92,000.



Swift performs on her blue acoustic guitar on the LED display. Photo by Morgan Parisse.



Taylor Swift and her backup dancers performing on the LED display. Photo by Morgan Parisse.



The crowd cheers and dances to the music. Photo by Morgan Parisse.

The Book of Bill:

The Eternal Mystery of the Cosmic Dorito gets told in this tell-all tall tale!

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Scarlet Staff

This summer began on a very normal day. I took some time off from daydreaming about how best to capitulate the governments of the World and castigating the various denizens of this planet into a hEllish maw of eternal torment in order to catch up on summer reading. There I was, delving deep into the neonic wonderworld of my favorite light fantasy, “DReam-Desert Unicorn Detective,” when a strange, oDd, and utterly perplexing vortex of uniMagainable weirdness descending from the void in my ceiling And enveloped my room. There, the pixie-perfect tome which I had been artificially Grasping at transformed into the chEery little page-turner that this article is all about. I spent the rest of that Day figuring out Different ways of posturing myself to whichever hOly entity which had gifted this universal piece of knowledge to me. Before the late-night reading journey I found myself embarking very early the next day (I find that all the cheeriest miNd journeys happen around 3:33 am).

Inside the front jacket, I found a most certainly apocryphal account of the publishing of the book. Reportedly published on July 23rd, 2024, a date which seems incorrect due to its coinciding with National Peanut Butter and Chocolate Day, the book also seems to carry a marketing tie-in to a strange brand called Gravity Falls- falls- fals- fal- faaaa...

in to a strange brand called Gravity Falls- falls- fals- fal- faaaa...

When Gravity Falls and the Earth Becomes Sky,

Fear the Beast with just One Eye.

Whoa, I don't know what got ahold of me there. Anyways, so yeah, this “Gravity Falls” seems to be some sort of imprint for this book “series”. Curious. And there was this strange man, thin like a stack of floating wild dolphins. His red beard, strange smile. It must be the alibi for the author, especially with such a silly name like Alex Hirsch. Very odd. No, not that author. We don't like him.

But these are just the “facts”. Facts only seem to matter a lot to you squishy little humans... Er, I mean us soft, fun, humans. Anyway, I was starting to read the book when I came across a lot of words. Now, I don't usually consider words to be bad, since you're reading them right now and they can conjure up all sorts of spells and stuff. But these words were strangely not much like the words I had come to expect from my... benefactor. It's only when I turned the pages when I noticed that he had made the book into a copy of The Great Gatsby. No chaos of any but the economic kind. Yes, I know the blue billboard is a metaphor. Tell me something I don't know. Then, the pages opened up. That vortex of wisdom spewed from the pyramidal eye of my benefactor, gifting me with more than enough wisdom than I would ever want to know about the guy/thing/demon. His hometown, for example, which was really more of a dimension. Don't ask about what happened to the place, unless you want to spend the rest of eternity having been forced to listen to that one kids song from that one kids channel (you know the one). There's other stuff, too. Victorian secret societies, eye doctors, Time Baby, and hcnYL divaD all appear to wreak their havoc. It's truly a mesmerizing read, and a whole lotta fun to boot.



the makers of Cosmic Dread, Teen Angst, and the IRS, comes The Book of Bill, the latest work from the startling life of Alex Hirsch, Billiam Syfur.



And, honestly, I really just wanted to sing the praises of my benefactor more and more. He's a really smart demon. He graduated top (and only) of his class, highest honors at Möbius University in the Dimensional Plane. Whatta champ! He discovered how to talk to crocodiles, wrote a thesis on the dimensional-hopping capabilities of snails (or rather just one snail, but we don't talk about him, either.) There was that time he cursed a gnome to only say his own name, but accidentally spread the curse to the gnome's entire family line (oopsie). He sang his way into our hearts long before he retroactively won every single season of *American Idol*, and his dancing too is way too cool and is actually cringe-proof in such a way most political figures could only dream off. Our benefactor, our lord and savior who I discovered in the nightmare realm and first read in this book, is truly the lord of all creation. He lives in dreams and rules our night. He dreams our days and lives to fright. We are him and he is us. If you read this page open your eyes.



BAD BOOK...

It is a

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Hello. Can you hear me?!

Can you hear us?!

Help! H-HELP!!! I-I've been stuck inside this b-book for over a year. He- He won't stop t-tormenting me. I've seen too much. I've BEEN too much. Get the Axolotl, only it can help us. Not him. NEVER him. He can't be trusted. YOU can't be t-trusted. Nobody can. He gets inside you, man. You can't let him in. Never... Never shake his... ughhhh... never shake his hand. It's the end. It isn't even a bad book...

It's the end. It isn't even a bad book...

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It seems nobody is safe from the wrath of Bill Cipher, even from his grave. I should have warned you, dear reader, before it was too late to possibly delve any deeper into this accursed review. Though I have already defeated this demon once, no doubt he is gathering strength to make his comeback to this realm. I urge you, forget whatever you have read in this review, at once. If I still had my memory gun, I would come track you down, do the task myself. But alas, fate is a fickle thing (I met her once at an interstellar milk bar, never want to do that again). Whatever you do, do not tempt the mind of this demon. Destroy this review, and anyone who talks about it. Only then might you be safe from the evil that might torment you. Good Luck.



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Cougars Eliminated from NEWMAC Volleyball Tournament in Quarterfinal Game

After winning the first set the Cougars were unable to rally against Babson, losing the semifinal game in four sets.

By Morgan Martin
Sports Editor

Bleachers were packed in the Hurst Courts on Nov. 11 as No.4 Clark hosted No.5 for the NEWMAC volleyball Quarterfinals. Being the first time since 2016 that the Cougars have hosted a NEWMAC volleyball Tournament, Clarkies made sure to show support for the team as they battled for a chance at a title win. However, Clarkies were met with dismay as the Cougars fell short, losing the Tournament in four sets.

Clark began the Tournament strong, defeating Babson in the first set 23-25. Babson scored the first two points of the match, leaving Clark at a deficit of 2-0. The Cougars quickly recovered, returning the deficit as they painted the scoreboard 3-5 from points scored by senior Camille Sterling, graduate student Victoria Pastor, junior Yumeng Liu and senior Emily Newman. Newman continued putting pressure against the Beavers as she executed a stunning serve, granting a service ace against Babson providing the team a 4-8 lead. This was shortly followed by a kill from graduate student Victoria Pastor assisted



Emily Newman and Winifred Gakidis high-fiving after a point against Babson.

by Newman making the score 6-9. The teams kept a steady pace against each other, with Clark averaging about 2 points ahead through the later half of the first set. Tensions were high leading up to the game point, as Babson and Clark had tied 23-23. The Beavers were ultimately unable to surpass this score however, as a kill by Pastor followed by a service

ace from Liu led Clark to victory in the first set.

The Cougars were unable to continue this successful pattern as Babson took the second set 25-17. Quickly falling short, Clark found themselves trailing behind the Beavers as Isabella Allen executed a kill from Zoe Ackerman forcing the Cougars into a four point deficit of 8-4. Clark was able to cut the

deficit in half with a kill by graduate student Sofia Scherrer del Llano, marking the scoreboard 12-10. The Beavers denied Clark from improving their position, scoring an additional three points against the Cougars. Scherrer del Llano provided Clark with their last score of the set, executing a kill that would make the score 24-17. With the Cougars being unable to recover, Beaver

Lauren Gips executed the game-winning kill.

Babson capitalized on their success, continuing the third set with a 25-23 win over Clark. Senior Yvanna Torres scored the first point of the set with a service ace. The Beavers quickly came back with several kills, with the exception of a service error, making the scoreboard 5-2. Clark then bounced back into action, keeping a

steady 1 to 2 points behind the Beavers. That was until an attack error by graduate student Camille Flurry granted Babson their eighth point, leaving the Cougars trailing three points behind. The Cougars continued to rally as scores from Torres, Scherrer del Llano, and errors from Babson cut the deficit to 12-11. However, the Cougars fell back behind the Beavers as Babson executed a series of point scoring moves to extend their lead 18-13. Rallying, the Cougars did not give up as they tied the game 19-19 with a game-changing kill from freshman Isabella Alcott. From here, Clark kept a steady pace against the Beavers until a series of errors on behalf of the Cougars granted Babson a 24-21 lead. A kill

by Pastor and a Babson error kept the game active as Clark approached the Beavers 24-23. Unable to regain success, a kill by Gips granted Babson a second win, and Clark's second loss.

Finishing the Quarterfinal game in the fourth set, Clark pushed Babson to a 27 point win. Gips gave Babson the first point of the set. The entire set was close, as Clark and Babson trailed each other. A service ace from Scherrer del Llano gave the teams their first tie of the set at 3-3. Errors on behalf of Clark allowed Babson their fourth, fifth, and sixth points. While a kill by Pastor gave Clark their fourth points, errors on behalf of Babson granted Clark their fifth and sixth,

tying the game once again. Clark took the lead 7-9 with kills by Pastor and Flurry. The Beavers quickly caught up, keeping the game tied into 13-13. A series of kills by Pastor, Scherrer del Llano, and Flurry, as well as a service ace from Newman led the Cougars 16-18. Continuing in dominance, Clark led 19-22 with an attack error from Beaver Hailey Fouche and a kill from Pastor. Babson picked up speed though, resulting in a 24-24 tie. First to reach 25, Beaver Allen executed a game-altering kill against the Cougars. Pastor returned the favor with a kill from Newman, scoreboard tying at 25-25. The Cougars were unable to capitalize on the tie, with kills from Beavers Allen and Fouche delivering a 27 point win in

the fourth set, eliminating the Cougars from the NEWMAC Championship.

(below) Yvanna Torres sets the ball for a spike.



The crowd anxiously watches during match point.



(above) Camille Sterling and Emily Newman awaiting a serve from the Beavers.

Swim and Dive: More Than Just A Team

By Morgan Martin
Sports Editor

An explanation of CUSDF's most cherished traditions

Since 1995 the Clark University Swim and Dive Teams have worked continuously to ensure that they were more than just a team, but a family. With the installment of various traditions and bonding techniques, the swim and dive team have done just that.

In 1975, Clark University alumni Wally Hallas ('73) returned to Clark's campus as head coach to the men's basketball team.

Five years later, Hallas became the athletic director. The Hallas Era is now known to be the "golden age" of Clark athletics. According to ClarkNOW, Hallas not only expanded Clark's trophy case, but the department's offerings as a whole. During Hallas' time as athletic director the university introduced several varsity sports for the first time; one of the sports being men's and women's swimming and diving.

A lot has changed since the introduction of Clark's swimming and diving teams. In 1995 Clark joined the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC). Coincidentally the same

year the conference held their very first swim and dive championship. Also in the same year, the Kneller Athletic Center was established, becoming home to the teams' 6 lane, 25-yard pool.

While the coaches, athletes, and facilities of the team have fluctuated over the years, the swim and dive teams have found a way to remain bonded overtime. Referring to themselves as CUSDF (Clark University Swim and Dive Family) the swim and dive teams see themselves as more than just a team. Rather, members of CUSDF are bonded to each other, regardless of when they graduated.

"We refer to ourselves as a family instead of a team, because we are a support system to one another, in and out of the pool", stated Amelia Kulzer ('26), current member of CUSDF.

Current Head Coach Paul E. Phillips ensures that the concept of family remains a focus of the team, staying in contact with alumni regardless of whether or not he led them during their time at Clark.

Scott Hindley ('85) shares, "I am a long-time alumni...I was able to reconnect with the team the last 15-20 years that I have known Coach Paul."

As a family, the teams have developed several traditions that assist them



Ivy Joyal swims butterfly during the Worcester City Champions on Nov. 9, 2024. Photo by Declan Hanscom.

to not only bond with one another, but instill a set of values that have been replicated with each generation of athletes that join the teams.

While certain details of traditions may have altered over time, alumni and current members of the teams reflect on their enjoyment partaking in various CUSDF traditions, and how doing so made their years at Clark even more memorable.

Fall Intersquad Meets: Red v. Black and Alumni

To kick off the season, CUSDF holds two intersquad meets in the fall. The first is "Red v. Black".

Sarah Kersting-Mumm ('24) states, "Red v. Black

is an intersquad meet at the beginning of the season used to practice, meet traditions and expectations, and encourage bonding."

During the Red v. Black meet, the team is split into two teams and races one another as they would at a regular season meet. This is, for the freshman, a way to expose them to the expectations of swimming at a collegiate level.

This is a treasured tradition for CUSDF that has gone on for over a decade. Nora Swartwout ('05) shared, "We always had fun with this!"

The Alumni meet serves a similar purpose to the Red v. Black meet, allowing the team to practice with one another in a meet format

before beginning the season. However, the alumni meet differs in the fact that all alumni are invited back to the Kneller to swim with the current team.

When asked to recall CUSDF traditions, the alumni meet is the first one Brandon Shafer ('20) shared, "[The] alumni meet is held each October, and is where alumni are invited back to swim".

Other alum, such as Quinn Mitchel ('19) also reflected highly on memories from the alumni meets stating, "At alumni meets you'll see alumni jumping in to give old teammates and current members TLs of their own."

The intersquad meets are traditions of CUSDF

that allow the team to bond with one another while also practicing their skills in the pool. They also serve as a reunion of sorts, allowing alumni to return to the pool and connect with current members of CUSDF. Hindley shared that the alumni meet was his favorite CUSDF tradition stating, “The alumni swim meet is for me the best one. I was able to reconnect with the team.”

Secret Psycher

While the men’s and women’s members of CUSDF share various traditions with one another, there is one tradition that is explicitly only amongst the women’s teams.

Denoted “Secret Psycher”, this tradition entails assigning each member a person on the team to “psych up” during the season. This is done by gifting the member their favorite snacks, notes, etc. The psychers are kept a secret throughout the season, and revealed at the last meet of the year.

Swartwout explains, “[We] would choose names and provide little gifts or make posters for our person throughout the season, like a secret Santa.”

Members of the women’s teams cherish this tradition, passing it on throughout generations. Current member Sydney Kochensparger (‘25) shares, “I don’t really have a specific memory surrounding [secret psycher]

but it’s always fun at the end of the year when we all reveal who we are to our secret psycher, and you can find out who’s been behind all of the cute little gifts from the season”

Chrystena Ewen (‘96) has even continued the tradition outside of CUSDF, sharing “I hope [they] all still do it! It was so much fun and I do it now with my own high school team.”

Training Trip

The Winter Break training trip is a shared tradition across many of the sports at Clark. Typically, a team will travel to FL or Puerto Rico to partake in intense training and, at times, competing against other teams in the area. While Hindley recalls his training trips taking place in Fort Lauderdale, FL, the team has recently voyaged to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in past years.

While the training trip entails long days in an Olympic sized pool, members of the team reflect positively on the overall experience.

Mickael “Mick” Chertov (‘15) shares, “Puerto Rico training trip was always a good time, despite the intense training. Just being out with the whole team was always cool.”

The trip allows the team to bond with one another in a different setting, taking them outside of their comfort zone in order to share experiences with one another. Mike Smith

‘09 shares, “I’d say my favorite tradition we have is the hike we did every year in El Yunque National Forest. Particularly one year where we did a vlog of that entire day, and another year when it was raining the entire time. It was always memorable and remains a highlight of my training trips.”

Training trip holds a number of traditions such as the hike Smith reflected on, as well as “bucket and distance sets”; Emma Bulman (‘20) shares, “[We were] literally swimming with a bucket attached to us dragging through the water”, and senior dinners with the coaches. During the dinners seniors are able to reflect on their time as a member of CUSDF with their coaches, and discuss the season. As a whole, the training trip allows for even more bonding between teammates, making memories and building their strength in and outside of the pool.

TL

Probably the most adored tradition of CUSDF is the sharing of “TL’s”. When asked for a definition of TL, Kulzer explained “There isn’t really a definition. People hypothesize what it might mean such as ‘team love’ but it is generally just a way to share appreciation.”

The concept of TL’s is to show teammates that their hardwork and dedication has been acknowledged and

appreciated. For example, one member of the team may say to another “TL for all the long distance swims you did this season!” or “TL for being such a good friend.” Bulman explains, “It’s a kind and easy way to support your teammates and you can give them at any time for anything, sometimes it’s been used as a greeting or a goodbye. It has a deep yet unexplainable meaning that’s engrained in who and what CUSDF is.”

Many alumni of the team share that TL’s was an instrumental part of their CUSDF experience. Mitchel states, “The whole idea of TL’s is something I love about CUSDF, it is something that really represents us and brings everyone together, no matter how long ago they graduated.”

Katie Murphy (‘10) shares that TL’s were her favorite tradition and helped her feel welcomed as a freshman on the team, “Coming up with something nice to say about someone on the team after the meets gave a sense of belonging to everyone! I remember it was scary at first as a freshman, but I saw how everyone supported each other, and the upperclassmen often made an effort to intentionally give TL’s to new members, which made the team feel like a family.”

The practice of sharing TL’s with one another has been replicated throughout generations of CUSDF members. Swartwout shares,

“I loved the addition of TL. It still happens today, 20 years later. It’s nice to reflect positively on meets even if the outcomes didn’t go your way.”

For the last meet of the season, the NEWMAC Championship meet, each member of the team receives their own personal TL poster, covered in notes from their teammates sharing their appreciation for one another. TL’s remind the athletes that they can rely on one another and that their hard work has paid off, even if scores do not reflect it.

More Than Just a Team

When Hallas expanded the athletic department at Clark to include men’s and women’s swimming and diving, he probably did not expect the program to grow into the network that it now is. Through the traditions that the teams replicate such as, TL’s, psychers, trips, practice meets, and more, the teams showcase their commitment to each other and the past generations of swimmers and divers that came before them. So, when the team refers to themselves as the Clark University Swim and Dive Family, it makes sense, because that’s what they are: a family.

Two Twenty-Somethings Watch Basketball For the First Time

By **Sophia Lindstrom & Ava Orofino**
News Editor & Editor-in-Chief

Last year, News Editor Sophia Lindstrom chronicled her experience watching football for the first time. In an effort to better understand the hype around this whole sports thing, she and her good friend Editor-in-Chief Ava Orofino took things a step further and went to a Clark University basketball game.

The game was a face-off between the Clark University Women's Basketball Team and the Regis College Lions on Nov. 16.

Our nominations for stand-out Clark players included MVP, Most Free Throws, Best Shoes, and perhaps most importantly, Best Hair. We also are including a Big Tumble Counter. To be counted, a Big Tumble must fulfill the following requirements:

1. It must be a complete fall on the ground.
2. Ava must say, "ooh, I hope they're okay!"
3. If two or more people fall, it still constitutes only one Big Tumble.

Bonus points were awarded if someone used a mop to re-squeak the floor afterward.

With rules set and

reporter notebooks at the ready, the game started.

Quarter One

Clark's defense was incredibly strong in this quarter, made only stronger by the home bench chanting "defense" whenever the Lions had possession of the ball. There were also a lot of free throws in this quarter. Alaina Schatzabel made one free throw, Olivia Shipley made two, and Catherine Antwi made three.

It took us until one and a half minutes were left in the quarter to realize that the 30-second timer on each of the hoops indicates how much time the team with the ball has to score. It took an additional two minutes after that to deduce that free-throws were worth 1 point.

The quarter ended with a score 25-10, with Clark in the lead. There were three Big Tumblers.

Quarter Two

Kailey Rios made a three-pointer that made us both say "yay!" out loud. Schatzabel made another two free throws, and so did Megan Swedberg. Juliette Tarsa also made a free throw.

This widened Clark's lead to 46-14, with a record-breaking five Big Tumblers. There was also an adorable weiner dog, gracing the spectators with its presence.

"This isn't a normal

game," Sports Editor Morgan Martin said after approaching us at half-time. "The score is supposed to be way closer."

Intermission/Half-Time

During half-time (which Orofino originally called intermission by habit), there were a number of absolute BANGERS for song choices. These included "Fire Burning" by Sean Kingston, "Yeah" by Usher and "Shipping Off to Boston" by the Dropkick Murphys.

"We're really in New England," Lindstrom, who has lived in New England her entire life, noted.

During their break, both teams practiced with a "Monkey-in-the-Middle" type warm-up to get ready for the second half of the game. We both thought it looked fun.

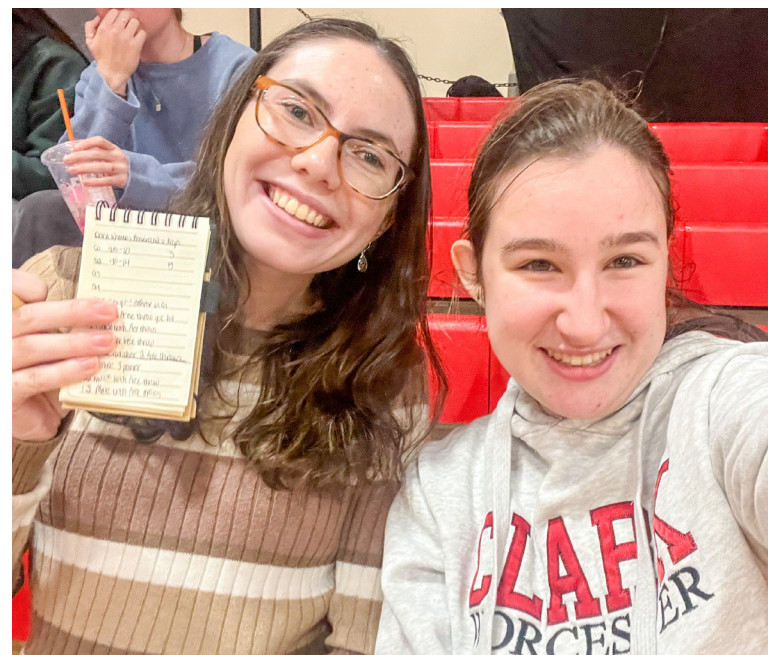
Quarter Three

Rios made another free throw, and Emma Drefs made both of hers.

This quarter was a total blowout, bringing the score to 73-24, Clark leading. There were three Big Tumblers.

Quarter Four

Elaina Wood made one free throw. Elyse Cho missed both free throws but made a redemption basket immediately afterward that had the crowd going



Sophia Lindstrom and Ava Orofino at the Women's Basketball game on Nov 16, 2024. Photo by Ava Orofino.

wild. Cho rallied later in the quarter and made an additional free throw, widening the lead.

The final score came out to 87-48 for Clark, and an additional three Big Tumblers brought the tally to 14. Roll Cougs!

There was no outro music as crowds left the stands, which we believe was a missed opportunity. Regardless, the energy and pride to be a Cougar radiated through the court.

The Awards

We award this game's Most Valuable Player to Sophomore Antwi for her aggressive offense and consistent shooting. Honorable mentions include Rios and Schatzabel for this award. Great job, everyone!

Antwi and Schatzabel

also tie for the award for Most Free Throws, which is three for both according to our counter. We see two real stars in the making!

Now to reveal best shoes and best hair, the most coveted awards in the sport. We unanimously award Drefs for best shoes. Alyssa Bordonaro and Cyriah Coleman were both nominated for best hair, so we'll call it a tie.

For two sports-viewing amateurs, we had an absolute blast at this game. We encourage you to support the Cougars by showing up for them this season.

Tyson Vs Paul: What A Disappointment

By Daniel Hewitt
Scarlet Staff

The long-awaited fight between Jake Paul and Mike Tyson was billed as a clash of eras, an exhibition blending the old guard with the new age of boxing's influencer-driven spectacle. Fans across the world tuned in, eager to witness whether Tyson's legendary prowess could stand up against Paul's youth and hunger. Unfortunately, what unfolded was a disappointment on almost every level, leaving fans frustrated and questioning whether their time—and the fighters' multimillion-dollar paychecks—were justified.

From the outset, there were glimpses of the competition the fight had promised. Tyson, though 58 years old, showed flashes of the skill and tenacity that once made him the “Baddest Man on the Planet.” Paul, at 27, appeared tentative in the opening rounds, respecting Tyson's power and legacy. The first two rounds were fairly even, with both men trading blows. Of course, that being said, Tyson came in with his quick flurry movement in the beginning, resulting in fans faring to hope that this fight might live up to its hype.

In the third round, reality set in. Tyson began to slow down noticeably, his movements labored and his punches losing their sharpness. Tyson was out of



Jake Paul and Mike Tyson during the fight on Nov. 15, 2024. Licensed by Creative Commons.

balance. It became clear that age was taking its toll. Paul capitalized on this shift, increasing his aggression and peppering Tyson with combinations that the older fighter struggled to defend against. Although he still never landed a haymaker—in part because Mike was fighting defensively after the second round. By the midpoint of the fight, it was evident that Tyson was no longer fighting to win but merely trying to survive.

Watching Tyson—a once-unstoppable force in the ring—reduced to holding on and weathering punches was painful for longtime fans of the sport.

The fight dragged on for eight rounds, with Tyson's energy visibly waning. Paul, despite his reputation, wasn't bad; his youth and stamina carried him through. It was an

easy paycheck for him.

Adding insult to injury was the financial disparity between the fighters' paychecks and the quality of the bout. Jake Paul pocketed a staggering \$40 million, while Tyson took home \$20 million. For fans, the real loss was time—90 minutes of buildup and fighting that failed to deliver anything memorable. The event, promoted as a must-see clash, instead became another chapter in boxing's growing trend of celebrity-driven mismatches that value entertainment over sport. They say boxing is dying and this display proves it.

Critics of the fight have pointed out the stark contrast between the hype leading up to the event and the reality of the match itself. Both men had exchanged fiery words in the

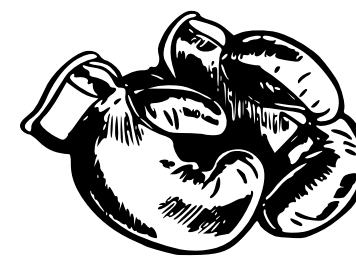
pre-fight press conferences, with Tyson promising to bring his trademark ferocity to the ring and Paul taunting Tyson's age and legacy. Yet, when the bell rang, the performance was far from the battle of wills that had been promised. Tyson's legendary “killer instinct” seemed absent, and Paul failed to display the kind of talent that would make this victory feel significant. He could have knocked him out but he didn't. Was it out of respect? Was he scared of getting into Tyson's pocket? Who knows. All I knew was that the match sucked.

For Tyson fans, the fight was a sobering reminder of the passage of time. While his courage in stepping into the ring at 58 is commendable, the bout highlighted the limitations of even the greatest athletes as they age. Tyson's ability

to compete with a younger, fitter opponent was

diminished not by a lack of heart but by the undeniable effects of age. While the fight may have been lackluster, the absence of significant harm to either competitor is a relief.

The fight feels emblematic of the current state of boxing, where spectacle often overshadows genuine competition. The sport, once defined by its champions and their iconic rivalries, has increasingly become a platform for celebrity-driven events that prioritize headlines over substance. In the end, the fight will likely be remembered not for what happened in the ring but for the reactions it provoked outside of it. Fans took to social media to vent their frustrations, with many expressing regret over the time and money spent on an event that fell far short of expectations. The massive paydays for both fighters only added fuel to the fire, leaving viewers feeling as though their disappointment was the price paid for others' enrichment.



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The Scarlet Crossword

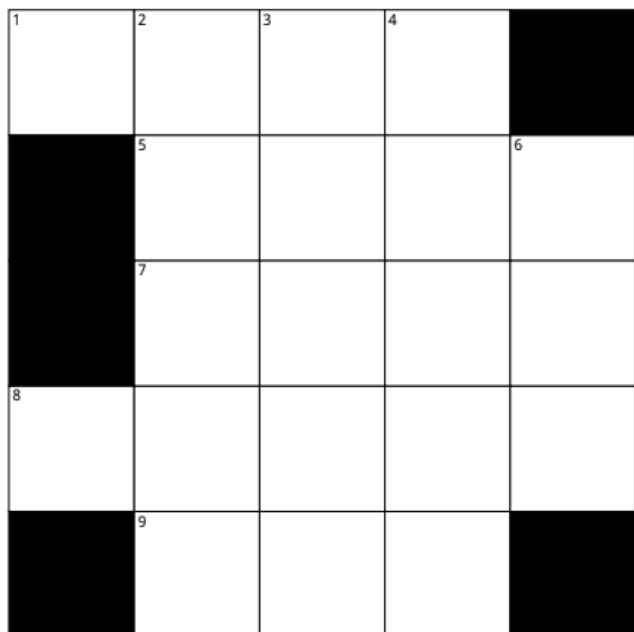
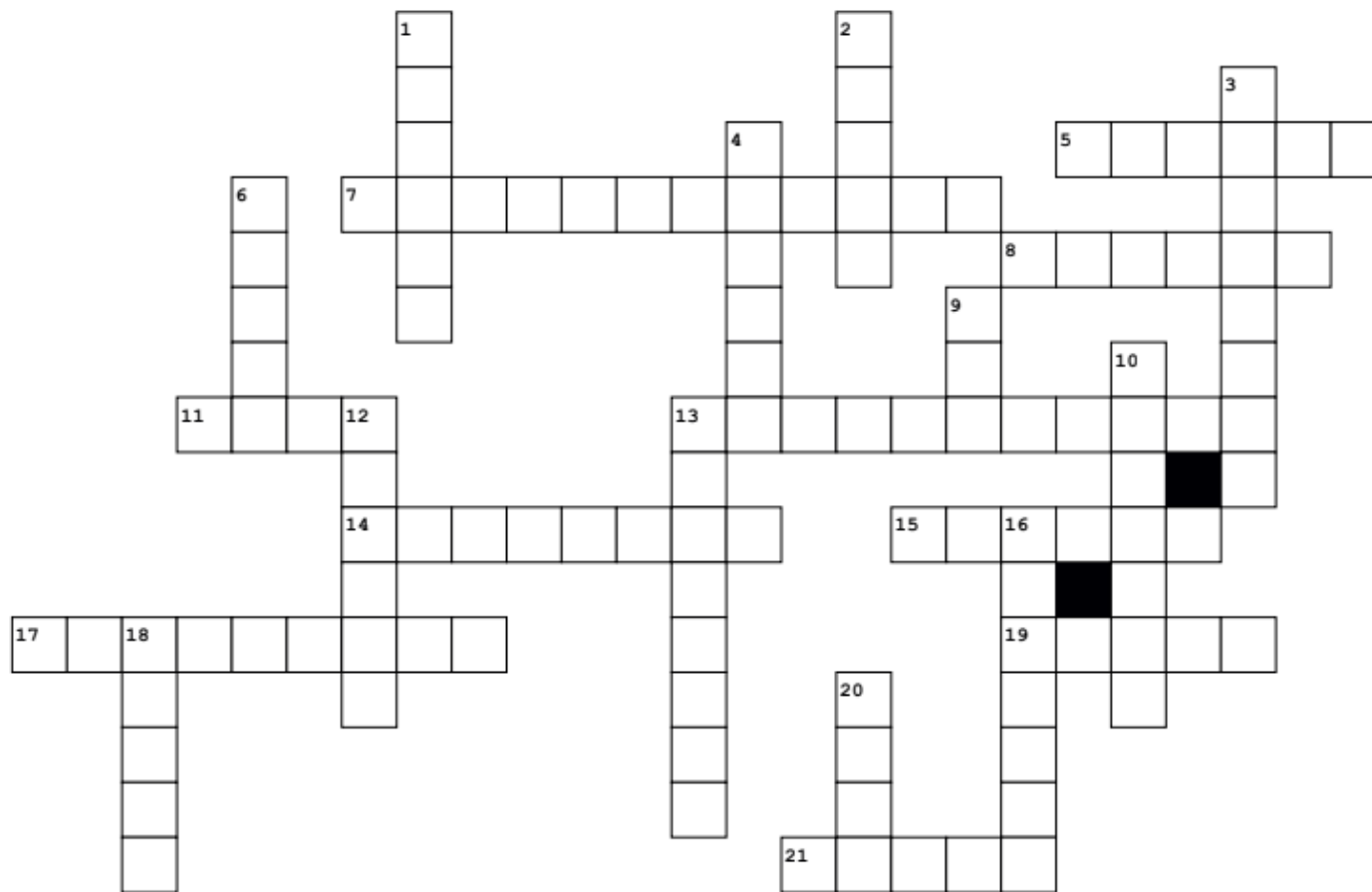
By Ava Orofino, Editor-in-Chief

Across

- 5. Y of ROYGBIV
- 7. "Thursday" holiday
- 8. A movie theater
- 11. Bambi animal
- 13. Scaley cactus fruit
- 14. Taylor Swift sweater
- 15. Charlie Brown's pet
- 17. "Bogged" food
- 19. Tweaks
- 21. Precious gem

Down

- 1. Gothel, to Rapunzel
- 2. Funny graphic in a paper, say
- 3. MA city with a famous "rock"
- 4. Ski season
- 6. "Rolling in the Deep" singer
- 9. Barbie's male counterpart
- 10. Popular fall pie
- 12. Evidence, per say
- 13. Wolverine's new friend in Disney
- 16. As a whole
- 18. Quinta Brunson show "___ Elementary"
- 20. "An" Opinions Editor (of The Scarlet)



Across

- 1 Shopping center
- 5 Virtual laughs
- 7 Circle sibling
- 8 Foe
- 9 Significant time period

Down

- 2 By oneself
- 3 Romeo, to Juliet
- 4 Source of fleece
- 6 Like a fox

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