

Editorial & Opinion

Why I didn't go see From The Basement

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The Scarlet

The Student Newspaper of Clark University

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The Scarlet Letter

President's limo is not a waste of Clark money

Many students on this campus are voicing concerns about President and Mrs. Traina's living standards, such as a large house, a \$1,000,000 per year salary, and private limousine. This last has been the victim of unjust complaints recently, and *The Scarlet* wants to put to rest these unfounded criticisms. The limo was purchased with money raised by the Administration via the Board of Trustees. Sure, this money could have been raised for financial aid, or something, but after the Editors of *The Scarlet* were treated to this nifty ride in the limo last Saturday, we don't feel their decision was so bad after all. They gave us pizzas and Dew, and we got to stick our arms out of the sunroof. The limo is not a palace, and the bar is not huge. The upholstery is leather, and has a warm cozy feel to it. Clark students could be seen through most of the tinted windows we looked out of (and there were many). The First Couple needs a way to get from Woodland street to the campus, after all, and also, they work hard, and probably only want what's best for their children pets. *The Scarlet* supports the Administration's efforts to make life more comfortable for Clark's major political figures.

Quote of the Week

By reading Kant, said Schopenhauer, "the public was compelled to see that what is obscure is not always without significance." Fichte and Schelling took advantage of this, and excogitated magnificent spider-webs of metaphysics. "But [said Schopenhauer] the height of audacity in serving up pure nonsense, in stringing together senseless and extravagant mazes of words, such as had previously been known only in madhouses, was finally reached in Hegel, and became the instrument of the most bare-faced general mystification that has ever taken place, with a result which will appear fabulous to posterity, and will remain forever as a monument to German stupidity."

—William Durant, *The Story of Philosophy* (1926)

By RACHEL KERSZSCHNIP
Opinions Editor

From *The Basement*, Clark's improvisational comedy group, has been entertaining Clarkies for approximately 5 years. Whenever they have a show in the basement of the University Center, which is where they probably got their name, you'll find the room packed with students.

From *The Basement* consists of several students performing several skits on several subjects that are supposed to concern Clark students. Many of From *The Basement's* skits involve masturbation, same-sex relations, and criticizing religious institutions. These are not subjects with which to be humorous.

For example, watching certain skits that make fun of masturbators can be painful to a

masturbator. From *The Basement* is discriminating against a percentage of the people that they are supposed to be performing for. Ask any GS cashier what the second most purchased product is, and they'll probably tell you that its the rubber gloves (cigarettes probably being the first). Masturbation is a reality on the Clark campus and FTB ostracizes against its audience.

So, where do the masturbators probably go? Well, they probably go back to their dorms to masturbate in their rooms. But, if there are too many of them in the same room, they will probably get written up for being too loud. Probably.

Another thing to think about is how RAs are constantly telling residents to be quiet when they are just being social. That is probably why no one wants to live on campus once they become juniors. It's not that the

dorms are gross and dirty and that you share a bathroom with 20 other people, it's really because the RAs tell you to be quiet when it's "Quiet Hours." This isn't funny, either.

Why can't From *The Basement* be more sensitive to the private lives of their audience? It seems like a very insecure practice. Ever notice how people persecute the things that they don't like that exist in themselves? I once heard that Stalin was part Russian and that was why he persecuted the Russians.

It just doesn't make sense to ignore such a large part of the student body. I say this as a non-masturbator who feels that From *The Basement* is a prejudiced group that should no longer be invited to perform ever again. People masturbate. Accept it.

Admitting it is the first of twelve steps.

Letters to the Editor

Debate organizer expresses disappointment with life, environment, hairdryer, smokers

To the Editor:

For those of you, like me, who are outraged at people standing outside buildings and smoking, let me attempt to clarify a few things for you, if I may.

As a member of the Clark community, I have the right to voice my opinion about the goings on around me and others. Some even say it's my job to make these comments. So, I decided to do something about the pollution around campus by coordinating a rally.

I got in contact with MassPIRG and the SEA, the environmental organizations at Clark. As I understand it, these organizations have been responsible for recycling and water pollution, so I figured it would be a good idea to work with them.

I advised the two organizations to come up with some ideas to pose the idea of a completely smoke-free environment at Clark. It was my understanding that they would work together in presenting their ideas at the rally to be held on the Campus Green.

However, Tom Roy of the SEA approached random Clarkies about the rally in attempts to find out what they wanted. They all collaborated and came up with the following ideas to present:

- When walking out of the UC and into a cloud of smoke, cough in the smoker's faces

- If you step in a pile of butts, pick up a bunch and follow a smoker, leaving a trail to their room, so as to point them out to society.

Then the people from MassPIRG decided that the two hold a debate in Tilton to discuss the effects of carcinogens in the lungs of people who walk through smoking areas as well as presenting passive modes of resistance.

All these ideas seemed well and good until I received a disturbing letter in my mail box from the Socialists that the smoking population was angry (They had all apparently at-

tended the meeting billed "Are you Angry?"). The Socialists stated that the smokers had every right to pollute walkways and would in no way support the activities sponsored by MassPIRG and SEA.

To this I say: So? Who cares? I support people's right to express themselves, but this in no way constitutes puffing smoke in my face when I pass by. I don't appreciate the fact that my room was set on fire by someone who left a burning carton of Harley Lites on my desk. It's not funny.

I also don't appreciate being called "Sissy boy" and "Wimp" when I walk out of buildings. And if you are going to draw pictures of me with extra appendages doing vulgar things to sheep, at least place them in the UC where everyone can see them, not in the one bathroom stall in Sackler.

If I come back to Clark next year, I'll let those people down at *WheatBread* and Roc-U run this whole rally against smoking. Just look at the great job they did with the Student Council debates. Dammit.

Joe "Blowdried" Freeman
Sophomore Class Representative
Wanna-be '98

Write for Opinions
because we have
some weird fucking
fonts!