

Editorial & Opinion

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the Scarlet

The Student Cageliner of Clark University,
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The Scarlet Letters

Don't Know How to Party (Fight for Your Right)

There has recently been some talk among the student body about the increased frequency of parties being broken up by both campus police and the WPD. Because this is an issue of dire consequences to all of us, we at the *Scarlet* feel that we should address this issue before we are once again accused of being hacky-kicking, pot-smoking, frat-boy, journalistically-irresponsible slackers who blame all of our problems on the fact that we don't have enough staff and not that our editorial idiocy scares off anyone who might have any talent or hope of dragging us out of our eternal pit (and no, that's not a reference to Dana Commons)... I'm sorry, where was I?

Right. Parties. Parties are cool, who wants to argue with that? How am I supposed to write an editorial about partying? Dude, partying... it's just partying. Campus Police should get over it already. With all of the problems in the world, all of tension in the Middle East, all of these terrorists all over the place, don't the cops have anything better to do than harass a bunch of Clark students? What's up with that!

Like last Monday, my roommates and I invited a couple of friends over to watch Conan O'Brien's show, celebrate my girlfriend's fourteenth birthday, drink a couple of beers, and basically have a good time. By no means was it a party; in fact it was more like a small friendly get-together. A few friends, not my friends, but a few friends. In my apartment, with my beer. We weren't very loud or anything.

And that's what it was, but Campus Police just couldn't deal with the fact that we were enjoying ourselves. Fucking Campus Police; they have to show up at 3:15 am, take all seven of our kegs, send the band, the strippers, the farm animals and a hundred twenty or so of my closest friends home. The person who bought the alcohol was twenty one, and so were at least three of the other guests. There were no drunken fights or broken windows or anything.

Why couldn't they just leave us alone? Is there something I'm missing here? Are we expected to party, or dare I say it, have fun? This fascism must be stopped! This school costs me a bunch of bucks, more bucks this year than last year, and now that I am finally free of those damn RA's, (I live off campus. Nice!) I am still not free to party.

Dude, that sucks.

Quote of the Week

"As your attorney, I advise you to order the chili dog."

—Laslow, Hunter S. Thompson's 240-lb Samoan attorney



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Blame and responsibility lie with SPOC

To the Editor:

I am saddened and angered as I write this letter. It is unfortunate that in this day and age, speciesism can still be such a prevailing sentiment on a liberal campus such as Clark University.

As everyone knows, SPOC had its first spurt of activity in years at the Clark Activities Fair. Several members of SPOC not only had a table at the fair, but they also staged mock sword battles in the background, and allowed almost any member of the Clark community to sign up.

Apparently these members of SPOC were so eager for new members that they gained the names and box numbers of more people than even ROC-U. However, it is sad to note that they neglected an important part of the community in their acceptance of new members. That part is the still-oppressed Lizard People.

SPOC has been responsible for no events in the past three years. With one exception, a dance occurring next week, SPOC has taken no part in the active student life of the greater part of the student body. If one looks at what happened at the Activities Fair, it is unsurprising why.

After speaking with many of the people involved, I think I can

piece together what happened. First of all, SPOC was sharing a table with *WheatBread* a publication that has long neglected the plight of the Lizard People, even when it was *The Progressive*.

It is a University policy that, while the Lizard People are held in bondage at this University, they are free to take part in any student activity they see fit. When a Lizard Person attempted to sign up to take part in SPOC (after all, a greater part of their history in the U.S. has been in taking part in low-budget science fiction movies, most notably, *Invasion Earth: The Aliens Are Here*), he was accused of being too green, and having a tail that was disruptive to proper gaming activities. When they finally let the poor guy sign up, they refused to let him hit Jeff "Captain Thirsty" Carter with the foam sword.

My main point in outlining the events above is that SPOC, an organization allegedly dedicated to promoting peace and harmony among all species in the galaxy, is itself a species-ist organization. It is self-segregating based on species, and apparently feels the need to lash out at others when it feels threatened, similar to when the Klingon Empire attacked SPOC for choosing to not

allow Lizard People into their group. Well, I say SPOC is truly a bunch of lame-ass geeks.

But I cannot and will not believe it is because of their past. We have all fought too long and too hard for it to be about who could win in a fight, and it will not be. It cannot be, for when we let SPOC start telling us it is about that fight is when the treaty between the Federation and the Klingon Empire falls apart.

No, SPOC, you cannot tell me you are not to blame because the Lizard People have been oppressed for too long. You cannot tell me I'm a jock, because I do not blame where you have been, I blame where you plan to go, all too boldly.

You reveal those plans in your lack of participation in student events. You reveal that character in your attacks on the Lizard People. You reveal those plans in your pick of Babylon 5 over Deep Space Nine. You reveal yourselves to be no different from the stupid frats that were so popular in the 1980's.

Congratulations, SPOC, great fucking job. Take your speciesism somewhere else. It is not needed here.

Live long and prosper,

J.T.K.

Guns have an important role in university life

To the Editor:

I must wholeheartedly disagree with the recent *Scarlet* letter entitled, "UC Should Be Gun Free." The University Center is a place for students to meet, hang out, eat and study and must be a safe environment. The only way that can happen is if every God-fearing student exercises his or her right to carry a licensed assault rifle.

The recent SPOC incident is a prime example, the culmination of which was a man brandishing a handgun that looked like a phaser in the center of the University Center and, according to the *Scarlet*, "putting the lives of everyone at the UC in danger."

Had students been allowed to carry firearms, they would have been able to defend themselves. As it was, they were helpless sheep in the hands of a crazed Deep Space 9 fanatic.

The Scarlet asks, "Is the safety of Clark students in jeopardy?" And I answer a resounding yes. Without the means to defend ourselves, we will be forced to run and hide from any and every threat. Without the means to defend ourselves, we will be subject to tyranny of the strong. Without the means to defend ourselves, we would become easy prey like the Lizard people. Without the means to defend ourselves, we will be cowed by authority. Without the means to

defend ourselves, the student government would run roughshod over the common student.

This is not the America that our forefathers built and fought many times to defend. In fact, it is our Constitutional right to carry a weapon if we so choose—our Constitutional right to defend ourselves against Big-Brother-type governments like Student Council and NAFTA. The anti-American attitude of the University Center policy-makers and staff of the *Scarlet* is appalling and should not be allowed in these United States. To them I say, if you don't like it, go home to Pinko-ville, ya commie scum.

Nathaniel R. Adams ('98)