

StudCo: "What's up with that?"

(for those of you who were in a coma the past few months)

By Emily Sachs

While many at Clark have dismissed the recent rumblings of StudCo as chaotic and confusing, Student Council maintains that the goings-on have been anything but problematic.

Junior Kirsten Osterlind, who just finished her term as Sophomore Class Representative and chair of the Interviews and Elections Committee, disagrees with the student consensus of Council. "I never felt like we were in political chaos. I don't believe the majority of Council felt like we were."

Acting President SuZanne Botta admits, however, that things weren't perfect. "We hit some snags. I think it had to do with everything happening at the same time."

When students descended upon campus in late August, many on Council were well aware that things were about to change. New president and now-sophomore Casey Frantz had apparently made it clear to some on Council, including Osterlind, that he would probably not be returning to the position he had held since April of last semester.

Frantz did not attend any Council meetings until September 14 when he resigned during an Executive Session, closed to the public. By then, Vice President Botta had taken over as acting president and continued to do so until the new elections for were held on October 14.

As far as Council was concerned, there was little about this process that was handled badly.

Osterlind defends Council's ac-



From L to R: Kirsten Osterlind, Lizanne Correa, Amanda Mitchell, and Bob Sweet.

tions and decisions, but admits that there were some problems. "Without a president, we didn't have one unifying leader to help organize us. After having a very strong leader [Chris Condon], it was hard coming into having no president", she said. "[But] Casey was a fine president while he was there."

"To be elected in a position and then have to step down is a disappointment for the student body," said University Center Director Linda Connors. She said that although candidates have been denied the opportunity to run because of social or academic probation, Frantz is the first Executive Board member who has resigned since 1990. In 1994, Treasurer Michael Fourcher, who later went on to be the Editor-in-Chief of *The Scarlet*, resigned just minutes before being impeached.

Not only was a missing president hurting Council, but missing representatives also have made for an even more problematic few weeks.

"When you have an open presidential seat, it reflects on the rep-

resentatives," Osterlind explained. "People resigned, they were impeached, there wasn't quorum, people didn't know we had meetings."

WheatBread's own Zack Ordynans was impeached on September 27 due to excessive absences, and First-year representative Ron Saykin resigned just before being impeached. Judiciary Committee member Dave Carter also resigned—which would leave Judiciary one member short of quorum.

The Judiciary's quorum became an issue after the October 5 meeting, during which an hour-long Executive Session was held to discuss the fate of Presidential Candidate Josh Duksin. Duksin, a sophomore, was accused of early campaigning. Council voted to allow Duksin to continue in the race, but the following day revoked that decision upon realizing that Judiciary did not have quorum at that meeting. An emergency meeting on the following Wednesday, however, replicated all votes and decisions made at that Sunday's meeting.

With the election of new President Damaris Gomez, Council members are hoping that things go back to normal.

"I think given the circumstances, I did what I felt was right. My goal was to act, not react. I think I came close [to achieving that]," said Botta. "Now that we have new representatives in office and the Programming Council has passed, Student Council can get back to the business of representing the students."