

# Grind Central, What a Grand Idea...

By Elizabeth Simpson

Here is a space that is available for students to do almost anything they want. Put on a concert? Sure. Bring any sort of speaker or performer? Go ahead. Play pool, darts, foosball, or any of over 15 board-type games including Mancala, Jeopardy, Boggle, Clue, and Backgammon? Great. You can watch the big screen TV, bring down a movie and use the VCR,



play Super Nintendo, check email, read, study, sleep, or just talk in a relaxed space with good music. We have the most comfortable couch in the universe. It is blue denim and doesn't look like much, but try it and you'll see! Sounds fab, right? Yes, but that's all just good advertising fodder. You probably think I just want you to buy coffee. Au contraire!

I am trying to make you realize that this is *for you*, my peers, the students. You can do practically anything you want. Just ask. A guy wanted to have a Monday Night Football night. *Poof*, it is Oct. 27. When the rest of you don't ask, we do it ourselves. We are trying to put together a student gallery where students can display and sell their art. We are attempting to institute a student film festival. We have an open mic night where you can perform anything you like. We put up a two week schedule (before the upstairs one, thank you)

that includes non-Clark activities so you can even leave campus if you feel like it. We have a special between noon and 2 pm where you get free coffee with a purchase when you are accompanied by a faculty or staff member. Why do we want them here? Sure, to sell coffee. But we sell coffee so we can stay open so that you have this nifty space to use. We want faculty and staff down there so you can meet them and have a hand in Clark goings-on outside of the classroom.

At Clark there was no one place that belonged to all students. There were many student spaces, such as the dorm lounges, but they were/are lame. The GS is student-run, but it is a business that provides a service and generates money for scholarships, not a usable space. Grind Central puts its profits into student scholarships and simultaneously provides a hub for student life.

There are a few glitches that we

are working through. The business aspect of Grind Central was never properly evolved so I am working to make sure that we are running efficiently. The sound system was unhappy for a while (years) but now it looks like it will be okay thanks to a bunch of people including Bill Evans. The pool table isn't level, but will be in a few weeks. The place still looks like a scantily decorated basement, but that is changing. We are working our butts off to make it better for you, and *only* to that end. The primary purpose of Grind Central is to offer students a place they can call their own. Keen!

Now all we have to do is figure out why almost no one is taking advantage of this opportunity. It makes no sense that we are trying to get you to do something for your own enjoyment. You've got the resources, now make the effort. For cripes sake, all you have to do is walk down the stairs!