

We Are What We Do

It is hoped that recent events on campus will be forgiven in years to come—they will never be forgotten by the students who were spectators at the occurrences. These demonstrations will leave a black blot on the pleasant memories of students who love Brevard College. Will they sear or even singe the conscience of those who were active participants in them?

A year ago, no one would have believed such actions by students were possible. Even a few weeks ago, the campus was shocked by the destruction of symbols which mean much to students—the cross which symbolizes Christ's love and sacrifice for human beings, and the shrubbery which beautifies our campus. The willful mutilation of a symbol of a living being is much more despicable and contemptible.

It is hard to admit publicly and in print that such students exist (if they truly lived here, they could not so degrade it) on Brevard College campus. But this small group is here—a minority. They are as a flock of children (unworthy of being called college students) playing in a reckless fashion that, at first,

is humorous, but left to breed, is dangerous.

Some persons merely shrug their shoulders and say, "It's Spring time!" Does that explain anything? Does Spring time give license to behave in the manner of young savages released from a winter of hibernation? Does Spring give permission to throw off the cloak of human decency and kindness, and to assume a coat of animalistic barbarism?

In even plainer words—for plain actions call for straight-forward words: Have these childish demonstrations accomplished anything positive? No! There is now a wary feeling of distrust and dissatisfaction on campus. These past actions have hurt many more people than those they were aimed at. The college cannot live such events down—it must only apologize for having admitted the irresponsible persons capable of committing these actions.

The loyal students here at Brevard have honestly been shocked by the attitudes displayed. They feel that their college has been degraded by the acts of a few who feel no loyalty or sympathy toward the aims and goals of Brevard. —EKS

What Is Democracy?

Rows and rows of them—so white, so silent, so permanent. They stand there, in startling contrast with the cold, hard ground. The crosses—the crosses that mark the burial places of the men who gave their lives for their countries. These men knew, in the most realistic of ways, the meaning of democracy.

In many foreign countries so far removed from us as to seem almost nonexistent, small, thin children cry pitifully for food. Their tired wails that sound so hopeless pierce a tiny corner of the night. If these children could suddenly know the advantages of a country like ours, they would not take them for granted; they would fully appreciate and make use of what would in their eyes be miracles. They would open wide these sunken eyes, staring about them with wonder; and they would never be able to realize how we can expect these things as our daily due. They would truly be a part of a democracy. They would add to it, would keep it high in their hearts.

We, though, did not die so that democracy could live. Neither do we live in a place where the very word is practically unknown. But we should be the ones who really understand democracy. We should be the ones who do not limit it to Webster's definition: "Government by the people." We should feel it, should live it, should be it.

If the answers to today's problems do not lie with democracy and with us, where do they lie? We must not allow ourselves to sleep while others work, to take for granted while others appreciate, to let good die while evil thrives.

Clarion Raises Standing

Each year, the Associated Collegiate Press Institute rates the CLARION against other junior college papers in the country and assigns it a national rating as compared with these other papers. The staff of the CLARION is pleased to announce that its ACP rating for the first time in its history has been raised from third or fourth class to a national second class standing. For the hard work and diligent effort that they have put into making the CLARION an outstanding junior college paper, we would like to thank each member of the staff and especially our adviser, Mrs. Ena Kate Sigmon.

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Dean Clarifies Questions Concerning College Policy

By JOHN B. BENNETT
Dean of Brevard College

The following questions are among those most frequently asked in my office, and so I believe students in general may be interested in them. The answers, of course, simply describe college policy and in no instance reflect a decision of any one faculty member or administrative official.

Q.: Why can't we take what we want to and drop a course when we want to?

A.: An important question. First, note that students are required to take only certain basic courses. These are courses widely recognized as valid. They are generally required in liberal arts colleges and they are welcomed for credit in technological colleges. For the two-year student, of course, these courses can have just as much cultural value as for the student who plans to go to college for four years.

Q.: We have heard some colleges won't accept religion and English literature. Why do we have to take these?

A.: We know of no college in the southeast and only one college in the country to which any student has ever transferred where these courses are not accepted. Certain technological schools, N. C. State, for example, are increasing their own offerings in the humanities. N. C. State, Clemson, Alabama Polytechnic, V.P.I. and similar schools readily accepted our prescribed work.

Q.: Is business on the way out at Brevard College?

A.: No, definitely. Our commerce curriculum is a good one according to a recent survey of a dozen of the colleges having the strongest business departments in the southeast. All twelve of these colleges and universities endorse our commerce curriculum as outlined in the catalog. Elective courses in this as in any field should be chosen, of course, with care and with a specific senior

college in mind. As for secretarial work, we anticipate that next year we will need additional instructional assistance for work in secretarial courses.

Q.: Do I have to be at commencement to get my diploma?

A.: Yes. This is S. O. P. at all good colleges. Degrees are granted in absentia only for extreme emergency reasons—military service, for example. Why? Ceremonies and ritual are an important part of gracious living. Graduation events are ceremonies of dignity with which we crown tasks well done.

Q.: But the alumni dinner? Do we have to attend this, too?

A.: Yes, if you are a candidate for graduation. This is one of the important courtesies extended an alumni group and outstanding guests of the college. This is a way of carrying on an important tradition for those who wish to assist a college which has done so much for them.

Q.: Why must a student be "heading toward graduation"?

A.: This is a college and not a country club or an academic delicatessen. The individual student needs to work toward a definite goal. Students who graduate find doors opening to numerous good opportunities—opportunities for study elsewhere, scholarships which depend upon completion of their work here, and even a more ready welcome by employers. Jobs undertaken need to be completed in consistent fashion.

Q.: Who sets these policies? You?

A.: No. The aims and broad policies of a college are set by the sponsoring group by way of a board of trustees. Within this framework a faculty determines specific policies. Which means the dean is simply a sort of traffic cop directing students along roads they must follow in order to attain the aims and meet the requirements of the college as set by the board and the faculty.

The Knowledge We Seek...

Then said a teacher, Speak to us of Teaching.

And he said:

No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge.

The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness.

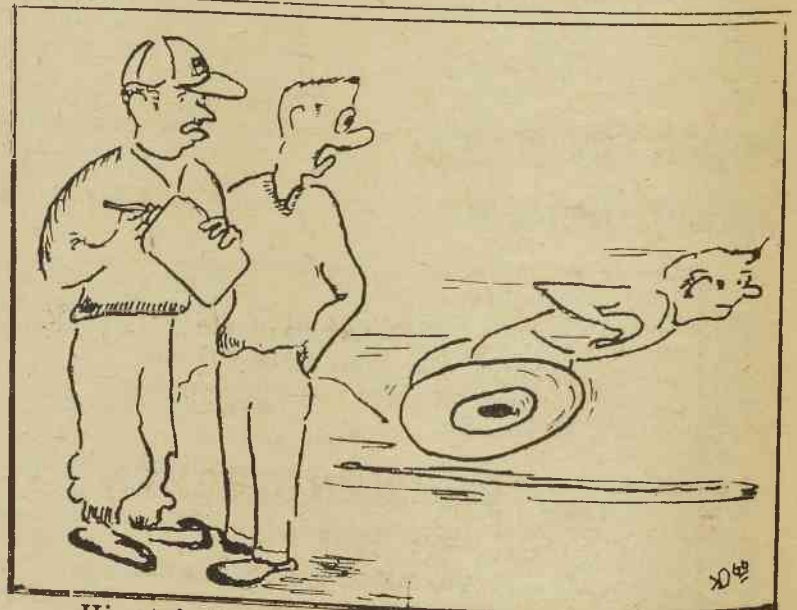
If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.

For the vision of one man lends not its wings to another man.

And even as each one of you stands alone in God's knowledge, so must each one of you be alone in his knowledge of God and in his understanding of the earth.

(From the Erskine Mirror)

—Kahlil Gibran



His style is a little different, but he's fast!