

Editorial Page

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February 5, 1971

Cutbacks In Space Program Are Needed Despite Its Assets

Last Sunday afternoon saw the U. S. launch its first Apollo flight since the near tragic Apollo 13 fiasco close to nine months ago. It has been a difficult period for the space program, with de-emphasization, cutbacks, layoffs of thousands of workers, and the like. One reason for some of this is the division which was brought about in NASA through disagreement as to where the blame in Apollo 13 lies.

However, even more important in causing a de-emphasization of the program is the growing sentiment of the general public and the nation's leaders in favor of these and even more cutbacks, in order that and more pressing problems be dealt with financially. Despite the many valuable things that we have received from the space program, there seems to be a crying need for our capital in other areas, not the least of which is attempting to better our efforts in motivating the poor to improve themselves.

Despite being called by many an affluent society, the fact is that a startling percentage of Americans live under conditions and in dwellings that most of us would abhor. And many, many more live in inadequate and unattractive, although more livable, surroundings. Many of these people are unable to find steady, halfway rewarding work which allows them to reach anywhere near their capacity.

One who sticks close to his comfortable, pleasant surroundings and sees the world through distorted eyes, often forgets how badly off so many Americans are. However, all it takes is a simple auto trip through a vast, crumbling slum, or down a junk-littered, poorly-zoned, and ugly highway to reveal how bad the problem is in this country. In many places it is as bad or worse than it has ever been.

It seems evident that it is here, in the building up of our own country, not the exploration of another planet or in fighting a war for someone else, that our focus should lie through the coming years. It's strange to think that while man has reached the moon, many Americans are still dwelling in shacks. Strange and haunting! While space exploration and military assistance may have merit, it is not here that our main effort should rest in 1971.

An Artistic Production

The movie shown at Brevard College one week ago tonight, "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," starring Alan Arkin, left the persons who attended with deep feelings of personal involvement. The touching, intricate plot, set in the "quaint" Alabama town of Selma, reached each and every one in the audience.

The realization of the problems and handicaps other people have, and their determination to carry on were artistically illustrated, making it a worthwhile evening for all who attended.

The CLARION

The VOICE of Brevard College

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Since the opening of the new Sims Student Union Building, I have only one complaint. The building, to a great extent, is not available to the students on the week-ends. I realize and appreciate the fantastic job that Mr. Alderman, Mr. Ives, and their staff have done in organizing the Student Union. Every student is thankful for the many hours of work that they have all exerted. Therefore, I do not

want this staff to work any more than they do at the present.

I am aware that the building cannot function properly without authorized supervision in some parts of the building. However, I do not understand why the T.V. room and lobbies are not opened for the students access. At the present, students have no way of utilizing the facilities until 12 noon on Saturdays and 3 p. m. on Sundays. Recently, President Davis

stated that the new Student Union was to be the "living room" of the college community. In the present student government constitution, one of the purposes of the S.G.A. is to continue the idea of responsible student freedom. As students of Brevard College, we urge those involved to give us this responsible student freedom by allowing us reasonable access to our new Student Union Building. Sincerely, Frank Owen

Student Apathy Hinders SGA

By Frank Owen

As the spring semester continues, it is extremely important that the students turn their attention towards their Student Government Association. The attitude that the SGA is a puppet organization has unfortunately afflicted the Brevard campus. Everyone really wants this or that, but no one wants to work for what he wants.

This year seems to reflect last year's disaster; no one voices any interest in the future or the ideals of the SGA. More than likely, there are some who do not even know the purpose or ideals of this organization. Let me try and help these students by stating these ideals now.

"We, the student body of Brevard College, do establish the Student Government Association in order to promote the general welfare of the students; to provide a link between faculty, administration, and students; to insure representation of student voice in college affairs, and to perpetuate the concept of responsible student freedom."

Really, I wonder how many of us recognize this statement. In case you did not know; it is the preamble of our Student Government Constitution. This is our purpose: Our ideals are basic; all we really want to do is to make student government the voice as well as the arm of the students. But without a voice we can have no strength, no sense of accomplishment, no purpose.

This year has been a year of frustration and disgust. Frustrating because the harder I tried, the more disgusted it became. Observing it all from where I sit, I saw students shrug off responsibility placed before them; I saw students make excuses to get out of work, and some went so far as to avoid the issues completely. Yet, everyone always had a complaint. They pointed a finger at that lazy faculty, that idealistic administration, and that rinky-dinky Student Government Association. When actually they should have realized that the fault was within themselves and their apathetic ways. They seemed to forget that it requires less character to discover the faults of others than to tolerate them.

The academic year, 1970-1971, is well over half gone. Many people feel as if the 1970-1971 student government failed. That is your own personal opinion. When I accepted the office of

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OUTLOOK

By Mark Todd
EDITOR

It seems that the past two weeks have been quite productive ones as far as opportunities for students to participate in group discussions with President Davis on various issues are concerned. This type of thing can only be healthy.

The latest chance for students to talk with the President came Monday night at the first Dialogue Dinner of the Spring Semester. After telling students about some of his varied background, Dr. Davis enlightened students as to why the school takes many positions, what the school's plans for the future are, and various other things. The discussion was quite satisfying to many students who left feeling a better sense of awareness about the College.

When asked about the school's rank as a two-year institution, he stated that Brevard is standing pat as one of the very best in the nation, perhaps in the top five, and that this is one factor that Brevard may eventually take into consideration if talk of going to a four-year school recurs. If Brevard should go into the four-year bracket, it would immediately become just another school in its new classification, having to establish itself in the same league as a college like Davidson, for example. However, he did not rule out the possibility of a future change.

On the question of the replacement of Green and Taylor Dorms, he stated that this was his next priority as far as buildings are concerned, with the building of a new dorm connected with a refurbished Green Dorm planned in the future. This would mean that Taylor would eventually be demolished. Also on the subject of future developments, he spoke of the future plans of alumni to construct a Bell Tower on the ground now occupied by the old classroom building, which is also to be demolished.

President Davis also replied to a question on the reasons behind the rejection to open dorms on Saturdays. He stated that with the exception of Beam Dormitory, which has private shower facilities, this would cause a great problem in the matter of privacy, and that the new Sims Building was designed for the purpose of visitation. Many of the students present tended to agree that this was a good reason for not having open dorms. They also felt that a majority of Brevard's resident students were not in favor of open dorms.

On a question directed to him about censorship in the Clarion, he referred the student to this writer, who replied that only two or three articles had been rejected all year, and that this was done because the articles were either so poorly written that their inclusion would not be worthwhile or because they were critical of, or attacked a single individual. This writer added that articles stating a problem and offering a reasonable solution are preferable, since they are the only type of article that will do any good. Also, it was stated that the major reason there is not more variance of opinion in the Clarion is because most students are too apathetic to contribute anything.

In all, the discussion proved to be informative and worthwhile to all who attended, once again proving the value of the Dialogue Dinner program.