

Editorial Page

THE CLARION

December 13, 1976

For several days, students at Brevard have once again fabricated a malicious tale—laden not only with cruelty and intolerance, but literally reeking with Oedipal overtones—in order to occupy these final days of the fall semester. It seems that the topic of this discussion is an accusation of alleged homosexuality between two of our students. Although the "evidence" of said discussion should appear self-evidently false to any reasonably logical student, I thought it might be interesting to examine the motivation for such hostility from a somewhat "objective" perspective.

First of all, it is fascinating to witness how voraciously the students here devour any gossip (no matter how ridiculous). Are we so desperately bored that virtually any accusation will be accepted without question? Or is it that we are all so naive that we believe anything we hear? Psychologists say that gossip can be a manifestation of a subconscious desire to divert attention away from ourselves. If so, perhaps this particular story may have its roots in a universal sexual insecurity among our students.

Second, and even more terrifying to me, is the relish with which many students tell this story. It is as though no previous topic has been so succulent and

no moral triumph so victorious as the discovery of homosexuality at Brevard. Such Victorian prudence! Such Neanderthal intolerance! We pride ourselves on being so liberated of inhibition, so sexually open-minded. But this thin veneer of sophistication is merely a mask behind which lurks a treasure trove of Oedipal guilt and Freudian neuroses. How, in the second half of the twentieth century, can we be so hung-up that we not only mistake friendship for homosexuality (at the mere whim of anyone who feels like creating hostility, for what ever purpose), but then actually discuss this misconception as though it were sub-human, encroaching upon mental illness?

Third and most terrifying is the strength to which students cling to this falsehood. It is as though the accusation was sufficient proof of itself. No one seems to be able to even consider the validity of this alleged tale. To retract or even to question gossip is too self-incriminating, I suppose. It might reveal how destructive and sexually intimidated we really are. The damage, of course, can't be erased—it can only be prevented from continuing. But perhaps the ignorance and lack of pathos explicated here will cause some of us to think twice the next time we hear a "story."

Richard J. Browne



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"You call that total commitment to TM?"

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"Speak to us of giving"

Once again the time has come for each of us to face that sad paradox that some call Christmas. With the true love and divinity that is within each of us, maybe this Christmas will become real. . .

"Then said a rich man, 'Speak to us of Giving.'

And he answered:

'You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what are your possessions, but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?'

And then tomorrow, what shall tomorrow bring to the over-prudent dog burying bones in the trackless sand as he follows the pilgrims to the holy city?

And what is fear of need, but need itself?

Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable?

There are those who give little of the much which they have — And they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.

And there are those who have little and give it all. These are the believers in life and the bounty of

life, and their coffer is never empty. There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward. And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue.

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth. It is well to give when asked, but it is better to give unasked, through understanding.

And to the open-minded the search for one who shall receive is joy greater than giving.

And is there ought you would withhold?

All you have shall some day be given;

Therefore give now, that the season of giving may be yours and not your inheritors. You oft say, 'I would give, but only to the deserving.' The trees in your orchard say not so, nor the flocks in your pasture. They give that they may live, for to withhold is to perish. Surely he who is worthy

to receive his days and nights, is worthy of all else from you. And he who has deserved to drink from the ocean of life deserves to fill his cup from your little stream.

And what desert greater shall there be than that which lies in the courage and the confidence, nay the charity, of receiving?

And who are you that men should rend their bosom and unveil their pride that you may see their worth naked and their pride unabashed?

See, first, that you yourself deserve to be a giver, and an instrument of giving. For, in truth, it is life that gives unto life — While you, who deem yourself a giver, are but a witness.

And you receivers — And you are all receivers — assume no weight of gratitude, lest you lay a yoke upon yourself and upon him who gives.

Rather rise together with the giver on his gifts as on wings.

For to be overmindful of your debt is to doubt his generosity who has the free-hearted earth for mother, and God for father.'"

—from Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*

To the Brevard College Trustees, the Administration, Faculty and Students:

According to recently passed legislation, women are equal to men and deserve the same education, whether it be academically or socially. Since a college is designed to teach both academics and responsibility, it seems as if Brevard College is denying the women on campus the right to be able to learn responsibility by restricting their freedom of movement in and out of their dorms during the late night hours. The men on this campus are allowed this freedom. Why then, are the women not allowed the same right? We are being discriminated against which, according to legislation, is wrong.

Besides being ethically oppressive, the curfew hours for women are also denying us the freedom of study as well as that of movement. Many times, while studying late at night, a person begins to feel trapped within her room. She is unable to go outside for fresh air because the doors are locked. (It is my opinion that many of the fire alarms pulled in the women's dorms are pulled by people who want some fresh air.) Also, some people would rather study outside than inside. I, for one, would relish the chance to study on the front porch of Jones at night when the weather is nice.

We are literally trapped within the dorms after closing hours.

Occasionally while a girl is out on a date, something will go wrong with the car and she is late coming in. She is penalized for being late and will usually receive some sort of punishment for her tardiness. I feel that many of the car accidents involving Brevard College students occur because they have lost track of time and are rushing back to campus in order to get in on time. Some girls would rather go ahead and stay out all night rather than face the interrogation she will receive for being late. It seems that this would be more dangerous than coming in late, but the rules at Brevard College have made it so that girls are afraid to be late no matter what the reason is.

What we need here is some system by which a girl may return to her dorm at any time she wishes. However, this should be done in such a way as not to endanger the security of the building. I feel that security is important not only because of the valuables kept in the dorm, but also because of the women themselves. In this age of technological advances, there must be some way to maintain security using either a lock and key type system or one whereby there is someone around at certain times throughout the night to open the doors for those girls wishing entrance. One idea

brought up is for those girls, wishing to stay out past the time the doors are locked, to check out a key from the Dorm Director and return it in a signed, sealed envelope upon her return. Other ideas include simply issuing a key to every girl in the dorm at a nominal charge, and having a fine for anyone who loses her key. Another idea is the card key system. In this system, each girl will be issued a magnetized card which is inserted into the lock mechanism and the lock is electronically opened. President Jacob Martinson and Dean Mary Margaret Houk have been meeting with representatives from each of the women's dorms. They have come up with some feasible ideas, one of which will be presented by President Martinson to the Board of Trustees. The purpose of this letter has not been to cut down, hurt or, in any other way, degrade the college. It was simply designed to express the opinion of the majority of the female students on campus and to show that we are behind President Martinson.

I would like to thank President Martinson and Dean Houk for showing their concern for our opinion and for their help in getting things changed. Their concern means a great deal to us as students, because it shows that they do care about the way we feel. Thank you very much, President Martinson and Dean Houk.

A Brevard College Student