

# Is There Justifiable Censorship?

by Kim Ormand

The relationship between the student newspaper and the academic establishment has long been subject to controversy. This controversy is especially sensitive when discussing censorship. The restrictions placed upon the paper by the Uniform Guidelines here at Brevard can be viewed in two ways — as censorship or as enforcement of goals of a private church-related church.

In terms of censorship the Guidelines do prohibit, in effect, freedom of speech. Two of the guidelines that are especially relevant in terms of censorship say that "if factual statements are made, they must be verified by appropriate College officials", and that "in official publications, the College, as publisher, reserves the right to advise, modify, correct, or reject any material which is considered to be inflammatory, unfair, in poor taste, or improper." By placing these particular restrictions on the paper, the pressure builds enormously and can stifle the students' creativity. The newspaper on the college campus is said to be the training ground for professional journalists. However, with the sense of "big brother is watching you" the paper's creativity and freedom of speech suffers.

Yet, **The Clarion** is meant to be a source of communication for the students as well as the faculty and administration. By setting up guidelines for the paper, the college is simply encouraging the paper to be thoughtful and careful in reporting the news. In other words the paper must be responsible in the presentation of the facts and not harm anyone in the process. For example, in the Guidelines it says that the paper "may not be used to personally attack individuals or groups either directly or indirectly, whether in articles, or letters to the editor." It seems that the college is not meaning to stifle the students' creativity but wanting to encourage the goals of a church-related college. These goals emphasize the students' growth intellectually, personally, and socially.

Personally I cannot see censorship in any case. It tends to bother my perception of constitutional rights. **The Clarion** is a newspaper run by the students and is to be the voice of the students. Yet it is an official publication of the college and that fact must be kept in mind also.

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Morgan Ledbetter, son of Mr. B.M. Ledbetter of Yadkinville, NC; Patience Lynelle Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis of Merritt Island, FL; Pamela Christen Ligon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.J. Ligon of Hilton Head Isl., SC; Lindsey Loveless, daughter of Mrs. Lorna Loveless of Black Mtn., NC; David Eric Mays, son of Mrs. Betty T. Mays of Winston-Salem, NC; Saronda Lynne Morgan, daughter of Mrs. Pat A. Rogers of Rosman, NC; Christopher Carroll Morrow, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Morrow of Brevard, NC; James Edwin Moten, II, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Moten of Raleigh, NC; Permeco La-Shan

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Photo By Kent Thompson

To the Editor,  
The Clarion  
Dear Kim,

Living is easy here at ol' BC, in spite of the unreasonable demands of ugly, mean and nasty profs and the occasional cock-a-roach sneaking off with that peanut butter sandwich hidden under your pillow in case the midnight munches attack. We live in a pleasant town, the campus is beautiful, our work is interesting (most of the time), and there are lots of people to meet and activities to pursue.

I really wouldn't have it any other way, but it's easy to forget that there are problems troubling the world which reach even here. Certainly that is the case with the nuclear arms race—an obsession

which grows stronger each year and for which there is no place remote enough to flee, not even here in Hooterville.

A number of students and others on campus began to meet last semester to talk, study and write letters in an effort to do something — anything — to help ourselves deal with our fears, anxieties and feelings of helplessness. We came together from different political backgrounds, and we had different ideas about solutions to the world's problems, but we all shared a desire to become even just a little more involved in the decision-making process.

It helped, and we are going to continue to meet this year, probably every other week at the

dinner hour in the cafeteria. We can share a meal, and share ideas. At times we'll have a short program like videotape or even an outside speaker; we'll bring writing materials and have letter-writing parties (we're still waiting to hear from Gorbachev, but Mr. Helms and Mr. Hendon have responded).

We welcome anyone who would like to be a part of a group like this. If you are interested, please let me know, and I'll make sure that the information gets out to you.

And bring a friend. But no cock-a-roaches, please.

Peace,  
Preston Woodruff  
Dept. of Humanities

John, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. St. John of Charlotte, NC; Brenda Gladys Stanton, daughter of Mrs. Ann L. Stanton of Greenville, NC; Mari Tosaka of Japan; Angela Virginia Vickers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Vickers of Fair Play, SC; Myranda Renee Wilcox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Fincher of High Point, NC; Angela Renee Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Williams of Marion, NC; Maria Georgia Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Williams of Horse Shoe, NC; Robin Renae Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Williams of Silver Creek, GA; Thomas Frank Willson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Willson of Brevard, NC; Melanie Anne Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Wilson of Franklin, NC; Theodore Christopher Wollstein, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Wollstein of Rome, GA and Mika Yoshimura of Japan.

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Attention, foreign students! We at **The Clarion** invite you to write in and give us any suggestions, problems, or comments you may have regarding Brevard! We are glad you're here and would like your opinions on campus life. So, please, anything you want to say, send it to Kim Ormand, Box 426.