

### Spying in the U.S.

## Just What Is Going On Here?

by Kim Ormand

In the history of the United States there is no name of any other public figurehead that is as spat upon as that of Benedict Arnold. He was a trusted war general, a traitor, a spy. His life has stood for blatant disregard of the ideals supposedly held by the American people: loyalty, honesty, and integrity. Yet let us not be naive in thinking that spying is limited to the past. Since 1981, thirty-four people have been accused of selling information about the United States to foreign countries. In just the past four weeks, four citizens have been accused of this activity. This has caused a new controversy concerning spies and just how much danger the U.S. is in.

Spying in this country is generally looked upon as the ultimate crime against America as well as against the very core of democracy. Yet it is suspected that the United States has its own spies in the Soviet Union and other countries and satellites that monitor various activities. Thus it is all right for the U.S. to spy on other countries to ensure our national security but it is not all right for other countries to spy on us for it threatens our national security. Can this not be viewed as hypocrisy?

Of course there still remains (hypocrisy aside) the problem of what to do with the spies once they are caught. Some people suggest rational means such as the severe punishment of the spies and the the investigation of people with any security clearances. Others suggest more radical measures such as the selling of our wheat to starving nations rather than the U.S.S.R. and the limiting of technology to Israel to make that dependent state more sensitive to the principles and priorities of the U.S. Even the Navy secretary John Lehman has gone so far as to advocate the death penalty for convicted spies.

Where will it all end? Perhaps this bothers me so much for I am convinced that there is a lot of double talk going on here. I realize that the government must be concerned over the selling of our nation's secrets and by no means am I saying that spying is the ultimate career choice. It all boils down to public relations. How good does it look for the United States to have trusted government officials convicted for spying? Not very good.

So what is my solution? I really don't have one. I just wish that the government would make a sensible and realistic decision concerning the issue. This decision, of course, should include the United States.

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The opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the editorial staff and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the college. The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor from the Brevard College community. Please address them to Kim Ormand Box 426.

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Going to a small school in a town like Brevard gets a little dull at times. We get bored occasionally and a lot of the time all we have is each other. We can handle this in two ways: We can

take advantage of each other's company and learn and grow together or we can tear each other down. I am upset at seeing too much of the latter.

There is nothing wrong with being concerned about each other-

but what is the point of gossiping and/or being judgmental? Where is that going to lead?

It is going to lead to everyone being afraid to talk to each other because of what they've heard about each other. It's going to lead to the spreading of pointless and even harmful rumors. It's going to lead to our concentrating on all of the possible negative things instead of the real, tangible, positive things.

Why should it be our concern if someone is gay or who someone is dating? During my 1st year here I was appalled and even upset about all of the gossip on this campus. I have found that the most effective way to fight it is to not participate in it and to let people know that it upsets you (if it does, of course) when they start gossiping.

I would like to make an appeal to gossipers: If you can't keep yourself from gossiping, please at least stop and listen to yourself when you do. Then, ask yourself: Why am I saying this?

Most Sincerely,

Carla Ulbrich

Dear Editor,

"You train dogs, you educate people."

I wish I could remember who it was that made that statement. An old poli-sci professor told that to me and opened my eyes to why I should take my Liberal Arts education more seriously.

"Why do they teach us so many facts that we won't ever use in everyday life? Who cares if a-b equals c if I'm not a Math major? And who cares what William Faulkner really meant in all those bizarre books he wrote in his career? And when will I ever use those facts that I learn in physics, history and religion? What am I doing wasting my time here when I could be out making a living?"

All I have to say to these questions is: wake up and quit taking your education at face value. You aren't here to memorize facts, you're here to exercise your mind and develop the ability to learn. "To learn to learn quickly."

When your English professor asks you to write a paper on a character in a novel, that professor isn't asking that you leave the class only with the knowledge of a particular book, he asks that you learn to analyze. Later in life you will be faced with many problems and situations where there will be no answer page in the book to refer to, and no Cliff Notes to cheat from. You will be responsible for coming up with the solution on your own. It is the first giant step into adulthood.

What are athletics for, for that matter? Just exercise for the body? What do you really gain from playing a varsity sport like football, basketball, or soccer? Athletes don't just throw or kick a ball around in a game. They must learn dozens of set plays to execute but must also develop the ability to change strategy and ex-

ecute alternatives in a split second when the plays break down or the situation is not what they expected.

Life throws a lot of loops in the plans and actions we all take and an educated person has a far greater chance of successfully overcoming these obstacles by using the tools of an analytical mind to solve them.

Don't waste your education by trying to see how much work you can blow off and still get by. Use this opportunity to the fullest. You may never get another chance again.

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."-Aristotle

Sincerely,  
 Julie Johnson

Dear Editor,

Since no one has attempted to argue with "A RT's View" by Nancy Williams in the last issue of the Clarion I'll try to do so.

Nancy writes that "legally school officials could do things that would tamper with the privileges of students such as entering a student's room with little or no cause. But fortunately that is not what Brevard College does." I'll say that, unfortunately, it is just what Brevard College does, such as when officials make room searches without warning, without people being there, and perhaps even during breaks.

The issue of room searching without people being there bothers even my non-American sense of personal freedom and privacy. Isn't to enter a room with little or no cause and without the person's presence a lack of privacy? Sure, there are times when you have to search for stolen objects; but then search only where you expect to find these stolen objects. Otherwise, we get too far away from constitutional rights; which the rest of the American society is proud of and tries to obey.

The room search policy is just an example of the way that responsibility is taken away from students. Alcohol, visitation, and the class attendance policy are other areas where the students' responsibilities are limited. How can we expect kids to grow up to be responsible without allowing them to take any kind of responsibilities? If you talk baby-talk, your kid will keep on talking baby-talk. I know that Brevard College is not the only institution forcing kids to remain kids. Parents and politicians certainly do their share.

A famous American philosopher/psychologist/sociologist (probably John Dewey) advocated the "learning by doing" principle in the 1950's. Maybe it is time for us to follow this principle also outside the classroom.

Henning Brandt

Editor's note

In the last issue of the Clarion an article on international student Mojdeh Bakit was run and a

misunderstanding of one of the quotes occurred. The comment was made that some of the people here are rude and that they treat Mojdeh as if she is from another planet. Mojdeh said that what she meant by the comment was that American people are rude to each other but are really pretty nice to her. After the release of the paper, many rude and nasty comments were made to Mojdeh. I'd like to think that the comments were not the result of the article for it certainly was not our intent to cause Mojdeh any harm, but the fact remains that harm was done. I hope that Mojdeh will forgive us for any trouble that the article caused her and that she will not allow this incident to damper her spirits or her opinion of Brevard College as a whole.

The Scholarship Research Institute of Washington, D.C., an organization specializing in aiding students and parents in their effort to locate funds for college, is offering three \$1,000 scholarships. This represents their third annual offering. Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements. One must be an undergraduate, a full-time student, and have a G.P.A. of 2.0 or above.

For an application and more information, students should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Scholarship Research Institute, P.O. Box 50517, Washington, D.C. 20004. The deadline for applications is December 16, 1985. Awardees will be notified by January 30, 1986. Recipients will be chosen based on their academic performance, leadership abilities, college and community activities.

These awards are for the Spring semester of the 1985-86 school year and may be used for any expenses related directly or indirectly to the pursuance of any academic major at the undergraduate level.

### Peer Pressure:

#### Do's and Don'ts

by Anne-Marie Pressler

The teenagers of today have a long and hard road in front of them. Sometimes selecting the right road and making the right turns can be a difficult task. Fortunately, most teens have friends to turn to when in need of support or advice. Many times the dilemmas are solved and the outcomes are good, but consulting one's peers can also be a real problem.

Peer pressure is a major problem in today's adolescent's lives. Teens are always being told "to be your own person" and not follow the crowd. It all sounds so easy, but as many teens know, it's not always that simple. Sometimes friends can persuade friends into doing things they don't want to do, and then they try to justify it as right because everyone else is doing it.

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