

Editorial Page

The Importance of Fair Elections

by Kim Ormand

A recent event on campus was the official Student Government Association's election of the Valentine King and Queen. And although I have no doubts that the winners deserve the titles, I do have some grave doubts as to whether the elections were held in accordance to the guidelines.

First of all, a nomination box was left out unattended for a number of days. This was, according to SGA advisor Bob Hutchison, to allow the elections to be more open. It also gave people the chance to nominate many times. Yet when the official ballot was released, several names of nominated people were missing. When questioned about this, Mr. Hutchison replied that it was "an arbitrary decision on my part. Unless a person received more than one nomination, that name was not considered." He said that the ballot would be "cumbersome." I personally feel that it does not matter whether a person got one nomination or a thousand—that name should be there. Anything else in my opinion is an obstruction of democracy. There is also the fact that circumstances called for a non-SGA member to watch the ballot box during the actual elections. This reflects badly on SGA.

Now I realize that the Valentine's Court is not the earth-stopping event of the century, and I don't want to resort to a parallel to the Philippine elections, but I feel that any election is an important one. Elections for next year's SGA officers are coming up in March. I do not need to stress the importance of these elections. They must be taken seriously by both the students and student representatives. Mr. Hutchison stressed that these elections will be done strictly by the book and wants responsible freshmen students to begin considering candidacy now.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After reading your editorial, "Our Right to Privacy," I remembered my Thanksgiving at Brevard College. Since I live so far away, I decided to stay here for the four-day break. I knew two of my friends were staying, so we made plans for Thanksgiving dinner in Asheville. Thanksgiving night, the three of us, one was a female, went into my room in Taylor and watched a special on T.V. That evening security came in and ordered the girl to leave. He didn't issue any points, although he left me with a warning that he'd return every night and search my room for females. I argued that a townspeople had been living in our lobby for two days and that didn't matter, but me having friends over on a holiday to watch television did? He said that he didn't know that the person didn't live here. The following evening, the girl and I left to go dancing in Asheville. We got back to B.C. at about 2:00 a.m. I dropped her off, then realized that a car had been following me to her dorm. I drove around the campus once, then I noticed that it was security. He had seen me drop the girl off. Now, he was pulling me over with blue lights flashing. The first thing he said was, "What do you think you're doing?" I asked him the same question. I told him that he had no reason to follow me because I had done nothing wrong. It was very insulting to be asked such an obvious question. He

went on by asking what I was doing out so late, as if it were his business. He pretended to run a check on my driver's license, then ordered me "to go straight to my dorm." My experience exemplifies the tension between students and security.

As I read the other letters to the editor, I think the answer might be found by evaluating the priorities of security officers. What is more important? Monitoring school buildings and property or invading students' right to privacy? It is this kind of treatment that offends people and raises the question: Is security here to protect or offend us? I did not appreciate being "baby-sat" for the four days, and it made me reconsider ever staying on campus for another holiday. While I realize that my contract for staying during the break said, "No Visitation!" I saw the holiday as an exception to a very unnecessary rule that should be changed. Thank you for an editorial that hits close to home.

Sincerely,
Shane Gunderson

Dear Editor:

I'd like to raise the issue of school sponsored events on campus. The student participation is lacking, to say the least. The Student Government Association works hard to organize events, select movies, and book quality performers for coffee

houses. Students complain that there is nothing to do, yet they do not participate in the events that are planned. People do not realize that their student activity fees pay for the movies and hired performers. If only one person reads this and gets involved, then I've accomplished something. Let's not waste our money on unseen movies and entertainers with no audiences. Don't wait on fun—make it happen!

Sincerely,
Donna Howard

Dear Editor,

I am an acting major here at Brevard College and lately I have been feeling quite distressed about the theatre department. In the two years that I have been at Brevard I have auditioned (unsuccessfully) for two of the four plays/musicals that have been performed at this college. Although I have willingly worked backstage for *Fools* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, I feel as though the Theatre Department is a victim of unnecessary type casting and favoritism. It is simply unfair for practically the same people to be cast in every play or musical. Every acting major should be given a fair chance to perform in at least one show. A serious freshman or sophomore college theatre major needs and wants all the performance experience he or she can get. Unfortunately, if the dedicated theatre major attends Brevard College he or she will get the run-around at auditions if he or she doesn't meet the original playwright's description of a particular character. It is too bad Brevard College does not permit its theatre majors to perform their own show because of the way the standards of this Theatre Department appear. Many talented and dedicated students are being left out of shows.

Sincerely,
Katie Wodtke

To the Brevard College Community:

We would like to thank each of you for the emergency assistance, hospital visits, donations, prayers and thoughts provided for my children Antoinette, Lisa, and Charmin during their accident November 5, 1985. We realize their survival was made possible because of your help. Our Master above was surely with all of us during this time. Thank you again for all of your help.

The Smith and Colbert Family

Editorial comment

It may have come your attention that this issue of *The Clarion* was basically written by two people. This is not because I feel that these are the best writers but is because they are the only writers on the staff. I certainly do not wish to write yet another comment on apathy. I would like to make it known, however, that we welcome anyone to work on the paper. This is our school paper, it is for all of us. It should not be left for two people to do alone. Thus, if you are interested in the paper or have any comments please contact me through Box 426. Letters to the Editor should be sent there also.

BC Women and Their Rights

by Bonnie Davis

Some time ago, the students of Brevard College received a memo in their mailboxes that listed the "social regulations" for BC around the year 1950. While looking over the list, most readers laughed aloud because some of the rules seemed slightly prehistoric. It didn't take long to realize either, that most of the rules applied mainly to the women who attended Brevard at that time.

The year 1950 wasn't so very long ago, but according to the rules stated on the memo, women of BC had about as many rights as prisoners of Alcatraz had. Not to be too critical because, after all, these rules were enforced much before the Women of The 80's came about. However, it seems as though the women who came to college in Brevard were overlooked or perhaps overly protected to say the least. Is it possible that their parents' meant to send them to some convent in the Swiss Alps, but instead sent them here? Hmmmmm.

Whatever the case may be, the women did somehow manage to survive at Brevard and to think that they even received college degrees just like their male counterparts! What a step forward. Brevard College women of the 80's have a lot to be grateful for due to their predecessors. Think about it. There must have been a few radical, non-conforming girls on this campus thirty years ago who didn't obey all of the rules and tried to get away with a few things. Thanks to them, perhaps some doors were opened, not to mention a few narrow minds.

It's hard not to have an unbiased viewpoint while writing about a subject such as this, because it isn't possible to know how things really were in those days. Thankfully, BC women today won't have to find out. Yet, it is exasperating to know that it has taken so long for women to gain the equal rights of men, and that there are still many areas where women have to prove themselves to men. It's not even necessary to get into the old argument about "if women want their rights, let them fight for their country in war too." That isn't the issue. Women just want to be treated in an equal manner, like any human beings.

Now, not to be sidetracked and to get back to the prehistoric "social regulations" once enforced, college life in 1950 must have indeed been dreary. It is probable that it had its good points too. Think of all the wholesome activities the students could participate in like ice cream socials, soc hops, and quilting bees. What fun!

Compared to the women of yesteryears, the women of today are veritable heathens. Three cheers for that one, huh guys? Right. The next time someone complains about a rule or regulation that seems unjustly enforced, they should remember the way it was thirty years ago...and give thanks! Now all of the women within range of these words should make plans to attend the picture show tonight. After all, according to Rule Number 15, young women are allowed to attend the picture show, but not more than twice a week on regular show days, only once at night. And just think. We can even be attended by young men. Wow, aren't we lucky to get such a treat.!