

Forest parties: a long tradition at B.C.

by Chris Peterson

For years the Pisgah National forest has been a recreational area for the students who attended Brevard College.

Forest parties have been a tradition at BC for a long time. Dean Don Scarborough has talked with alumni who had forest parties about 30 years ago.

Years ago, it was legal to drink if you were 18 years of age, but over the past few years the legal drinking age in most states has steadily been increased. It now stands at 21 in N.C. after the law was passed last fall. This was done because of the increase in accidents involving drunk drivers.

The present law has posed many hindrances for BC students in holding forest parties. First of all, the majority of students attending BC are not of legal drinking age. And those students who are underage and still attend the parties run the risk of getting busted for drinking underage or driving while impaired.

Secondly, the issues of driving while impaired and littering the forest are the main problems concerning officials. There have been many incidents in which students have been arrested for DUI, given tickets for drinking underage, or fined for littering.

Geoffrey Shepherd, a former student at BC and present member of the Brevard sheriff's department said, "Driving under the influence and littering are the biggest problems."

Forest parties have been and still are the target of a lot of criticism, both good and bad. BC President Billy Greer says, "I don't have any problem with forest parties that are conducted within the framework of the law, and within the framework of, what I call, responsible living."

But despite the obvious risks the students run due to littering or drunk driving, students still continue to attend the week night parties.

Dean Don Scarborough says that he feels that the students are far more mature in handling drinking and driving as compared to more recent years. Evidence of this is seen in the fact that students do clean up after parties and have designated

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BC costs up \$460

The cost of going to Brevard next year will be \$6,670, an increase of \$460.

The general trend over the last few years for general fees, tuition, room and board has been a 5 to 9 percent increase. Next year's increase will be a 7 percent raise.

To balance that out, administration sources say the financial aid office has plenty of funds for students in need. For help and more information, see Ed Cunningham.

According to President Billy Greer, all colleges and universities are raising prices and "we're not out of line at all. We consider our pricing very, very carefully," he says. "On the bright side," he adds, "our financial aid people are on ready."



The campfire...friends...the forest...fellowship—call it what you will, but forest parties have long been a traditional way for Brevard College students to get away from it all. (BC photo by B.R. Orrell)

SGA elections set for this week at BC

by Bonnie Davis

It's election time of year for BC students, and all returning freshmen and fifth semester students should plan to cast their ballots for the SGA executive board candidates. Voting will be held tomorrow and Friday, April 2 and 3 in the cafeteria during dining hours.

Candidates running for the SGA presidency are Allen Brooks, Robert Brooks, Jr., Mark Higginbotham, and Reg Williams. Students vying for the vice-presidency of social board are Nick Embrey, Kevin Cooper, and Leigh Hege. Judicial vice-president candidates are John Hoback and Donald Rett.



Candidates for the Student Government Association offices include, front row, left to right, for SGA president; Theo Reginal Williams, Jr., Robert Brooks Jr., Allen Brooks and Mark Higginbotham. Back row: Donald Rett, for Judicial vice-president; John Hoback, for judicial vice-president; and Nick Embrey for social board vice-president. Absent at time of picture was social board vice-president candidate Leigh Michelle Hege. (BC photo by Jock Lauterer)

In order to be eligible for candidacy, students must have a cumulative GPA of a 2.3 or better and must not be on social probation (10 points). After filing for election, students then went through an interviewing process concerning their grades and guidelines. Current SGA members were given the opportunity to ask candidates questions about why they wanted to run for office.

SGA presidential candidate Reg Williams said, "I will involve the whole student body and their ideas in planning events for the campus. I feel that SGA can work closer with the administration and have a louder voice in decision making."

Allen Brooks, candidate for SGA president, feels that "the biggest problem (this year) was the lack of communication between the students and the administration. I want to take on the challenge of being the mediator..."

The third presidential candidate, Robert Brooks, in reference to the lack of communication said, "I will be the voice through whom they can be heard."

When the candidates first filed for election it was strange to note that the ballots were all dominated by men—not a single woman's name appeared. SGA Advisor Steve D'Adamo said, "I was surprised and worried." However, the recent addition of Leigh Hege's name now gives the women of BC a voice.

As far as changes for next year's SGA goes, their main concern will be to revise the student constitution and to clarify it. According to D'Adamo, as it stands now, "no part of it deals with the impeachment of the president or about grades falling below 2.3 for officers."