

THE CLARION

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Student opinion . . .

Register and vote!

by Andrea Henry

It's time to put on your politician's hat.

Four years have escaped us since Ronald Reagan took the office of President for the second time, and once again, politicians verbally abuse one another and point fingers at each other's war records or resumes.

It gets a bit ridiculous after a while, but some original ideas do stem from the conventions and speeches. Like at the Republican convention when the Miami Times newspaper reporters put bags over their heads and named themselves "The people with bags over their heads club" and started timing how long it took desperate reporters to pick up the story. It did not take but a few seconds.

It may seem like a funny, uncivilized and sometimes downright confusing political system, but it was designed with you-- the registered voter in mind. The electoral voting procedure, the primaries, and the general elections all give you an opportunity to have a voice in your government.

It gets old when people moan and complain about a person in office not doing this and not doing that when the person griping did not even take it upon himself to sacrifice half an hour and go to the polls and vote.

Some people around BC do it all the time. They say, "Why can't we have this," or "Can't we change that?" but do not show up when it's time to vote for SGA president.

About 120 people, or 20 per cent of the student population came out two weeks ago to support their SGA presidential choice. They are the ones who have more of a right to question what is happening with the student government.

In Florida, turnout in the 1984 Republican primaries was four per cent of the voting age population for the state; Georgia had one per cent, West Virginia nine per cent, and North Carolina had 24 per cent. That is not much.

There is still time to register to vote for the national elections if you have not already done so. The system even allows those of us away from home to vote by absentee ballot.

So...vote! Then you can moan and complain if your candidate is not chosen.

An invitation . . .

The Clarion invites students, faculty and the administration staff to write articles, letters to the editor, and commentaries. We consider them on the premise of interest, significance, timeliness and space.

All articles on the editorial page represent the author's opinion and not that of the Clarion staff, administration or faculty of Brevard College.

All letters must be typed or printed legibly, and must be signed, along with your year in school or relationship to Brevard College. All submissions are subject to editing and must be turned in on Mondays by 11 a.m. to the Clarion box located in McLarty-Goodson lobby.



You're 18, and 500 miles from home . . .

by Beth Seagle

You're 18 years old, 500 miles away from home. What happens now?

"When you leave home and come to college, so many things change at once," said Dr. Charles Zimmerman, campus chaplain.

According to Transfer Counselor Adelaide Miller, you come into an environment that you know nothing about and you get a sick feeling.

Jim Anderson, clinical social worker at TREND Mental Health says you have to leave your family, your friends, and your support systems. According to Miller, these people have encouraged and supported you, but now you feel alone.

There are other problems, too. According to Miller, you put pressure on yourself to succeed, and your parents want you to do well. So you may feel if you don't get an "A" you've failed. Miller says to keep trying and not to give up.

Charly Sellers, resident director for Green dorm, says a way to develop a support system is by making friends with someone you can trust and confide in.

According to Miller, balancing an academic life and a social life is also important. Students should not spend all their time studying because they need time to relax and socialize.

Miller says that there are many resources available to help students deal with stress.

Campus Counselor Steve Martin says, "I'm a nice guy and people can come and see when they need help. Anything we talk about is confidential."

Students shouldn't be afraid to seek out faculty members. Dr. Zimmerman says, "Almost every faculty person on this campus is willing to talk to someone who is feeling lost or scared."

Miller says that when a person doesn't want to talk to someone on campus, there are counselors at TREND Mental Health and local ministers who are willing to help.

Other willing ears on campus include the campus chaplain, resident directors, and resident assistants.

Miller says, "Don't be afraid to go to someone, because that person has probably gone through the same thing."

Poets Corner

At Christ Church Frederica

Sitting in the wood
 broken by stone
 etched in with hard steel
 initials in the shade
 relation of a story
 by an author unpublished
 with words unrehearsed
 punctuated with a breeze
 rays of sun scratch the floor
 perhaps a chest or a back,
 sides that were alive
 laying low, bleeding scars
 the rasping breath of nature
 Unquenchable, by the river
 without notice, the waterless eyes
 flow by an unnurtured wood.

Christopher S. Frazier