

by Heather Conrad
Assistant Editor

A sudden gust of winter wind knocks loose a window of a West Beam dorm room. Inside, a student, shivering and sleepless, becomes frustrated. She makes a phone call.

Shortly, a man in blue—complete with tools and an earnest gaze, enters the room, quickly replaces the window, and is gone.

A BC activity bus breaks down in Georgia and is towed back to Brevard. The problem is unknown — until a man in blue looks under the hood.

A few hours and 79 cents later, the bus is off and running.

Who are these men in blue?

With Brevard College's 130 acres, Christmas tree farm, fleet of cars, 13 buildings, and the needs of the entire student body, faculty and staff to look after, it would appear a whole army would be required to keep everything in working order.

But BC looks to a skilled and humble troop of eight men, one secretary, and a tough little canine mascot to keep the school functioning.

BC's Maintenance Director Reid Plemmons, along with secretary Patricia Allison, coordinate the efforts of seven other men, each one a professional in his own right.

Reid's "Muses of Manual Labor" include carpenter Danny Corn, plumbing and electrical expert Mike Dodson, carpentry fix-it man Jack Hamlin, welder Crawford Lowe (who Pat calls the "McGyver of mechanics"), mechanic Ricky Owens, boiler and heat specialist V.C. Stiles, and groundsman Mark Walker.

Last but not least comes the important canine element of the maintenance crew: "Cujo" — or what Crawford calls "Our six-pound Bulgarian weasel-hound."

The workload is constant, according to Reid, and besides the obvious jobs such as what Reid calls "the unnoticeables" such as cracked baseboarding, bathroom tiling and other small things that affect a



Brevard College's answer to Mr. Goodwrench: the maintenance crew is as friendly as they are efficient. They include, left to right, V.C. Stiles, Mark Walker, Danny Corn, Maintenance Director Reid Plemmons, Secretary Pat Allison, Jack Hamlin (kneeling), Crawford Lowe holding their mascot, "Cujo," and Mike Dodson. Absent at time of picture was Ricky Owens. (BC News Bureau photo)

the Men in Blue

BC's Maintenance Crew

building's appearance.

Reid says the job begins with the incoming work orders, which come to Pat, who prioritizes them according to date, size and importance of the job.

Older work orders take precedence. Heating and plumbing problems carry even more weight. Pat says, "Weighing the importance of each job becomes difficult, but we try to be as fair as possible."

At the beginning of each day, Reid decides what needs to be done first and by

whom. He assigns a handful of work orders (WO's) to each of the men, who by now have gathered in Pat's office. If a job is particularly large, several men are assigned. And a few WO's are held, in case extra time is found at day's end.

Reid says, "I think people are unaware of the magnitude of a certain day's work, of all the jobs that are asked of us. People tend to see only their own problems. So we look to our jobs as a challenge, to try and please everyone."

Fortunately, the addition of Pat as secretary to the maintenance department has helped vastly, and has met with rave reviews. Says Crawford with an infectious grin, "Pat's our coffee-maker, housekeeper, mom and boss."

Reid echoes, with good humor, "Yeah, she takes our cigarettes away!" Then growing serious, he adds, "She has been a tremendous help to us. With three or four meetings a day, plus the regular work and now the new plans for the art building and SU switch-over, I can't be on the phone all day."

Pat grins. "Since my first day," she says, "there's never been a dull moment. The guys have brought in snakes, a mouse and once they brought me a bat in a two-liter Coke container. After that, I was just about to make my own backdoor through that back room!"

Reid chuckles in response, allowing that the BC maintenance crew never knows what to expect each day. "We must bend to the school, not our schedule. We're to be ready 24 hours a day. I remember once Mike and I worked 36 and a half hours without going home. The job is just that way," he says, matter-of-factly.

Despite the long hours, rigorous duties and continuous mending, the BC maintenance crew finds their job worthwhile for a particular reason: the students.

Says Reid, "We love to help the students — it's what we're all about. Whenever a student needs help, we don't consider it an annoyance — we just want to help. In all cases, it's important."

Reid believes college students face some rough times when they have to strike out on their own. "The last thing a student needs, for instance, is to have to pay \$35 or more for a locksmith to undo a car lock. We try to help kids enough, so they don't have to look for outside help," Reid says.

By now, as lunchtime approaches, a few of the men have completed their rounds and have returned to Pat's office. Reid waves to them confidently. "Ask anyone here — we love to work at Brevard College — and we love the kids. Kids are what we're all about."

"Without them," Mike adds, "we wouldn't be here."

Brevard College makes plans for Christmas season

by Lisa Matkins
Clarion Reporter

Well, folks, Christmas is right around the corner. Just how do you plan to celebrate the season? I think you college kids should consider the entertainment planned by the music department.

No, it's not a big party in Green. It's the annual candlelight service in Dunham Auditorium on Dec. 4 and 5. There will be Christmas hymns and carols.

The BC Collegiate Singers, Chamber Chorale, and Brass Ensemble all play a part in this Yuletide celebration.

And I know you just can't wait to see President Greer light the campus

Christmas tree. So, at 7:30 p.m. either Sunday or Monday, get yourself and your friends to Dunham Auditorium for a night full of Christmas spirit.

Be sure to get there in plenty of time to find a good seat, or else you might end up in the lobby.

Although the Christmas concert is free, tickets are required due to the limiting seating in Dunham. Tickets must be picked up from the receptionist at Beam Administration Building.

And for those of you really caught up in Christmas, there will also be a series of Advent concerts at Fletcher United Methodist Church on Dec. 4, 11, and 18.

Suspect apprehended and warned

from BC News Bureau

Authorities apprehended a man suspected of involvement in the recent nighttime incidents on the Brevard College campus. But the suspect had to be released due to lack of identification, Dean of Student Affairs Norm Witek said.

However, the suspect, who is not a

student at BC, was warned to stay off the Brevard College campus, according to Witek.

Witek cautions students not to form vigilante groups because "even with the best of intentions, someone's going to get hurt," but to report any suspicious people seen on campus to RAs, RDs, campus security or the Dean's office.