



Kim's Korner

Room checks, vandalism getting out of hand

Commentary by
Kim Button

Starting this semester, there have been many room checks in residence halls across campus. Almost everybody that you talk to has either had their room inspected recently or knows of people who have. Room checks are fine and are even useful, but it seems that lately they are getting out of hand.

There is nothing wrong with the staff periodically having room checks. Our rooms are the property of Brevard College and they have every right to search them for alcohol, weapons, etc.

But lately, RDs are going a little bit overboard, continuously searching rooms just hoping to find something or bust someone.

However, as much as everybody hates these room checks, we have only brought them on ourselves. Compared to last year at this time, the campus has had four times the amount of write-ups. I suppose that the RDs feel they have no choice but to have continuous room checks to try and scare everybody from continuing to violate the rules.

What I believe is the worst problem is not the violations, but the senseless

destruction that is happening around campus. I can understand visitation and alcohol violations, though I am not saying that they are justified. But how

do you explain tearing the doors off of Taylor Hall, destroying bathrooms, trashing lobbies and the game room, setting off fire alarms, or even throwing your garbage out the window. These

things are getting a little outrageous. I don't see how anybody can think of this as fun, especially when an entire dorm usually ends up paying the price until someone confesses.

I don't know what leads people to

this destruction, but if you're so childish that you need to destroy other people's property, then maybe you shouldn't be in college.

As for the write-ups for all of the violations, I don't think that people realize how close we are to having the visitation policy become more restricted. The administration believes that visitation is a privilege. So, once things start getting out of hand with the students, visitation is usually one of the first things to go. I hope that people wise up and begin to realize that we are only hurting ourselves.



What do you think about that?

What's wrong with having pets on campus?

Commentary by
Casey Marshall

Pets, for most people, become a part of the family. Then when a student goes off to college they have to leave their beloved pet home. For some students a pet can cheer them up when they are in a bad mood, or if a student has nothing to do they can play with their pet.

The rule here at Brevard College states that students are not allowed to have pets on campus. Now, I can

understand not having a dog, but why not a bird, or some kind of reptile, or other small animals that would be able to be controlled with ease? Because the animal could endanger other students, or because some students may be allergic to that animal.

If a student decides to get an animal and his or her roommate is allergic to it, then you would have a problem and may need to discuss the possibility of another type of animal. But if you and your roommate agree on an animal that both of you would like, then I think

that should be O.K.

But then the administration would say that the animal could endanger other students. Like, for instance, a bird or a reptile. Well, they both are in a cage and the only way that animal would be out of its cage is if the student was holding it. If the animal escapes, then what will happen? If the animal goes outside of the dormitory then the animal is gone, but if the animal just goes outside the room then the student(s) should get a warning; if it happens again then they should have to get rid of the animal.

The next thing the student(s) would have to think about is the smell. Well, if the cage is cleaned out periodically, then there should be no problem. But if someone doesn't clean the cage then the animal should have to go after a second warning.

To me this would show the administration how responsible a student can be. If the school says they treat us like adults, then let us decide whether or not we want a small animal in our rooms, rooms that we paid for in the beginning of the year.

Guest Commentary

Everyone needs to pitch in if we are going to save our planet

Commentary by
Missy McGill

Do we truly know what is going on in our backyard? Are we still hiding behind the blind cliché of "out of sight, out of mind," or do we truly not care?

I heard someone say the other day that he didn't care about the environment because he was not going to live long enough for it to have an affect on him personally. Well, the fact is that he may be partially right in that statement because he may not live long enough. According to the Council on Economic Priorities, eight out of ten Americans live near a hazardous waste site.

Between solid, hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste, there remains the overriding problem of how to dispose of the waste properly, efficiently, and of course the American way, cheaply. With the non-industrial landfills closing simply because they are full, and the lack of feasible toxic, hazardous and radioactive waste disposal sites, one may ask, "What can I do?" Well, one

answer is recycling.

Seventy percent of the world's solid waste is produced in the U.S., with only 11% of the waste being recycled. If you were to leave an aluminum can behind in Pisgah Forest, it would take 500

years for it to decompose. With Americans throwing away 55 billion cans and 25 billion bottles each year, the waste is overwhelming. Fifty percent of the world's tropical rain forests have been cut down since 1950. Almost 15 million acres of land is permanently becoming desert-like a year. Think of how much land could be saved by recycling paper and using recycled paper.

These devastating statistics go on and on, too much to be presented in one article. You don't have to know all of the statistics to know that things need to improve! This planet is giving us everything we need to survive. We need not take advantage of or further destroy our only true life source.

Take care of Mother Earth and she will continue to take care of us.

THE CLARION

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