

Plaza honors past and present leaders

BY WENDY BYERLY

Last semester the Student Government Association (SGA) decided they wanted to make a change in the school that would be physically visible to all students, visitors, faculty and staff. In response to this request, President Tom Bertrand gave SGA the responsibility of fundraising and helping plan a new leadership plaza to be located between the cafeteria and the Moore Science building.

Brian Hemel, President of the SGA, and John Minor, Vice-President of the SGA, wrote a letter addressing this issue towards the end of the Fall 1999 semester. In this letter they wrote, "As a symbol of leadership, the plaza would inspire the drive, creativity and ambition of the strong student leaders within the college's student body."

On January 28 the SGA held a charrette to see what type of designs the architects, faculty and staff could come up with. Scott Melrose & Associates is the architect firm that has been hired to work on the long-term plans for the campus.

Many ideas were thrown out to Melrose and his associate, Jon Calabria. Once a list was made Melrose addressed the pros and cons of each idea. The most reasonable ideas to the students, faculty and staff present: an amphitheater with movable tables and chairs, a bouldering wall against one of the buildings sides, fountains, walkways that look more natural and will allow grass to grow, a small meeting area for possible outdoor meetings of classes and plants native to this area to be planted in the plaza.

Annan O'Brien, a member of

SGA, told Melrose, "I would like to see a more organic and natural approach to the plaza."

Everyone came to the consensus that no concrete is wanted in the plaza; the more natural look that

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- Annan O'Brien

O'Brien asked for was preferred by all in attendance.

As Melrose went through the list of ideas, he noticed that water features were mentioned several times, "The cost for a natural looking stream through the plaza will run anywhere from \$30,000-50,000. A more reasonable natural water feature would be a water fountain that emerged possibly from a boulder, or some type of concrete pool." This type of fountain would allow the water to trickle over the boulder and reseed into the ground where a water catching system would capture the water to be reused.

Also discussed at the meeting were the plants to be added to the plaza. There was a request for the use of flowers and trees native to this area expressed by members of the Native Garden Club.

It was brought to everyone's attention that the short lived specimen of Maple trees that are located along the hill next to the Moore Science building will soon die out. Two options were given to alleviate this prob-

lem. The trees could be removed and have older Oaks or Maples planted in their place, or be replaced as each tree dies.

The amphitheater brought up at the meeting has been drawn as a more traditional concrete structure and also as a structure with boulders for seats to look more natural and for students others to climb on. With the boulder design, it will be much cheaper and eliminate need for gating.

The social opportunities were addressed with suggestions for a snack bar, like the Java Cart, to be open during hours that the cafeteria is not. "The plans for this plaza are to create social opportunities for the campus. There is no place for the students to gather as a whole," commented Melrose. Also a pull down video screen to be possibly mounted on the porch of the cafeteria or the Moore Science building.

A place for student sculptures and art was suggested, where the art could be rotated and not permanent. There will be an information kiosk where club and organizations from campus can post their upcoming activities and calendars of events.

For the safety conscience students, lighting will be provided in the plaza hidden in trees or as lamp posts.

Once all of the ideas were discussed amongst the group, the two architects drew up four sketches of what the plaza could possibly look

like. These plans were posted in the cafeteria for a week with comment sheets below for student input. The plans were then sent back to the architects with the comments, where they made up a few more final designs taking in all of the input from students.

These will be posted for more comments and input. After this step, the final decisions will be made.

It is the SGA's responsibility to come up with fundraising strategies. One idea by Pres. Bertrand at the proposal meeting was to ask former SGA presidents for support, thus the temporary title of Leadership Plaza. The plaza will have a formal name sometime in the future. The Planning Committee of Brevard College will be very involved in this project from beginning to end, helping to make some of the determining suggestions. The project will also be included in their

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write-ups for the SACS evaluation in the upcoming year.

Hemel said, "These plans are great. I just hope we get support from all over the campus, faculty, staff and students alike."

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Administrators vowed Thursday that the ban would be enforced.

"I couldn't be more emphatic," Assistant Dean of Student Life Marianne Waterbury said. "We are absolutely going to enforce a ban on the Nude Olympics."

Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Students Thomas Dunne agreed.

"It is my understanding that the University decided last year that they were willing to suspend a large group of students," he said.

Sophomore class officers have recently scrambled unsuccessfully to plan an alternative event. Thursday morning, class

president Ben Shopsin sent out a class-wide e-mail apologizing for not scheduling a replacement activity. He said he had suggested numerous activities, including a bonfire, a tropical party, a bathing suit party, an underwear party, an outdoor dance party, a food fight and a snowball fight.

"The administration didn't give many reasons for rejecting our proposals," he said. "They wanted an event that would happen indoors with full clothing. The whole spirit of the event was something that happened outside and, obviously, with minimal clothing, and that wasn't what they wanted to happen."

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