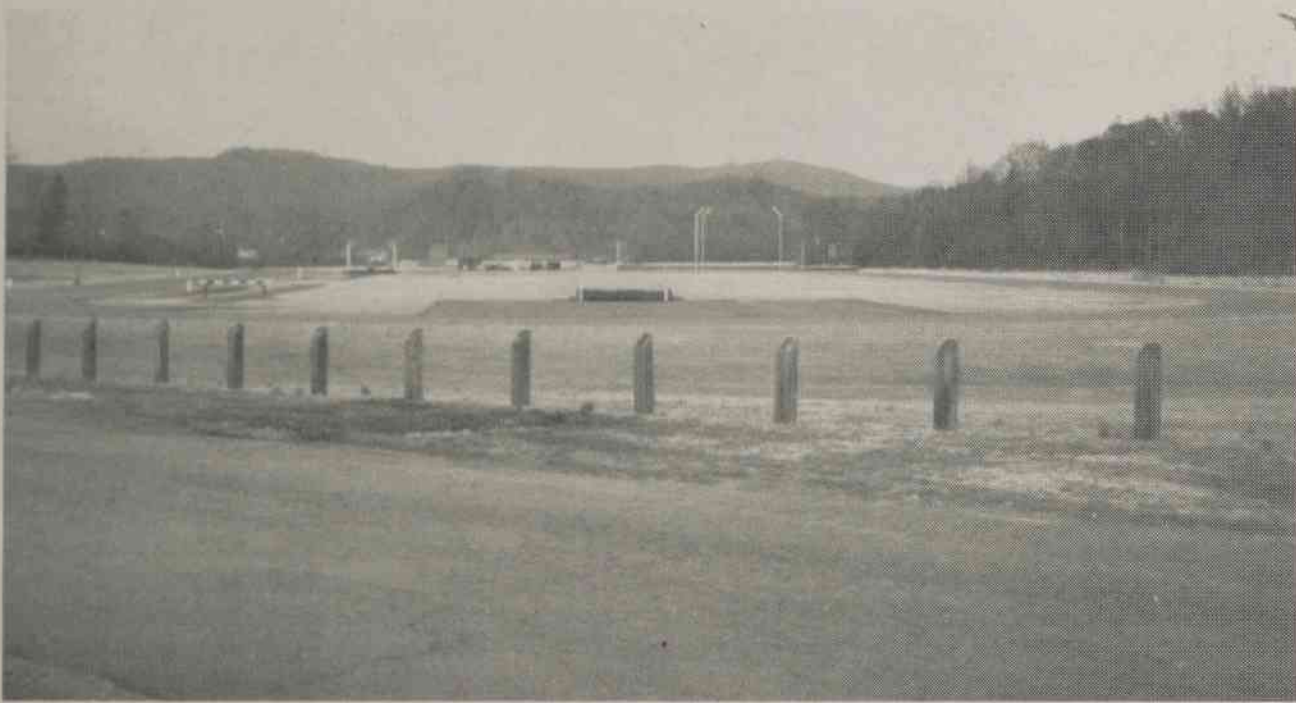


# COACH TROY



-BC Track, photo by TY HARBOUR-

-TYLER HARBOUR, Editor-in-Chief-

For the past several months, Brevard College's alcohol policy has come under fire from students and faculty alike. And the debate whether Brevard College should even have a "wet" campus seems to have faculty and students, alike, in a stalemate. The bigger issue, though, was the recent departure of a faculty member because of violating the alcohol policy. This, in turn, raises a significant question; does the faculty alcohol policy need to be re-written, or does it meet within realistic guidelines?

Cross-country and track-and-field coach David Troy was quietly dismissed, amid allegations that while on a cross-country meet with a student at Wisconsin in November of 2002, he had drunk a beer with his dinner. When this was found out, he was then given a choice of resignation or termination. Ultimately, he resigned.

"It's unfortunate that something like that happened to him (Troy) because he was a really nice guy. But you have to understand that as a faculty member that as a faculty member you are representing your college at all times, so I think that it is fair", said Lazendra Bossard, a graduating senior peer advisor, as well as, Chief Justice of the judicial board.

Hearing from a few of the track athletes, it seems ludicrous that a man with his background would go and purposely violate a policy to lose his job. His outstanding career includes: winning 20 individual Southeast Conference (SEC) Championships, coaching 3 NCAA and 1 NAIA National Champion, receiving the NCAA Coach of the Year 7 times, and Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year 3 times.

It could be seen by some that Coach Troy's dismissal was not fair and that while it has been rumored that other professors in the past had been "drinking" and not been fired.

"It's not fair that he was dismissed", said Emily Hulse, a freshman track-runner. This echoed the sentiment of the track-runners interviewed. Feeling like they had been left in the dark about Coach Troy's dismissal, members of track team felt like the faculty policy

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**Policy:** The use, sale, purchase, manufacture, transfer or possession of alcohol or any illegal drug while performing College business or on College property, or being under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drug while performing College business or on College property is strictly prohibited.

**Disciplinary Action for Violation of Policy:** Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, and/or required participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation or treatment program. Such violations may also have legal consequences.

**Prescribed Drug(s) Usage:** The legal use of prescribed drugs is permitted on the job only if it does not impair an employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job effectively and in a safe manner that does not endanger other individuals in the workplace.

**Testing for Controlled Substances:** The College reserves the right to conduct drug, alcohol, or any controlled substance testing on a random and for-cause basis.

## Who's in the Wrong?

was too vague. Certain track members, whose names won't be given, said that they had been approached by other faculty members saying that "by giving their opinion on the Coach Troy matter would result in consequences."

I sat down with President Drew Van Horn to clear up some of the questions about the alcohol policy and coach Troy's dismissal. When asked to define college business, I understood him as saying that if the you( the faculty member) are receiving compensation from the institution that you are working for, then that is college business. I also understood that he feels that the policy is left vague so when a situation arises, then it can be thoroughly addressed without parameters already surrounding it. When asked about consequences for speaking out, he felt that if a student had been "threatened" then that student needs to that person needs to go to the next level up and speak out to a supervisor. He also added that he has been very approachable at SGA meetings and around campus. He also felt that coach Troy's departure was "appropriate considering the circumstances."

In a case like this, it seems that no one really wins. A faculty member who was well-received by his track members and many students is out of a job, a team is left without a coach, and a college is left with a bad taste in its mouth. When asked what they would want for the future, track members said that they just wanted to alcohol policy clearly defined, and their coach back.

-NEW COACH: update by GIL PAYNE-

The Brevard College Athletic Department is pleased to announce that former BC Head Cross Country/Track Coach, Norm Witek, has agreed to take over the program as the interim head coach for the remainder of the spring semester. Coach Witek served for 17 years as the head coach of the Tornados. During his tenure as head coach, BC won 5 National Junior College Championships and had 120 athletes recognized as NJCAA All-Americans. Coach Witek has also agreed to be a member of the BC Cross Country/Track Coach search committee. The search for the new coach has begun with hopefully an appointment to the position prior to the end of the spring semester.



Alcohol in the Village, photo by CORTNEY CHAMBERS

