

Opinion

Our Opinion

The proposal of a football team at Brevard College has come about quite quickly and those involved seem to be running towards a decision.

The main problems we see with a football team at Brevard College are monetary issues and large changes to the community. The trustees have claimed that the football program will sustain itself. This might be true in the immediate future when dealing with things like equipment, but the rental of the high school field seems to be an issue. What happens down the road, maybe a few years into the program, when the school decides they want a football field on campus? There seems to be a divide between the idea of a self funded football team and reality. At what point will the initial funding stop and the football's self sustaining funding begin?

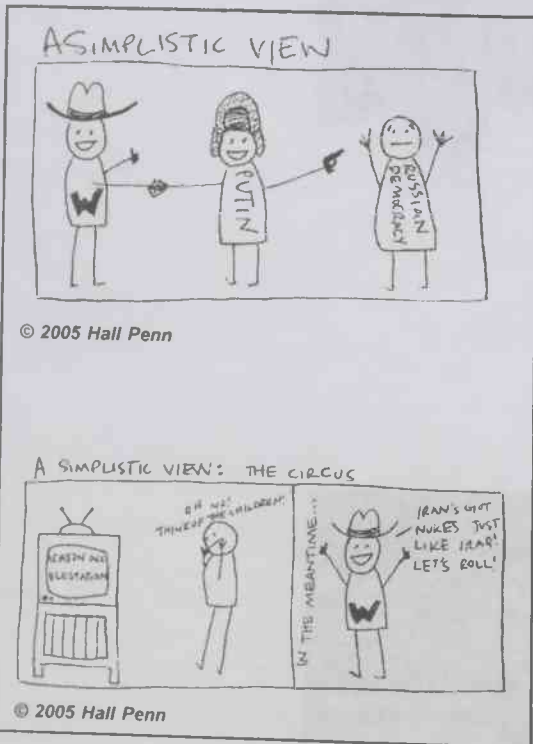
The college's website dealing with frequently asked questions proposes the question "Will the college have to add facilities to accommodate a football team?" and answers "Besides adding practice fields, the college will have to identify where the team will have its locker rooms and equipment storage. In addition, the college will have to focus on the renovation of Green Residence Hall (to handle the additional 100 students expected to participate in football), examine our current dining hall set-up, and address parking and road systems." This seems like quite a bit of spending to do on the budget of a football team that will be in its infancy.

The problems with this idea of funding seem rampant. There are no other athletic teams at Brevard College that are self sustaining. No other athletic team charges admission to their games.

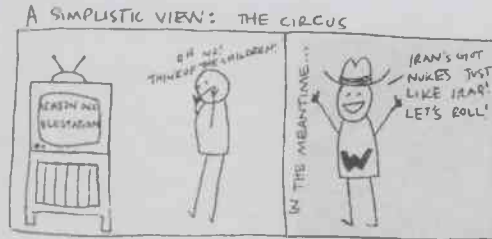
The main argument for bringing a football program to Brevard College is to bring in more students and in turn more revenue. The college states on their website that "There are no colleges in Western North Carolina, with enrollments of 1,000 traditional undergraduates, or more that do not have football as an intercollegiate sport" yet we know that correlation does not imply causation.

Bringing in more students is an important mission of this college, but this should be done in keeping with the school's identity and not merely looking to others for fast fixes.

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