

*[Staff Editorial]***Removal of Clarion issues constitutes censorship**

The fact that an admissions official asked students to remove issues of The Clarion newspaper from sight during an open campus weekend is troubling to us. We feel that the actions of the admissions official, or officials, is a form of censorship, and that they feel our efforts to report the news are trivial and unimportant.

When the facts are publicly available, it seems like it is better to present them in an informational manner than to attempt to cover them up and act as if they don't exist.

When employees of the college start censoring student publications, they're stepping onto a slippery slope. What will keep them from, say, removing a bumper sticker on a student's car if they think it will bother a prospective student or parent?

What will keep them from taking down a flyer that they personally might feel is offensive or not good for a prospective student to see?

How do we know that they haven't done these things before, and they just haven't been caught yet?

President Van Horn said that it is not an institutional policy to remove student publications, but we feel that there has been nothing to stop school officials from doing this, nor has anything been done to discourage them from doing it again.

The staff of The Clarion newspaper would like an apology from the admissions officers that either personally removed issues of The Clarion or asked others to do so. They have taken something that students have worked hard on and pulled it from public sight in an attempt to make their lives easier and in the process have insulted us as students and news reporters.

On the Record ...

"We consider any referral or report of Iran to the Security Council as the end of diplomacy"

—Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council

"The Hamas Party has made it clear that they do not support the right of Israel. And I have made it clear that so long as that's their policy, that we will not support a Palestinian government made up of Hamas."

—President George W. Bush

"My first message is to the butcher Bush ... you are not only a defeated liar, you are, with aid from God, scared, a failure and a bad omen for your nation. You have brought disaster to your country and will bring more."

—Al-Qaeda's deputy leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, speaking to President Bush

"I really thought that last year was probably the end of the road."

—Jerome Bettis on nearly retiring after last season's loss to New England in the AFC Championship Game

*[Staff Editorial]***Why we do what we do**

The Clarion is meant to serve the student body, the faculty and staff of Brevard College, and the community as a source of news and information. We take this very seriously.

Recently we have been criticized for running an article about the arrest of one student and the suspension of three others. We have also been criticized for running the mug shot of the arrested student.

Some think that because this is a college newspaper that we should "protect the privacy" of the arrested student, however the fact that he was arrested means the information about the arrest comes from the public sphere. The information on the arrest as well as the mug shot came from Transylvania county court documents. They did not come from the college, and publishing this information is both legal and responsible.

This college is not used to having an active student press, and the fact that this has been an issue comes from that fact. From now on The Clarion will attempt to publish information on students arrested on campus and possibly off campus if there is sufficient reason for it to be news. We want to be fair and attempt to report on news.

■ Letters Policy

The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and content. All letters intended for publication must be signed.

All correspondence should be sent to: The Clarion, Brevard College, 400 North Broad Street, Brevard, NC 28712

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