

Letter to the Editor:

Brevard College advertises: "For hearts and minds as large as mountains."

In the heart of the beautiful North Carolina Appalachian Mountains, it must be time to make changes.

Student tuition may increase to an estimated \$25,000 per year, or more.

Who decided the historic Barn Theatre should switch into a football locker room?

The new coach's salary is rumored at an astonishing \$70,000. The average Brevard College professor is paid much less. In fact, some professors earn lower wages than local high school teachers.

Shelly Webb, Brevard College Chaplin, has repeatedly been denied requested funding to build a chapel on the grounds. The Methodist-affiliated school currently has no sacred space on campus for worship, prayer, meditation, or communion. She is admired, respected, and supported by many students.

I'm requesting reasonable funding from the college for a large-scale organic garden and a state-of-the-art campus green house. Healthy organic foods will be grown for students and sold to the community. The foods grown on-site will replace foods that the college currently imports from out-of-state. I believe the college will make and save lots of money and create work-study jobs for students.

"Administration" believes "operation football" will attract new students for Brevard College and estimates that lots of money will be raised in tuition dollars from football players. Scholarships will be available for players; the majority of the tuition will be paid with loans, grants, or family money.

On April 11, 2006, five current Brevard College students attended the first day of football tryouts.

Many students believe it's "too late" to stop the football program. The first game is August 26. Students protesting the

program advocate re-distributing current football monies to more worthy causes.

Statistically, new football programs have increased violence and abuse on campuses.

President Van Horn proposes that the new football team will perform at Brevard High School; Brevard College will not have a field ready in time for the opening season. Tailgating and alcohol will be prohibited on the high school grounds.

Aaron Post, on a passionate note, quoted: "The football program is not going to make a positive impact on the lush, green area of the world traditionally rich in music and art that is Western North Carolina— The Football program will turn Brevard College into a valley of dry bones, or shall I say a valley of dry plastic cups and beer cans... shame on Dr. Van Horn".

Students are promoting bicycles for transportation and sporting. Public transportation to and from Asheville will need to be implemented in order to facilitate energy conservation and fight rising gasoline prices. The Brevard College campus security also needs a new vehicle, as the 1993 Jeep is ready to be retired and donated.

Kelly Bone, Music and Theatre major: "The school should invest more money into the performing arts; the program is currently suffering due to a lack of funds." She suggests more money for theatre, music, and performing arts. She says many college-owned instruments are in need of repairing or replacing.

Oh, and housekeeping services have been contracted and outsourced by the President and the staff reports that they are paid unfairly, despite requested increases in salary.

Increasing numbers of people are questioning Brevard College President Van Horn: Who pays the Bill?

-Andrew Grier Barnhardt

Economic troubles abound

by **Jamie Michaels**
Special to *The Clarion*

Those of you who have been following the news lately (and you should) will notice several things – apart from the voice of "Chef" leaving Southpark and Liza Minelli appearing drunk on Larry King Live. You will notice that President Bush in a recent press conference implied that the War in Iraq will likely extend beyond his second term. You will notice that the federal budget is under constitutional review due to a clerical oversight. And you will notice that congress has recently raised the national debt ceiling to nine-trillion dollars.

Now, I don't know about you, but nine-trillion is a figure that's just unfathomable to me. Let me put it in perspective for you. Wal-Mart's profit last year was 68.2 billion dollars. That means that the US, in the time that Bush has been in office, has spent 13.2 times what the entirety of the Wal-Mart Corporation (Sam's Club, etc) spends in a year. Uganda (whose annual GDP growth, by the way, is more than twice ours, while their GDP per capita last year was about \$285 US Dollars) has only 1.9 billion dollars in debt. We could buy Uganda's debt with ours 473 times. And Windmere castle in Winter Harbor, Maine, with 4,500 square feet of living space, sells for a mere \$1.2 million. With our national debt, we could buy 7.5 million castles. That's enough castles to give one to each family living in North Carolina – with some to spare. Man, I've got to hand it to congress. I would be way too scared to tell the Ameri-

can people that not only do I set my own budget (worth trillions of their tax dollars), but I set my very own credit limit and can raise it whenever I see fit. I'd be afraid someone would notice I was making ill use of their money.

Several BC professors have, in fact, noted these things in their classes. Scott Sheffield, for example, has shared with some of us a website which claims that last week would see the economic end of the world and the crash of the US dollar. With the nation \$9 trillion in debt and engaging for the first time in negative savings, I'm not sure this idea is so far off – though clearly the time frame is a little skewed.

For now, I suppose I can take heart in the state of our economy. I mean, how often is it that a typical, broke young college student has a brighter economic future than her nation – a developed, industrialized country and the "leader of the free world?" So I figure, I'm going to go to my bank tomorrow and ask for a \$100,000 loan. Undoubtedly they will deny me. After all, I'm 20 years old, have almost no credit, will exit college with a mere B.A. in December, will soon be responsible for student loan payments, have never had a long-term (well paying) job, and have almost nothing to offer as collateral. "But," I will deftly reply, "I've got one thing going for me. I'm probably more likely to pay it back than our government is." Now... how am I going to spend that money? I guess I should put it in an IRA. Heaven knows I won't be able to rely on Social Security.

The Clarion

needs writers and photographers to cover Brevard College sports. Join the newspaper staff. We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.