

# Letters

## "Dreams come true for those who work while they dream."

by Robin Funsten  
Contributor

Many of you may know me on campus as 'that girl who runs the voter registration' or 'Obama Girl-She's serious eh?' or 'Outing Club lady' or God knows what else you may want to call me when I'm not listening... Or, you have no idea who I am, and that's great too... Either way, I feel the need to share some valuable information, and something I wrote last year...before the campaigning began, before the world became aware of economic hardships and disasters and before perhaps the great paradigm shift within our globe became a huger, more noticeable, reality. I hope this article finds you in a place of happiness; a place ready for Fall Break Adventures; A place of wondering what you can do to improve our society, your own life and the lives of people around you. Yes, I support Barack Obama, and I support him because he speaks to the rings of change and strength in a time of great transition. But no, I do not believe he is the ultimate savior, or the answer to everything that is bad in our country/world right now. Though I think his presidency can steer us in the right direction what I really believe is that YOU are the answer, and even more accurately, that WE are the answer:

Betsy Burrows has a bumper sticker on her office door that reads: "Education is National Security." I agree with this in the mass sense, that education of individuals can not only help our national community survive impending doom, be it economic depression, societal breakdowns, environmental collapse, etc... But it can help our global community survive. This feeling of approaching and massive social, economic and environmental transition can only be "survived" by those individuals, who

are agoraphobic of societal change, through a feeling of understanding that can only be provided through education as these changes are underway. I'm asking you to educate yourself.

As our world seems to set itself up for ultimate fall in all aspects of sustainability and functionality, it seems as though our community awareness teeters on an edge that is steep and daunting. Our global politics become increasingly hostile, our economic debt to ourselves and our children rises every day, and our environment seems near demolition in countless ways. It seems as though the only thing that is certain is large and inevitable changes within our globe, and it has all piled onto itself in ways that no human in history can recall. I wish that I could say that I have one specific cause, one specific issue to focus on, but for me to remain a concerned citizen of earth I find it irresponsible to look at only one aspect of solution: Which is why it is so important for every individual to realize their own ability to make contributions toward change. I think that every social entrepreneur that has ever made big things happen had to start generally and bring themselves to a focus through a healthy willingness to be uncertain, the ability to live in transition, help others do the same and educate those who are unsure or perhaps unwilling.

My Challenge to you is to begin the process now of realizing the purpose you can have if you are only able to open your eyes to it. We are all people, we are all voices, and yes, we are all very important in this time of change and transition. Who are you to sit back and say that you can have no influence? If that is your take, then you are one who WILL absolutely still change things anyway, yet not necessarily in your favor nor the favor of our shared world. You are college students. You have ultimate resources. There

are people who surround you with PHDs, free all hour internet information, friends who want to change the world, a young and energetic mind and you are sitting in the middle of a perfect mess of nation. It is your time to act on your purposes, live for your moments and help your own world become a healthier and happier place... in whatever way it is you choose to improve it. Thanks, in advance, for doing your part to make positive impacts! Be outrageous!

## Trashy campus

by Brittany Gilley  
Contributor

A Saturday afternoon job around campus yielded some awesome sights: the many colors of leaves, the view of the mountains from the village quad, King's Creek trickling along, a shiny aluminum can in a fire ring.

Wait a minute.

A shiny aluminum can? That belongs in a recycling bin, not a fire ring!

Each time I walk across campus, I notice more recyclables and trash on the ground. I have also noticed the continuous work maintenance does in picking up this never ceasing litter. Additionally, I observed that the recycling shed behind South Village has been closed and the bins removed, due to students putting trash in the shed. Despite there being signs saying the shed was closed, it was still overflowing with trash on Saturday.

I often wonder who the students are that are responsible for this disrespect of our campus. Not only are they disrespecting the campus, but also fellow students, faculty and staff, community members who regularly visit, and touring prospective students. Complaints of how things are run at Brevard College are heard everyday; if we want things to change, more money from more students is needed. But if we show prospective students a garbage dump of a campus, they will not decide to enroll in Brevard College.

Some days I want to organize a campus cleanup time, I am so angry. But I shouldn't have to. We are all adults here at Brevard College, and there are only about 700 of us; we should be able to keep a clean and neat campus without aid from the maintenance crew.

I hate to say it, but I guess I have to: Didn't yo mamas teach y'all any better?!

### Ways for you to act locally: (Thinking Globally)

- Volunteer your time at the Bread of Life
- Sign up to tutor at Rise and Shine Day School
- Help out at The Center For Dialogue
- Volunteer at the local Boys and Girls Club; Safe's Attic; Goodwill; Salvation Army; Humane Society; etc...
- Begin a local chapter of Food Not Bombs
- Contribute money to a local Non-Profit (There's tons! And they're struggling)
- Find other ways to give to your community on your own. 1-5 hours out of your week is not as hard to give as you think!

*"Just imagine how much difference it would make if one student from each 'social group' at Brevard College would volunteer at a local non-profit. I find it hard to believe that 'they just don't have time,' I mean seriously! How many hours a week do you think they spend playing video games or watching TV? When's the last time you think they did*