

AND THEN WE CAME TO THE END

by Joseph Chilton
Editor in Chief

I have written almost 200 articles for this paper over the last six semesters, and now, as is custom, it is time to try to piece together thoughts for one final farewell column.

First let me say that to anybody who is deeply offended by typos, I am genuinely sorry—putting this paper together is more time consuming than you will ever imagine and with such a small staff at such a small school, things inevitably slip through the cracks. I also wish to apologize to other people I might have offended during my reign over the pages of this venerable tabloid—most notably fans of Sarah Palin, Kevin Costner, serious astrology and the town of Rosman.

Newspapers are a dying breed, and having the chance to use this time-honored medium for expression is something that I have cherished.

It is my hope that at least some of what I've written in here has made a portion of the campus chuckle and that a few things I have written has been informative. If not, well, then I apologize for that, too. What I won't apologize for, however, is speaking my mind in this paper at all times. Learning how to think and express yourself is a prime objective at any liberal arts college, and my experience at *The Clarion* has taught me to do that more effectively than any class could.

It is my hope that *The Clarion* will continue to thrive even as most American papers cling to life support for survival. I urge all students to get involved with this paper in the future, because your voice is something that can't be taken from you and writing for this paper is the best way I can think of to cultivate it.

I'd like to thank Dr. Padgett for being so patient and understanding with me, even when my columns teetered on the verge of libel and distastefulness. You are a man who truly understands the point of having a student-run newspaper, and it is my

sincere hope that many more students will step up and volunteer for *The Clarion* in the future so that they too can learn the value (and perils) of being given carte blanche for self-expression.

In the past, the people writing their farewell columns in *The Clarion* have assured the student body of the fact that they are off to bigger and better things. I don't really know about that, though. I can't imagine any other paper letting me write a "Kevin Costner Crap-o-Riffic Movie of the Week" column. I don't know if I will ever have as much fun writing as I did with *The Clarion*. Additionally, as a journalism major, I fully realize that the media industry faces dire straits. So instead of saying that I am off to the utopia of full-time employment, I will just say that it has been a pleasure to have been given the chance to work for a newspaper in an era when most people don't have that opportunity. It has been a joy, and even considering the angry letters to the editor and the nights spent staring at InDesign until I went cross-eyed, it was an experience that I will always remember fondly.

The once and future champion

by Johnny "Stats" Lange
Sports Editor

It's hard to believe it's been a year and a half already!!! It seems like just yesterday I took this position as sports editor for *The Clarion* and now it's time for my farewell column. I'm going to try to get through this without becoming too mushy here.

First off I want to thank Dr. John Padgett and Joseph Chilton for giving me this opportunity. I have had an absolute blast the last 15 months going to the games and writing about them and for this I am eternally grateful.

I also want to thank everybody who works in the athletic department for all of their help and support. I could never have done this job without you, and so thank you Kim, Rob, Kevin (wherever you are now) and the rest of you all.

To all of the coaches here I also owe a massive debt. You made my job so easy it actually never felt like work at all. Once again, I can't name you all (since we are only doing four pages this week) but thank you so much for all the access you gave me to both yourselves and your teams. You always seemed to have your doors open for me and words cannot express my appreciation.

To all the athletes here at Brevard College I wish you guys nothing but the best. It has been my privilege and honor to cover you guys, and I will miss you all a ton. Having been a college soccer player myself in younger days, I know from experience how hard all of you work. With college ball there is no offseason, and a lot of people don't recognize the dedication you guys and gals have.

I know it's been a long year for a lot of you, but the efforts that you put out today do pay off in the long run. So take pride in your efforts and continue working, and these losses will turn into wins.

Well, I guess it's time to put this column to rest. To all of the readers I thank you for reading

my ramblings. For a final time in the words of Cardinals announcer Jack Buck "So long for just a little while" and remember that no matter where the world ends up placing us, like the late, great Gino Hernandez, "I am still and will always be your champion."

The Clarion

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