

Wake up and smell the frustration!

One student's call to his fellow Brevard College students to take action in their surrounding community

by **Travis Taylor**
Opinion Editor

If anyone read this column last week (and actually finished it), they would have read my comments concerning the peculiar lack of interest in the Brevard College community on the part of BC students.

I truly think that the majority of students on campus are totally apathetic to the world at large, at least inasmuch as their attention spans seem to exclude the reality of the world around them in favor of the simple world of TV and the internet.

Therefore, I have decided to challenge you, the readers, to respond to my unasked-for opinions with your own, beginning now.

On Martin Luther King Jr Day, along with a group of somewhere around fifty other students and faculty, I participated in the first (hopefully annual) MLK Challenge.

Those of us who participated spent the day working with various local organizations whose missions all include service to their communities.

In eight hours, give or take, this small group of people representing the Brevard College community did an inestimable service to the larger community of Brevard and Transylvania County.

People of different races, genders, sexual orientations, and religious backgrounds all worked together to provide this service for less-fortunate people, also of different races, genders, sexual orientations, and religious backgrounds. It was indeed the embodiment of Dr. King's service philosophy.

However, I have a huge problem with what took place - specifically that the turnout was unacceptably low. Less than ten percent of the student body participated, despite the fact that those who chose to participate were excused from classes AND given a free t-shirt.

On behalf of the ten percent of the

student body that gives a crap, I'd like to ask the obvious question: Where the hell were the rest of you?

Were you loving class? Were you texting your friend across the room, or down the hall about how much you hate school?

Were you complaining about your parents, who are likely providing you this experience, which you are so eager not to take advantage of? Were you outdoors loving the magnificent weather?

Maybe you were catching up on sleep. Maybe you forgot. Maybe you don't care. Maybe you think you've got it hard enough.

Maybe you expect someone else to do everything that needs doing for the rest of your life, so that you can concentrate on your social life and ignore reality.

Thanks, Brevard College students. Thanks for being apathetic. Thanks for being over-privileged and under-worked. Thanks for being lazy, forgetful, and for having a misappropriated sense of

entitlement.

But most of all, thanks for giving me the opportunity to evaluate my own place in the world, for giving me a sense of contrast.

I think that our culture holds no one accountable for their actions. I think that personal responsibility has been left by the wayside in our age of excuses and external projection.

For me, however, the feeling of shame that came over me upon realizing that I was a part of a minority made up of those who would take a chance on improving things was enough to make me want to challenge those of you who couldn't be bothered to do so.

Prove me wrong.

Tell the minority campus community of aspiring activists that we're not the only living, breathing people on campus. Do something worthwhile. Be a part of the world, not apart from it.

Responses can be e-mailed to taylorntn@brevard.edu or to Clarion@brevard.edu.

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