

Synthetic Marijuana under scrutiny

By **Thea Bader**
Staff Writer

Various health and ethical concerns surround some products being used as plant growth stimulation in the production of synthetic marijuana following the Drug Enforcements Administration's recent ban on several chemicals used in the substance.

Not much is known about how these lab created chemicals affect the human mind and body; there have not been any studies on humans so effects are unknown. Chemicals such as JWH-018, named after the organic chemistry professor from Clemson University, John W. Huffman who created more than 100 different synthetic chemicals in order to study the effects of cannabinoids on the mind, are a main ingredient in these products.

The chemicals in K-2, Spice, and other products like them can be up to five times more potent than THC, Huffman said in a 2008 paper. One concern is that after purchasing these products it is uncertain exactly how much of the harmful chemicals have been sprayed onto the herbs.

Multiple serious health issues have been reported after using the products containing synthetic chemicals including severe stomach pain and vomiting, hallucinations, tachycardia

or a raised heart rate, seizures, and elevated blood pressure according to WebMD. There have also been some findings of the chemicals effecting hormones in the body; this may have various long term effects to the reproductive system and possible birth defects.

When combined with alcohol the effects of these synthetic chemicals can become even more harmful causing severe headaches at the base of the skull lasting for several hours to multiple days; no tests have been done to determine the effects on the body when these chemicals are combined alcohol or other drugs.

Currently there are no urine tests for these chemicals one is underway, the only way to them to be identified is a blood test; due to the high health risk and fear of tachycardia, testing on student athletes is likely.

There have not been any reports of students with health problems due to synthetic marijuana use according to the college's nurse, Susan Martin. If synthetic marijuana has been used, a flushed face, raised heart beat and high blood pressure may be a sign of serious trouble and one should seek immediate medical attention. It is widely believed that complications from usage may be life threatening. Products such as K-2 and Spice are not welcome on campus, and are illegal.

Voice of the Rivers applications now being accepted for 2011

Start your summer with a bang by earning your LINC and General Education credit while experiencing a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Voice of the Rivers is an expedition focused on the interdisciplinary study of a river from its source to its end, and participation is open to all Brevard College students, with preference given to current sophomores and juniors. Students will earn six hours of credit, for INT 290 and HUM 290, a course combination which will satisfy the BCE LINC requirement and General Education Distribution Area Requirement III.C.

This spring, May 15 through June 2, 10 Brevard College students and two faculty members will follow the Rappahannock River from the top of its watershed in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Front Royal, Virginia, to the Chesapeake Bay near Kilmarnock, Virginia. The expedition will travel approximately 184 miles by canoe and sea-kayak with primitive



camping each night.

The cost, including tuition, will be \$2,000 per student. Student applications must be submitted by Jan. 31.

Visit the blog at www.voiceoftherivers2011.blogspot.com and Facebook page (Brevard-College-Voice-of-the-Rivers).

For complete details of this opportunity and application instructions, please contact prof. Buford (bufordjf@brevard.edu) or prof. Chandler (chandlrm@brevard.edu).

BC Greens Announces Solar Fundraising Campaign

By **Jennifer Nyman**
Contributor

BC Greens, has launched a \$75,000 fundraising effort to place solar panels on Myers Dining Hall. The Club has already secured \$10,000 towards this project, \$5,000 from a grant by the Katherine Preyer Trust and another \$5,000 in donations from the College's 2009 SGA.

"I'd really like to see this happen by the time I graduate." said Joe Lovenshimer, President of BC Greens. The panels will supply all of the hot water needs of the cafeteria, one of the biggest hot water users in Transylvania County. BC Greens' goal is to install the solar panels by May 2012.

The solar panels will be dedicated to the memory of the late Len Griffiths, an Economics Professor at the College who died last fall. Griffiths also served on the Executive Board of the Sierra Club's Pisgah Forest Group and its North Carolina Chapter Steering Committee.

The Club plans to have fundraisers this spring.

For more information about this project and how you can help, please email Jennifer Nyman, BC Greens Vice President, at nymanjc@brevard.edu.

New Cardio Machines for BC Fitness facility

By **Jordan Tager**
Staff Writer

Since November there has only been one working treadmill in the fitness facility. This dilemma has been annoying for everyone, especially Brevard College athletes trying to stay in shape.

This problem is soon to be old news however; thanks to a grant given to the college by the Janirve Foundation. This is the same foundation that has funded the older fitness equipment. The decision has been made to order two new top of the line treadmills, eventually three once the first two are put to use.

"We have ordered two True Commercial Series treadmills that we anticipate should arrive over the next two to four weeks," said BC athletic director Kim Pate.

These new machines are equipped with an 11" custom LCD screen and iPod ready applications. The arrival for these new additions to the BC fitness facility will be sure to fulfill the exercise needs of everyone in the Brevard College community.