

Show some respect for this institution

By Maddy Brodsky
Contributing writer

I'm sure all of you have seen this at least once during your time on campus: broken windows, busted ceiling tiles, graffiti, torn-up furniture—the list goes on. Most of us just walk past these signs of vandalism, shaking our heads or ignoring it all together and accepting it as part of “college life.” But why is it happening in the first place?

Brevard College employs enough staff for housekeeping and grounds keeping; but just four men in Maintenance who are responsible for keeping this campus in working condition.

In an informal survey of over 50 students, less than half even knew of Maintenance's existence, and even fewer knew who they were or what their job entails.

Maintenance's job description includes keeping the plumbing, electricity, and heat/AC running on campus, as well as repairing

almost anything that breaks in any of the buildings. However, they find themselves spending a majority of their time cleaning up after students who are maliciously vandalizing dorms and academic buildings.

“It makes our job a lot more strenuous when we have to go back and fix things that shouldn't have to be fixed, but nevertheless, that is what we are here for,” said Maintenance Supervisor, Donnie McCall.

Why do students exhibit such a blatant lack of respect for their campus? For most of us, this is our home-away-from-home. I highly doubt that anyone would treat their parent's house in such a way. A few things that students don't stop, and think about is that someone has to take the time to repair whatever gets broken. It also costs the school quite a bit of money when it is happening so frequently.

Whatever sense of entitlement you might have, thinking “Hey, someone gets paid to pick up my trash/clean this bathroom/fix that broken window,” needs to stop. You're in college; this is a time to grow, learn, and

enjoy yourself; but it should not be at the expense of others.

“People need to take responsibility for their actions,” demanded Oliver, a Maintenance staff member. This could not be truer; we are all adults, and while it may be acceptable for a child to break things out of anger or just for fun with friends, it is completely unacceptable now.

So what can we do to help prevent this from continuing? For starters, get to know that guy who comes by your room to unclog your sink, or replace that broken desk drawer. You'll find that Maintenance is a group of normal guys, with lives outside of work. They have a great sense of humor, and are more than willing to help out when they can.

Mark, who has been working at Brevard College for seven years, closed our interview with, “We're here for the students.” These guys take a lot of pride in our school, and students should too. Do your part to help out by cleaning up after yourself, being respectful of the campus, and its staff, and taking responsibility for how you choose to act.



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