



Deaf student presents through T-PHAT

By Thea Dunn
Layout and Design

Hearing loss is a reality in a lot of people's lives, including Erin Hobbs, a student here at Brevard.

Last night Hobbs, along with her service dog Luke, gave a presentation through Tornado Peer Health Advocate Team (T-PHAT) on her journey through hearing loss. She told her personal story about being deaf along with providing information about hearing loss and how to prevent it.

Hearing loss is the term used when your ears aren't working right. Hobbs went into detail about the different types of hearing loss. Hobbs warned the audience of one type called noise induced hearing loss. This can be caused just by wearing headphones too often and too loud. The max volume on an iPod is 110 decibels. That's only 40 decibels less than fireworks.

Hobbs said that the best thing to do is to give your ears a break after being exposed to loud noises such as concerts. She said cotton in your ears doesn't work and that ear plugs usually aren't strong enough. It doesn't take much to cause hearing loss. Hobbs talked about the form of hearing loss that she has which is called sensorineural hearing loss. It's a type of nerve deafness. Hobbs started losing her hearing at 18 months. She has a very severe case categorized as profound.

She can't hear anything. If fireworks went off three feet away from her she wouldn't hear it. She can't hear alarms, sirens, or even thunderstorms. If a person is ten feet behind her and calls her name she most likely won't hear you.

This is where Luke comes in. Luke alerts Hobbs whenever there is an abnormally loud sound or some sort of siren. He has gone through intensive training to ensure Hobbs's safety. She has had him for almost two years.

When she was 20 years old, she found out she was completely and permanently deaf. "I didn't get a chance to hear my nephew's first word; that was depressing," Hobbs said while describing her situation. "I would love to go to a concert."

A year and a half after getting this news and being completely deaf during that 18 month period, Hobbs underwent brain surgery. She got a cochlear implant. Hobbs describes it as her "bionic ear." It sends sound straight into

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Erin Hobbs explains where her hearing loss originates from.

Photo by Thea Dunn

Police investigation underway at BC

By Joshua Smith
Staff Writer

Several students at Brevard College have been temporarily suspended pending an investigation of an alleged incident involving five male students and one female student.

The five accused men are freshman football players at the school. The alleged incident occurred in Beam Residents Hall early Saturday morning. Some students report

that they heard a female student was "taken advantage of." Police have not released any evidence that points that anything has taken place at all that morning.

Rumors are floating around campus concerning what happened, and who was involved in the incident. No one's names or any other information will be given until an official police report is filed. Police are still investigating, and will determine if there will be any criminal charges pressed on any of the students.

Khalfani Mar'Na is a freshman baseball player who lives right across the hall from where the incident took place. "They should've been aware and avoided a situation with multiple guys and a single girl in a room. However, they are great guys and I hope everything works out," he said.

Eric Watts, a Brevard Junior and member of the football team at Brevard speaks on behalf of the football team saying, "We just want our brothers back and hope everything works out for the best."