

The Clarion

Volume 67: Issue 1

Brevard College

Friday, September 26, 1997

For hearts and minds as large as the mountains.

Brevard Students Kayak to the Gulf of Mexico

by Sarah Carpenter

Brevard College's nine person river expedition from the French Broad to the Mississippi and eventually the Gulf of Mexico departed our campus Saturday, August 30. The group consists of six Brevard students and two faculty leaders, and an additional student who is trailing the group in the college's van. They are traveling in Wilderness System plastic sea kayaks. The group entered the water at the intersection of the north and west forks of the French Broad River. Their journey began westward to the Tennessee River. On September 26, they should reach Decatur, AL. Presently, they are on the Tennessee River.

According to one of the leaders of the voyage, Dr. Winford "Windy" Gordon, "in addition to providing the six student paddlers some hands-on experience in the outdoors, the primary purpose of the 1,182-mile, 105-day trip is to spread awareness about pollution and conservation of natural resources along the way." On the trip they plan to do things to help the environment. "Our real mission is to talk about the rivers and the need to protect those rivers," Gordon said. The estimated paddling

per day is three hours. At each stop, they share their experiences and environmental issues with school groups,

be assisting Scott in the water quality testing. Aimee Salzer, a sophomore from Jacksonville, FL, will be collecting

Baranski, a sophomore from Greer, SC, whose field of study is computer science, will serve as the "logistics master and Internet guru" who will post the daily updates on the college's website. Bette Purnell, the other faculty member, is an environmental teacher who conducted environmental studies in Florida and Australia. Bette was Brevard's former Resident Director in Jones resident hall. Three of the students never set foot in a kayak before they began training, but the team as a whole has enough knowledge to get by any difficulties that may arise. Gordon is a river guide and instructor for the Nantahala Outdoor Center and has also raced competitively in the United States and abroad.

By December 12, the group plans to be sailing into the Gulf of Mexico, where they will mix the water with the sample they brought from King's Creek. "At the closing ceremony in New Orleans, we plan to blend the waters from the top and the bottom," Gordon said. "I had a concrete vision," for the last day or two, we'll be completely self-supporting, because at the end of the road, the van will stop. There will be no programs, and no one joining us, and I see these nine people in eight boats going side-by-side into the ocean."



Voice of the Rivers begins their expedition Photo by Brad Kimzey

civic organizations, and others that are interested. The students on the trip are all required to keep a personal journal and each will receive a full semester's credit for taking part in the trip.

Each member is carrying his or her own personal duty on the trip. Patrick Scott, a junior from Brevard, will be conducting the study of the water on the trip. Scott will be taking samples to determine the presence of metals and other pollutants in the water. Lara Jaffe, a sophomore from Hilton Head, SC, will

stories from residence about pollution and other stories the group encounters along the way. Gregg Griffin, a sophomore from Sebring, FL, will be conducting a psychological study of the group dynamics on the journey. Amanda Jacobs, a junior from Nantahala, will be observing how self esteem relates to expedition behavior over the course of the trip. Nathan Nahikian, a junior from Hayesville, who is the student leader, will focus on the responsibilities and functions of the group leader. Mike

Brevard Explores the Pacific Rim

by Sarah Carpenter

Brevard College's multi cultural theme for 97-98 is Explore the Rim. This theme was selected last Spring by President Bertrand. The President started an annual cultural theme for Brevard several years ago. The purpose of this theme is to give students exposure to the other cultures.

The Pacific Rim covers the countries bordering the Pacific Ocean. This would include both Canada, United States, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile (but not Belize, Brazil, or Argentina), Australia, New Zealand, Papua, New Guinea, the Pacific Islands, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (but not Cambodia or Laos), Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Korea, and Japan. These countries create the trading zone of the Pacific. The list of countries will vary

depending on whose perspective it is coming from. Having a broad list of countries makes it easier to tie the theme into the classroom. Enrichment 101 is the only course being offered this semester that ties directly into our theme.

A few events are scheduled for this year. Yung Krall, author of *A Thousand Tears Falling* is going to give her story of her Vietnamese family torn apart by war, Communism, and the CIA. This presentation will take place Tuesday, November 11, 8 p.m. Another speaker scheduled is Paul Taylor, an Australian storyteller and musician. His date will be posted. Hopefully, this theme will encourage students from abroad and from within our country to culturally, mentally, physically, and socially interact with one another to benefit us all personally.

Brevard College is looking for artists, performers, and others who have a connection with these areas of the Pacific Rim to share their talents on cus-

toms, costumes, art, food, thoughts, music, and more. Please contact Curt Crowhurst, Twister Productions, Brevard College, Brevard NC 28712, or call (704) 883-8292 or e-mail: crowhurst_c@brevard.edu.



The "Voice" crew happily poses in their new environment.

