

Reaching out

COLUMN

BY RACHEL MIKAELSEN

Several things happen on our campus that grieve my heart. Students express their dissatisfaction with life or attempt to relieve the pressures by overdosing or bingeing on drugs and alcohol. Other ways of venting frustration with out permanently harming yourself exist. A beautiful forest provides several outlets through bike and hiking trails and some of the most majestic scenic points in the area.

One of the professors would love to help a student in need. How you react to life will determine your outcome from adversity. Life will never get easier, but how you cope can. Survival comes down to attitude. Work is not the worst thing to ever happen to a student. On occasions you might have to work

your butt off to get by in your classes. School is for living and learning. Whether you think you can conquer the problem or not, suck it in and go for the seemingly impossible. Think capable and accomplish anything.

Eternal optimists tend to think that there is always a way. Bad times end eventually. You must be able to look back and assess what you learned from the experience. Learn from the bad of your circumstances. Life can be a wonderful thing if people would realize the gift that it is. Each and ever one of you has something unique and special about your personality which makes you who you are. Now realize that with in yourself. Life is really an okay thing to have happen to you, and some where out there some body loves you.

Over the first hurdle

COLUMN

BY CHRIS FREDRICKSON

The fall semester has come to a close and students are either looking forward to another semester or changing their plans. Some will decide to change their majors. Some seniors will prepare for graduation and the completion of their undergraduate education. And among freshmen of Brevard, some will have learned from prior mistakes made in their first semester.

People often say the first semester of college is usually the worst. Some beg to differ. "This is actually easier than high school," I overheard an anonymous student proclaim.

Despite the level of their classes, some students have found many distractions, ones ultimately letting their grades slide, like parties and clubbing. Many didn't pay attention to strict tardy and attendance policies and

their negligence contributed to bad grades or failure. Those students didn't follow James Willis, who said, "Start the year with the same intensity you want to end it."

Finals are here and many students will cram the last week. For example, Wes Vanasek said, "I'll be studying my notes and reviewing so hard I am bound to get all As."

To bad not as many students are as optimistic about their performance, and simply state, "finals suck." Unfortunately, finals can make or break a grade.

On the flip side, the fall semester has been a real learning experience for the freshmen. They have engaged in many activities, such as dances, concerts, plays and every now and then, if they have time, what they should have been participating in all along: class.

Re-evaluate classifications

COLUMN

BY LENORA MOODY

Many students start college with their "head in the clouds." They take classes, plan their homework and sometimes do their best.

They continue through college mapping out their requirements for this major or that major. Never paying attention to how many hours they have, only seeing how close they are to their "BELOVED" degree.

When you ask a college student what year they are in, they do not calculate their hours. They think of how many years they have toiled to reach their goal and then calculate their classification.

Brevard College states in their 1999-2000 Handbook, unless a student accumulates a particular amount of hours they will not be classified in a particular group.

The hours are:

- 95+ hours = Senior
- 64-94 hours = Junior
- 32-63 hours = Sophomore
- 0-31 hours = Freshman

If a student attends college part time, stretches out their college career over ten years or minimizes their career to one year, then I would admit to this being a fair practice. However, I do not think the practice fair when a student lacks two to five points from being away from a particular classification.

This classification gives students opportunities. For instance, a third-year student should be able to register for classes before a two-year student. Ear-

lier registration would provide the classes a three-year student needed before the class was full.

This may not seem important. However, the closer to graduation the less time the student has to complete their classes.

A student needs the classification for emotional reasons. When a student finds out he or she has missed becoming a junior or senior by two points the feeling is horrible. They have worked this many years only to find out they are not as far along as they want.

I hear many students express their opinions of anger over being away from their true year date by only one or two hours.

Registrar Adelaide Kersh kindly offered the reason why many students were classified one to two hours from their actual year. Apparently, the computer does not add the numbers from a current semester until the end of the semester. No matter what semester a student is in they will usually look like they are behind. Unless they have accumulated many hours or they come to the middle of the year.

However, this still bothers me. Why does the College not pay attention to the years a student has been there and the amount of hours they have accumulated? My solution would be to make a five-hour grace period. If a student is below the required hours, stretch the hours to where they will be classified in their true year. The grace hours would help the student emotionally and give them the option to pre-register earlier.

I am only one opinion out of many. Yet, I have the instinct impression others would agree.

Letters and columns for The Clarion should be sent to:

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All submissions will be edited for libel, journalistic style and format.

A contact name and number must be included. Names will be held by request.

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