

# OPINION

## Campus Voice: What will happen on Jan. 1, 2000?



**I'm gonna turn 18 and see my favorite band play.**  
Johanna Moffitt



**Absolutely nothing. At the most, there will be a bunch of people with hangovers.**  
Liz Mockbee



**Some smaller corporations or banks might get some problems or shutdown, but nothing will happen to the larger corporations.**  
Jon Kirk



**I think that everything's going to be okay. At that point, the world will destroy itself at a faster rate than it is now.**

Megan Brown



**Prince is going to have to come up with a new song.**  
David Dellisle



**It's gonna be one big party.**  
Metta Redding & Anne Sailer

## Playing God?

### COLUMN

BY MICHELLE CRABTREE

Since the beginning of time man has created an emotion that effects every human decision in life: Revenge. This reaction includes the decision of wither or not someone should live. Capital punishment is defined as judicial murder, it's pre meditated and deliberately done by one human being to another. Because of its unethical nature and its ineffectiveness Capital punishment should be abolished. Brevard College should actively speak out against the death penalty.

The fifth commandment states "Thou shalt not kill." Two men commit a murder: One stabs a man; the other electrocutes a man who is to say which is right? Our job is not to "Play God." The mission statement of Brevard College states we expect all members of the college to commit their hearts and their minds to our community of learning, to pursue truth with humility, to become wise stewards of the earth, an "to live responsibly before God and there fellows." Are we really living responsibly before God by taking on the

decision of who deserves to live and who deserves to die in North Carolina, a state that supports Capital punishment?

In 1900 Rutherford College (now known as Brevard) was known as the "school of the Prophets." Believing in "the thorough development of all the powers of the student with such direction as to lead up to the highest type of Christian manhood and womanhood." Those who were training to become the highest Christian ministers/preachers wanted to help those in need, and set a good example for their "fellows." We follow their tradition in many ways; however Brevard College should keep its focus on the ideal that to kill is murder; no matter what shape or form it may take. It is not our choice to decide who lives and who dies. The death penalty only allows us to extend the pain; it provokes anger and only forces us to be the sight of another murder. The death penalty only creates more victims. I have always been taught that two wrongs don't make a right no matter what the circumstances may be. Do you honestly think that the death penalty is

setting a good example by saying it is wrong to kill and then turning around and killing another human being. Not only is it wrong but capitol punishment is being used for the wrong purpose. It is being used for revenge rather than deterrence. Killing someone is a benefit to nobody but the executioner.

Innocence is a right that can't be taken away without proof of guilt. Americans know very little about who is being executed as an innocent man. One can spend up to ten years on death row waiting for their time. Whether or not this person is guilty by a burden of proof called "beyond reasonable doubt" this person may still be innocent. No matter how careful courts are the possibility of human error still remain. It has been proven that the death penalty can and has been inflicted on innocent people. The Stanford law review states that between 1900 and 1988, at least twenty-three innocent Americans were executed. Besides "an eye for an eye only makes the whole world go blind"

One works hard to make a living, but is it fair for the state to take taxes from your hard-earned money to

kill a human being? A study done by the Sacramento Bee argued that California would save 90 million a year if it were to abolish the death penalty. The average cost of a capitol trial is \$3.2 million; three times the cost to incarcerate an individual for 40 years. Executions are expensive! The Susintinal states that it costs 20,440 a year to house an inmate in a Florida maximum-security prison. Warehousing an inmate for forty years is more than one million dollars cheaper than putting him to death.

There is not one good reason why the death penalty should be used. It has been proven that there is no conclusive evidence that capital punishment shows deterrence. One can clearly see that murder is murder no matter what shape or form it may take. The expenses for an inmate to be imprisoned rather than killed by Capital punishment are significantly cheaper. Capital punishment can and has been inflicted on innocent people. From the reasons given it is fare to say that because of its unethical nature and its ineffectiveness capital punishment should be abolished.