

# Democracy: a dying dream?

By Hall Penn  
Editor in Chief

As I walked into a bathroom stall here on campus, I noticed something that has changed my mind about the attitude and education of some of Brevard's students. Amongst the usual profanity-laden graffiti on the stall walls, I saw the words "F\*\*\* Bush" scratched into the paint. That in itself is a childish remark, one that changes nothing, but apparently someone else had decided to edit it. And this edit was what truly scared me: The word "F\*\*\*" had been scratched out and "'08" was added after "Bush" so it read "Bush '08."

The shadow of dictatorship looms over our country. I'm sure most people will disagree with this statement, but I'm going to say it again: The shadow of dictatorship looms over this country. And while I risk sounding like Chicken Little, I firmly believe it. This doesn't mean, however, that I think tomorrow we will be suddenly overtaken in a coup led by George W. Bush, or even that this will happen in the next four years. No, I think it is a much more subtle thing, this attitude and want for a dictatorship.

It is in the attitudes of the citizens of this country — citizens who are willing to give up their rights for safety (all while warring in other countries to "give" these rights to others). It is in the media, where the

American flag and the nation state are propped up to be a sort of god in and of themselves. It is in the discouragement of frank political discussion and the vilifying of those who speak out against the now godlike State.

Our democracy relies upon the rights granted to us in our Constitution, and the erosion and outright derision of some of these rights infringes on our cherished form of government. The attitudes of the public and the actions of those in power all add up to what this country is, and recently these actions and attitudes have trended away from democracy and a free society. While we may think that this democracy will go on into eternity, the fact is that any form of government is fragile and must be protected by those who support it.

While it may seem clichéd, it is true that the power to change our government rests in our own hands. But power isn't only for good, power is simply power; and when used incorrectly it can change things for the worse. The lack of education and the lack of rights in our country turn us from continuing this free and democratic society and leads us to a dictatorship wherein our rights are taken from us. And while that graffiti was recently painted over, the sentiment undoubtedly still stands... and that scares me.

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When someone has as unique a take on life as our own "Tex" does, it would be a shame not to share it with the public. That's why this year's Clarion staff have

decided to create an advice column highlighting the wisdom of one of our campus treasures. -Ed.

**Dear Tex,**

**My boyfriend doesn't like me. Why?**

**-Crushed on Campus**

Dear Crushed,

Well, I don't want to hurt your feelings but you might want to give your boyfriend some space. That might be one reason for his behavior. Do you shave? I know guys don't like girls that look like men. That might be another factor for your boyfriend not liking you. I think you need to shave everything except your head and give your boyfriend some room. Best of luck to you.

-Tex

Send your questions for Tex to:

clarion@brevard.edu or drop them of at the Clarion office in MG 222A

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