

Letters to the Editor:

Professors underappreciated at BC

When I read about Preston Woodruff's resignation in the last issue of *The Clarion*, I was very disappointed. I have never had the privilege of taking a class with him, but in the two years that I have attended this college I have heard nothing but good things about him from my fellow students.

There is no shortage of good professors at this institution but every one of them is priceless. The simple fact that the average professor at Brevard makes \$51,300 per year is sad in and of itself. I realize that this is not necessarily the college's fault because teachers everywhere in this country are extremely underpaid, but the fact that a professor who is so highly

regarded by his students and fellow faculty is paid \$8,000 less than the average professor is inexcusable in my eyes (not to mention that he has been here for over three decades).

Teachers and students are the life of any college and by saying that faculty and staff salaries will be the top priority for 2007-2008, The Board of Trustees, by default is saying that they are not a priority now. Without our teachers this college would not exist! Their salaries need to be top priority every year. I look forward to the day when teachers at this college and in this country as a whole are paid what they are worth, but I realize that I will be watching for this day for a very long time.

-Sarah Carlson

Support 'Project Greenhouse'

The students at Brevard College are making an appeal to the administration, president, and board of trustees: it's time to get back to basics! Labor, Learn, Live. "Learn in Order to Serve." *Cognosce ut prosis*

Historically, Brevard College supported an agricultural community. Foods grown on-site were served in the dining hall.

A state-of-the-art organic greenhouse will support many of the existing academic programs at Brevard College, including: Ecology, Environmental Science, Health Science, Wilderness Leadership, and Business & Organizational Leadership.

Students will also have additional opportunities to participate in rewarding work-study programs. An organic greenhouse will supply healthy foods, plants, and herbs that can be consumed, researched, and studied by students and the community.

Project Greenhouse will attract new students domestically and internationally. A large

greenhouse will help support our community if the "oil war" worsens and it becomes increasingly vital to reduce emissions and preserve nature.

It's time to prepare for the future and encourage a self-sustaining, environmentally conscious, energy-conserving, recycling community. It seems the only reason not to support *Project Greenhouse* at Brevard College is the lack of funding currently available for the program.

Since April 21, 2006, over 200 students, faculty, and visitors have signed a petition to construct a state-of-the-art greenhouse.

Brevard College simply needs a hero to donate the money, now!

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope." - Wendell Berry

-Andrew Barnhardt

[Staff Editorial]

BC and its terrible twos

Whatever personal opinions you may have about the so-called "Grier Circulation," there are some valid underlying points to the publication, and at least (as we noted in last issue's staff editorial) the author stood up and started some discussion about important issues on campus.

While the focus of the article seemed to be football, its comments about the lack of funding to other programs (campus greens, music and arts, etc) hinted at two greater concerns: the apparent loss of a BC identity; and the lack of communication between the administration and the student body.

These are problems that anyone involved on our campus could pinpoint, and are certainly not being ignored by the administration. Students can frequently be heard saying, "they [the administration] just don't listen to us." Perhaps the problem is not that they are not listening, the information just isn't getting through.

Let's face it, we've got some pretty good channels for getting in touch with the senior staff of our college. Dr. Van Horn has offered to come to any SGA meeting he's invited to, and knows more about the students, their families, and their interests than most college presidents you'll find.

We have a vast (sometimes too vast) committee structure, each committee reporting directly to IPAC (Institutional Planning and Assessment Committee), on which sits the entire senior staff. Any student who wishes is welcome to present his/her concerns to the SGA either in person or through their senators. So why aren't the messages getting through?

We'd like to offer an answer: the "terrible twos." Our administration and SGA are pretty young in perspective. We became a 4-year institution only 10 years ago, and the SGA is only in its first year of the new constitution.

Committee responsibilities and places are still being worked out, and often information is duplicated, or it is presumed that a certain topic is someone else's responsibility. For example, many concerns brought by students to SGA are "passed off" to the Student/Institutional Relationships committee and simply forgotten about.

Additionally, since the SGA is still breaking in its new structure and position on campus, students who haven't traditionally been involved have trouble with the formalities and protocol of senate and house meetings, so are discouraged from bringing their concerns.

So what do we do? Publicize more widely the SGA senators. Hold one another accountable — when we hear concerns, *bring them* to the senators, the committees, the administration. Speak out, hold rallies, start discussions, write letters, start petitions. Write editorials to *The Clarion*.

And most of all, be patient and understanding: the toddler stages will pass and eventually we'll get a hold of the system. But believe me — the process will go a lot faster (and easier) if we participate instead of sitting back and whining.

***The Clarion* thanks everyone for your support throughout the year!**