

## More incentives needed for better RA's

by Karen George  
Contributor

Due to the graduation of seniors and the re-signing of several Resident Advisors this semester, 8 RA positions were available for Spring semester. A few students applied, but Campus Life Staff requested more applicants.

After asking more people to apply, a total of 7 people were in the running for 4 of the open women RA positions. This did not allow for a great deal of selection. The same was true for the male applicants.

Perhaps if the incentives for being an RA were increased, more people would want the position, allowing for greater selectivity, and in return, better RAs. As it now stands, RAs are paid \$93.75 a month. They have their own room, and they are allotted a free parking pass, but for what?

RAs in Beam are required to be on duty one night a week and one weekend a month. They must attend a weekly RA meeting, a required number of RA in-services, and extensive training before the beginning of each semester. They are also in charge of room inspections, fire drills,

three community builders a semester, the hall bulletin board, and any disciplinary issue that occurs on their hall or while duty.

An RA is on duty from 8PM to 8AM once a week: approximately 48 hours a month in addition to their weekend duty. So including weekend and weekly duty, and a weekly one-hour meeting, an RA works approximately 76 hours a month, while receiving \$93.75. That equals a little over a dollar an hour!

No wonder no one wants to be an RA. Schools all over the country offer free room and board to their RAs. They also have single rooms and various other incentives such as a monthly stipend to compensate for their hard work. In order for RA quality to increase, the applicant numbers need to increase, and the caliber of the applicants needs to increase as well.

Even if Brevard cannot afford to give RA's free room and board, perhaps a scholarship of \$1,000 a year could be allotted. Even the cheerleaders get that. If incentives increase, so will quality and quantity. RA's are overworked, underpaid, and underappreciated. They do the best they can with what they have; now the college needs to help them out.

## Mixed feelings about "Campus Fever"

by Heather Hutchinson  
Staff Writer

After interviewing a few people on the subject, and partaking in various conversations at the dinner table, I've come to the consensus that we are all experiencing at least a bit of what could be referred to as "campus fever," or the need to get out of this place, even for a short trip in the car. Some people have come to call this campus home, such as one person I interviewed who said, "I like it here, man. I've been here 5 years."

Yet, there is also the other side of the story. I've discussed with some people their thoughts on our campus going downhill in the past few years. When asked if Brevard was getting to them, one person replied, "Yes, actually. I can't seem to stand the eighth grade bullshit with 'friends.' And sometimes I just wanna give up and say fuck it. It's not worth it."

Motivation with schoolwork and even getting up in the morning seems to be going down-

hill. I've personally missed too many classes in the last few weeks to keep up like I did earlier in the semester. I've been writing more in my journal, and everything in my life seems to be more important than my education lately. I can't be around the people in my town that I feel need me—I have no idea what's going on at home. I've started chain smoking and driving around at night aimlessly to run away from myself, and therefore losing sleep.

Other people are also finding ways to escape: spending time at friends' houses off campus just to clear their heads. People have been getting drunk early at night in the middle of a school week to escape as well. Some of us are starting to get short with each other. We're getting anxious for the end of the semester, whether it's because of finals, or because we're transferring somewhere, graduating, or just needing time off. Too many of us have been in school for too many years, and it gnaws at us when the stress keeps piling on.

It's definitely time for a vacation. Happy Friday.

## Matt's Take:

### Liberal Arts Education needs a little practicality

by Matt Rutherford  
Managing Editor



Real life begins after 17 years of school. We get bills, find a home, maybe buy a car, and do whatever else it is those adults do these days.

Do you ever wonder why, especially at a liberal arts school, there is no class on life skills for the real world?

We have classes that teach us to be leaders, classes to make us better students (hopefully we have figured it out by now), and even classes specialized in odd, yet interesting topics. For example, the course in "Religious Aspects of Tolkien" will indeed teach me various ways to look at Tolkien's works. It may possibly open doors of religious thought I'd never imagine to think of. But, it isn't going to teach me squat about how to live alone.

We should create a course dedicated to teaching graduating students what to really expect when they leave the safe confines of a college campus. Some good information for someone who is setting up alone for the first time would be, learning how to find a place of residence in small towns and cities, budgeting for a month, finding affordable insurance, etc.

It's not that I think leadership skills are insignificant; they are a vital role in job settings and various other positions aside from one's main occupation. I do believe along with leadership skills, regular skills are in need of fine tuning.

It just seems as if this is something that would have been discussed or at least brought up. However, the main attention as of late has been on improving BCE or FYF type classes. I'm not quite sure how central these courses are to our education but it is evident that they need work. The senior capstone class needs work. Would this not be a perfect opportunity for a real world course? The discussed topics should definitely be included in the lectures.

Instead of taking us on random fieldtrips and seminars, and talking about "power of influence" what about taking us to a rental office and showing us how to set up a lease? Faculty and administration should stop focusing only on the freshman coming in and give a little attention to students they plan to send out into the world. You all have taught us to put everything into our work, make it our own, and be proud of it. Don't let us off that easily, one last info gram is all we need to stay on track.