

THE CLARION

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How to avoid the flu this season,

see page 3

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No Shave November: Raising awareness one beard at a time

By John M. Climer
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As mid-November nears, you may begin to notice an unusual phenomenon occurring around campus. That phenomenon: beards; the reason: No Shave November.

Urban Dictionary defines No Shave November as the month in which you don't shave any hair on your body, but instead you grow more bestial, brutish, and manly.

The origins of this hygienic hiatus remain unclear. According to most sources, the event most likely started in 2003 in Melbourne, Australia, when a group of men were inspired by a Breast Cancer Awareness movement. Their inspiration gave them a desire to create a global men's health movement which evolved into growing a mustache for the entire month of November to raise awareness and funding for male-related cancers worldwide.

The movement, which started jokingly over a few beers, eventually became the Movember Foundation. According to the Movember Foundation Web site, "Movember challenges men to change their appearance and the face of men's health by growing a moustache. The rules are simple, start Nov. 1 clean-shaven and then grow a moustache for the entire month. The moustache becomes a ribbon for men's health,



(Right to left) Sporting different stages of No Shave November growth, John Climer, Prof. Steve Martin, Ian Grant, Patrick Lawrence and Jonathan Hyde make up a handful of BC's bearded brethren.

the means by which awareness and funds are raised for cancers that affect men. Much like the commitment to run or walk for charity, the men of Movember commit to growing a moustache for 30 days."

Locally, the event has taken on a different notion, of simply growing facial hair during November to prepare for the upcoming cold weather, or just for the sake of growing facial hair.

When talking to male students, it became apparent that the no-shave tradition is widely appreciated. "I think it's nice that people know about it," said senior Patrick Lawrence. "It's an excuse for lazy people not to shave and I think it's really cool that they're unknowingly raising awareness."

Some males find pride in growing facial hair, "No shave November is a testament to

manliness and a testament to Chuck Norris," said junior Carleton Ramsey. "I think it's great when women wear ribbons for breast cancer and it's great when men grow beards for man cancers."

Junior Kramer Clark had a similar perspective on the event, saying, "I probably can't participate in no shave November because of grooming rules on the baseball team, but it's truly funny and awesome to see all the new stubble around campus—even if they don't know they're raising awareness. Beards for cancer... classic!"

It seems that November has taken on a new significance in raising awareness about male-related illnesses through No Shave November and we at the Clarion encourage all BC men to help promote a healthy lifestyle and a healthy beard through participation in this month's event.

In this issue...

CAMPUS NEWS:

Cheerleading Steps Up 2

NEWS:

BC up for reaccreditation..... 3

Flu season on campus 3

SPORTS:

Cross country at SAC tournament..... 4

Running back sets BC record..... 5

OPINION:

Resurrecting the American Dream 6

These Hills: Grandfather Mountain..... 6

ARTS & LIFE

Series Preview: 'The Walking Dead'... 7

Chef Boy-ar-Dave..... 7

ODDS AND ENDS:

Your Horoscope..... 8

American Hero..... 8

Drug sales increase, but to whose benefit?

By Park Baker
Staff Writer

We all know someone who takes prescription drugs. It could be your roommate who takes allergy medication, your girlfriend who takes birth control, or an aunt who takes an anti-depressant. We seem to have a cure for most any ailment, and a supplement for most lifestyle choices.

The development of new drugs comes from clinical trials, but there is some controversy about how accurate these tests really are. According to PubMed, a free database that works with the National Institute of Health, most trials are funded and conducted by the pharmaceutical company that is pushing the new drug to begin with.

This has led to congressional action to limit the amount of interaction between the clinicians and the pharmaceutical companies, but separating the interests is not that easy.

Dr. Bill Andersen, a resident of Brevard who

practices in Fletcher, says that often times doctors have a blind eye about the side effects of new drugs. "Their training is based around the prescription pad, the drug reps are a hell of an influence," he said. "At one time I practiced straight internal medicine, but I got burnt out on that because we just pump people full of drugs, particularly children. The long-term effects just are not known, the studies just haven't been conducted thoroughly."

According to an article published in The Guardian, oftentimes clinicians not employed by pharmaceutical companies look to other companies for grants to conduct their research, and companies often look to researchers for studies that will make their products look favorable, sometimes medical journal articles presented by academic researchers may actually be ghost-written by pharmaceutical companies, and the high-profile doctor whose name appears

see 'Pharmaceuticals' page 8