

We wish Nora Sheehan, our school nurse, good luck as she heads to New York for the next chapter of her life.

## Tobacco discussion continues

By Patrick G. Veilleux  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association held an open forum at 6 p.m. on Sept. 23 in the Dunham Auditorium. The forum met to discuss the campus administration's potential plan to make Brevard a tobacco free campus. This move was primarily motivated by the violations of the current policy. However, many students are still opposed to the complete ban of tobacco use.

"We wanted to make sure that we hear from the students before we made any decisions," Dean of Students Deborah D'Anna said, "The current policy is simple. There is no tobacco use in buildings, and that includes smokeless tobacco. It's up to faculty to enforce that in their classrooms. Smoking is only permitted in designated areas. We don't want people walking around using tobacco products. That is why there are smoking areas."

"The issue is that these policies are being violated, and in a manner that if things don't change tobacco will have to be banned on campus entirely," SGA's Student Representative to Academic Affairs Kyle Jackola said, "SGA's understanding is that if we can inform students about the policy and successfully encourage them to follow it, we can keep our privileges. These are privileges- not rights, and we need to treat them as such."

Students in the forum asked questions and voiced concerns pertaining to the current smoking policy. Several also conveyed that if tobacco use was completely banned, students would likely disregard the ban altogether, or take to smoking in front of the school. Others suggested that as a side effect of the disregard for the policy, littering would increase on campus.

Other students explained that the current arrangements for smokers lack custodial services for the smoking areas and cover during inclement weather. Several juniors and seniors pointed out that designated smoking areas had only been disappearing and becoming more inconveniently placed over the past several years.

Critics of tobacco users on campus mainly targeted students leaving bottles filled with

dip spit around campus. "People smoking or dipping doesn't bother me," said one student, "but I find bottles filled with brown spit everywhere. Smoking and dipping are personal choices, but it all needs to be properly disposed of. It's disgusting." Another student added, "When I am in the MG computer lab I see open cups with dip spit in them. I even saw one spilled over a keyboard."

There were additional students who critiqued the current tobacco policy for not being properly enforced by authority figures on campus. "There are no tickets," said Freshman Jesse Sheldon, "There's nobody talking about tickets. There are no penalties for this, and if there are no penalties then people won't follow the rules."

Jackola responded to the critiques on enforcement, "As it stands, when the policy is broken students are supposed to be fined. But I know that RAs, including myself, are very relaxed about that. I know that security is also very relaxed with the tobacco policy."

**"The issue is that these policies are being violated"**

Ignorance isn't a viable excuse. It's up to tobacco users and non-tobacco users to enforce those policies, and remind their peers that there are designated areas."

"We've fined people this year for smoking, but people continue to violate the policy," Director of Residence Life Michael Cohen said, "It's something that we instruct on during RA training, but it's not necessarily emphasized as much as something like the alcohol policy. I wonder what causes RAs to feel differently about the

smoking policy than they did the alcohol or noise policies," he added, "I think primarily RAs should enforce policy in residential areas, but should they be the ones enforcing the tobacco policy in other areas of campus? As student leaders, I say yes, but other students should be enforcing as well."

To protect the privileges of students who use tobacco products on campus, people are encouraged to follow the current policies and only use tobacco products at the designated areas.

### Tailgate T-shirts



Courtesy Photo

As part of Family Weekend, Campus Life will host a Tailgate for all BC students and their families starting at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow in the rear parking lot of Brevard High School. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Family members are asked to bring their best tailgating dish. The first 100 students who attend and present their Student ID will receive a free Family Day long sleeve t-Shirt, like these worn by Dean of Students Debbie D'Anna and Coordinator for Counseling Services Dee Dasburg.