



Courtesy of Brevard College Flickr

BC senior Kendel James performs a non-lyrical song at the lip sync battle.

Comedian and lip sync battle

By Caroline Hoy
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, comedian Azeem came to Brevard College.

He started off by making jokes about how small Brevard is and how it's in the middle of nowhere.

During the next part of the show, he started to get the audience involved. Azeem joked about a WLEE major. I don't think Azeem ever fully understood what a WLEE major is, but it was hilarious for him to try to explain what he heard.

He also made a joke about every single person who showed up late. When a person shows up late to an event, they would most likely sit in the back as not to interrupt the show, but not with this comedian. He told the late comers where to sit and most of the time it was front and center.

After he performed and made us laugh for a while, Azeem hosted a lip-sync battle with the students of Brevard College performing. First to perform was senior theater major, Kendel James, performing to what he calls "sexy elevator music." The comedian had a blast with this one because James's song had no words, just music, and he was lip syncing to the beat.

Hope Jackson and her brother performed the song "Dark Horse" by Katy Perry. Jackson decided to belly dance while singing the song. Jackson has been dancing for many years now, but had not tried belly dancing and said about doing it, "this was such a fun experience and I really enjoyed it. It really boosted my confidence. I'm thankful for the love and support of everyone."

The final act was the first year soccer girls. They were lip-syncing to a cover from one of the "Pitch Perfect" movies. They told the audience that the older soccer girls told them to do it, but the older girls denied this.

All the performances were amazing.



Courtesy of Brevard College Flickr

Comedian Azeem performs on stage in Ingram Auditorium.

2020 Iowa Caucus results

By Eleanor Flannery
Staff Writer

The 2020 Iowa Caucus was held on Monday, Feb. 3, and it was quite the “systemwide disaster.” The statewide caucus encompassed 1,600 precinct locations in determining the state’s preferred Democratic candidate for the upcoming presidential election.

The event caused quite the controversy as there was a major delay in publishing results, as well as candidates prematurely declaring victory, leaving anticipated reporters unable to relay information.

However, many Americans were unsurprised by the aftermath as this year’s caucus was an attempt to revise an out-of-date practice.

In years prior, the Iowa Caucus required voters to be physically present which hindered the participation of many working Americans.

This year’s election had a change in the causing format previously carried out in Iowa. In the past, caucusgoers could change

their position of support for their candidate from the first round to the second round, once it was determined whether or not their candidate was viable.

As of this year, if a supporter’s candidate is proved to be viable after the first round, they can no longer move their support from their caucus group into the second round.

While this change was made in an effort to save time, it left room for strategy and negotiation between groups to gather more support for a particular candidate which contributed to the delay in results.

The result of the caucus should have been determined around 9:45 p.m., an hour and forty-five minutes after the caucus began, but it did not go as planned. As the rallying of neighbors at their local gymnasiums, churches, schools and other polling venues was underway, reports of delays in the results flooded news outlets.

Newscasters were left dumbfounded due to no voting results coming in from the Iowa Democratic Party. A statement was finally released before midnight, detailing how “inconsistencies in the reporting of three sets of results” were found, according to Mandy McClure, Iowa Democratic Party Communications Director.

“In addition to the tech systems being used to tabulate results, we are also using photos of results and a paper trail to validate that all results match and ensure that we have confidence and accuracy in the numbers we report. This

is simply a reporting issue, the app did not go down and this is not a hack or an intrusion. The underlying data and paper trail is sound and will simply take time to further report the results.”

Though it was reported that “the app did not go down” when voters were using the platform, it was revealed that voters were having trouble simply trying to install the app and log in, let alone use it. On top of that, when chairman of the Democratic Party in Polk County, Sean Bagniewski’s assistant went to deliver the first round of results to the Iowa Democratic Party headquarters, they were mysteriously turned away.

Results didn’t start coming in until late Tuesday afternoon, showing former Mayor Pete Buttigieg leading with a slight edge over Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, followed by Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in third.

With 100% of the results in, Pete Buttigieg is polling at 13 delegates (26.2% of the votes), a narrow win over Senator Bernie Sanders’s 12 delegates (26.1% of the votes).

In an attempt to have a more efficient election, changes were made in the caucusing format, as well as the addition of the voting application, made by Shadow.

Due to the app inconsistencies, The Nevada Democratic Party, which is to hold their caucus later this month, announced on Tuesday that it would not be using Shadow as its vendor.

“We will apply the lessons learned in the future,” the company said.

THE CLARION

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Security report

The most recent security reports for Brevard College have been released as of Monday, Feb. 10 at 12:44 p.m., according to Brevard College Campus Security.

There have been several incidents of female students receiving harassing phone calls. The individual indicates that they have a pizza delivery, their car was bumped or other reasons. requesting for the students to come outside of the dorm and meet them.

The matter is under investigation by Campus Security and the Brevard Police Department. The incidents took place on February 6 with no follow-up calls. It is believed that the individual was attempting to prank the females invovled.

Students are cautioned that if they receive a call, don’t respond, call Campus Security immediately.

A bicycle was reported stolen in one of the Villages. Students are reminded not to prop open any doors in the interest of everyone’s safety and the security of belongings.

It has been reported that someone cut doughnuts in the grassy space adjacent to the turf field. Students are requested not to engage in this act. Not only does it disfigure the landscape, but it also costs a considerable amount of money to repair the damage.

If anyone is observed in this activity they will receive a ticket, be required to appear before a campus judicial committee and pay restitution for the damages.

Everyone is requested to contact Campus Security at (828)-577-9590 if wrongful or suspicious activity is observed on campus.

— Zach Dickerson

The Barbados Threadsnake

By Solomon Turner
Contributor

The Barbados Threadsnake, *Tetracheilostoma carlae*, is the absolute smallest snake in the world. This snake is native to the Caribbean island of Barbados and its measured size is a whopping 4.09 inches long. Even if you have a fear of snakes it's hard to look at this one and not think it's at least a little cute.

According to World Atlas and Encyclopedia Britannica, this newly discovered tiny, spaghetti-like snake weighs 0.6 grams and is 10 cm long on average. This makes *T. carlae* about the same size as many worms, if not smaller.

These snakes are oviparous and lay only one tiny egg that looks roughly identical to a grain of rice. When they hatch, the offspring are almost half the size of the mother. This is huge compared to the 1/10 size ratio most baby snakes are to their mothers.

Since their discovery and documentation in 2008 by Stephen Blair Hedges, a herpetologist at Penn State University, very little has been understood of their life habits. It is inferred due to their size that these fossorial, or burrowing snakes feed mainly on termites, ants and other insect larvae.

According to the IUCN Red List, this snake is Critically Endangered and has a huge need for conservative measures. There are about 10 square kilometers, 120 acres or 3.8 square miles

left of forest on the island. The remaining forest covers less area than the entire city of Brevard.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the lack of forested land is due to colonization by the English in the seventeenth century which resulted in the conversion of forests to agricultural land. There is also concern that the invasive Flowerpot Blindsnake from Asia could continue to drive this miniscule snake toward extinction.

Without active conservation efforts being taken, it seems likely that this species will join the ever growing list of extinct organisms.



Courtesy of Stephen Blair

Threadsnake on quarter.

Monarch butterfly activist found dead

By Solomon Turner
Contributor

Homero Gomez Gonzalez, who disappeared Jan. 13, was found dead, with coworker Raul Hernandez Romero being found days after. This came as a shock to many environmental groups in both Mexico and the United States, prompting responses from the Mexican President, World Heritage Center and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

According to The Washington Post, Gonzalez grew up in a logging family and became a prominent figure in Monarch Conservation throughout Mexico. He was an agricultural engineer, was commissioner for the community of El Rosario, and of course was an avid Monarch environmentalist. He was also director of the El Rosario sanctuary which is part of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve and the only public monarch sanctuary in Mexico.

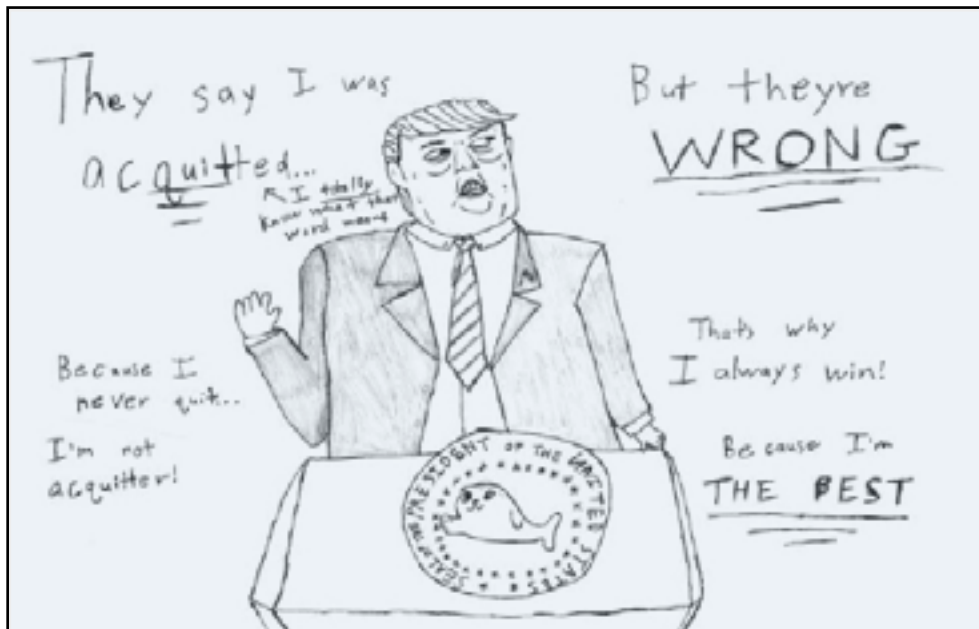
Millions of monarchs overwinter in the Mexican State of Michoacán and hibernate in a small region of densely forested hilltops. However, prolific logging in the area has almost destroyed the Monarchs fir and pine forest habitat causing a major decline in their population. Only through the efforts of conservationists like Gonzalez have those numbers recently increased.

After the Mexican Government outlawed logging in the area tensions between loggers and conventionalists rose and according to Time, fellow activists are fearful for their own safety and efforts as they do not have the education and public speaking experience that Gonzalez did. According to CNN, conflict with Illegal logging in the area due to his conservationist work may be the reason for this death although local authorities have yet to confirm this connection, as prosecutors are still investigating his death.

It is known however, that his body was found in a retaining pond near the preserve and autopsy reports, according to CNN, state that he had suffered from asphyxiation and head trauma. Gonzalez's death, along with the deaths of 37 environmental activists in Mexico since 2017 shows a concerning situation of either leniency or inadequate protection for conservation efforts. Gonzalez's brother Amado Gomez in a quote from Time states, "I would like to ask the authorities to do their job and do more to protect activists like my brother, because lately in Mexico, a lot of activists have died."

'Not Acquiter'

By Sam Hipp
Staff Writer



Senior profile

Grace Kelley is doing great things

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

Grace Kelley is a senior at Brevard College. She will graduate in the Summer but will still walk in May.

Her major is childhood education with a concentration in elementary education but non-licensure. Her minor is wilderness leadership (WLEE).

Kelley chose Brevard because she loves the small feel. “I wanted to have the personal connection with professors and I didn’t want to be a number, I wanted them to know me as a person,” Kelley said. “The professors here know me as a person first and a student second.”

She also enjoyed the opportunities that BC had (and still has) to be involved on campus. The Methodist affiliation was just another plus.

In her free time, Kelley likes to spend some time with her cat, Minerva, her emotional support animal (ESA). She also enjoys spending time with friends, especially when she gets the chance to be outdoors. More recently she has been teaching herself ukulele.

Another musical talent she has is the ability to play the trombone. She has been in the Wind Ensemble for six semesters now. It is something that she has loved to do for a long time.

A couple other things Kelley is involved in on campus includes IWIL, the Honors program and being President of Canterbury Club, a club associated with St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church on Main Street.

She also spends her time as a work study, formally known as a student ambassador, for admissions. This job includes giving campus tours, talking about her experience here and doing a couple jobs around the office, but most importantly, meeting prospective students and their families.

When off campus, Kelley works with Brevard First United Methodist Church by helping with the youth group and teaching the high school Sunday school.

There have been a couple classes that have really made an impression on Kelley. The first was Life in the Universe with Associate Professor of Physics Mike Castelaz. She has always been interested in astronomy.

“It was an absolute blast and he quickly became one of my favorite professors,” Kelley said. “He really reignited my love for science and astronomy.”

The second class was Methods in Teaching Math with Elizabeth Fuller. “I have always

been scared of math, math has never been my strong suit, but she taught me to not be scared of math,” Kelley said. “It wasn’t necessarily that I was bad at math, but it was that I wasn’t taught math in the correct way.” Learning that has helped her tutor a fifth grader in math, among the rest of the things in her busy schedule.

Everyone has people that have helped them out and acted as mentors. Kelley mentioned several faculty members here at BC.

She said campus minister Sharad Creasman has been wonderful helping her out with spiritual discernment. He has also just been someone to talk and laugh with as well as a great source of encouragement.

Administrative assistants Mary Harris and Beth Banks have also been great with helping Kelley navigate many of the things that come along with college and classes. Nancy Willard and Marie Jones helped her out a lot too with navigating the library and finding what she

needed.

Professor Robert Dye has truly been wonderful for helping Kelley navigate the “WLEE world” as she called it. He has become a great mentor and close friend of Kelley’s.

In the summertime, Kelley plans on doing a practicum combining education and outdoor ministry right before obtaining her degree. In the fall following that, she wants to attend seminary.

She has applied to multiple schools, but intends to stay in the Western North Carolina area. Her major goal is to become an ordained deacon in the Methodist denomination. Her focus will be outdoor ministry and young adult ministry.

“I’m not going out thinking, ‘I’m gonna make a difference today,’” Kelley said. “I’m doing good things because that’s who I am and that’s what has been instilled in me.”



Courtesy of Grace Kelly

Grace Kelley smiles for a photo on scholarship day.

Weekly Horoscopes

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Aries

Money isn't the most important thing in life. Money cannot replace the most valuable things in life, such as family and friends. Money can help facilitate happiness but is not the root of it. Happiness comes from within, and, if we lack happiness for ourselves, money will not fulfill us.

Taurus

For some random reason, you feel like you have had a jolt of energy. This feeling will last a while and this means it is a good time to get some work done and to hammer out any goals you have been thinking about completing lately.

Gemini

Someone you may meet this week will pique your interest. This could be the beginning of a friendship, work partnership or a romance if you're single. Take it slow at first because there is a lot to know about this person. Really listen and process what this person is telling you. You may learn something new.

Cancer

Be mindful of what you say this week because people are listening more than they usually do. You are in control of what you say and what you don't if you stay aware when you

talk. Sometimes things can be misinterpreted, so take some time to think about how you're going to say something before it comes out of your mouth.

Leo

Unexpected good fortune will fall in your lap this week, and you're not so sure about what to do with this. You may be worried that there may be strings attached, however, take the opportunity. It isn't as bad as it seems.

Virgo

A talent of yours may land you in the spotlight this week. You may think that people have overlooked this talent, but this is the time when they will notice. So show off a little bit. Later in the week, you may be summoned to mediate in an argument. This is the perfect job for you as long as you stay level headed and focused.

Libra

You might be feeling more emotional this week, so surround yourself with people that make you happy and have your best interest in mind. Everyone needs to take some time to care for themselves. This doesn't make you selfish or lazy. If you don't take time to heal yourself, how do you expect to heal others?

Scorpio

The pressure will be on this week. Work will be hectic and deadlines are coming up fast but keep your head up. Remain positive and take

deep breaths before you get too overwhelmed. Humor is your best friend this week.

Sagittarius

If you believe that you deserve some recognition for the work you have put into something, then this week, speak up for the praise you deserve. Sometimes people need a little nudge to realize someone's accomplishments.

Capricorn

You're doubting yourself, and this is unlike you. You radiate confidence, but something has you down in the dumps. Take time to dig deeper into this issue and try to resolve it in the most healthy way possible. Sometimes, you will have to go through with things that are scary.

Aquarius

You're on cloud nine this week. You have a new sense of freedom you have never felt before, and you're enjoying every second of it now. However, don't let this good feeling go to your head. You do have to come down from the sky eventually.

Pisces

Don't be afraid of failure. The only way people learn is from making mistakes. This is a normal occurrence that you shouldn't blame yourself for. You are a good learner, so you will take a lesson out of this mistake you have made recently.

Brevard students hit the slopes



Courtesy of John Padgett

Members of the Brevard College Outing Club and friends prepare to make the trip to Appalachian Ski Mountain on Saturday, Feb. 8, where they participated in skiing and snowboarding.

The Iowa Caucus: A comedy of errors

By Julie Carter
Opinion Editor

On Feb. 3, the all-important Iowa Caucus was held across the state. The primary event offers the nation a peek as to what the months prior to the upcoming election may look like, demonstrating which candidates might win the nomination. This process, in presidential elections, is vital for the party seeking to oust the sitting president.

However, such an important event quickly dissented into chaos for everyone, most notably the Democratic Party.

The collection of the opinions of citizens about who they supported within the primary went fairly standard. The commotion came when precincts began reporting their results.

A new app meant to aid in the reporting of results failed. Phone lines were busy. Precinct reporters were hung up on. Math errors were made. Three data sets needed to be collected

which left the party completely overwhelmed.

Anything that could go wrong did.

Now, over a week later, the nation is wondering what Democrat took Iowa. Based on the iffy results determined in the days following the caucus, the Democratic Party declared Pete Buttigieg the victor, giving him the most delegates at 13. However, multiple sources, including the Associated Press, are withholding an official victor declaration for the caucus, due to the jumbled handling of the event.



The Democratic Party has been struggling to collect themselves after their massive defeat in the 2016 election. Their blundering of the Iowa Caucus offers yet another harbinger to the fact that, perhaps, they will not win the election coming in November.

The comedy of errors that occurred in Iowa only tells us that the Democrats are disorganized and lack true unification, the qualities essential to further processing a movement. An app meant to make things easier for them crumbled, largely because it went untested prior to the night of the caucus. They underestimated the sheer volume of calls they would get. Caucus night failed not because of happenstance but because the Democratic Party failed to plan.

The Democratic Party cannot go on running under the assumption that everything is going to be fine for them. When November comes around, they must be prepared for the fight of their lives if they truly want one of their own to sit behind the desk in the Oval Office.

Don't be bitter, pick up your litter!

By Eli Goodhew
Staff Writer

Brevard is cherished by locals and tourists alike for its immaculate scenery, small town charm, progressive community and a universal respect for the environment. If only Brevard students shared that same respect toward our campus...

Littering has recently become a topic of concern for many BC students and faculty members. While great efforts have been made to institute sustainable and eco-friendly practices on campus, it is the carelessness of some that set us all back.

"Trashing this place makes it less enjoyable for all of us. Take care of our home," BC Student Michaela Lemmon said, and she's right. This is our home, and we should treat it as such.

Putting trash where it belongs is not difficult, and if you find that it is then you are trash yourself.

It's sad to know how often we take our Earth for granted. We need her, not the other way around.

Brevard College's incredible maintenance and house-keeping staff have enough of their plate. It is certainly not their job to pick up your garbage.

Though it should not be an inconvenience to walk to the nearest dumpster, I believe that adding more trash and recycling bins around campus would lessen the issue. But imagine if

everyone just did their part to dispose of trash properly. It would make all the difference.

Together let's strive to keep Brevard's campus, our home, clean and beautiful.



What's up with Russia?

By Aia Andonovska
Sports Editor

Three weeks ago, many Russians and the world got a major shock as the Russian government dissolved and the prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev stepped down. Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, also proposed a series of changes to the Russia constitution, in what is being seen as an attempt to keep his power after his presidential term expires in 2024.

Putin announced these constitutional changes at his annual state of the nation address in Moscow. In particular, he proposed amendments that would transfer more power to the Russian parliament, also called the Duma. He stated this would be nationally voted upon. Other measures include limiting the supremacy of international law, amending the rules that limit a president to two consecutive terms, and strengthening laws

that prohibit presidential candidates who have held foreign citizenship or foreign residency permits.

Another key change would take the power of selecting a cabinet from the presidency and instead leave this up to the parliament. Currently, the prime minister and ministers are appointed by Putin himself. Under Putin's proposal, parliament would select the prime minister who would then nominate his own ministers for approval by members of parliament.

It was only a few hours after Putin's speech that Medvedev and the entire cabinet declared they would be stepping down, per Putin's request. Mr Medvedev made his announcement on state television with President Putin sitting next to him. "These changes, when they are adopted... will introduce substantial changes not only to an entire range of articles of the constitution, but also to the entire balance of power, the power of the executive, the power

of the legislature, the power of judiciary," Mr Medvedev said of Mr Putin's proposals. "In this context... the government in its current form has resigned." Medvedev will now become the deputy chairman of Russia's national security council. The president later nominated tax service chief Mikhail Mishustin to replace Medvedev as prime minister.

These changes were immediately scrutinized by observers as efforts done by Putin to keep himself in power, as he prepares for his presidential transition in 2024. At 67 years old, Putin has ruled over Russia for two decades. The question of how he will handle the end of his presidency when it arrives in four years time has increasingly been on the minds of people. Since the declaration of the government dissolving three weeks ago, there has been no update on the conditions of Russia's government, except that they will vote on Putin's proposals come September 2020.



Putin addresses the Federal Assembly in Moscow, Jan. 15 2020.

Courtesy of Shamil Zhumatov

A thrilling end to a thrilling game

Duke's game-winning layup against UNC

By Margaret Correll
Layout & Design

Long standing rivals, the Duke University Blue Devils and the UNC Chapel Hill Tar Heels made basketball look like an extreme sport on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020. Everyone in attendance at the Dean Smith Center might agree, for there was not a stunned face in the room when the clock hit zero.

This 2019-2020 season for the Heels has been rough to say the least, leaving them at number 13 in the conference with a 3-9 wins to losses ratio. With such a young team, the odds did not look good at first for the Tar Heels.

For most of the game, the Heels were leading the Blue Devils by 10 or more points, shocking the fans after such a tough losing season. Duke did not give up though, bringing the score back up with fouls, allowing for them to score some needed free-throws.

The arena was on the edge of their seats when the final seconds came, Duke was down by two points and managed to miss the second free-throw which allowed for them to get the rebound and tie-up the game, with only seconds to spare. Sending the game into overtime was only the start of the Tar Heels troubles.

Missed free-throw after missed free-throw, the Heels struggled to keep up in overtime but the future looked bright. It looks like the

UNC Tar Heels are going to win it all but that dream is cut short by an amazing play by the Blue Devils in the final seconds of this exceptional game. Duke wins at the buzzer with an incredible layup by Wendell Moore Jr.

The shock and disappointment from fans, donors, students, alumni and Tar Heels head coach Roy Williams filled the room as the Blue Devils celebrated their insane win. Williams stated in a post-game interview, "I still think good things are going to happen for this team, but I'm not going to get this woe-is-me BS, by any means."

This game will be remembered as exciting and memorable, as all rival games should be. Duke will host UNC on March 7, 2020 at 6 p.m.



Courtesy of Duke Athletics

Duke stuns UNC crowd with buzzer-beater layup.