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**Adam Beeson**

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# Window

To  
The

# World

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**A History of *The Clarion* at  
Brevard College, 1935-2006**

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**Window to the World:**  
***A History of The Clarion at***  
***Brevard College, 1935-2006***

Brevard College Senior Project

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English Major

Communication/Journalism Emphasis

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All photographs taken by Adam Beeson. All archived newspaper material quoted in the  
project can be found in the Brevard College Jones Library.

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# Abstract

My purpose in researching the history of *The Clarion* was to discover the roots from which the newspaper comes to the college and to learn more about Brevard College history and its relationship to the rest of the world throughout the decades.

When I began my work on *The Clarion* in 2004, the newspaper was in shambles. With a small group of dedicated staff members, we turned the newspaper around. In order for the newspaper to continue to be successful, I felt it was important for the college community to understand the history of *The Clarion*.

The scope of my research has been extensive. I have read through archives of *The Clarion* since 1935: 72 volumes of the newspaper. I have also researched the newspaper's predecessors: *The Rutherford Recorder/Rectangle* and *The Weaver Pep*. Finally, I resorted to a number of outside sources, including *History of Brevard College, 1853-1954* by Marjorie Craig, multiple history books on events such as the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War, and I conducted two personal interviews.

The result of my research displays *The Clarion* as an important publication, not only the audience for which it is publishing, but for future generations as well. *The Clarion* began as a first-rate newspaper in 1935 and endured drastic alterations with society's changing times. Through these changes, one characteristic has been consistent, *The Clarion* has been the voice of the Brevard College student; a way for students to speak out on issues that concern them.

Furthermore, through reading *The Clarion* over the past 72 years, a broader history for Brevard College, the United States, and even the world can be understood. It is because of this understanding that *The Clarion* can be viewed as the window to the world.

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The window to the world can be covered by a newspaper.  
—Stanislaw Jerzy Lec, Polish writer (1906-1966)

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I would also like to thank *The Clarion* staff from the fall of 2006; without their commitment our weekly paper would not be possible; Hall Penn for teaching me the perils of layout and how to be "that guy" when necessary; Ralph Hamlett for sharing with me his frightening memories of the newspaper, we won't go down that road again; Ms. Ann Ethers for always having the paper printed on time; My family for being the most frequent readers of my work and never giving me a bad review, even when I deserved it; And Trinny, who has kept me sane when I felt the weight of the world on my shoulders, and helped me take my life a little less seriously...it's only life after all.

# Introduction

They were hot off the press.

Walking through Beam Administration Building with the deep box in hand, I caught glances from Brevard College students and staff. It was Friday, and they knew what was inside the bottomless container. Leaving Office Services, I thanked Ms. Ann for her timely work. It had become a weekly tradition.

Every Friday morning my alarm would blast lively bluegrass music from its shrill speakers at 7:30 a.m. Rolling out of bed, I'd throw on some jeans and a wrinkled polo and hike through the misty mountain air to Myers Dining Hall. The campus would still be sleeping. Breathing in the rich aroma of daybreak coffee, I would watch students slowly make their way into the cafeteria to work off their aching hangovers. Morning in Brevard was always my favorite time of the day.

I swept aside some old issues and slammed the oversized box on the office table. Opening the lid, I finally caught a glance at its content. Of course, I had seen it for hours on end the day before, but there's just something about the finished product that's well, different.

Separating the 11 x 17 sheets of paper into three piles, I stepped back and looked at the lofty stack. Six-hundred copies, just like usual.

And then I began to fold.

There is a unique craft to folding a newspaper, and I had perfected it. I grabbed a copy of the center spread, which was purposefully stacked on the far right, and stuffed copies from the other two piles

underneath it. Tapping the sheets three times on the old wooden table, I made sure the edges were closely aligned, folded the papers hot dog-style and, with the rim of my thumb, creased the middle. One down, 599 to go.

Just then Matt Rutherford walked through the doors of the cluttered office and took his position at the other folding table. Matt was the managing editor of our weekly, and while we had different creasing techniques, neither of us were strangers to ink-stained fingers. We talked about the issue, and for the first time all morning, I took a seat and looked at our modest publication: *The Clarion*, Volume 72, Issue 11. I read the headline, “Shuler wins, Democrats take control of Congress” and thought about the staff meeting four days prior.

The meeting began even before it began. The pre-meeting, as the senior staff has come to call it, was certain to be a fiasco. Huddled in the back of the little office, we all took our respective places on counters, chairs, tables, and couches and laughed about the latest Bushisms or celebrity spoofs in Hollywood. But soon the room grew quiet, and Dr. Padgett asked a simple question, “Well, what’s going on?”

Tex is always the first to answer. His secret sources had informed him of diseases spreading violently through the freshman class and late night terrorist activity lurking around every corner of campus.

“Who’s your source,” I asked him.

“I’ve got sources,” he replied. Tex never reveals his sources.

Each section editor told us what was on tap for Friday’s issue. Zack Harding was reviewing a Primus concert and needed to assign music and movie reviews. Jamie Michaels was, if the election goes her way tomorrow, writing an opinion piece on how Republicans can cope with their loss of power; she’ll be ruthless. Tom Cowan was investigating reports that a sweaty, shirtless man chased female students from Ingles back to their dormitories and that an old woman fell and hurt herself in the cafeteria over the

weekend. The two stories were not related—at least he didn't think. Zach Browning was running out of animals to kill in his column, but he supposed that he could discuss deer season. Meanwhile, men's and women's basketball was about to start; he'd have to talk Amethyst Green into covering the season.

“Well, it's about that time,” Dr. Padgett said, and we all made our way downstairs where the staff writers and photographers were awaiting our grand entrance. Working my way through each section, I asked for volunteers to cover some of the stories we had discussed in the pre-meeting. Nobody ever volunteers. So I assigned the story to the reporter hiding her face in the back corner or just turned over assignment duties to the section editor and made him sound like the jerk.

Either way, all of the stories were assigned, more news was brought to our attention, and after nearly an hour, the meeting was complete. “The deadline is Wednesday at 5 p.m.,” I told everyone as they scurried out the door. Matt showed me the story budget he'd been scribbling throughout the meeting, and it looked like we'd have at least a 12-page issue out this week. I asked Molly Carlson if she'd need any help with layout this week. Molly never needs any help with layout, and after last year, that's fine with me.

Articles came through my e-mail box over the course of the week, and I saved them onto the “P” drive that IT had set up for *The Clarion*. Emily Wade first edited the articles, and then Molly laid the issue out in Pagemaker.

Yesterday morning, I had looked through the issue that had kept Molly up until all hours of the morning. Giving the issue the final approval, I printed it on the faculty laser printer in Pat Shore's office, walked downstairs, said good morning to Pat, and picked up the freshly printed issue. Hustling to the Beam Administration Building, I glanced over the issue and tried to catch any last minute mistakes. Finding none, I entered Office Services so that the issue could be copied 600 times. I thanked Ms. Ann for her timely work, and exited the building.

It had become a weekly tradition.

Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Jimmy Breslin once said, “A job on a newspaper is a special thing. Every day you take something that you found out about, and you put it down and in a matter of hours it becomes a product. Not just a product like a can or something. It is a personal product that people, a lot of people, take the time to sit down and read.”

This is the history of *The Clarion*, a student-run college newspaper that has become my product. It is a personal product. A product worth reading.

CHAPTER

**I.**

**Before *The Clarion*  
1924 - 1934**

WEAVER HALL BURNS DOWN; CLOTHES DESTROYED - Flames Destroy Possessions of Many Students; 12 Men Lose Everything; Mr. Rodney Stover Principal Hero; Speculation Rife Concerning Plans For Rebuilding; Possibility Removal To Morganton; Probable New Structure Be Built To Replace Old.

The year was 1927, and these were the headlines that charged Rutherford College into an eager frenzy. Released just one week after the fire, the fourth-ever issue of the student-led newspaper, *Rutherford Recorder* (Vol. I, Issue No. 4), informed devastated college residents about the facts of the flames.

The article reads: “Weaver Hall, a dormitory built for the men of Rutherford, burned to the ground. As was customary on Saturday afternoon, the majority of the seventy-odd boys who roomed in Weaver were spending the afternoon away from campus; some in Hickory, while others were in Morganton. There was nothing in the quiet calm of the afternoon to indicate the approach of the catastrophe.”

A relatively new publication on the Rutherford College campus, the *Rutherford Recorder* set a strong precedent for future student newspapers to inform their classmates of happenings in the community, while allowing students to voice concerns of their own.

One student wrote: “What’s a mere student going to do when he isn’t sure whether his school is

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going to be moved to Morganton, or Charlotte, or be rebuilt on the old site?"

At a time when students around the country couldn't turn their televisions on to CNN, couldn't visit the *New York Times Online*, and couldn't even depend on the delivery of major dailies in their small college towns, student newspapers were the eyes and ears of colleges and universities around the country. And for students in Western North Carolina, this was no exception.

Just west of Rutherford College, a similar trend could be found at another small, mountain school: Weaver College.

BASEBALL PRACTICE IN FULL SWING AT WEAVER - Miller Elected Captain Of Baseball Team; President Trowbridge States Aims of This Fine Institution; Euterpeans Elect New Officers.

These headlines highlighted 1927 in *The Weaver Pep*, another student newspaper providing essential information for college students living in isolated mountain towns. Like the *Rutherford Recorder*, students found their voices in *The Weaver Pep*. A popular topic among students at the time was one that perhaps still thrives amongst the college press most frequently today: school policy.

"There is a movement in some of the larger institutions of the country to abolish compulsory class attendance," one student wrote into *The Weaver Pep* in 1924. "This question was discussed in the literary societies at Carolina recently and it was unanimously agreed that whatever good argument there might be in favor of it, these were more offset by the fact that few Freshmen and Sophomores are capable of being their own judge regarding class attendance."

#### SETTTING THE STANDARD

Brevard College was formed as a junior college in 1934, after these two Methodist colleges merged on its present location. Rutherford College, a coeducational school established in 1853 in Burke County, and Weaver College, established in 1873 just eight miles north of Asheville in the town of Weaverville, joined on the grounds of the former Brevard Institute for the school's first day of classes on September 17, 1934.

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From its second year, the student press was a lively voice for the 385 students on the Brevard College campus.

Through the four-page weekly student newspaper, *The Clarion*, students kept their campus informed on the occurrences happening on campus, in the community, the country, and around the world. But the roots of *The Clarion* extended beyond 1934, to the heritage of *The Weaver Pep* and the *Rutherford Recorder* (later to be re-named to *The Rutherford Rectangle*).

The earliest archived issue of *The Weaver Pep* is dated December 15, 1924, twelve years after Weaverville College officially became a junior college and changed its name to Weaver. *The Weaver Pep* is labeled Vol. II, Issue No. 3 and includes articles on the Weaver College “Blue Giants” football season, a preview of the school’s literary yearbook “The Mountaineer,” and facts about the student body at the college (Weaver College, at the time, was home to students from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, and two students from Cuba; the majority of students’ fathers were farmers, but occupations ranged from a bull-fighter to a preacher).

The paper, released about once every two months, was four pages long and was published by the junior class of Weaver College with a staff of six: a faculty advisor, an editor-in-chief, a business manager, an advertising manager, an athletic editor, and a joke editor. *The Weaver Pep*, usually printing only one or two photographs per issue, published its “First Weaver View Book” in the May 31, 1927 edition of the newspaper. The view book was eight pages long, doubling the length of a normal edition, and included multiple photographs of the changing seasons on the Weaver College campus. This photo-journey is the only archived *Weaver Pep* of its kind, as the last archived issue of the newspaper dates to December 18, 1928, Vol. V of the short-lived publication.

Like *The Weaver Pep*, students at Rutherford College found important reports in their four-page monthly student newspaper. *The Rutherford Recorder* changed its name to *The Rutherford Rectangle*

sometime between 1927 and 1931, and covered such stories as “the Ramblers” athletic teams of Rutherford College, the inauguration of homecoming day on campus, and the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington (a tree was planted in honor of the nation’s first president, and a local attorney addressed students on “the fact that he held Washington up as an example of those of today who possess a spark of patriotism”).

*The Rutherford Rectangle* did not print photographs in their issues, but devoted nearly two pages to advertisements of local companies, ranging from drug stores in Valdese to jewelers in Hickory and clothing stores in Morganton. The staff was composed of two divisions: the editorial staff and the advertising staff. The editorial staff included an editor, associate editor, co-ed editor, assistant co-ed editor, sports editor, assistant sports editor, and faculty advisor. The advertising staff was made of an advertising manager, two assistant advertising managers, an exchange manager, and a faculty advisor. The 12-member staff clearly states that the newspaper was student-run in their page two staff box: “Published Monthly by Students of Rutherford College.” Archived issues of *The Rutherford Rectangle* can be found until the year before the school’s merge with Weaver College, as the last issue is dated March 1933.

These two newspapers would shape the responsibility of *The Clarion* in its first year of existence. Searching for a voice for its students, Brevard College would look to the student newspapers of the past for guidance in establishing an informative, quality newspaper for the college community. Through their strong precedents, *The Weaver Pep* and *The Rutherford Recorder/Rectangle* would set the standard for the arrival of a student newspaper on the Brevard College campus.

### **Major Events, 1924-1934**

June 2, 1924: Calvin Coolidge signs the Indian Citizenship Act, granting citizenship to all Native Americans born within the territorial limits of the United States.

October 29, 1929: Black Tuesday; the stock market crashes on the New York Stock Exchange.

November 8, 1932: Franklin D. Roosevelt defeats Herbert Hoover in the Presidential Election.

January 30, 1933: Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.

CHAPTER  
**II.**

**The Early Years**  
**1935 - 1940**

DO YOU WANT A COLLEGE PAPER?

**S**eventy-two years after its first publication, *The Clarion* has been a vital voice for the Brevard College community through some of the world's most significant events. During the administration of twelve presidents of the United States, through multiple wars and military action, and enduring drastic changes in technology, *The Clarion* has kept the college informed and has voiced the opinions of its student body. As quickly as the newspaper began publication, however, *The Clarion* almost failed to exist at all.

Brevard College students released the first issue of *The Clarion* on Wednesday, September 25, 1935 (Vol. I, Issue No. 1). Published just weeks after the school year began, *The Clarion* covered such topics as the organization of the department of agriculture on campus, religious activities on campus, a preview of the upcoming football season (the first game against Biltmore College was just three days away), and some sensible advice for Brevard College freshman: "When you enter Brevard College you are considered a gentlemen, or a lady," the article, titled "Hints for Freshman," reads. "You can do as you like about your work; nobody will make you do it. Be honest with yourself and always keep in mind the fact that you are here because of a great life purpose." Although the four-page weekly received a warm welcome from the college community, the newspaper was lucky to survive past issue number two.

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The major story in that first issue was titled “Do You Want A College Paper?” and discussed just that. The issue, as the article explains, was presented to the student body courtesy of the town’s printer, who agreed to print the first two issues of *The Clarion* on advertising revenue alone (the newspaper published advertisements from local barbershops, cafes, and laundry services in Brevard). In order for the newspaper to continue as the college voice, three-hundred people had to subscribe to *The Clarion* for \$1.00 per year by carrier or \$1.25 per year through the mail. The paper would be published weekly from September to June while the college was in session, except on holidays and during examinations. *The Clarion* would be a “genuine newspaper covering all the college activities,” and, if the temporary staff publishing the first two issues received the proper subscriptions, a permanent staff would be chosen and students would receive their newspaper every Wednesday. The article sent a sincere warning to the student body about the importance of receiving the needed subscriptions: “Without *The Clarion* you will not be able to keep up with all the things that go on in the college community. Everyone who was here realized the need of a paper for this reason. Also see to it that a copy of *The Clarion* goes to the home folks each week. They are vitally interested in everything that goes on here.”

A PAPER OR NOT . WHICH?

With the release of the second issue on October 2, 1935, the student body at Brevard College still did not know whether they would have a student newspaper the following week: “While a large number of subscriptions have been received,” the front-page article read, “they are not enough to assure enough revenue from that source.” Knowing that it was highly unlikely that they would receive the appropriate number of subscriptions by the following Wednesday, the temporary staff of *The Clarion* were growing desperate and began thinking of other plans to receive the appropriate funds for the newspaper to continue. A new plan was being developed at the time, “so the entire student body may get the paper at a reduced price.” This plan, not revealed to the public within the article, would require one-hundred percent

participation from the student body and, if it worked out, would “be given to the students for adoption and immediately put into operation.” The plan would be introduced to the student body at their weekly chapel meeting on Friday, October 4, 1935.

Aside from the plea for the continued publication of *The Clarion*, the second issue covered the adoption of clubs on campus, including the Marco Polo Travel Club, the International Relations Club, and Ministerial Band; the current enrollment at the college, which included 389 students from nine different states; and the result of the football game against Biltmore College, a scoreless tie. A schedule of “Time Rules for the Girls’ Dormitories” was also included on page three:

6:30	Rising Bell
7:00	Breakfast
7:25	Morning watch
8:00	Room Inspection
8:45	Classes begin
10:35	Student Assembly, attendance required
12:55	Lunch
2:00	Afternoon classes
3:00	Shopping for 1 hour, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Social period on Monday and Wednesday
7:00	Prayer meeting on Thursday
7:30	Literary societies twice a month on Tuesday
	House meeting twice a month on Tuesday
	Clubs meet twice a month on Friday
7:30	Study hall — halls quiet, each girl in her own room
10:00	Recreation period
10:30	Lights out

#### STUDENTS VOTE TO CONTINUE THE CLARION

While staff members did not receive the three-hundred subscriptions necessary to continue printing *The Clarion* and distributing it on campus, the student body president, Tom Graham, presented a plan for the newspaper. In his plan, the entire student body would be formed into clubs according to the dormitories in which they lived (the commuter students formed a separate club). The clubs would then choose a leader

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to distribute newspapers within the dormitory and collect fees for the paper. The plan enabled the student body to receive *The Clarion* at 25 cents per quarter, as opposed to the \$1.00 per year subscription previously suggested. “The plan was discussed,” the article reads, “and on motion was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.”

With the adoption of *The Clarion* at Brevard College, the young newspaper set out to construct a permanent editorial and business staff. The election of the editor-in-chief occurred just one week after the announcement that *The Clarion* would continue to be the informative voice on campus. Candidates for the position included sophomore Bill Davis, freshman Odell Salmon, and sophomore Willis Turner. Elections were presided upon by student body president Graham. After a heated debate over whether Salmon, who had “several years experience in newspaper work,” could be fit for the position of editor-in-chief as a freshman, the student body elected Davis as the first editor-in-chief of *The Clarion*. Davis, who was from Badin, North Carolina, had been a feature writer, sports editor, and editor-in-chief of his high school newspaper and was a member of the Brevard College football and basketball teams. According to *The Clarion*, “in scholastic rating (Davis) is among the first.”

*The Clarion* continued to build its staff after the appointment of Davis, as two associate editors, 12 reporters, one typist, a business manager, advertising manager, and circulation manager, as well as two faculty advisors, were selected. With the addition of a permanent staff, *The Clarion* continued to present important information to the student body, while reinforcing the importance of the newspaper to the community. In Issue No. 7 (November 8, 1935), an article titled “The Value of a School Paper” was published. The article outlined the significance of *The Clarion* for Brevard College: “The usefulness of the paper is not limited to the college campus,” the article reads. “It is through this paper that those outsiders who are interested in the college are informed of our progress, or our decline, whichever the case may be... Often times the college is judged largely by the paper that its students publish; therefore it is up to us to

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see that our school is rated as high as any of the other institutions of higher learning.”

The newspaper continued to cover events happening in and around the Brevard College campus, and by twelfth issue *The Clarion* was ready to ring in the new year. “So This is 1936,” the headline read: “This year, 1936, is going to be a very interesting one in the lives of us all. It is going to be full of problems and crises for us to meet, not only in our private lives but also in national and state affairs.” In dealing with these predicaments, *The Clarion* continued to use its voice to inform students of events occurring within the college community, so their lives would be made that much more trouble-free. The major stories of that year included the reorganization of the college’s literary societies, in which a quarter of the student body joined a society; the results from the Tornados’ winter basketball season schedule; important messages from the Brevard College president Eugene J. Coltrane, including Coltrane’s arrangement of the first North Carolina Junior College Conference at Hotel Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina; the election of the student council for the following school year; and the newspaper’s first “Commencement Edition,” which outlined the college’s commencement exercises and listed the seventy-eight student candidates for graduation. True to their word, the staff of *The Clarion* published 29 issues during the first volume of the newspaper, one for every week of the school year. The paper also published one summer monthly edition of *The Clarion*, in which a preview of the fall quarter enrollment and a follow-up on the graduating students were included.

#### A PRECEDENT IS SET

Volume two of the newspaper continued to set an impressive precedent for future editions of *The Clarion*, and the young paper was awarded for its superior work. After the addition of a new staff at the start of the fall 1936 school year, *The Clarion* was awarded membership to the North Carolina Collegiate Press Association, “the first junior college newspaper publisher to join the outstanding newspaper

organization.” The induction was held October 22-24, 1936, in Charlotte, and *The Clarion* gained membership by a unanimous vote. Before this vote could take place, however, a committee within the association, which included its president, had to examine various issues of the newspaper and determine its strengths: “In the final business meeting, a representative from Flora Macdonald College made the motion that (*The Clarion*) be accepted as members; the representation from Appalachian State Teachers’ College made the second to the motion, and the vote was unanimous.”

*The Clarion* used its membership into the distinguished association to continue keeping the campus community informed on events going on around campus, and even around the country. The year 1936 was an election year in the United States as President Franklin D. Roosevelt was running for re-election, the second of four terms to which he would be elected as the President of the United States. Like the majority of American citizens that year, Brevard College students saw Roosevelt as the strongest candidate in the election: “Mr. Roosevelt, according to the mock election sponsored by *The Clarion* last Wednesday, is the favorite of the student body for presidency of the United States,” an article from October 30, 1936 reads. Of the 319 votes cast during the mock election, Roosevelt received 206 votes, or 65 percent of all Brevard College student voters. While the pre-election coverage was present in *The Clarion* leading up to the 1936 race for presidency, the outcome of the election was never published.

For the next five years, *The Clarion* remained an influential voice on campus, covering issues of grave concern going on around the college community and the nation, while evolving stylistically as a newspaper. In 1937, *The Clarion* began running bylines throughout the newspaper for the first time. Weekly columns began to emerge within the newspaper, such as editor-in-chief Odell Salmon’s “Kaleidoscope,” opinions on the world of academia, and sports editor James Sturgis May’s “Sports Slants,” a column covering major sporting events around the country. These columns ran photos of the editors within the text, and *The Clarion* began to run more photos in general throughout the newspaper

over these next five years.

While *The Clarion* may have changed stylistically, its consistency and informative news coverage never altered. Starting as a newspaper that barely survived beyond the first two issues, *The Clarion* was now setting the standard for the future of Brevard College student publications. *The Clarion* remained a lively voice for Brevard College in 1940, but the active paper was unprepared for what the next four years would bring to the college, the country, and the world.

### **Major Events, 1935-1941**

April 14, 1935: Dust Bowl begins in Eastern New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma.

March 1, 1936: Construction of the Hoover Dam is completed.

December 21, 1937: *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is the first full-length animated film to premiere.

March 3, 1938: Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia.

October 30, 1938: Orson Welles' radio broadcast of *War of the Worlds* premieres and causes mass panic in parts of the country, including Brevard College, where it was reported that five students fainted after hearing the radio broadcast.

August 17, 1939: *The Wizard of Oz* premieres at the Capitol Theater in New York.

September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland, marking the beginning of World War II.

July 27, 1940: Bugs Bunny makes his debut in a cartoon titled *A Wild Hare*.

September 7, 1940: Germany begins rain bombs in London, the first of 57 consecutive nights of bombing.

CHAPTER  
**III.**

**The Second World War  
1941 - 1945**

PROBLEMS OF WORLD PEACE

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the entire country was engaged with the devastating news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and Brevard College was no exception. According to Marjorie Craig, author of the unpublished *History of Brevard College*, the “effects of the war were a decreased enrollment, adoption of daylight savings time, classes in civilian defense, organization of units for the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT), appearance of Naval recruiting officers on campus, and the employment of a woman to head the college athletic program” (Craig 481). In the October 15, 1942 edition of *The Clarion* (Vol. X, Issue No. 2), the newspaper addressed one of the major effects of the war on campus: the CPT.

“The Civilian Pilot Training program was initiated at Brevard College in September, 1940, as a part of the program of the government in conjunction with the Civil Aeronautics Administration,” the article reads. The program first opened to college students or young men with a college education, but after the United States’ entrance into World War II, requirements for entrance were thinned, the article says. “Now it is no longer necessary to have a college education, or to take college work. The entire course is completed in

eight weeks with 240 hours of ground school and 35 hours of flight training.” At the time of the article, there were sixteen CPT students on the Brevard College campus, all of whom received much support from the other students and, in particular, *The Clarion*: “These young men have left their homes and families to come here to take training that will aid them to serve their country better.” The students conducted their flight tests at the Meyer Flying Service grounds in Hendersonville and went to Hondo, Texas, upon graduation for elementary glider training.

Little is known about the status of *The Clarion* beyond this issue, as only two other issues are archived during the war years. Craig, however, lists the different editors of the newspaper for every war year in *History of Brevard College*, implying that the newspaper continued to be published during World War II. On February 1, 1943, Volume X, Issue No. 8 of *The Clarion* was released. The issue, which now states that the newspaper was published semi-monthly rather than weekly by a staff of just nine students, included a column titled “Problems of World Peace.” The column, published below in its entirety, expressed the staff’s view on the war and its uncertainties:

World Peace, the peace that will follow this war, is certainly a topic that even today, with the war still undecided, is very much in the limelight and very much worth discussing. To the Axis powers the plan of peace is fairly clear. Germany would be leading nation in a New Order of the States, all of which, in broad terms, would work for the benefit of Germany, with possibly Italy and Japan reaping a minor share of the loot from the conquered countries. There would be but one power and that power would be Germany.

But the Allies face a far more difficult problem. The United States, Great Britain, and the U.S.S.R. do not seem to be as closely allied as the aggressor nations do. It is true that Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt have put forth a document, the Atlantic Charter, which is composed of eight points, and which is a sort of outline for further peace terms. But what of Soviet Russia? Their form of government, in theory if not in practice, differs as much from ours as does Nazism. Can two completely different types of government exist in the same world today, when distance has been cut so by the development of the airplane? We couldn’t do business with Hitler; so why believe we can live in the same world with Stalin? It is true, also, that we have signed treaties with the Soviet Union, and that at the present we are fighting allies with them. But is it because we trust them, want to help them in their plight, or is it because we are faced with a common enemy?

Two years ago we helped Finland in her heroic fight against an aggressor nation, and the aggressor at that time was Russia. Today Finland fights with Germany, and Finnish relations with the United States hang by a thread. When the German people are beaten in Europe, there is no doubt that Red Russia will have carried the major load of fighting. Where then will the liberated people of Europe turn for salvation and help for reconstruction? To the United States? Not very likely. They will turn to Russia — because in Russia they will see a savior, and new hope. The answer is communism for all Europe.

We don’t know just how communism in Russia has worked out, but in the United States, to

call a man a "Red" was to put him in the same class with, or lower class than a Nazi. Over here we like our system of free enterprise, and we want to keep it. But we could not survive in a world in which Hitler had a hand; so how can we live in the same world with Stalin and enjoy our form of government? Can we change or will Russia change or will the United States and Great Britain some day fight Russia to determine who shall control economics and politics of the world?

The column is the only archived opinion of the war in *The Clarion* and serves as a remarkable foretelling of Brevard College student feelings towards the Soviet Union over the next four decades.

#### THE WAR REMEMBERED

While the archived issues of *The Clarion* reveal little about the student opinion of World War II during the war years, Craig publishes one student's account of the war and its effects on campus. Gilreath Adams Jr. recorded his impressions on the war in *History of Brevard College*:

Few people realized that war was so near when the 1941-42 term began. The peacetime draft had already affected the enrollment of men, for only Taylor Hall was used for them. Pearl Harbor brought a sudden change to our outlook on life. President Roosevelt's message before Congress on Monday, December 8, 1941, came during lunch hour. Some one brought a radio to West Wall's dining room. Faculty and students ate in comparative silence while Roosevelt spoke. Some had little appetite and everyone felt rather strange.

Almost immediately all of the men were faced with the problem of what branch of the service they would enter. Some joined the various reserve corps, hoping to be able to complete at least that year of college work. Other volunteered in January 1942, and by June most of the men who graduated were going directly into service...

When the 1942-43 term began, there were still fewer men enrolled, with units of CPT trainees quartered on the third floor of Taylor Hall. They were stationed at Brevard for brief intervals while they took courses at the College and studied aviation at a field near Hendersonville. Classroom space was shifted in the Ad Building to give these trainees more room for instruction. With the nation's clocks on War Time and with Brevard being so near the western tip of the Eastern Time zone, we often went to first-period classes during the winter months before it was daylight. Each week two or three of the men who were in the reserves and who were hoping to graduate in June 1943 were being called into service. There were fewer than a hundred graduates that year. Brevard faced many gigantic problems because of this student shortage and the unfavorable prospects of getting men students for the next term. (Craig 500)

As of October 1, 1943, three Brevard College alumni had lost their lives in World War II, ninety-five were fighting in the war, and four were serving as chaplains in the war.

#### LIFE GOES ON

*The Clarion* released its twelfth issue of Vol. X on April 1, 1943, informing students that Brevard

College would soon be home to a 200-man air corps training unit. The Civil Aeronautics Administration War Training Service replaced the CPT on campus, after Brevard College president Eugene J. Coltrane and publicity director E.M. Anderson traveled to Washington D.C. and submitted an application for the college to host the program. The college was approved for the program since, according to the article, “Brevard is a co-educational college and a large number of the men students have already been drafted (and) its facilities are adequate to furnish the highly specialized training to at least 200 army or navy students.” At the time, the nation was expecting 70,000 army and navy men in colleges and universities around the country taking preparatory courses for the war. Brevard College prepared for the influx of new students by moving all of the male students living in Taylor Hall into Ross Hall and allow the cadets room in Taylor.

Aside from this article, which was the major headline on the issue’s front page, nothing is mentioned of the war throughout the newspaper. *The Clarion* continued to publish news specific to the campus community throughout the semi-monthly issues during the war years. Topics included religious, theatrical, and athletic programs on campus, including the annual Religious Emphasis Week, the play *And Came the Spring*, and the intramural basketball results. The newspaper dedicated the entire third page to a joke section titled, “The Mountain Ear: Corny — But Good.”

*The Clarion* continued to receive advertisements from businesses throughout the area, as the majority of the fourth page was filled with these notices. Stylistically, the newspaper was still four pages long and, while its logo had changed, little alteration occurred to the appearance of *The Clarion* throughout the war. And when the Second World War, perhaps the greatest catastrophe of all time, ended in the summer of 1945, Brevard College’s student newspaper was ready to continue its role as an informative and active voice for the post-war student.

### **Major Events, 1941-1945**

December 7, 1941: Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor and, one day later, U.S. declares war on Japan.

August 6, 1945: Atomic bombing of Hiroshima.



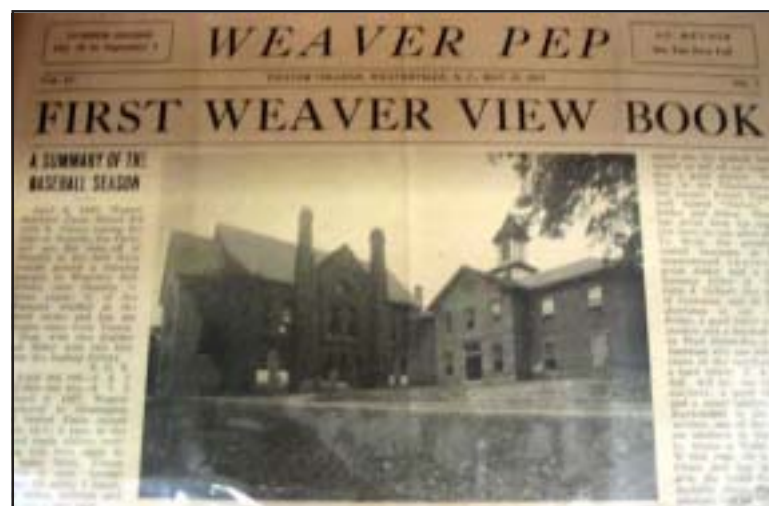
The Rutherford Recorder reports on the fire in Weaver Hall



A late issue of The Rutherford Rectangle in 1933



An ad in The Rutherford Recorder in 1927



The Weaver Pep releases a photo-journey through campus



The first issue of *The Clarion* was released on September 25, 1935

**A CLUB FOR ALL THE STUDENTS. A New Plan whereby every Student will get *The Clarion* at a reduced price.**

An advertisement in Issue No. 2 previews Graham's plan



A cartoon in Vol. 1 portrays a Professor rallying school spirit



Vol. 2 brought a new visual style to *The Clarion*





The Clarion covered the college band at a student activity in 1948



The Clarion printed photographs frequently by 1948



Brevard College's enrollment increased after World War II, as this 1948 headline reads

CHAPTER  
**IV.**

**Post-War Expansion**  
**1946 - 1959**

ALL DORMITORY SPACE FILLED, 228 ARE VETERANS

The post-World War II era saw enormous growth on the campus of Brevard College, as the headlines in the October 17, 1947 (Vol. XIV, Issue No. 1) edition of *The Clarion* explained. The campus grew to 491 students from 13 different states, 228 of whom were veterans. With the growth of the college came the growth of the student newspaper. *The Clarion* expanded its staff from just nine members in 1943 to 27 members in 1947, while doubling the size of the newspaper to eight pages. But with the growth of the college—and, in particular, the increase in the number of veterans attending the college—came widespread speculation that Brevard College would be losing its liberal arts curriculum, a topic that *The Clarion* chose to pay close attention to in 1947.

A column titled “Exit Liberal Arts?” from the first issue of that year addressed the rumor: “It seems that the war has had an unusual, yet understandable effect on the courses chosen by young men and women in our colleges,” the article reads. “In a survey conducted a short time ago, North Carolina was shown to be one of the states strongest for specialized studies. The Vets want to get down to business. They want something that will arrest their minds and not send them into classrooms grouping confusing concepts. They

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feel they have wasted enough time with the war, and now they want something they can grasp firmly and hold to—something secure.”

While *The Clarion* failed to take a side on the issue, they did present the opinions of James M. Tompkins, placement manager of Vick Chemical Company at the time, and John K. Collins, personnel manager of Macy, Inc. in 1947. These men, the article says, felt that personal qualifications outweighed undergraduate course of study in the workplace: “We don’t care from the point of view of scholarship what a man majors in,” Tompkins said. “We’re interested in the type of individual we’re going to get in terms of his executive dimensions.” These views would help to shape the nature of education at Brevard College as it continued to expand over the next ten years.

As in the previous year, headlines in the first issue of 1948 (Vol. XV, Issue No. 1) spread the news of campus expansion: “College Opens With Large Enrollment.” Once again, the college welcomed more than 400 students from 14 states and Cuba to Brevard. A large number of veterans continued to attend Brevard College and, as a result, the college found itself accommodating these students. *The Clarion* reported on October 1, 1948, that President Eugene J. Coltrane and Dean of Students J. J. Stevenson had come to a compromise with dissatisfied veterans about a new room and board plan. The compromise “was begun in an effort on the part of the college to eliminate the dissatisfaction which some of the veterans showed when they were given no choice except to eat in the school cafeteria.” The new policy allowed veterans three choices as to where they would room and board: “The original plan was for all men to live on the campus and eat in the school cafeteria at a cost of \$157.50 per semester,” the article reads. “The modified plan provides that any veteran who wishes to eat off campus but to have a room in one of the dormitories may do so by paying \$35.00 per semester room rent... There is also a new system whereby veterans who wish to live off campus may have that privilege and be treated as regular day-students.”

Like the administration, which found itself working closely with veteran organizations on campus in

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the years following World War II, *The Clarion* directed many of its announcements to veteran interests, such as the availability of monthly checks for students attending Brevard College on a G.I. Bill and the organization of a veteran's club on campus. In addition to writing the Brevard College song, the veteran's club sponsored several dances and dinners on campus throughout the years following the war. *The Clarion*, released once every two weeks at the time, played an important role in keeping the veterans informed during their transition to life as a college student.

In order to accommodate this rapid arrival of new students, Brevard College began to make plans for a \$1.5 million expansion of fresh buildings on campus. *The Clarion* first broke the news to students through the architectural sketches and descriptions published in the newspaper. On October 17, 1947 (Vol. XIV, Issue No. 1), details were released for the construction of the Mary Francis Stamey Memorial Infirmary. According to the article, this "modern infirmary" was just the first of many buildings Brevard College would erect that year: "Shown above is the Mary Frances Stamey Memorial Infirmary, which will be constructed at Brevard College during the coming year," the article reads. "This building, to be constructed at a cost of \$30,000 will be erected by the J.A. Jones Construction company and work will commence next month. This is only one of the many buildings which will be completed at the college during the coming year." The building was named after Mary Frances Stamey, a former Brevard College student who had died the previous year after service in the U.S. Air Corps. In the first issue of 1948, *The Clarion* named the infirmary a "great asset to the institution. . .the infirmary has already had several patients all of whom remarked on the beauty and comfort of the structure."

Sketches for a new science building on campus were also released to the college community in 1947. The science building, along with the infirmary and the James Addison Jones Library, were to be completed by the end of the academic year. The "new and modern brick building" would be home to the physics, chemistry, biology, and home economics departments. At a cost of \$200,000, the science building

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would be located at the eastern end of the academic quadrangle, the article said.

On October 1, 1948 (Vol. XV, Issue No. 1) plans were announced for a 1,250-person capacity auditorium on campus with a stage “large enough to accommodate a 90-piece symphony orchestra.” *The Clarion* announced that a 17-person committee had been appointed to guide the Brevard Chamber of Commerce’s plan to raise \$250,000 for the building, now known as Dunham Music Center. The auditorium, according to the article, would be “the most imposing structure on the Brevard College campus” and would include “a projection room for showing movies, and a suite for broadcasting and making records. A music library will be included along with three large classrooms, five soundproof studios and 25 soundproof practice rooms.”

Issue No. 3 of that year announced the proposed construction of Coltrane Hall, an administration building that would be “erected at a later date in honor of Dr. Eugene J. Coltrane, president of the institution.” The \$75,000, two-story, fireproof structure was designed by Henry Irven Gaines, an architect out of Asheville, North Carolina that had designed the other new structures on campus. Along with announcing the college’s intention to construct the building, *The Clarion* helped the administration by informing the college community how to make donations towards the new project: “All persons who are interested in so honoring Dr. Coltrane can be of assistance by telling others and encouraging their donations,” the article says. “Checks should be sent to Coltrane Hall fund, C. H. Trowbridge, treasurer, Brevard College, Brevard, N.C.” Coltrane Hall would never be built. However, the buildings erected at this time would continue to play an important role on campus for both students and the community over the next sixty years.

#### THE MODERN STUDENT AND THE MODERN NEWSPAPER

On the verge of a new decade, the typical Brevard College student was rapidly modernizing with

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the rest of the world. *The Clarion* introduced some of the modern trends among students in its 1948 column titled “Fashions.” One of the new fashion trends on campus was colored stockings for women — “Women can now get stockings in any color, doing away with the traditional brown variety. Blue, green, red, yellow, and even purple hosiery, I suppose, can now be obtained at your favorite store.”

But women weren’t the only students testing new fashion waters; male students were representing the changing times by wearing baseball caps “as if they were glued to their heads” as well as mustaches: “It seems as if everyone who has the manly power is cultivating one of these Rhett Butler jobs,” reads an article from October 29, 1948 (Vol. XV, Issue No. 3). “Clark Gable has nothing on the boys of Brevard College.” Along with representing the school well visually, the students of Brevard College were drafting a new constitution, electing new officers, and holding their fellow students accountable for their actions in the years leading up to the 1950s, a movement that *The Clarion* found especially entertaining.

On May 6, 1949 (Vol. XV, Issue No. 11), the editor of *The Clarion*, Walter Rogers, addressed the student body in an article titled “Shame On You!!” The article begins, “Since the newly-organized Student-Faculty committee for the beautification of the Brevard campus asked for cooperation in achieving this aim, the following people have been observed either walking on the grass or otherwise not complying with the requests of this committee.” Rogers then proceeds to name 43 students and faculty members who violated the codes of beautification on campus.

*The Clarion* continued this trend the following year (Vol. XVI, Issue No. 2), when the newspaper questioned the school spirit on campus: “What’s the matter with you boys and girls? We have pep rallies, and those of you who turn out don’t even try to learn the yells. We have ball games and we don’t give our team the moral support they deserve. How can we expect to produce a conference championship team if we don’t back our fellows up?” The inside column on page two of *The Clarion* would be a source for the staff’s criticism on campus over the next decade.

While students were seen adapting to modern times in the early 1950s, *The Clarion* was updating itself as well. Under the leadership of Brevard College student Jean Parrish, *The Clarion* began Vol. XVII on October 14, 1950, with the intention to spread its news to the entire community, as the newspaper started supplying complimentary copies to seniors at Brevard and Rosman High Schools. In order to modernize *The Clarion* and make it a respected source of news, Parrish said in a column titled “An Old Symbol For A New Day” that the staff had to find its roots:

Since the middle of September, the editors’ ears have been ringing with New Year’s bells—buoyant, boisterous, very busy bells, ringing the changes on the same refrain: “Ring in the New!”

Such an atmosphere tosses challenging questions on new editors’ desks: With so many new things in the making here, what should remain the same? What sort of newspaper suits best the renaissance of a college? Will the old CLARION do? What, for that matter, does CLARION mean?

When the editors found out what CLARION means, they decided that they would attempt to make in the paper whatever changes the new time might require. But they decided to keep the old symbol. It is a good one. A clarion is a trumpet!”

The staff of 1950, which was made up of 26 students and one faculty advisor, began renovating the paper from the first issue that year. The banner changed from reading *The Clarion* to simply *Clarion*. The staff was home to an artist, Wilburn Harrison, who not only designed an emblem for the newspaper, but contributed cartoons of happenings on campus to each issue. *The Clarion* began raising money for publication of the paper at home football games by selling food at a once dormant concession stand. And, most importantly, *The Clarion* announced its intention to enter two national press associations: The Columbia Scholastic Press Association and The National Scholastic Press Association. An article on March 10, 1951 (Vol. XVII, Issue No. 7) made the announcement to the college community:

The Brevard College *Clarion* has recently moved to join Columbia Scholastic Press association and the National Scholastic Press association.

On February 15, the *Clarion* staff voted to join both of these nationally accredited press associations. The entrance fees and copies of this year’s *Clarion* are being sent to both of the national headquarters.

The objective in joining these press associations is to get constructive criticism and a national rating for the *Clarion*.

This year’s *Clarion* staff will not receive full benefit from these organizations but joining them should be very helpful to later *Clarion* staffs.

In its first two years as a member of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, *The Clarion* placed well in

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contests at Columbia University. In 1951, the college newspaper finished with a first place rating, receiving 850 points based on content and style. The following year, *The Clarion* received a second place rating with 832 points. An article in the May 31, 1952 edition of the paper (Vol. XVIII, Issue No. 7) explained the criticism that the judges at Columbia had for *The Clarion*: “Especially criticized were ‘preachy’ editorials, along with poor screening of cuts (pictures). ‘Make-up,’ and ‘writing and editing,’ received the highest scoring, while ‘general considerations’ received lowest percentage, followed by ‘content’ rating.” The judges at the competition wrote that “the staff does a very serious job in its college publication. There is evidence of practice and experimentation to improve the CLARION. It is a publication of substantial achievement. There is good journalism training in bringing out this publication.” The staff would use this advice to improve the quality of *The Clarion* over the next few years, focusing on issues outside of the campus realm as well as the unceasing changes occurring on campus.

#### BROADENED HORIZONS

With the end of World War II nearly ten years past and the start of the Cold War in full motion, *The Clarion* began covering national and worldly issue in the newspaper. From the coverage of “England’s Problem in Iran,” a discussion hosted by the International Relations club in October of 1951, to the reprinted opinions of *Harper’s Magazine* about the use of the atomic bomb (the magazine urged the country to never again use the bomb and find a way for lasting peace), *The Clarion* developed a global sense for news throughout the 1950s. One reason, perhaps, was the influx of foreign students attending Brevard College at the time, as *The Clarion* reported on January 31, 1954 (Vol. XX, Issue No. 4). This article announced the enrollment of two Korean students for the following fall semester: “A letter received with the application forms expressed deep appreciation to the college for its help in making their trip and education in America possible. . . . Here is a brief portion of the letter: ‘We are sure that we shall make every

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effort to effect better relations between your country and ours under the spirit of Christian democracy.”

By 1957, Brevard College was home to seven students from five different countries, as reported by *The Clarion* on November 8, 1957 (Vol. XXV, Issue No. 3): Cuba, Korea, Norway, China, and Mexico. The newspaper described the new culture on campus in the issue: “The suggestion of Chinese incense...rice paddies...Alaskan igloos and Eskimos...the current Cuban revolution...Latin American music...faltering mambo steps...Norwegian skis and ice-burgs have intermingled with that of American farms and bustling cities to fire the Brevard College atmosphere,” the article reads. Two years later, *The Clarion* would pay close attention to the revolution in Cuba, as two Cuban students retold their observations on a trip to their native country over winter break. The following is an excerpt from an article titled “Cuban Students Return After Revolt” from Vol. XXVI, Issue No. 6 of *The Clarion*:

The people of Cuba are rejoicing about the overthrow of the Batista government and the success of the popular rebel leader, Fidel Castro. “Viva Fidel” is the cry of the people.

These observations are from two Brevard College students who have just returned from their Christmas holidays spent at their homes in Cuba...Both students expressed regret at having to leave Cuba and return to school. They delay was caused by a general strike of all transportation facilities leaving Cuba. This strike was ordered by Castro to prevent Batista forces from escaping...Both students expressed belief that the Castro government will be the most liberal in Cuba’s history. They denied emphatically that the rebel group was in any way communist controlled.

“Batista tried to make everyone believe that the communists furnished arms to Castro’s men, but this is not true,” they said.

*The Clarion* would pay close attention to events happening in the countries of the college’s foreign students throughout the decade.

With the introduction of foreign culture to the campus of Brevard College came the initiation of a new varsity sport: soccer, the world’s most popular game. On October 8, 1954 (Vol. XXII, Issue No. 2) *The Clarion* announced that the new sport would highlight homecoming that year: “At 3:00 o’clock Saturday afternoon soccer will be initiated as an innovation in the athletic program of Brevard College. The Brevard Tornados will play Warren-Wilson. Members of Warren-Wilson soccer team represent ten different countries. This should prove an interesting feature of the occasion.” The eleven-member team

received much support from the campus community in their inaugural game, as the Brevard High School band played at halftime before the crowning of homecoming king and queen.

Over the next five years, *The Clarion* would continue to grow as a newspaper, while Brevard College expanded as a junior college institution. With membership into the Associated Collegiate Press Association in 1958, the newspaper set a high standard for the next fifty years and provided an active voice for the Brevard College students. This purpose is clearly stated in the October 3, 1958 edition of the newspaper (Vol. XVI, Issue No. 1). In this issue, the newly appointed editor, Mary Allyn Reynolds, addresses the student body in an article titled “The Clarion—Your Voice”:

The purposes of *The Clarion* are to sound as clearly as that medieval instrument for what it was named, the thoughts, ideas, and opinions of the students, faculty, and administration encourage student participation in journalism, and to offer experience in creative writing and the various phases of publishing a newspaper.

*The Clarion* is published twice monthly; therefore, it may sometimes contain what may be classified as old news. Since each publication covers over two weeks, it is as necessary to publish occurrences of the beginning of the period covered as well as those of the last few days.

*The Clarion* will endeavor to publish any news submitted; however, all contributions are subject to censorship by staff. Any suggestions to improve the paper will be welcomed. You may present your ideas to any member of the paper staff or to the faculty advisor.

This approach to student publication would remain consistent with *The Clarion* over the next decade, as the paper entered another era of rapid change around campus, the country, and the world.

### **Major Events, 1946-1959**

October 23, 1946: The United Nations holds their first meeting in Long Island, New York.

April 15, 1947: Jackie Robinson makes his debut as the first African American player in Major League Baseball.

April 3, 1948: Harry Truman signs the Marshall Plan granting aid to 16 war-torn countries.

August 29, 1949: Soviet Union tests its first atomic bomb.

July 27, 1953: Korean War ends with armistice agreement.

May 17, 1954: Supreme Court makes a decision on *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*.

December 2, 1954: U.S. Senate votes to condemn Joseph McCarthy for “conduct that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute.”

September 4, 1957: Governor of Arkansas calls the National Guard to prevent African American students from enrolling in a Little Rock high school.

CHAPTER  
**V.**

# **The Times They Are A'Changin'** **1960 - 1975**

GOODBYE, UNCLE TOM

The 1960s began like any other decade on the Brevard College campus: homecoming dances, student elections, athletic events, and campus productions highlighted the headlines of *The Clarion* in the early part of the decade. The college was still expanding, and *The Clarion* played a unique role in this growth by working closely with the college's recruitment center. On March 21, 1960 (Vol. XXVII, Issue No. 9), the newspaper released a special, eight-page pictorial edition of *The Clarion* to be mailed to 4,000 prospective Brevard College students. The special edition featured photographs of buildings on campus, student activities, athletics, and columns from the president and dean of the institution. But the country and, in particular, the South was rapidly changing in the early 1960s. In 1954, the Supreme Court had outlawed racial segregation in public schools in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. Plans to implement the decision were marred, however, by acts of violence throughout the nation over the next several years, as African-American students made their way into the public school system in the United States.

In 1961, around the same time that President John F. Kennedy was being sworn into office, a nine-

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year veteran of the Air Force named James Meredith announced his desire to attend the all-white University of Mississippi. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP) obtained a federal district court order to admit Meredith to the institution, but the organization faced resistance from Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett. Barnett rallied the state behind segregation, and on September 29, 1962, the governor spoke at halftime of a University of Mississippi football game: "I love Mississippi. I love her people, her customs! And I love and respect her heritage," he said. During the speech, the crowd waved Confederate flags and chanted, "Never, Never, Never, Never, N-o-o-o Never." The following morning, U.S. Marshals quietly escorted Meredith onto the campus to register for classes, but soon students became aware of his presence and a riot ensued. President Kennedy addressed the riot on television, but the chaos continued into the following morning. In the end, 150 U.S. Marshals had been injured, 25 had been shot and two men had been killed. Meredith attended his first class just hours later and graduated from the university in 1963.

One year after Meredith's admission to the University of Mississippi, Alabama Governor George Wallace pledged to maintain "segregation forever" when African-American students began applying for admission to the University of Alabama. In his inaugural address, Wallace said that he invited "the negro citizen of Alabama to work with (him) from his separate racial station. . . . Southerners played a most significant part in erecting this great divinely inspired system of freedom, and as God is our witness, Southerners will save it." On June 11, 1963, Wallace stood in the university's doorway to prevent the registration of two black students, Vivian Malone and James Hood. President Kennedy intervened and sent the Alabama National Guard to the campus. Wallace then stepped aside, and the University of Alabama became an integrated institution. The effects of these incidents in Mississippi and Alabama were felt all over the country, and Brevard was no exception. But the small junior college in the Blue Ridge Mountains had actually been addressing the issue of segregation years before these illustrious events occurred.

Two years prior to Wallace's inaugural address, on January 13, 1961 (Vol. XXVIII, Issue No. 7)

*The Clarion* released the first of many editorials on the issue of civil rights in the country. In a column titled "Goodbye, Uncle Tom," the newspaper staff used their voice to urge representatives of the college community to take note of the events occurring around the nation:

The past two years have been difficult in many part of the South—and shocking to most of the rest of the world. They have not forgotten Little Rock, Memphis, and now there is New Orleans and the University of Georgia. But, as in all times of transition, we must adjust, accept, and continue.

Many of us are unconcerned with this problem of integration because it has not touched us—it is not vital in our concept of life. This is not a problem that we can relegate to the top shelf and forget; it is not a problem that can be settled within the courts, nor with burning crosses, nor with violence, nor with loud and angry voices. It can never be settled thus, because God created the Negro, just as we were created. He was created to walk in dignity, and because of this dignity abhors any and all proscriptions placed upon him because of race and color.

Man has many innate needs—hunger, thirst, fatigue—and strives to maintain an environment that will provide for these wants. But the Negro must wait until he reaches a "colored" restaurant before he can fulfill his hunger.

We are rapidly approaching adulthood — we will marry, have children. If we allow this problem to continue, keeping our nation, our government, our schools troubled with the turmoil what future can we expect?... the time is here for all people, teachers, ministers, lawyers, businessmen—all people in power to work toward a solution that will be the best for all people. It's time to appeal for an integrated spirit in humanity—so that no one will be forced to forego public education, the right to vote, the right to buy in a store, or worship in a church; so that no one, in Macon County, Georgia or elsewhere will have to say: "I am too old to be beaten up again.

This outreach for equal rights was a common trend for editorials in 1961, and "Goodbye, Uncle Tom" was just the beginning.

In the thirteenth issue of Vol. XXVIII (April 21, 1961), *The Clarion* turned its attention, once again, to the changing South by asking the campus community a simple question, "Which South?":

One hundred years ago the South fought a war—and lost. We fought for the preservation of the "status quo," which we thought was essential to our livelihood. We have learned—but how much? Would you fight today to enslave the Negro—or any other man?

In the South today demonstrators are waging a war against the United States Supreme Court decision to integrate public schools. Why? A minority group of uneducated Southerners seem to feel that their children are "better" than the Negro children; but this view is instantly seen to be quite ludicrous and comical, for since God is the Father of all mankind, we are actually all brothers....

To which South do we owe our loyalty? To the South of a hundred years ago, a South ruled by blind prejudice? Or to the South of today, and of the future; a South ruled by education and knowledge?...

America fought two world wars for the sake of freedom; and the end was

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inevitable. Today the Negro is fighting for freedom; the end is also inevitable.  
Freedom will win.

“The mark of a truly great man,” the column concludes, “is his ability to accept the inevitable.” Collectively, these columns on the subject of civil rights would not only play an important role in the campus view of integration and civil rights over the next decade, but they would help *The Clarion* receive recognition on a national level. On November 10, 1961 (Vol. XXIX, Issue No. 4) the newspaper announced its rating by the Associated Collegiate Press for the 1960-1961 school year. *The Clarion* received a rating of second class, just forty points shy of a first-class rating. According to the article, “*The Clarion* front page coverage and editorials received ratings of excellent.”

The question of integration was still on the minds of Brevard College students and faculty members the following year. On April 20, 1962, *The Clarion* released Issue No. 13 of Vol. XXIX with a guest editorial from Mr. Frank Harvin, Professor of Social Sciences at the college who had conducted a poll among students on integration. The result, Harvin says, yielded a few surprises. The results of the poll showed a large shift in student opinion in favor of integration compared to six years earlier, but what surprised Harvin was the “significantly large minority which, despite all efforts of persuasion, are yet unconvinced and unconverted.” These students remained “neutral towards the whole issue,” Harvin says, perhaps because “they didn’t want to vote for it but were ashamed to vote against it.” Just months after the poll was conducted, the college would be dealing with the integration matter firsthand.

Brevard College enrolled its first African-American student, Mary Mooney, in August of 1962. Mooney sat down with *The Clarion* 29 years later to talk about her experiences at the college. On February 11, 1991 (Vol. LVIII, Issue No. 7), Mooney told the newspaper that “she felt both accepted and rejected at the same time” when she entered the college gates. “Although there wasn’t any open prejudices,” Mooney said, “there was no open acceptance either. It was like ‘we have to tolerate you. We will ignore the fact that you are here.’” Mooney recalled her first morning as a Brevard College student

when a professor called on her to answer a question: "I couldn't answer, my mind went blank. . . . Because I was the only black student I didn't expect her to notice me," she said. Mooney attended the college as a commuting student for a year and a half before leaving to get married. She said that she had "no real friends" at the college and she admitted to feeling lonely as a student. Ultimately, however, Mooney said she was grateful for attending the institution. "I'm glad to have gone to Brevard College," Mooney told *The Clarion* in 1991. "I'm glad to have been the first. I don't know what kind of impact I've had, but we still have a long way to go."

*The Clarion* would not frequently address the integration topic over the next three years. However, the newspaper had made up its mind about where it would stand on the question of integration by September 3, 1965 (Vol. XXXIII, Issue No. 1), when the staff published this stance in its official creed:

We believe in honesty and integrity in daily living, and we will write and print the news of Brevard College activities in a manner conforming to that belief.

We believe in equal rights and privileges for all regardless of race, color, creed, or status.

We believe in the right of each person to an opinion and an expression of that opinion, but not as a malicious attack on any person or group.

Any facet of interest worth attacking deserves, first, a search for the facts and then a careful examination and understanding of those facts before using them.

Seven issues later (Vol. XXXIII, Issue No. 8), Benji Sullivan, editor-in-chief, would once more address the issue. In his column titled "Integration Is Social As Well As Political," Sullivan explained his history with race growing up in Wilmington, North Carolina. While legislation may partially deal with issues of race, he says, a social stigma will always be attached: "One may eat beside them, work beside them, sit beside them on the bus; but socially to them the Negro is inferior," the article reads. "They have a long way to go. That long way will take a long time."

I 'M A COMMUNIST . . .

While questions of civil rights plagued the nation during the early 1960s, another uncertainty in the country was nearing its peak. The resentful standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union began

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years before World War II and lasted for nearly half a century. The Cold War, as it is known, was starting to heat up in the early part of the decade. On May 1, 1960, American pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union in his United States spy plane, known as a U-2, on a mission to take photographs of missile development sites in the country. Powers survived the crash and a large part of his plane remained intact. Initially, the United States denied that Powers was operating as a spy. But when the Soviet Union announced that the pilot was still alive and his surveillance camera and photographs had been obtained, Powers pleaded guilty and was convicted of espionage. He would serve nearly two years in prison before being traded for a U.S. captured Soviet spy, and the U-2 incident would only increase tensions between the two nations.

A year later, after the CIA had secretly trained anti-Fidel Castro exiles in Guatemala in hopes that an invasion of Cuba would eliminate communist influence in the country, the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion occurred. President Kennedy publicly denied United States involvement in the invasion, but privately he accepted responsibility for the failure and voiced a determination to deal with the spread of Soviet ideology. Kennedy met with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in June of 1961 to discuss Khrushchev's concern for the flow of East German citizens, Soviet controlled Germany, into West Germany, which was controlled by the Western Allies. After Kennedy's resistance to sign a peace treaty with Khrushchev that would reflect the division in Germany and after the president's increased defense appropriation of more than \$3 billion, the Soviets erected the Berlin Wall to stop the escape of civilians in East Germany. Fear of nuclear warfare was rampant throughout the United States, and the fright hit home in American colleges and universities. The skepticism of Soviet ideology and intent, which had been so apparent in *The Clarion* during the 1940s, now rang true for a new generation of Brevard College students.

On October 27, 1961 (Vol. XXIX, Issue No. 3), *The Clarion* released a column about the raging fear of nuclear threat titled "Courage Is Best Weapon." The column begins, "All of us are aware of the

present international situation. The threat of nuclear holocaust hangs over us like the grim reaper and his swinging scythe. In no other period of history has our nation needed to accomplish its goals of international peace and understanding as it does now.” The article went on to question how the crisis is affecting the campus. In one example, a Brevard College student was heard saying, “So what! I flunked a test! What difference does it make? We’re going to get blown up anyway.” These opinions were common, not only in the Brevard College community during the time, but in the entire country.

Two months later (December 1, 1961), the fifth issue of Vol. XXIX found *The Clarion* trying to understand the mindset of a communist by placing itself in one’s shoes. The following column titled, “I Am A Communist . . .” presents the newspaper’s warning to fellow students about the dangers of communism, while displaying a sense of nationalistic pride:

I am a Communist. I have set the destruction of the United States as the goal of my life. But when I look at the mighty missiles, the super bombs, and the vast agricultural strength of a nation that grows more food than it can eat, I immediately reason that such a nation will never be defeated militarily or economically. How then, shall I cause her downfall?

First of all, let me see what ideas I can glean from nature. A worm hardly mars the surface of an apple, but it eats away the inside, the core, of the fruit, and eventually the apple withers and dies. So, what is the center, the core, of America? Why, of course — the people! Thus, I will want to corrupt the people, but how?

If I cause the people to lose confidence in their leaders, the leaders in turn will lose confidence in themselves; nobody will trust anybody, and the whole structure of democracy, which is based on faith and trust, will collapse.

Thus, I shall plan a “society” in America, and place it in the hands of well-known American citizens. At first the society will condemn only recognized communists, such as Castro, Khrushchev, etc. But later it will claim that it has “proof” that the major leaders of the country are communists. Later it will propose that if you don’t approve of the decisions of the Supreme Court, the thing to do is to impeach the Chief Justice. Later this society will brand everything that it doesn’t like as communist-inspired.

Even in editorials about campus issues and complaints, references could be found to the Cold War. In the same issue as “I Am A Communist . . .” an editorial was written about ants in the dormitories titled “Let’s Stomp The Ant.” The article begins, “Since Russia has exploded its 50-megaton bomb, the heat has been turned down under West Berlin, and it appears that Russia will not invade the U.S. (at least, not this month). . .” This fear gripped the entire campus, and on November 2, 1962 (Vol. XXX, Issue No. 3), *The*

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*Clarion* reported on the college's preparations for a national disaster.

The Cuban Missile Crisis began on October 16, 1962, and lasted 12 apprehensive days. After photographs from a United States spy plane revealed that the Soviet Union had placed what President Kennedy considered to be "offensive" nuclear missiles in Cuba, the president called for the removal of the weapons. He ordered a naval blockade around Cuba to prevent the Soviets from bringing more weaponry into the country, and 12 days later Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles if the United States ended their blockade and stayed out of Cuba. Kennedy complied.

Eight days into the Cuban Missile Crisis, on October 24, 1962, Mr. Louis Miles, professor of religion and history at the Brevard College, spoke to the campus about the college's role in preparing for a national disaster that some felt imminent: "Mr. Miles said that Brevard is no longer cut off from the world but is involved in national affairs," the article reads. "Mr. Miles concluded his address by quoting Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous lines: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." The president of Brevard College at the time, Emmett K. McLarty, then addressed the students, suggesting that "when life runs into one of these deepest moments, we should not allow the time to pass without getting something from it... Every man should bring his life into order." Finally, Dean J.B. Bennett told the students of the arrangements that the college had made with Donaldson Air Force Base near Greenville to "equip Brevard College with essential protective mediums in case of an atomic attack by a foreign country." Students were then informed where to go if an emergency action plan had to be undertaken: "Students on the top floors of Taylor Hall and Green Hall are to gather essentials and take up residence in the basement of Dunham Hall if the emergency warning is given. Students on the top floor of Jones Hall should move to the central hall of the basement of the CCB. Other students should move into the halls on their floors and stay away from windows." Remnants of Soviet distrust and fear of nuclear warfare would continue to appear in *The Clarion* throughout the decade; but the suspicion was never as obvious as the early years of the 1960s.

## FREEDOM MANIA ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

In the March 12, 1965 issue of *The Clarion* (Vol. XXXII, Issue No. 12), the newspaper reported on a growing trend in colleges and universities throughout the nation. A column titled, "Freedom Mania on College Campuses" explained the movement:

Reporter Neal Ashby has made a survey of American colleges, both large and small, for a report on the ever-growing "freedom waves" which are hitting the campuses all over the country. His findings are presented in a special feature in the current issue of "Parade."

The overall picture is one of discontented college students insisting that the rules are too strict, and demanding that they be changed, or ideally, done away with. Surprisingly enough, many of their demands have been, and are being met. For example, Yale students in the last two weeks have been gained permission for girls to visit boys' dorms every day in the week. At Cornell University a new "freedom" has just been gained: beginning next fall, Junior women have no curfew....

The "freedom wave," as such, hasn't hit our own campus this year. There have been pleas for rule changes, but for the most part these are concerned with some of the more trivial rules, which aren't going to change the course of the world.... Our demands are few, when one really gets down to the point. We would like to see an open house held in the respective dorms every couple of weeks. We would like for the ban on girls' smoking in public to be lifted. (Officially, that is.) .... Satisfactorily, our complaints don't consist of ridiculous demands; therefore, perhaps some of them will be heard and acted upon. There's no necessity in our holding demonstrations, waving banners, and screaming "FREEDOM" at the top of our lungs.

After North Vietnamese torpedo boats damaged the American destroyer *Maddox* and killed four soldiers on August 2, 1964, United States President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizing him to "use all measures, including the use of armed forces" to stop communism in Vietnam. The likelihood of being drafted into this military skirmish dramatically increased, and the possibility surfaced on the minds of all young men in the mid-1960s. This fear contributed to the minds of the American youth, as the mentality of young adults in the United States began to change. Cries of peace and tolerance spread from the "hippie" scene associated with the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco, the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival in Woodstock, New York, and throughout college campuses across the country.

While *The Clarion* staff thought the small movements on the college's campus were "trivial" and "few," the Brevard College administration had other thoughts. A month after the freedom mania column was

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published, Dean Eston Roberts addressed the student body concerning the courtship behavior on campus. After lecturing on “the respect between a boy and a girl who really care for one another” and the example these couples must set for younger generations, students reacted in rebellion, according to an editorial by reporter Lynn Gold on April 16, 1965 (Vol. XXXII, Issue No. 12): “The rebellion engendered by this is understandable as it mocks the pride of an individual to have his toes stepped on,” Gold says. “The women students were given just cause for resentment by his overemphasis upon the role of the female.” The dean’s address was also the topic of a letter to the editor in this issue. Brevard College student Judy Sigmon lashed out at the Dean for “insulting the students” of the college in the midst of “a sexual revolution”:

The attitude taken in assembly last Tuesday was an insult to the students of this college. To imply to college students that sex is filth is certainly an insult to their intelligence.

We can not gain any mature standards when we act and talk as though sex were evil. College students do not (I hope!) look upon sex as filth. Sex is good and wholesome.... We find ourselves in a sexual revolution.... Brevard College has a challenge to serve its students — a challenge to help them to really understand what sex and the sexual revolution is all about....

Therefore, Brevard has a challenge to be rather than to seem—a challenge to help us to understand sex as the beautiful and wonderful part of life that it is. If Brevard meets this challenge, the incentive to value it will follow.

The administration of the college noted the opinion of Sigmon in her letter, as issues such as love and marriage continued to be covered in lectures by the Methodist Church on campus, but the attitudes of Brevard College students were increasingly liberalized throughout the 1960s and early 1970s.

The “freedom wave” described by the newspaper in 1965 surfaced more prominently within the student body of Brevard College two years later. On March 10, 1967, *The Clarion* reported on the “Zen Den” events that were frequently being sponsored by “the newest and most active clubs on campus, the Anglo - Cats, along with Jones and Green Halls.” The theme of the event was “Freak-out” and “served as a manifestation of psychedelic thinking that has become so popular during the past decade.” The Brevard Tams and Sultans, a college band, performed at the event while the “strange atmosphere, created with blue lights” attempted “to create a frenzy and eventual state of relaxation.” Six months later, the club held another “Zen Den” event on campus that *The Clarion* labeled as a “hippie theme.” Within the article, which

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was published on September 22, 1967 (Vol. XXXV, Issue No. 3), the newspaper defined “Zen Den” as “a place of gathering for those select persons who enjoy learning about their fellowman in an accepted atmosphere.” The admission to the Zen Den was ten cents and a flower, and the atmosphere was once again dominated by blue lights and a campus band, “Tenna, George, and Peggy.”

Student complaints about the alcohol policy on campus were published on October 20, 1967 (Vol. XXXV, Issue No. 7) in an editorial by two students, Thom McAuley and John Wilkie. At the time, the legal drinking age in North Carolina was 18. The students, proposing that the alcohol code was “unfair and unjust,” offered an alternative punishment to the current expulsion rule for students found to be under the influence or in possession of alcohol. The proposal stated that “a student found to be under the influence of alcoholic beverages while under the jurisdiction of the college be reported to the Student Government Association and that the punishment be disciplinary probation. Under these circumstances the student would not be expelled and denied the opportunity for an education but would get a second chance.” The proposal is similar to the current alcohol policy at Brevard College, forty years later, furthering the evidence of students’ liberal desires for “freedom” throughout the decade.

Contrary to the “Freedom Mania” article published by *The Clarion* in 1965, the students of Brevard College did, in fact, hold demonstrations, wave banners and scream, “FREEDOM” three years later. On March 21, 1968 (Vol. XXXV, Issue No. 22), *The Clarion* reported on student protests of “about 550 students who have the courage to say ‘we want freedoms—longer hours, more liberal drinking rules, no chapel . . . FREEDOM!’” From photos published in the newspaper, students can be seen holding signs with slogan such as, “Student Protests,” “Yes Faculty We Can Think,” and “Brevard College Let’s Enter The 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” After a march in the academic quadrangle on March 7, the students rallied around the college president’s house on March 10 shouting, “FREEDOM!” Two days later, Dean Roberts addressed the students on the “good and bad points of their freedom rallies.” Because the students had

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protested outside of the president's house, the president did "not intend to take any special action to get rules changed" and the proceedings had to "go through the regular channels." The students were encouraged to take their requests to the Student Government Association, and on December 6, 1968 (Vol. XXXVI, Issue No. 13), the newspaper reported that students were now collaborating with the administration to formulate college policies.

#### THE POT PROBLEM

One of the freedoms that became increasingly popular on college campuses across the country at the time was the use of drugs among college students. On February 23, 1968 (Vol. XXXV, Issue No. 19), *The Clarion* released an article written by the Associate Collegiate Press titled "The Pot Problem." According to the article, "the use of pot (marijuana) has become a source of great concern on campuses across the country." Rather than being a medical problem, the article says, marijuana is a legal problem in the United States, as 15,000 college students were arrested for the drug in 1967. In conclusion, the article predicted that "the Supreme Court will soon have to deal with the old marijuana law in light of increased knowledge and more widespread use of pot." Two months later, *The Clarion* covered the student assembly on LSD in Vol. XXXV, Issue No. 24. Dean Roberts talked to the students about "the ever-growing problem of LSD" and its relationship to Brevard College: "I have no reason to think that Brevard College has a drug problem," the dean said. "But I would be surprised if we did not have one to a certain extent." A film was then presented to students about the effects of LSD.

Drugs on the Brevard College campus continued to be a popular topic within *The Clarion* throughout the next decade. On January 28, 1972 (Vol. XXXIX, Issue No. 12), the editor-in-chief, Mike Jones, interviewed a Brevard College student about his experience with drugs:

Clarion: How long have you been smoking marijuana?

Student: Off and on since September of '69 or '70, but I've never spent more than two days consecutively stoned.

Clarion: Have you ever done heavier drugs?

Student: Yes

Clarion: For instance?

Student: I can't think of many things I haven't tried, but I'm not addicted to any of them. I've never had a chance to use cocaine though.

Clarion: What percentage of Brevard College students, in your estimation, use drugs?

Student: I'd say around 50 people. About 10%. My high school was around 90%.

Clarion: Where do you think most of the drugs on campus come from?

Student: Hometowns or visits to other campuses.

Clarion: Do you know any people who center their lives around drugs on this campus?

Student: No. For a person to center their life around drugs is probably the most effective way of leading an empty, boring life. They won't be intellectually challenged in any way, much less physically.

The student, while declaring that drugs were not a major problem on campus, did acknowledge their existence. The issue would continue to be covered in *The Clarion* for many years.

#### VIETNAM IS DILEMMA

By 1966, Vietnam was a common word in the vocabulary of Americans all over the country. Large numbers of American troops were being sent to the battle in Asia, and many young adults had begun feeling these effects firsthand. The draft started to increase the military's enrollment dramatically after the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964, and soon college campuses around the nation were holding formal protests in opposition to the war in Vietnam. On March 18, 1966 (Vol. XXXIII, Issue No. 18), *The Clarion* printed an article distributed by the Associated Collegiate Press titled "Why They Protest." The article addressed the "good deal of debate" that had been happening on campuses over the war. The *University of Oregon Daily Emerald* concluded that college students were protesting because "the present generation of college youth was born deep in the bowels of the greatest world war in history. Many of them have no living fathers because of that war, and many others have fathers bearing lifelong scars of battle." Students, the article says, had little contact with the developments of the war in Vietnam when the American troops were first committed, but "today's student watches draft calls rise and wonders who will be next." Finally, the article urges college students to concern themselves with the developments in Vietnam because "it may be the most important problem they ever face."

At first, *The Clarion* was hesitant about speaking out against the war in Vietnam. In fact, on

What price freedom?

Our peers fight in far-off lands so that we may have the right to study or dance or laugh.

They fight for a cause we laugh at, a leader we ridicule, and a people we disparage. These boys live among bullets, fear, and death, while we are harried by such terrible things as no date for the dance, a test, or a snub by our best friends.

Would we be willing to fight with these men or to send them off to war as do their mothers and sweethearts? Could we leave our maze of books and papers to strengthen freedom for someone else?

Could we say with Nathan Hale, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country."? Or will we be selfish and cowardly, and be willing to let our best friend fight and die for us, to lay down his life for us, and continue on in our nonchalant manner.

This support, however, did not represent the opinion of all students at Brevard College, as the newspaper would find out the following year.

On March 10, 1967 (Vol. XXXIV, Issue No. 18), *The Clarion* released the news that it would be conducting an opinion poll for Brevard College students on the issue of Vietnam. The results of the poll, the newspaper hoped, would "tell not only the shape of political leanings on campus but should reveal a great many other things such as, in what way does the collective student body compare and (or) contrast with the faculty, how much the average Joe on campus actually knows about Vietnam, and what most people think should be done if anything about it." The following two issues of *The Clarion* would contain articles titled "Viet Nam Is Dilemma" by staff reporters Barry McNeil and Orion Holen.

From the results of the poll, McNeil and Holen said that the student body believed the best way to deal with the war was "for gradual de-escalation and leaving the war up to the Vietnamese." Other suggestions included "withdrawal upon signing a peace treaty" and "to seal off the North Viet Nam border, patrol it, and enforce it while letting the Vietnamese settle their own problems." The students believed that President Lyndon B. Johnson, not the administration, was personally responsible for the war because he was "a politician, who handles the war in a way to employ it to his advantage by boosting the economy." Winning the war was useless, students said, "because of the strong traditions that the Vietnamese must break in order to conform to the American ideal of freedom." When it came to communism, the student body was split into two: those who believed "communists were not the big bad boogeymen we have always

been led to believe” and those who felt “communists are indeed bent on burying us.” When it came to the draft, however, students said that they would not dodge the war. While most students said that they were against the war, they said that they were “for their country and even though they regretted the war, nearly every male questionnaire (and many female) received would have no qualms about fighting.” And in the final question of the poll, which asked if “the war was being conducted in the best interest of the American people,” the “great majority checked yes.” In the end, the newspaper’s poll would serve as a valid source of student opinion about the war in Vietnam, and the coverage in *The Clarion* would only become stronger.

In the fall of 1967, *The Clarion* began publishing letters from soldiers stationed in Vietnam, sparking more editorials throughout the newspaper. A letter was printed from a Marine PFC named Craig on September 29, 1967 (Vol. XXXV, Issue No. 4), in which the soldier says things like, “The war is useless. No one over here knows what he is fighting for. It’s all a loss.” Afterwards, *The Clarion* responded to Craig’s letter:

It’s easy to see that there’s a big difference between what the government releases to the public and what really takes place. For example, in his letter Craig said that 80 men died at Con thien (sic) in one night. Press releases reported that approximately 30 Marines were killed at the same location, on the same night.

This is just a sample of the way the U.S. government is camouflaging its casualties and the general war situation in Vietnam. The American public have been victims from the start of a calculated plan to turn the war in Vietnam into a patriotic rally-round-the-flag-pole type of deal. And the citizens of the U.S. are beginning to become fed up with it.

More letters from soldiers in Vietnam would be published throughout the 1960s, and by 1969 students and faculty were starting to take action in protest of the war. On October 17, 1969 (Vol. XXXVII, Issue No. 7), Brevard College participated in a meeting held in conjunction with a national moratorium concerning Vietnam. Students were led by Mr. John Setzer, Professor of Religion at the college who sported a beard and a black arm band on his left arm, in a discussion about the war. A “Prayer for Peace” was held at the Methodist Church across the campus from the college, where Setzer said that “the issue of Viet Nam is a moral issue...it is not a moral war.” Setzer was joined by Mr. Victor Duggins, Professor of History, and Mr. L. W. Godey, Professor of Science in the discussion.

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Although the discussion of Vietnam would lessen as the college progressed into the next decade, the coverage would never fully subside. When *The Clarion* released the question, “Will Next Christmas Find Us Still In Vietnam?” on December 11, 1970 (Vol. XXXVII, Issue No. 12), the newspaper was hoping for an American exit “by late 1971.” Instead, the nation found itself dealing with the issue until the last American soldiers pulled out of Vietnam in 1975.

#### CLARION RECEIVES HIGHEST AWARD

While drastic change occurred in the Brevard College community and the country from 1960 to 1975, *The Clarion* never failed to live up to its journalistic expectations. As a result, the newspaper was proud to announce on April 10, 1970 (Vol. XXXVII, Issue No. 23) that it had received the highest rating given by the Associated Collegiate Press for a junior college newspaper. Approximately 600 college newspapers from around the country were evaluated at the University of Minnesota that year, and for the first time *The Clarion* was given an “All-American” rating. The newspaper was judged “on coverage and content, writing and editing, editorial leadership, physical appearance and photography.” In order to receive the All-American rating, a newspaper had to have four “Marks of Distinction” out of the five categories. *The Clarion* received Marks of Distinction in coverage and content, writing and editing, editorial leadership, and physical appearance. The article noted that the executive director of the Associated Collegiate Press said that “the All-American with four or five Marks, is symbolic of the finest leadership in scholastic newspapers.”

*The Clarion* continued to excel in the world of collegiate journalism throughout the early part of the 1970s. On September 10, 1971 (Vol. XXXIX, Issue No. 1), the newspaper released a new editorial policy, in which only signed letters to the editor would be printed. In order to keep up with the latest journalistic trends, a new headline style was also developed at *The Clarion*. The style was explained on the second page of the issue:

Returning students who have even less than a keen eye for observation should have already taken note of the fact that *The Clarion* has adopted a new headline style this year. This innovation in journalism is called “down style,” and it is the most modern and functional headline style available. Down style headlines are capitalized like regular sentences, which makes them the easiest and quickest headlines to read.

YOU ARE NOW READING PRINT IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS “ALL CAPS.”  
EVERY LETTER IS CAPITALIZED, WHICH MAKES THE READING VERY DIFFICULT...

You Probably Felt Relieved To Finish That Last Paragraph, But Now You Are Reading “Up Style” Print, which (sic) The Clarion Employed For Headlines Last Year...

So with this change of headline style, we hope to save valuable time and effort for both faculty and students.

In order to keep up with these trends in journalism, *The Clarion* began sending its editors to newspaper conventions around the country. On November 5, 1971 (Vol. XXXIX, Issue No. 8), it was reported that *The Clarion* had sent its editor-in-chief, Mike Jones, to the Associated Collegiate Press Convention in Dallas, Texas where “ten different sessions were held every hour” led by the “top journalists of the country.” The key-note speaker at the convention was the director of President Richard Nixon’s Phase II Economic Program in 1971, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld.

By the mid 1970s, *The Clarion* was one of the most modern and well-respected junior college student newspapers in the country. The newspaper survived the rapid changes of the 1960s and was well on its way to surviving the following decade. But the world of technology was increasing rapidly, and *The Clarion* would have to learn to keep up with the prevailing journalistic trends.

### **Major Events, 1960-1975**

May 6, 1960: The Civil Rights Act of 1960 is signed into law.

October 14, 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis begins its 12-day standoff.

November 22, 1963: President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

February 9, 1964: The Beatles debut on the *Ed Sullivan Show*.

April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

July 20, 1969: Neil Armstrong is the first man to walk on the moon.

August 17, 1969: The Woodstock Music Festival kicks off in Woodstock, New York.

May 4, 1970: The Kent State shootings occurred in Kent, Ohio, killing four students.

August 9, 1974: President Richard Nixon resigns from office for his role in the Watergate scandal cover-up.

Happy Vacation!!

# The Clarion

Sophomores, Congratulations!!

Volume XXIV      BREVARD COLLEGE, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1957      Number 22

## McLARTY IS NAMED PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE

### Residence Halls Are Named By Trustees

The new residence halls on campus that formerly had no names, except that of New Dorm and Women's Residence Hall, were named by the Board of Trustees at their annual meeting May 20. The Residence Hall for Women has been named in honor of Mrs. Edwin L. Jones and will be known as Annabel Jones Hall.

The new dormitory for men was named Green Hall in memory of Mr. Gay Green, of Asheville, who left the college a large bequest.

### Glee Club To Give Final Concert

The Brevard college glee club will give its final concert of the season Saturday, June 1st, at 8:00 p. m. in the auditorium of the campus center. Under the direction of Professor Nelson Adams, the glee club has made tremendous progress and is expected to give a most professional performance.

More than one-third of the full-time students participate in glee club work. As a part of the glee club, these smaller groups have given performances, they are the men's quartet, women's trio, and the mixed quartet.

The glee club and choir will furnish the music for all commencement exercises.

The public is cordially invited to attend the concert. A reception following the glee club performance will be held immediately following the concert in the student lounge of the Campus Center.

REV. EMMETTE KENNEDY McLARTY, JR.

### 74 CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

### Stacey Vows President At His Request, Health Is The Reason

The board of trustees of Brevard College in their annual meeting on May 20 elected Rev. Emmette Kennedy McLarty, Jr., of Salisbury, as president of the institution to succeed Rev. Robert H. Stacey, who resigned because of the condition of his health.

At the same time, the board created a new position of vice-president and appointed Mr. Stacey to serve in that capacity.

The change, which will become effective July 1, had been requested by Mr. Stacey not only because of the condition of his health, but also because of the rapid growth and expansion Brevard College has enjoyed for the past several years.

The new president is the youngest son of Dr. E. K. McLarty and the late Mary Brown McLarty, of Asheville. He was born in Asheville in 1908 and finished high school in High Point in 1928.

Rev. Mr. McLarty received his bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1931 and his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1934. In addition to his academic work, he represented Duke on the freshman tennis, soccer, swimming and varsity track teams. He was also a member of the University Glee club and quartet and was first runner-up for the newly organized University choir. He served as president of the campus YMCA, was a member of Delta Sigma Phi, Sigma Beta Gamma and Omicron Delta Kappa, national honorary leadership societies.

In 1934, Mr. McLarty joined the Western North Carolina Methodist conference while serving as assistant pastor of West Street Street Methodist Church in High Point.

The Clarion reports on President McLarty's inauguration in 1957



The entrance of Brevard College in 1958



The Clarion staff work on an issue in 1958



*The Brevard College Soda Shop was a popular hangout in 1963*



*Christmas of 1963 celebrated in The Clarion*



*An ad for Patterson's in 1963*



*The Clarion is used as a recruiting tool in 1960*





By 1975, *The Clarion* had evolved with modern journalistic layout trends



*The Clarion* received an All American Rating in 1970



*Nixon* was the student favorite in the 1968 Presidential Election

CHAPTER  
**VI.**

**The World of Technology  
1976 - 1989**

THE PERILS OF LAYING OUT THE CLARION

By 1976, the enrollment at Brevard College had increased to over 700 students. To fulfill the need for news on campus, *The Clarion* was publishing one detailed eight-page issue per month. Coverage in these issues ranged from national events, such as the election of President Jimmy Carter in 1976, to issues of student interest on campus, such as the demand for more rights for female students at the college. While students continued to use *The Clarion* to keep up with the changing world around them, perhaps even more transformation was going on behind the scenes of the student newspaper. The process of printing a newspaper had changed dramatically over the years, and in the mid-1970s, *The Clarion* was experiencing these changes. On December 6, 1977 (Vol. XLV, Issue No. 3), Linda Cain, a feature writer for the newspaper, shared the process of laying out the paper with the student body in an article titled, “The Perils Of Laying Out The Clarion.”

Once a month members of *The Clarion* staff journey up the big hill on Broad Street to the *Transylvania Times* office to begin the tedious task of laying out *The Clarion*. Upon entering the doors of the Times office, the staff’s fearless leader, Cathy Varner, begins showing signs of a nervous breakdown.

After entering the door everyone walks back into a large room with several monstrous printing presses and huge tables. She then summons two of her brave,

faithful followers to walk into the den of our enemy, the typists' office. It is here that the proofing is done and all mistakes are marked with a sickening blue ink found only in an over-sized Flair pen. These brave people soon find themselves, looking like ancient Egyptian mummies, emersed (sic) in thousands of rolls of computer tape. Several hours later, Cathy re-enters the office and releases them from their hazardous job.

Meanwhile back in the big room, articles, which have already been proofed, are being fed into a furious waxing machine by a new recruit who does not know that the waxing machine has a strange craving for human fingers. The new recruit survives her encounter with the furious electric waxing machine (sic); then she proceeds to cut the freshly waxed articles out of the computer tape. The large scraps of waxed paper are scattered all over the floor. By this time Cathy is running round-and-round the room because five important articles are missing, while other members of the stage are frantically arranging the articles on the pages....

She begins by assisting Gordon, a patron saint employed by the *Transylvania Times* with photographs. Gordon measures the size and passes judgement (sic) on the shrinking of them into halftones. He then takes the picture into a small room; suddenly there are several blinding flashes of white light which knocks everyone to the floor.

By this time the chaos abounds. Articles do not fit! Countless misprints are found! Rearranging must be done! The staff members are getting at each others' throats. Cathy's face turns a ghastly shade of white....

A short while later the paper begins to take shape. Articles are in their places. The half tones have been made. The staff goes into a wild frantic laughter that can be heard all over the town of Brevard. Our fearless leader looks at the paper for one last time, then quietly collapses on the floor.

While Cain's humorous tone makes for an entertaining feature article, the message behind the story is one of tedious labor, a characteristic that stays with the process of publishing *The Clarion* over the next two decades.

Dr. Ken Chamlee was the faculty advisor for *The Clarion* from 1978-1986 and remembers the long and tiresome process of publishing the newspaper every two weeks. When Chamlee took over in his first year at the college, he was not only teaching the journalism course at the institution, but making the long walk up Broad Street to the office of the *Transylvania Times* to help in the process of layout. By this time, *The Clarion* was published once every two weeks and lay out was completed on Fridays and, if needed, Saturday mornings. The process began, Chamlee said, with each reporter writing his or her article and bringing a copy of that article to the *Transylvania Times* office. There, the articles were re-typed into the newspaper's system and proofread for accuracy. If a mistake were to be found in the freshly typed article, the sentence or paragraph in which the mistake occurred would be re-typed, clipped, and pasted on top of

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the original mistake. The articles, Chamlee said, were printed on long sheets of paper and cut into boxes to fit the proper layout of the newspaper. The staff would box out a section of the newspaper for a photograph, which were developed in the dark room on campus by staff photographers, and the photograph would be converted to a half tone at the *Transylvania Times* office. If the photograph was too large for its appointed box, the staff would simply trim the leftovers to make it fit.

“Everything was very manual and labor intensive,” Chamlee said. “It was very tedious because nothing was automated. But we worked well together and had good camaraderie. With a staff of four or five, plus me, it would take around four hours to lay out an issue” (Chamlee 2006).

Chamlee said that he allowed his students to have complete control over the content in the newspaper, but he made sure that the quality of *The Clarion*—writing style, grammar, punctuation, and appearance—was up to par. This freedom made *The Clarion* a true student-run newspaper, and the staff would once again be rewarded for their ability to take this job professionally and seriously. In 1982-83 and 1983-84, *The Clarion* received first place honors at the American Scholastic Press Association newspaper competition. On April 26, 1983 (Vol. L, Issue No. 9), *The Clarion* released some of the judges comments from the 1982-83 competition: “The award letter accompanying the certificate stated articles are well written and are laid out in a professional manner that makes the format quite attractive. . . . your devotion of the last page to sports coverage is a professional technique.” A year later, the newspaper reported the judges’ comments in the 1983-84 competition on May 1, 1984 (Vol. LI, Issue No. 9): “Your content is very good for a small publication. . . . (*The Clarion*) incorporates a variety of creative graphics and original artwork that makes it an attractive and professional publication.” The tedious task of publishing a college newspaper had once again paid off for the dedicated staff of *The Clarion*.

#### BREVARD COLLEGE CONVERTS TO COMPUTERS

Technological advancements were rapidly increasing in the 1970s, and by the middle of the decade

the mass production of the integrated circuit allowed for the first ownership of personal computers. Colleges and universities around the nation began using computers to record student records and improve administrative organization. Many institutions began offering computer programming courses in their curriculums. In 1976, Brevard College bought its first computer, which was used to teach basic programming. Six years later, the college's goal of converting to the computer age through opening campus terminals, providing professors with computer access in their offices, and recording administrative business electronically was almost complete. On August 22, 1982 (Vol. L, Issue No. 1), *The Clarion* reported on the college's progress in the world of technology. The goal in converting the institution to the use of computers was to "minimize the instructor's hours, to increase student's learning potential, and to make the administrative process operate much more smoothly," the article says. "Soon computers will enable the instructor to record all grades and average all grades." But computers were not only affecting the lives of teachers. *The Clarion* reported that students would soon be able to take tests on computers, in which they would receive immediate feedback, and use computer programs, such as a System of Interactive Guidance and Information (SIGI), to research future schools or occupations.

The following year, the college purchased two more computers that would be used in the registrar's office for printing transcripts, grades, and storing students' schedules, according to an article in *The Clarion* from February 4, 1983 (Vol. L, Issue No. 6). By the fall of 1984, computer science courses were being taught at Brevard College, and *The Clarion* was there to report on these new classroom experiences. In the third issue of Vol. 52, reporter Dana Caro asked one student what he thought of the new computer classes: "So far classes are interesting and enjoyable," said John Beaver, who was taking Computer Science 103. "We're basically learning literacy in Pascal, an upper-level computer language; it's demanding but everyone seems to be enthusiastic." This enthusiasm would remain on campus throughout the decade and, as computers continued to play a vital role in the college's academic programs, *The Clarion* would be

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there to cover the changes.

#### BEYOND THE CAMPUS

As technological advancements rapidly enhanced life throughout the country, the ability to follow national and international news became increasingly easier for citizens of the United States. In 1980, CNN became the nation's first 24-hour news channel. Through their live breaking news broadcasts from around the country and the world, the general public could instantaneously stay in touch with occurrences unfolding outside of their communities for hours on end. Millions watched in 1983 when the U.S. Embassy was bombed in Beirut, killing 40 people, in 1986 as the space shuttle Challenger exploded in mid-air just seconds after liftoff, as "Baby Jessica" was rescued from the well in 1987, and as the Berlin Wall came crashing down in 1989. Because of this increased global awareness, college newspapers like *The Clarion* began paying closer attention to events going on in the nation and the world at large.

After gaining awareness for widespread news coverage, college newspapers began to realize that their school was not independent from the rest of the world. Kim Ormand, editor-in-chief of *The Clarion* in 1985-86, described this interconnectedness in her column on April 30, 1986 (Vol. LIII, Issue No. 10) titled, "What I Hoped The Clarion Would Be." Ormand says that she "always thought that a college newspaper should be a paper filled with news, features, sports—anything pertaining to the school. But I also strongly believe that a college should not be so completely cut off that it forgets the outside world... Thus, I thought of a simple solution. The paper should cover national or world news as it pertains to the college. This could include any such changes as in the drinking laws...or even the airline strikes."

In the 1980s, *The Clarion* spent time covering national events like the 1980 election of President Ronald Reagan and his re-election four years later (Brevard College students strongly supported the election of Reagan, but gave him a failing grade two years into his presidency, according to polls conducted by *The Clarion*). The increased drinking age from 18 to 21 was a frequent news story in 1986. On

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September 17, 1986 (Vol. LIV, Issue No. 2), editor-in-chief Bonnie Davis said that the new drinking laws were “unjust and unfair especially to those already 19 or 20... Maybe if alcohol wasn’t considered such a no-no in this country, then it wouldn’t be the widespread problem that it is.” Two years after the change in alcohol policy, Brevard College students voted for a successor to President Ronald Reagan. On November 2, 1988 (Vol. LVI, Issue No. 4), *The Clarion* released the results of its mock-election that saw George Bush defeat Michael Dukakis 225-90. Students voiced their reasons for voting Bush to *The Clarion*: “I don’t believe in Michael Dukakis’ beliefs about abortion and capital punishment,” student Jay Lighthiser said. “Dukakis can’t balance our budget like the budget for his state. I feel Bush can carry out Reaganomics.” International students voiced their opinions as well. Japanese student Chizuru Tijina said that “Japanese students like President Reagan because of his foreign relations, so if I could vote I would vote for Bush.”

While the national and international coverage in *The Clarion* increased throughout the 1980s, the majority of the newspaper remained dedicated to covering campus and community events. And when the college began studying the possibility of converting to a four-year senior college in 1986, *The Clarion* was listening. On November 5, 1986 (Vol. LIV, Issue No. 5), the newspaper reported on a meeting that the Board of Trustees conducted about converting to a four-year institution. From the meeting, the Trustees concluded that “the prospects of converting to a four-year school should be pursued.” The school that Brevard College should model itself after, the Trustees decided, was Davidson College. In 1988, Brevard College opened with its largest freshman class ever, according to *The Clarion* (Vol. LVI, Issue No. 1). A year later, the school’s enrollment was at an all-time high, 764 students, and the college sold land to Ingles Markets Inc. for \$1.5 million “to assist faculty salaries, student scholarships and ambitious new programs the college will be undertaking.” Although the newspaper would not allude to the four-year senior college conversion within the Ingles article, the process would be on the minds of the staff over the next decade.

This conversion would not only shape the direction of Brevard College, but it would change *The Clarion* as well.

### **Major Events, 1976-1989**

April 23, 1976: The Ramones release their first self-titled album.

January 20, 1977: Jimmy Carter succeeds Gerald Ford as 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

August 16, 1977: Elvis Presley dies in Memphis, Tennessee.

May 5, 1978: Pete Rose gets his 3,000<sup>th</sup> career hit.

November 4, 1979: The first of 444 days that 63 diplomats and three other U.S. citizens were held hostage inside the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran.

December 3, 1979: 11 fans are killed during a stampede for seats before The Who concert at the Riverfront Coliseum in Cincinnati, Ohio.

March 21, 1980: Jimmy Carter announces the U.S. will boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

December 8, 1980: John Lennon dies in a New York hospital after being shot by Mark David Chapman.

January 20, 1981: Ronald Reagan succeeds Jimmy Carter as 40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

March 30, 1981: John Hinckley Jr. attempts to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in Washington, D.C.

May 13, 1981: Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turkish assassin, attempts to assassinate Pope John Paul II in Rome.

December 1, 1982: Michael Jackson releases *Thriller*.

May 8, 1984: The Soviet Union announces it will boycott the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

November 6, 1984: President Ronald Reagan is reelected to another term.

March 31, 1985: The first *Wrestlemania* is held with Muhammad Ali as the guest referee.

January 28, 1986: The space shuttle *Challenger* explodes just 73 seconds after liftoff.

April 26, 1986: Chernobyl nuclear disaster occurs in Ukraine.

January 20, 1989: George Herbert Walker Bush succeeds Ronald Reagan as the 41<sup>st</sup> President of the United States.

January 24, 1989: Serial Killer Ted Bundy is executed in Florida.

September 21, 1989: Hurricane Hugo makes landfall in South Carolina.

November 9, 1989: East Germany opens check points in Berlin and German citizens begin tearing down the Berlin Wall.

CHAPTER  
**VII.**

**The Rise and Fall of *The Clarion*  
1990 - 2004**

ARE YOU READY FOR THE '90s?

By 1989, high expectations for the new decade could be seen and heard around the country: the Berlin Wall had fallen in Germany and civilian protests triggered communist governments across Eastern Europe to turn over their power; the United States of America had a new president, George H. W. Bush, who at the height of the “war on drugs” held a bag of cocaine in his first televised speech as president; and, closer to home, North Carolina had recovered from Hurricane Hugo, which struck the Carolinas on September 21, 1989, and celebrated its bicentennial in that year, rallying high expectations for the next 200 years. Like the rest of the country, optimism at Brevard College was on the rise. Not only did *The Clarion* try to keep up with the modern trends stylistically—the newspaper used computer programs for processing articles, producing layout, and printing in color (the banner at the top of the newspaper was produced in a different color each issue)—but the staff writers and editors voiced their hopefulness in columns throughout the paper. On January 29, 1990 (Vol. LVII, Issue No. 6), *The Clarion* released its first issue of the new decade. Ashley Cimino, associate editor of *The Clarion*, released some of her expectations for the new decade in an article titled, “Are you ready for the '90s?”

Are you ready for the '90s? This promises to be a decade very different from the last. Although there's no flying cars or robotic butlers—yet—there are major changes taking place that will affect the way we all live in the next 10 years.

The days of “work-till-you-drop,” chemical and drug dependency, insensitive bosses and Communism may come to a halt.... And if international trends continue, this may also become an era to be remembered as an era of peace.

Perhaps total disarmament will become a reality.

Perhaps this era will become a time of productivity and spiritual unification for our country.

Perhaps we will win the battles at home; the ones that must be fought: AIDS, drugs, environmental protection.... In this era we must be positive and confident. We must forget our selfishness from past decades and support one another. To love the grass we walk on and the sky above us. To love the flag with its stars and stripes.

Cimino's optimism for the new decade was clear, and *The Clarion* staff could only remain hopeful as the 1990s began with a gift from a former staff member.

On February 12, 1990 (Vol. LVII, Issue No. 7), *The Clarion* reported that Tom Higgins, a former staff writer from 1955-1957 and award-winning motor sports journalist for the *Charlotte Observer*, donated \$1,000 to the newspaper. After winning the Miller American Motorsports Award of Excellence, which carried with it a \$1000 prize to the recipient's college of choice, Higgins gave the prize to *The Clarion*. In an interview with the newspaper, Higgins explained why he donated the money to *The Clarion*: “That's where I got my start.... I'm really tickled to be able to do this,” he said. The faculty advisor for *The Clarion* at the time was Jock Lauterer, who said he had “known and admired (Higgins) and his work for years.... this gift in his honor is a tremendous boost for Brevard College's campus newspaper. We'll use the funds to improve the quality of the publication.” *The Clarion*, at the time, was an eight- to 12-page tabloid-sized newspaper published every other Monday.

#### MIDDLE EAST CRISIS HITS HOME

When *The Clarion* predicted a peaceful decade in January 1990, staff members had little intuition of the conflict awaiting the nation in the Middle East. On August 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait after alleging that the country was illegally drilling oil across Iraq's border. Five days later, President George H. W. Bush launched “Operation Desert Shield” and a coalition of forces led by the United States moved into

Saudi Arabia to prevent another Iraqi invasion and convince Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, to remove Iraq from Kuwait. If negotiations failed, Bush said, the United States coalition would remove Iraq by force. On September 17, 1990, *The Clarion* released its second issue of Vol. 58 with the headline, "Middle East crisis hits home." Inside, staff members highlighted Brevard College students whom the conflict was directly affecting. Two students at the time were part of the U.S. Army Reserves unit located in Brevard, and their story brought a conflict half a world away onto the Brevard College campus. John Massie and Craig Register wore their gas masks and camouflage jackets in the photo on the front page, as co-editor Libby Enloe and assistant editor Sarah Fish told the students' story:

When BC cross country runner John Massie, a corporal, learned his unit might be activated, he says he was worried about losing his standing as a runner, "But if I have to go—I'll go." John says he is also worried about his brother, Frank, a Marine who is already stationed on the front lines in the Gulf.

Craig Register, also a corporal, says, "I had mixed feelings when it all started." He was at Ft. Jackson, S.C., serving his planned 17-day Annual Training when he first heard about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"I wasn't sure whether I was going to get to come back to school," says Craig.... A lot (of his friends) had the idea I was already overseas. I got a lot of letters of concern at camp and phone messages waiting for me at home when I returned."

John says, "I'm sick of the rumors. Every day I hear new things that scare me. People don't know what they're talking about. They're not directly affected by it—we are."

The seriousness hit home with many reservists. "A lot of us went ahead and made out wills," says Craig. "I hope we can get it resolved without going to war."

John says, until notification, "Me and Craig, we laugh—and it keeps you from going nuts."

The two reservists weren't the only members of the Brevard College community affected by the situation in the Middle East. *The Clarion* reported on one student, Derek Bauer, whose family had been living in Kuwait but moved to South Carolina just before the Iraqi invasion. Bauer received news that 17 of his friends were now hostages in Kuwait, after becoming involved in an automobile accident on the way to Baghdad. A former Brevard College student, Heather Baldwin, was a Marine Reservist awaiting her call to duty while she studied at East Carolina University. And two members of the faculty, Naomi Gibbs and Dale Wiener, had sons involved in Operation Desert Storm. *The Clarion* did not report if the reservists were called into duty; however, the newspaper did inform readers of the release of Bauer's hostage friends three

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months later.

As *The Clarion* prepared for 1991, the country still found itself in a stand-off with Iraq in the Middle East. On December 10, 1990 (Vol. LVIII, Issue No. 5), the newspaper conducted an opinion poll among students about the Iraqi situation. Based on the survey, in which 124 students at the college participated, “61 percent of those polled said they were against the United States taking military action, while 27 percent said they were in favor of attacking Iraq now. Another 11 percent said the U.S. should go to war only as a last resort.” The survey also asked the question, “If you were drafted, would you go?” to which 57 percent said they would go. Of the students polled, 64 of them said that they were “worried about the draft” and 69 said they were personally affected by the situation in the Middle East—they had family or friends serving the country. *The Clarion* also reported that a number of alumni were serving in Saudi Arabia, and leaders on campus were organizing a “care package” collection for troops. When students returned from winter break in January, their hopes for an end to the conflict were dealt a disheartening blow.

On January 28, 1991 (Vol. LVIII, Issue No. 6), the headline on the front page of *The Clarion* read, “Back to school, and on to war.” According to the article, “the day after classes resumed at Brevard College, the United States went to war with Iraq.” The feature photograph was that of a peace rally on January 18 in front of the entrance to the college. Students are seen holding signs that read, “WE HAVE A VISION...PEACE!” and “SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS AND PRAY FOR THEIR SAFE RETURN.” The co-editor of *The Clarion* at the time was Libby Enloe, who released a column titled, “My heart and my mother agree... war is wrong” in that historic issue:

I find it most ironic that this month, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we at the same time mock his memory by waging war on Iraq. For a while, I thought we, as a global community, were finally realizing Dr. King’s dream of negotiation without threat of war. I obviously miscalculated.

How can we put a deadline on peace? Is trying to achieve peace by saying, “Get out—or else,” a responsible action?

I have been called blind. I have been called naïve. People tell me I don’t understand how things “really” are. Make no mistake, dear reader. I know this. War, for whatever cause, leaves me as cold as the corpses it created. God forgive us all.

As the war escalated in the Persian Gulf, the campus became increasingly vocal on its position. One student, David Allen Turner, had served in the U.S. Army for three years in Europe and was called back up at the start of the spring semester. Students initiated frequent prayer circles and discussions about the war. Rumors of a draft began circulating around campus, an issue Dr. Clara Wood, Dean of Brevard College, had to renounce in *The Clarion*: “I have heard there is a lot of incorrect information circulating on campus,” Wood said. “I hope that this article and the full copies of the Selective Service regulations will eliminate some of the confusion.” Preston Woodruff, Associate Professor of Religion at Brevard College, wrote a letter to the editor in that issue titled, “Right to free speech doesn’t disappear when war breaks out.”

Lately, members of the College community who are less enthusiastic about the reason for the Persian Gulf war, and who are less than convinced about the war’s inevitability or necessity, have had their patriotism questioned in notices and posters about campus, or in direct confrontations...

Because the founders of the United States intended it so, America is the most open society in the world. More than anything else which makes American proud—our material wealth, our military might, our efforts to create a classless society—this is what other nations admire the most...

The right to free speech does not disappear when war breaks out, and Americans who criticize their government are not, thereby, unpatriotic.

President George H. W. Bush would call a cease-fire on February 27, 1991, and the short conflict in the Middle East would halt. During month-long air raid and four-day ground skirmish, in which Iraqi forces retreated from Kuwait back to Iraq, approximately 25,000 Iraqis were killed while 345 U.S. coalition soldiers died. *The Clarion* did not cover the end of the conflict, nor did they report on the status of students or alumni serving overseas.

#### BREVARD COLLEGE EXPANDS TO FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM

Following the Persian Gulf War, *The Clarion* turned its attention to issues of campus concern. The construction of the Porter Center for Performing Arts, the re-establishment of baseball as a varsity sport at Brevard College, the drug and alcohol culture on campus, and the formation of a new college program, Wilderness Education, were all topics that made headlines over the next four years. But on November 9,

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1994, *The Clarion* announced the leading campus news story to date: the expansion of Brevard College to a four-year senior institution. The article announced the college's plan to seek baccalaureate degrees in music and art and, upon approval for the programs, enroll juniors for the first time in the fall of 1995. "The official announcement was made at the annual fall meeting of the Brevard College Board of Trustees, which approved the curricular plans recommended by faculty and trustee committees," the article reads. "The Board also voted to declare the College's \$16-million capital campaign successfully ended." While the announcement brought excitement to the Brevard College community, thoughts of expansion caused fear for many students and faculty members at the college.

*The Clarion* addressed this concern for the four-year expansion of Brevard College in the third issue of Vol. 64 on December 7, 1994. In an article titled, "What will four-year programs mean for campus life?" reporter Tatyana Perry attempted to highlight campus concerns.

After ten years of discussion, Brevard College is taking a huge step into the future. The introduction of a four year fine arts program has created mixed feelings from the general student populace, who have many questions concerning this program.

Most feel that this is a good idea as it will attract more people, increase Brevard College's reputation and make it more diversified. However, others argue that the school will favor the fine arts major students. Others suggest that BC would lose its reputation as an academic college and only be known for its fine arts program. Above all, they are interested in knowing if the college staff will become less strict on alcohol and other violations.

I approached Steve Martin with these questions, and others, to get a basic overview on what was going on. Martin disagrees with the opinion that Brevard will lose its academic standing, as he claims that, although many courses they are instituting are designed to support the fine arts program, there will still be a lot of emphasis on good, solid academic courses.... Martin states "We are not willing to sacrifice our reputation."

Martin said the alcohol ban will most likely not be lifted.... Martin doesn't feel that there will be an increase (in drugs), as he stated that it is usually freshmen that do the experimenting....

Why the fine arts department? It was chosen because it is believed to be the strongest program at Brevard and they figured they should go with their strength....

With all these new students, a plan is needed to arrange the housing and admissions for the arrival of more students.

As the following year began, *The Clarion* would cover the transition by printing press releases from the Brevard College Public Relations Office. But as Brevard College added new four-year baccalaureate programs, modified its campus to house an influx of new students, and transitioned into senior college

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athletic and academic associations, *The Clarion* would not follow the new four-year standards set by the institution. Instead, *The Clarion* and the campus community found the status and quality of the newspaper spiraling downward.

#### SLIP SLIDING AWAY

Four years after initiating its first four-year baccalaureate degree programs in fine arts, Brevard College was home to academic divisions in environmental studies, mathematics, and natural sciences, exercise science and wilderness leadership and experiential education, fine arts, humanities, music, and social sciences, all offering four-year degree programs. Tina McBride, Professor of English at Brevard College, told the *Pertelote*, the college's annual yearbook, that "having juniors and seniors has added a new dimension, and a sense of maturity that has enhanced the classroom experience" (Taylor 93). The excitement for the college's transition was visibly present on the Brevard College campus, and in the fall of 1999, the school year began with high expectations for the new millennium. But some fears began to surface.

The worldwide scare of Y2K, a fear that computer functions would fail to operate at exactly midnight on January 1, 2000 and send financial and governmental agencies into chaos, spread throughout the media in 1999. *The Clarion* was no exception. In an issue published December 9, 1999, the staff conducted a poll on what students thought would happen on January 1, 2000. Seven students were polled, sparking responses like, "Some smaller corporations or banks might get some problems or shutdown, but nothing will happen to the larger corporations," and "I think that everything's going to be okay. At that point, the world will destroy itself at a faster rate than it is now." *The Clarion*, however, did not accompany the poll with an article and would not follow up on Y2K the following semester. After publishing only six issues throughout the entire 1999-2000 year, the campus community began to find the release of the newspaper unpredictable and unreliable.

Dr. Ralph Hamlett, Associate Professor of Political Science at Brevard College, began teaching at the institution in 1998. Hamlett remembers the poor quality of *The Clarion* during his first five years at the college: “I remember (my wife) reading the paper and saying that her high school newspaper was better than *The Clarion*,” Hamlett said. Hamlett, who resides in Canton, North Carolina, often picked up *The Clarion* from a printing company that the newspaper used near his home and delivered it to the college. “It was very inconsistent. The newspaper came out maybe twice a semester, and I remember one edition coming out on the last day of exams when no students were left on campus,” he said. The articles, which Hamlett said were attributed by hearsay, were full of typos. “I don’t think they had anyone proofing the paper,” he said. An issue of *The Clarion* that lingers in Hamlett’s memory was published on March 1, 2001, and includes an opinion poll asking the question, “Are you still considered a virgin if you have engaged in oral sex?” The newspaper lacked any real substance, Hamlett said, and this opinion poll was proof. “They presumed that, because it looked like a newspaper and felt like a newspaper, that it was a newspaper. But they lost. It was not a newspaper. It was more like lining for a bird cage” (Hamlett 2006).

In 2000-2001, *The Clarion* released a total of four issues. The following year, the newspaper published just three issues. And in the 2002-2003 school term, *The Clarion* sent two issues to the press. The inconsistency in publishing the newspaper was not the only visible flaw in *The Clarion*; the quality of the paper also diminished. Stylistically, *The Clarion* was printed on tabloid-sized paper, but resembled more of a Microsoft Works ClipArt view book than a college newspaper. Editors inserted ClipArt to accompany articles published in the paper, which were of substandard writing quality themselves. The feature story in an issue released on March 31, 2000, was titled “Gift donates music to students’ future.” The article begins, “In February, President J. Thomas Bertrand announced this over \$1 million gift contributed by Robert D. Coleman Jr. and his wife Ruth Kirkpatrick for the gift of music.” It is not until halfway through the article that readers discover the author is speaking about a monetary donation for an

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organ in the Porter Center for Performing Arts. The article fails the “five-W’s” test taught in all introductory journalism courses, which says that the reader should know what happened, who was involved, when it occurred, where it occurred, and why it occurred in the lead paragraph of a story.

On October 6, 2000, reporter Jarvis Broom wrote a front page article titled “Volunteers SWEEP the French Broad.” Throughout the article, and even in mid-sentence, Broom changes his point of view: “Brevard College students Troy Mathers and Jarvis Broom (third person) were the last ones to pull up during the first stop due to a gigantic industrial wheel in our (first person) boat.” As writing quality diminished in *The Clarion*, so did the subject matter. The student newspaper that had once been awarded for its first-class editorials defending the civil rights movement and questioning the war in Vietnam was now focusing its journalistic talents into publishing editorials on the lust for female students in the summer. On April 30, 2002 (Vol. 69, Issue No. 3), Ty Harbour, editor-in-chief of *The Clarion*, published an editorial titled, simply, “Editorial.”

For those of you who have no clue who I am, then let me take the time to let you in on one of my little secrets. I happen to love this time of the year. School is almost over, the weather is hot, and the women! Now, I’m trying very hard not to invite sexual harassment charges or groups of women to burn me at the stake, but how can you get away with what little you wear in the summer? I have to applaud every single woman out there who can show so much self-confidence by wearing things you wear in the summer. Guys, you know what I’m talking about.

The high standard set by 70 years of excellence in the student reporting at Brevard College was taking a turn for the worse.

In the 2003-2004 school year, *The Clarion* decided to substitute its printed publication for an online-only newspaper. The first, and only, issue of the fall semester was released on November 24, 2003 (Vol. 70, Issue No. 1), just weeks before winter break. In the issue, *The Clarion* staff covered stories like senior pinning, which occurred two months prior, the inauguration of Brevard College President Drew Van Horn, which took place on October 10 of that year, and a review of the fall athletic contests at the college. The following spring semester was no more successful than the fall for the erratic newspaper. After

publishing two online issues, *The Clarion* staff called it quits for the academic year. Beyond its unpredictable release dates and lack of constructive reporting, *The Clarion* failed to inform the campus community that the newspaper was available online, leading students and faculty to believe that Brevard College was without a student newspaper. A decade that began with mediocre news coverage for *The Clarion*, however, would see hope in the next two years.

### **Major Events, 1990-2004**

August 2, 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait, eventually leading to the Persian Gulf War.

October 3, 1990: East and West Germany reunite to form Germany.

January 16, 1991: Operation Desert Storm begins with air strikes against Iraq.

February 26, 1991: Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein announces withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

November 7, 1991: NBA superstar Earvin "Magic" Johnson announces that he has HIV and will retire from basketball.

April 29, 1992: Los Angeles police officers are found "not guilty" in the beating of Rodney King, sparking several days of riots in the area.

January 20, 1993: William Jefferson Clinton succeeds George Bush as the 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States.

April 8, 1994: Kurt Cobain, lead singer of Nirvana, is found dead in Seattle, Washington from an apparent suicide.

June 17, 1994: Former NFL star O.J. Simpson flees from police in his white Ford Bronco. The low-speed chase is broadcasted on live television.

May 23, 1995: The Oklahoma City bombing occurs at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

October 3, 1995: O.J. Simpson is found "not guilty" in the double murder trial of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

July 19, 1996: The Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, open.

November 5, 1996: President Clinton is reelected over Republican challenger Bob Dole.

August 31, 1997: Princess Diana of Wales is killed in an automobile accident in Paris.

April 20, 1999: The Columbine High School massacre occurs in Littleton, Colorado, killing 12 students and one teacher.

January 20, 2001: George W. Bush is sworn in as the 43<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States after a controversial vote recount in Florida.

September 11, 2001: Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. kill nearly 3,000 people.

May 1, 2003: President George W. Bush gives a speech announcing the end of major combat in Iraq.

December 12, 2003: Saddam Hussein is captured in Tikrit.

CHAPTER  
**VIII.**

***The Clarion Resurrected***  
**2004 - 2006**

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

I joined *The Clarion* staff in the fall of 2004 while taking an introduction to journalism course at the college. With the newspaper in shambles, Brevard College hired Dr. John Padgett that year to help in the resurrection of *The Clarion*. Aside from teaching the introductory course, Padgett took over as faculty advisor for the newspaper and rallied a meeting together shortly after the start of the semester for students interested in writing for *The Clarion*. As a first semester sophomore, I had declared English as a major the previous spring and was looking for an emphasis area that fall. I had never taken a journalism course before, and I had no knowledge of a campus newspaper at Brevard College. So when the initial meeting was called that fall, I assumed that we were going to create a student publication, not restore a 70-year-old highly decorated student newspaper.

But I soon became aware of the restoration of *The Clarion*. Approximately 10 students attended the meeting, all showing interest in reviving the newspaper. Staff positions were assigned that night (I would be a staff writer covering campus news and sports), and we immediately began to research the possibility of releasing an issue of *The Clarion* that semester. The enthusiasm for the newspaper present in that first

meeting, however, would not remain consistent as the semester continued. The newly announced editor-in-chief resigned after just one meeting, and the staff numbers began to diminish. A new editor, senior Nathan Jerkins, took charge of *The Clarion* and, with the help of online editor Hall Penn, released an online edition of the newspaper in late October of 2004. The issue consisted of 11 articles written by five staff members, covering stories like the presidential debates between President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry, congressional candidate Patsy Keever's visit to Brevard College, a gallery opening in Sims Art Building's Spiers Gallery, and the damage caused by four large storms, remnants of Hurricanes Francis and Ivan, that swept through Western North Carolina that fall. According to the article, "several large trees on campus were knocked down in the storms and had to be removed... even King's Creek became a furious torrent that could have been kayaked." The issue, however, would not be highly publicized to the campus, and with little campus following, it would be the only issue published that semester.

#### A NEW DIRECTION

As the spring semester rolled around, *The Clarion* had to fill the shoes of Jerkins, who graduated in December of 2004. Hall Penn was the newly elected editor-in-chief, and I was announced managing editor of the newspaper. Immediately, we began to research the possibilities of moving *The Clarion* to a print publication. After conducting negotiations with the administration of the college and its Office Services Department, it was determined that the college could begin printing issues of the newspaper for us on 11x17, folded newsletter-style paper. Penn began the process of laying out the newspaper on the computer program Pagemaker 7.0, and on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2005 (Vol. 70, Issue No. 1), the first printed issue in two years of *The Clarion* was released. The eight-page issue covered campus concerns like the new regulations on the use of campus fire pits, the contamination of scabies in Jones Residents Hall, and an editorial by the newly appointed editor-in-chief titled, "Democracy: a dying dream." *The Clarion* consistently published 12- to 16-page issues of the newspaper roughly every two weeks that spring, and by

the end of the semester we had put out five issues of the newly revived paper. Aside from covering campus events such as the Student Government Association elections, the Brevard College fundraising campaign, and sporting events and concert reviews at the college, *The Clarion* began forming strong opinions about campus and community news. On March 2, 2005 (Vol. 70, Issue No. 3), I reported the news that Brevard College was considering the re-introduction of football as a collegiate sport at the college. After more than 50 years without a football team, I tackled the Athletic Sub-Committee's process of reintroducing the sport, and *The Clarion* staff voiced their opinion on the matter:

The proposal of a football team at Brevard College has come about quite quickly and those involved seem to be running towards a decision.

The main problems we see with a football team at Brevard College are monetary issues and large changes to the community. The trustees have claimed that the football program will sustain itself. This might be true in the immediate future when dealing with things like equipment, but the rental of the high school field seems to be an issue. What happens down the road, maybe a few years into the program, when the school decides they want a football field on campus? There seems to be a divide between the idea of a self-funded football team and reality. At what point will the initial funding stop and the football's self-sustaining funding begin?...

The problems with this idea of funding seem rampant. There are no other athletic teams at Brevard College that are self-sustaining. No other athletic team charges admission to their games.

The main argument for bringing a football program to Brevard College is to bring in more students and in turn more revenue. The college states on their website that "There are no colleges in Western North Carolina, with enrollments of 1,000 traditional undergraduates, or more that do not have football as an intercollegiate sport" yet we know that correlation does not imply causation.

Bringing in more students is an important mission of the college, but this should be done in keeping with the school's identity and not merely looking to others for fast fixes.

The controversy over a football team at Brevard College would be a main topic in *The Clarion* as the newspaper continued to make a new name for itself on campus.

#### MAKING PROGRESS AS A NEWSPAPER

The fall semester of 2005 began with one of the leading news stories of the year, Hurricane Katrina. In the first issue of Vol. 71 (September 9, 2005), *The Clarion* covered this disaster and its effect on the area. The center spread of the 12-page issue contained a letter from President Drew Van Horn on the hurricane, instructions on how students could donate to the Red Cross, and photographs of automobiles

lined up outside of gas stations in Brevard, awaiting gas during the fuel shortage. Penn addressed the hurricane in an editorial titled, “Our government failed us in a time of need.”

Right now people are dying. They are dying because our government dropped the ball. You know about hurricane Katrina. You know that the levees in New Orleans failed. But what I hope for all of us is that you know that it took days, not hours, but days for the Federal Emergency Management Agency or Homeland Security or the National Guard or even our President to take effective action. It took the Mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, cussing on live radio and calling the federal government “clueless” for them to make a genuine effort to save people.

The first issue of the fall also touched on the initiation of football as an intercollegiate sport at Brevard College, as the Athletic Sub-Committee approved the matter earlier that summer. These topics would kick-start a year full of careful news coverage and controversy for *The Clarion*.

*The Clarion* was once again consistently releasing an issue every other week throughout the 2005-2006 school year. This regularity and the quality of issues embarked upon in the newspaper resulted in a widespread audience for *The Clarion*. I received compliments and comments on the newspaper almost daily that fall as students, faculty members, and even the Brevard community began reading *The Clarion*. On September 23, 2005 (Vol. 71, Issue No. 2), I called for a change in the Brevard College mascot from the “Tornados” to the “Fighting White Squirrels.” The editorial sparked a new campus and community discussion, as students, faculty members, and residents of Brevard considered the change. Two issues later, an art student at the college sketched the proposed mascot, and soon a Mascot Reconsideration Committee was formed on campus. The committee conducted surveys on the changes that students would like to see made to the mascot, but results were never published, and the mascot would not change.

The revitalized newspaper would once again spark controversy throughout the campus community on November 18, 2005 (Vol. 71, Issue No. 5) when we reported on the arrest of one Brevard College student and suspension of three students. An arrest photo of freshman Craig Sampson appeared on the front page of the issue. Sampson was arrested for “injury to personal property” when he allegedly smashed another student’s guitar. The controversy, however, occurred when Brevard College admissions officials

asked members of the student organization Presidential Circle to remove the issue of *The Clarion* from campus before a prospective student visitation day. On February 1, 2005 (Vol. 71, Issue No. 6), Penn and I reported on the incident for the newspaper:

On the morning of Saturday, Nov. 19, Brevard College was hosting an Open Campus Day when Presidential Circle (PC) members were asked by an admissions official to get rid of copies of the Nov. 18 *Clarion* issue, according to a PC member who wishes to remain unnamed.

The PC member said that the officials felt “it probably wasn’t a good idea to have [*The Clarion*] sitting out” because the covers, which contained a mug shot of an arrested student, “weren’t portraying the school very well.”

“We thought this was inappropriate for visiting families to see,” said PC Advisor Betty Kay Brookshire. “So [admissions officials] asked them to put *The Clarion* out of sight for our Open Campus Day...”

When asked about the situation, President Van Horn said it was not an institutional decision to pull copies of *The Clarion*.

In a staff editorial titled, “Removal of Clarion issues constitutes censorship,” we discussed the confiscation of the newspaper further:

The fact that an admissions official asked students to remove issues of *The Clarion* newspaper from sight during an open campus weekend is troubling to us. We feel that the actions of the admissions official, or officials, is a form of censorship, and that they feel our efforts to report the news are trivial and unimportant.

When the facts are publicly available, it seems like it is better to present them in an informational manner than to attempt to cover them up and act as if they don’t exist.

When employees at the college start censoring student publications, they’re stepping onto a slippery slope. What will keep them from, say, removing a bumper sticker on a student’s car if they think it will bother a prospective student or parent?

What will keep them from taking down a flyer that they personally might feel is offensive or not good for a prospective student to see?

How do we know that they haven’t done these things before, and they just haven’t been caught yet?

President Van Horn said that it is not an institutional policy to remove student publications, but we feel that there has been nothing to stop school officials from doing this, nor has anything been done to discourage them from doing it again.

The staff of *The Clarion* newspaper would like an apology from the admissions officers that either personally removed issues of *The Clarion* or asked others to do so. They have taken something that students have worked hard on and pulled it from public sight in an attempt to make their lives easier and in the process have insulted us as students and news reporters.

*The Clarion* never received an apology from the Brevard College Admissions Department.

#### A NEW EDITOR’S HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The 2005-2006 school year ended with *The Clarion* publishing 10 issues on a schedule of every other Friday. As we published our last issue that spring, Penn, who would graduate weeks later, left readers

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of *The Clarion* with insight as to what he had learned during his time as editor-in-chief:

What I've learned as the Editor in Chief of a reborn newspaper is that you have to dig and grab and yell and joke and sometimes be an asshole. You have to make people do the work, you have to make yourself do the work. I was never the best person for the job, but I like to think I was the right guy at the right time to be that asshole, to be that guy what while maybe didn't have the exact mindset of a great journalist, could gather a small group of people and turn out a product on a somewhat regular basis.

Almost everything I've learned here at BC has gone into my role with this newspaper at some point. And I've been thankful to have had the opportunity to latch on to a project and throw myself into it....

Penn graduated in May of 2006 and was honored with the Presidential Award of Distinction, and award given annually to students for outstanding contributions to the Brevard College community. He is now a graphic designer in Athens, Georgia.

I was elected editor-in-chief of *The Clarion* for the fall 2006 semester, and I immediately began planning for my time in charge of the newly reborn, newly respected student newspaper. While serving as an intern for the *Hendersonville Times-News* in the summer of 2006, I gained invaluable experience in newspaper work and learned a great deal about the newspaper industry. Throughout the summer, I prepared for the release of an issue on the first day of classes on August 23, 2006 (Vol. 72, Issue No. 1). The publication of this issue brought forth a large following for the student newspaper and sparked student interest in contributing to *The Clarion*. The staff was increased from approximately 12 members in the spring of 2006 to nearly 20 members that fall, and the newspaper became a weekly publication for the first time in decades. As of November 5, 2006, we have released 10 issues of *The Clarion* ranging from 8 to 16 pages in length and covering topics relating to the campus, community, and the nation.

*The Clarion* is a newspaper rich in history and proud of its ability to publish a student-run publication. If the original staff of *The Clarion* in 1935 might have been told that their newspaper would still be consistently and thoughtfully published 72 years later at Brevard College, would they have believed it? Would the staff of 1970 that received the highest rating from the Associated Collegiate Press be impressed with the quality of today's newspaper? If the online staff of 2003 saw the most recent issue of

*The Clarion*, would they wish that they could have produced a better product during their time at Brevard College? As a new editor-in-chief takes over my position in the spring of 2007, I would hope that he or she keeps these questions in mind. A rich history of Brevard College can be seen through the pages of *The Clarion*, and I ask, what will future Brevard College historians study without the publication of a first-rate student newspaper? For *The Clarion* is the window to the world.

### **Major Events, 2004-2006**

February 3, 2004: CIA admits there was no imminent threat of weapons of mass destruction before the invasion of Iraq.

November 2, 2004: George W. Bush defeats Senator John Kerry in Presidential Election.

February 16, 2005: The Kyoto Protocol goes into effect without the support of the United States and Australia.

April 2, 2005: Pope John Paul II dies; Pope Benedict XVI succeeds him on April 19.

June 13, 2005: Michael Jackson is acquitted of all charges in a sexual molestation trial.

July 7, 2005: Terrorist attacks kill 56 and injure over 700 on underground train and bus lines in London.

August 29, 2005: Nearly 2,000 people are killed as Hurricane Katrina wreaks havoc in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

October 9, 2006: North Korea claims it has conducted its first nuclear test.

November 7, 2006: Democrats take control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time since 1994.



The Clarion had changed stylistically in 1978



An ad in a 1982 edition of The Clarion



New Computer Division Formed

In 1986, a computer division was formed on campus



The Clarion reported on Brevard College's transition to computers in 1984



The Clarion changes its banner in 1982



The Clarion reports on student involvement leading up to the Persian Gulf War



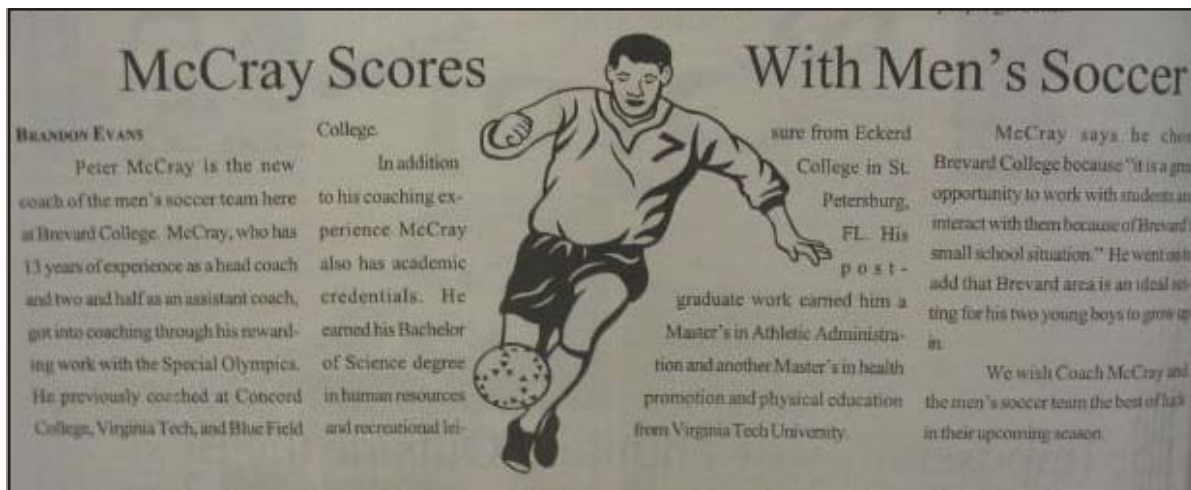
A student's cartoon at the start of the war



The Clarion begins to look less like a newspaper in 1999



The second of two issues released in 2001-2002



The Clarion uses poor choice of layout and ClipArt graphics in this 2002 article



The first online banner of The Clarion



The Clarion becomes completely online in 2003



The online edition of The Clarion in spring 2004



The Clarion remains online in the fall 2004 semester, but the future is looking up



*The Clarion covered the effects of Hurricane Katrina in its first issue of the fall 2005 semester*



*I triggered a campus-wide search for a new mascot in 2005*



*The Clarion reported on the return of football to Brevard College in the fall 2006 semester*



The Clarion returned to covering newsworthy issues in 2005

With a layout editor, The Clarion changed its appearance in 2006



The Clarion became a weekly paper in 2006



My first issue as editor-in-chief of The Clarion

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## About the Author



Adam Beeson served as editor-in-chief for *The Clarion* in the fall semester of 2006. He also served three semesters as managing editor and one semester as a staff writer for the newspaper. A freelance reporter for the *Hendersonville Times-News*, he will graduate from Brevard College with a B.A. in English in December 2006.