

Commuter conundrum: How can I learn if I can't park?

By **Dave Alexander**
Copy Editor

As winter weather continues in Brevard the dread of walking to class is multiplied by the bitter whipping winds, frigid cold rain, and temperatures in the low 20's almost every morning.

These factors can make walking to class feel pointless. The obvious solution is to skip class and count today as a personal snow day. However, the perseverance of many Brevard College students has them facing these elements head-on, with their cars.

As a commuter student I find myself struggling, at least two days a week, with finding a parking spot that is either a commuter designated parking spot or one that is close to my classes.

I met with Jason Djuren, Director of Community Living, Security and Student Housing, to talk about the increasing number of cars surrounding the academic buildings and cafeteria during an average school day.

"There are 37 commuter designated parking spots on campus," said Djuren, "There are also 538 general parking places. As a commuter you are able to park in any of the 37 spots or

in any general parking spot. However there are seven guest parking spots around campus, mostly outside of the academic buildings and no students, commuter or resident, are allowed to park there at any time without being subjected to receiving a ticket."

However, with parking lots in front of MG and behind the cafeteria filled to capacity several days of the week, many students are taking their own initiative and creating their own parking spots on the grass by the old infirmary road that connects the back lot to Alumni Drive.

"The grass is not considered a parking spot and any student found parking on the grass can be ticketed," said Djuren, "also students can be ticketed for parking in spots reserved for faculty/staff or for parking in a manner that disrupts traffic or blocks fire lanes."

There are however, several available parking spots on the gravel road that connects Alumni Drive with the cafeteria parking lot.

Since I am a commuter I felt that I may have fallen out of touch with the difficulties residents face when they have to walk to class. As a sympathetic person, I decided to see what even the worst walk a resident of North Village eight would have to deal with. I walked 857 steps,

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leisurely man steps, from Beam Administration to North Village eight in under seven minutes.

We are one of the few colleges that enable students to walk from their dorm rooms to the classroom in under seven minutes. We are also fortunate enough to be a college that has so much available parking.

I encourage everyone, residents and commuter students alike, to trade in their driving gloves for walking shoes. To embrace the few short minutes that we each have on our way to class to prepare ourselves for our busy days. If we all do this, I should have no problem finding a parking spot on campus.

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Devil's advocate: *Former Senator sings to formerly living baby*

By **Brian Burgess**
Managing Editor

Rarely is the question asked, "Is religion a good thing?" Most people would consider this a redundant question, with yes being the obvious answer. However, this under investigated subject, when properly examined, leaves one not so sure.

In one particular case where religion may have been better left out are the misadventures of former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum. Santorum is a conservative member of the Republican Party whose platform consists of anti-gay, anti-abortion, creationist, and fiscally conservative policies.

While all of these positions are common and well received by the right, Santorum has repeatedly found ways to take these positions to a new and often uncomfortable level, almost always justifying his behavior with religion.

One example is Santorum's proposed

amendment to the No Child Left Behind Act (humbly titled the "Santorum Amendment") that would require public schools to not only teach Creationism alongside evolution in science classes, but to use text book and educational materials that referred to evolution as a "theory in crisis".

It also called science teachers to present arguments against evolution, many of which were inherently flawed by their obvious lack of understanding and credit to the theory from the start (If we came from monkeys, why are there still monkeys? Checkmate!).

This is a very minor issue, however compared to other exploits on Santorum's resume. Shocking many, Santorum recently made comments on his confusion that Obama, a black president, would deny a particular class of people (namely preborn fetuses) their

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