

Walking on campus benefits student health

By Ben Goff
News Editor

There is mounting interest at BC in curtailing the wasteful practice of driving to and from different locations on campus. Both BC Recycles and the Environmental Issues committee have expressed concern at the high number of people driving across campus.

Many students drive from the Villages to the Dining Hall or the academic buildings, and some students routinely drive from the North Village to Ross Hall or from Dunham to the

Porter Center.

Contrary to what might be assumed, many of the people driving across campus are not out of shape.

From the village to the parking lot in front of the cafeteria is a distance of between .3 and .4 miles.

Someone making two trips a day would total on average 1.5 miles a day. This may seem like a minuscule distance, but when you look at the big picture the effects of this, driving practice become more meaningful.

If they make four trips a day across campus in a vehicle

getting only 16 mpg and gas prices of \$2.80/gallon, the driver will use over 58 gallons a year and spend \$162 at the pump.

Perhaps some people can afford to drive across campus, but that does not excuse the environmental damage being done.

Rough calculations put the total carbon emissions from driving across campus at 113,400 pounds a year.

That is approximately the annual carbon emissions of all the energy uses of 10 average US citizens.

This contributes to global climate change, smog, ground level ozone and acid precipitation.

This habit has personal health implications as well. If a student walked or rode a bike the same trip three times a day, they would travel over two miles and burn 200 to 400 calories.

This amount of walking is enough to promote greater health and wellbeing, and meets the daily minimum of exercise recommended by health professionals.

SGA Beat

Mandi Pearson
Opinion Editor

Tuesday night's SGA Joint Session had a different tone than usual.

President Beth Brooker stated, "We want students to work together to get things done, we have power, we can change things, let's tap into the power at hand."

The Executive Board, which has met every night this week, has created a vision statement for the 2007/2008 school year; "To create and operate an efficient infrastructure, in order to efficiently promote and act on the voiced concerns and opinions of the students of Brevard College."

The Executive Board, in an effort to create a

stronger voice for the student body, introduced a multi-faceted plan that restructures senator responsibilities, reorganizes old committees, and adds new committees.

SGA proposed that the senator responsibilities expand to include serving on one permanent committee and holding two meetings a semester with the class they represent.

The new committees being organized will be the SGA Oversight Committee, Student-Government Relations Committee, and the merging of the old Constitutional Review Committee and the Rules Committee into the Constitutional Review/Rules Committee.

The proposed SGA Oversight Committee will be responsible for overseeing the Senate, the House of Clubs, and the Executive Board. It will meet once a month to ensure that SGA members are fulfilling their responsibilities and to review the rules for the impeachment of SGA Officers.

The Student Government Relations Committee (S-GRC) will be a networking group for BC students. This committee will be responsible for maintaining communications with CAB and the student body. S-GRC will also be involved with helping students by answering questions or giving information about events

on campus.

The Constitutional Review/Rules Committee will meet once a month to address issues concerning the SGA Constitution and its by-laws.

In accordance with the current by-laws, the Executive Board is holding three weeks of open forums, where students can express their opinions on the proposed plan. The proposed changes are being presented as three constitutional amendments. In order for the amendments to be voted into law they must be approved by both houses of SGA and then by a two-thirds majority vote of the student body.