

Students undervalue natural campus environment

It seems the University of North Florida just wants to look good. As one of only a handful of the nation's universities to not only have a nature reserve on campus, but to be entirely located on one, we aren't doing much to truly preserve our beautiful campus.

For years, UNF students have voiced that parking remains a top problem at campus. And why wouldn't it be? As a largely commuter campus, the majority of students who attend UNF, along with our faculty and staff, arrive by personal vehicles. The increased flow of cars driving the streets of our campus creates a problem. No, not just because of trying to find a parking spot, but rather what it does to our environment.

Gasoline-powered automobiles release pollutants that include the evaporation of volatile organic com-

STAFF OPINION



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pounds and tailpipe emissions such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). How do we combat this problem where both students and animals can be happier?

For starters, building more dormitories would be a plus. This would cut down on the number of cars driving the streets every day. Let's try to make UNF a more comfortable place to be, where students don't just come and go for classes, but also want to call their homes. There just are not enough dormitories to

accommodate even one quarter of the students who attend here. Plus, students who live on campus are more likely to get involved with clubs, sports and campus issues than those who do not.

Also, let's build parking garages on sites that are just ground level parking lots. This will accumulate more vehicles than the present volume and we will end up hurting the earth very little. The number of students circling campus looking for a spot to park in would decrease, and so would the extra emissions released when the cars are running. Perhaps even a conveniently located lot to be used strictly for those who carpool would be extra incentive.

The university's land is enjoyed by a variety of plant and animal species as well, and it's time we treat their well-beings equal to ours. The toxic emissions released from our

automobiles are a health hazard to them.

Think about it, their lungs are much smaller than the average human's; they can only handle so much. Cutting down on the flow of traffic would improve their well-being.

If the university makes some much-needed adjustments, then it can say it is truly doing its part to help the environment and combat global warming. And in doing so, it can make both animals and students happier.

For now, though, the trash sits, the cars pile up, and toxic gasses loom in the smog trapped among the trees. And the animals sit and wait, and wonder when their needs will be considered.

Remember, this is their Earth, too.

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❖ ❖ ❖ Letters to the Editor ❖ ❖ ❖

Election scandals, violations disadvantages for candidates

Dear Editor,

It is unfortunate to see Student Government elections must continue to be scandal-plagued and wracked with controversy. The case presented by former Senator Matt Breidenstein simply shows how convoluted and flawed election law is.

As a former Senator and a candidate in the fall election, I know from first-hand experience how

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in the 600 vote range during his senate race.

He was disqualified over what I believe to be a total of 66 cents in sales tax and the SGA considers this a "major campaign violation."

I fail to see why you would not report this fact, in light that a significant proportion of the student body voted for Matt to be seated as a senator and represent their best interests.

Shame on you.

It does not speak well of your investigative skills and attention to detail. Remember that he lost his presidential bid because the present lead-