

Relief expected with new construction

Parking problems plague campus



An illegally parked car at WCC. PHOTO: SCOTT KRVIN

Starting fall and winter quarter and continuing into spring, parking is a problem at WCC, according to Chief of Security J.B. Toler.

In an analytical essay about parking written for an English 151 class, Carolyn Ahearn pointed out 3 problem areas: inadequacy of spaces in light of student numbers, condition of spaces, and mislabeling of spaces.

According to Linwood Anderson, Vice President for Educational Support Services, the total number of spaces is 1,550. However, these spaces have to accommodate 2,430 students enrolled this quarter.

"Of the available spaces, 248 cannot be used by students; 230 are reserved for faculty and staff and 18 for visitors" wrote Ahearn.

If one were to count all the classes that meet at 9 o'clock and estimate the number of students in each class at 20, the total number of students on campus would be 1,360 contrasted with 1,302 available parking spaces.

However, college officials say these problems will be alleviated by the construction of future parking lots. [related story on p. 2]

Another problem with parking is unpaved lots: driving over the potholes in the unpaved lots behind HS building and Hocutt can damage alignment and suspension.

"According to law there should be one handicapped space per every 50 spaces," wrote Ahearn.

She pointed out that the LC west lot contains 251 regular spaces and 10 handicapped spaces; however, the law requires only 5.

The HS south lot has only one handicapped space and 107 regular spaces.

Three spots are marked for handicapped, but 2 are covered with dumpsters. [see related photo]

Although officials have overcompensated for handicapped spots in the LC west lot, the lack of spaces in HS south makes a long trip for non-ambulatory students.

Toler said, however, "there are more than enough parking spaces," despite 250 citations issued so far this quarter for illegal parking.



This paper recycling dumpster until April 22 rested in a reserved handicap parking space. PHOTO: SCOTT KRVIN

He said students are taking the tags off their mirrors and parking in staff and visitor spaces.

Toler said this situation may cause WCC to return to the old bumper sticker decals.

"The tags help us locate students quicker in case of an emergency," said Toler.

Students who violate parking policies

receive a warning for the first offense, unless they have parked in a handicapped space, firewalk, or driveway, in which cases they pay a \$10 fine.

The second ticket is a \$10 fine to be paid within 3 days.

Toler reminds students that they cannot pre-register or graduate without paying all fees.



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