

Student Opinions

Parking changes on campus

Mike Shade
Pilot sports editor

Every year something has to change on campus. It's a rule. A new bench, a new swing, a new smell...there's always something to look forward to when coming back to school. This year it's those yellow concrete structures on the side of the roads that look like oversized Rolos.

But for everything that changes, other things will always remain the same. For instance, no one will ever stop complaining about parking on campus.

And this year it looks as if there is more for complainers to complain about. Those oversized Rolo-looking structures mentioned earlier are called "parking mines," and they are just one of the modifications University Police has made to crack down on the illegal campus parking and speeding.

"The parking mines have been placed around campus to keep people honest," said Chief Barry Johnson.

"They are there to keep people from cutting through the grass and things like that. The ground crew works really hard to keep the lawn looking nice."

Along with that, all the

whiners out there will be sure to wail about the gravel lot being closed, the eliminated apartment parking spots and the crack-down on speeding on campus.

Despite the complaints, Johnson said everything that was done is for everyone's best interest. The gravel lot may be convenient, but it is free-for-all parking. No pavement and no marked spaces equals parking anarchy, which results in everyone inventing parking spaces, which equals dings and dents in everyone's cars.

"Allowing parking there puts cars at risk, which makes for bad business," Johnson added.

In the apartment parking lots, parallel spots have been deleted around the curb of the island in front of apartments C and D, which causes many to do the unthinkable: park farther away.

Over the summer, the fire marshal determined that with cars in those spots, if apartment B were to catch on fire, a fire truck could not pass through

**"Walk to class!
You might meet
your future
girlfriend on
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~Chief Johnson

the parking lot to get there.

"What bothers everyone is that we don't have 'convenient' parking; we have adequate parking," Johnson said.

The number of parking spots on campus outnumber cars, yet many of them are not as close to destinations as people would like. The lots near the tennis courts seem to remain empty, even though it's just a two or three minute walk to the center of campus.

Before anyone utters another complaint about parking, it is a good idea to look around at the problems of other campuses.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, a student is lucky to be permitted to have a car on campus, much less park anywhere near class.

To even get the privilege to drive on campus, students must enroll in a parking lottery called "Magical parking," named so because "a large miracle has to happen for you to get a spot," said one Carolina student.

Do you think \$60 is a lot of cash to dish out for a measly

parking sticker? Go talk to some University of Nebraska students, who have to pay up to \$600 dollars for a spot on campus.

Other changes around campus include new speed limit signs on Stadium Drive.

"We have six major sports that draw pedestrians near Stadium Drive, so we can't have people driving at 40 and 50 miles an hour," said Johnson.

"We need to keep everyone aware of their speeds. With the influx of people around Stadium Drive, it's just an accident waiting to happen."

Another area of concern is the LYCC parking lot, where Johnson cited the electronic speed tracker is located now.

"The tracker isn't there to catch you, it's there to make you aware of how fast you are going. We are all guilty of not paying attention at times to our speed. But with kids' soccer practice and games on the soccer fields adjacent to the lot, a safe speed is critical."

The best advice for getting over campus driving blues may have been given by the Chief himself.

"Walk to class!" he said. "You might meet your future girlfriend on the way."

Top ten ways to avoid getting a parking ticket

10. Move your car every five minutes
9. Put a siren on top of your car
8. Cry (if you are a girl)
7. Get a DRWHITE plate
6. Killer Bees (Tommy Boy)
5. White spray paint
4. Wear 3-D glasses
3. Get chalk proof tires
2. Got fake boot?
1. Hazard lights

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