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## New parking lots may reduce frustrations

JASON ROLLINS  
STAFF WRITER

The university collects approximately \$450,000 in parking fees and fines each year, and this year that number could be even higher.

The increasing number of parking tickets issued this year—an amount already at \$242,585, as of early January, according to Dick Fauson, director of Auxiliary Services—has given rise to increasing student parking frustrations. Dick Scott, assistant vice chancellor for Business Affairs, recently hosted a forum in the Warwick Center Stage to discuss the ongoing problem of parking with students. The event, sponsored by the Student Government Association, focused on getting student feedback on what they felt could make parking on campus more efficient after the parking problem hit its peak this fall semester.

"UNCW originally planned on 1,600 incoming freshmen this semester. What we got was 2,000, (which was) 400 more than expected. We are struggling to keep up with our student body," Scott said.

To help combat current problems, administrators expect to have two new lots completed by the fall 2002 semester. One of the lots will be for computer students, located across from the

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Cars in the parking lot of the University Union wait for a chance to park. New lots may cut down on waiting next fall.

## Local Tote-em-in Zoo faces scrutiny

SARAH VAN SCHAGEN  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

For the past year, a little girl and her mother have shared a friendship with an emu living at the Tote-em-in Zoo.

Shari Mongold and her 2-year-old daughter used to stop by the zoo every day to spend time with the animal on the other side of the fence.



This leopard is one of the many animals at the Tote-em-in Zoo on Carolina Beach Road.

fringed in very poor condition.

According to the report Mongold sent to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the emu's eyes "were not visible because they were glued shut with dried blood," and there was "dried blood down his neck." Mongold said she alerted two workers about the emu's condition.

"Mongold and her daughter returned to the zoo Sept. 16 and found the emu had died.

"My daughter and I were in tears. That emu used to come up to us and eat out of our hands," Mongold said. She filed a report with PETA within a week of the animal's death.

Jerry Brewer, owner of the Tote-em-in Zoo, said he tried to administer medi-

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## Fire damages elevator panel

HEATHER GRADY  
NEWS EDITOR

An electrical fire on Dec. 13 in the Graham side of Greenhamlet Hall cut into student study time but left no one injured.

Resulting from a short circuit in the electrical relay panel, the small fire caused the room, the elevator shaft and the nearby hallways to fill with smoke.

"The fire was in a self-contained room," said Sgt. Gunnar Matthews, with regard to the spark that began the fire in the room behind Graham's elevator shaft.

Students were evacuated from the building at around 5:30 p.m. that afternoon. The Wilmington Fire Department responded with five fire trucks to the scene of the incident and set up fans to ventilate the building. Students were let back in at about 6:45 p.m.

"Essentially, there was not a lot that could be done to prevent (the fire)," Harts said, since the circuitry basically stuck in an open position and overheated.

The fire caused about \$40,000 of damage to the control panel and will be completely replaced.

"(The dorm) will get an improved elevator control panel and (improved) handicapped accessibility controls," said Stan Harts, director of the university's Environmental Health and Safety department.

The elevator was built in 1977 and installed when not all the handicapped code regulations in place today had been mandated. Therefore, the new control panel will provide easier access for students and visitors with disabilities, Harts said.

A new control panel was initially expected to be completed by February; but Harts said, it might reach completion earlier than previously anticipated.