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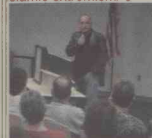
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Master parking plan brought to university

JASON ROLLINS

STAFF WRITER

Students who circle the parking lots in hopes of finding an empty space may see an improvement in campus parking starting next fall.

Due to the increasing growth of UNCW and the static number of spaces available, the university administrators

have put together a master plan to alleviate some parking problems. University officials hired Mike Connor, a parking consultant from Desmond Associates in Virginia, to suggest physical and operational changes to improve parking on campus.

The physical changes that the Connor suggested include re-striping certain parking lots, making spaces 8.5

feet wide instead of nine feet wide and aisle ways 18 feet wide instead of 24 feet wide, said Dick Scott, associate vice chancellor of business affairs.

"This could easily create some extra space. However, we have to be very selective about which lots are chosen to be re-stripped," Scott said. "Some lots are heavily travelled (and) can't afford to be made smaller by re-striping."

One of the operational changes suggested was creating students-only parking lots. This will eliminate the need for faculty to park in student spaces when spaces are not filled.

"I don't think it is fair that students can't park in faculty spaces, but they can park in student spaces," said Heather Thomas, senior, "I have never heard any faculty member complain there weren't ample spaces for staff."

"This (change) would help the current situation of students hunting and waiting for spaces to become available," said Scott.

There will also be designated overflow parking lots as well, if no spaces are available.

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Photo: Peter De Santis

A new master parking plan examined by university administrators could alleviate some problems for next year's drivers on campus.

Rises in enrollment leads to overcrowding

JOHN WHITE

STAFF WRITER

Overcrowding will continue to be a problem at universities across the nation, as enrollment rates are projected to increase significantly within the next decade.

Post-secondary enrollment is expected to climb 16 percent by 2011. Current enrollment rates will grow by 2.4 million students, pressuring schools to accommodate even larger student populations as campus space remains limited, according to the American Council on Education.

UNC schools have already shown a steady increase in student enrollment over five years but will have to make room for the future surge. Of the UNC system schools, UNC Char-

lotte's student population of 15,831 students in 1996 jumped to 18,308 in 2001, according to annual reports.

UNCW also has seen a steady increase from 9,232 students in 1997 to 10,599 in 2001. Last fall, the university had its highest show rate for incoming freshman at 47 percent, bringing 1,996 new students to campus.

UNCW administrators are now seeking ways to curtail unlimited growth and improve facilities.

"What we are feeling right now is the pressure to accommodate as many students as possible but to also maintain the level of quality at the university by not increasing class sizes, keeping student and faculty ratios at a reasonable level, giving freshman tenured professors and keeping the in-

timacy on campus," said Bob Fry, assistant to the chancellor for planning.

However, accommodating students is becoming increasingly difficult with limited space.

"Growth has had dramatic impact on space. Ten years ago, most classes were scheduled for the early morning. Now classes go into the late afternoon and evening," he said.

There has also been an increase in part-time professors to meet student demand, he said.

"(At UNCW) we have one of the highest utilization rates for facilities in the UNC system," said Nanette Manning, director at the office of institutional research.

Current strategies to deal with the space crisis include offering more

SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 2

Virus hoaxes causes problems

LORRIE LIBERTE

STAFF WRITER

With all the problems computer viruses can cause, savvy e-mail users do not take warnings about viruses lightly. However, some warnings may do more damage than good.

Last month, Denise Pinson, a recent student at Cape Fear Community College, received a forwarded e-mail warning that she may have received an e-mail virus that sends itself to everyone listed in her address book. The e-mail gave instructions to locate the virus `sulfibk.exe` on her hard drive and delete it. The message also asked her to forward the e-mail to everyone in her address book. Not thinking the message could be a hoax, Pinson deleted what she thought to be a computer virus. Later, she discovered that what she had actually deleted was a necessary Windows system file used to restore long file names.

Pinson was not the only one. In the past year, thousands of people around the world have also made the same mistake. Lycos, a widely used search engine, noted in early June 2001 that `sulfibk.exe` was the second most popular search phrase. The Web site `http://vmyths.com` contains information on computer virus hoaxes and legends, and it has traced the `sulfibk.exe` warning back to April 2001.

A resource for investigating e-mail, `http://www.susmante.com` offers to check any suspicious e-mails submitted for inspection. The site references other e-mail hoaxes commonly encountered by e-mail users. One message about the postal service trying to charge a fee for sending e-mail has been circulating for years.

Users should visit `http://www.susmante.com` or a comparable site with credible information about viruses before deleting, said Laurie Patterson of the computer science department.

"Virus hoaxes aren't really on the rise. It may feel that way because (more) viruses are making news," Patterson said.

There are signs an e-mail virus threat is a hoax, with the first being

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