

The Carolina Journal

The Student Newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Volume XII, Number 1

Charlotte, North Carolina

July 9, 1976

Carolina Journal photo by Lisa Laney



The new entrance to the visitor's parking lot.

Parking improvements done during summer

By Doug Lerner

Some construction is going on in the parking lot behind the Cone University Center. In one spot, the area near the gameroom, it looks like the entrance is being divided in two. In the upper lot, a single space has been chained off in a boondoggle that looks like a place to hitch a horse to.

When asked about these projects, Jerry Hudson, Director of the Department of Public Safety, said he did not know anything about the quadroned off space though he spoke about the work being done on the lower lot. Hudson said at the request of Dennis Rash, Dean of Students and Vern Parrish, Director of the Cone University Center, plans were made to designate some space for "conference parking."

Visitors will enter and leave the lower lot from the same spot they presently do, but will need either a token or a quarter to leave. A mechanical arm will control traffic in and out of the lot.

The amount of spaces to be used up by the new system will range from a minimum of about 20-25 to a maximum of 132, depending on how many visitors are expected each day. Chains will be moved between poles on the other side of the lot to regulate the lot's size.

The lot behind the Cone University Center is the only space left where students are able to park right next to the University.

Despite receiving a negative response from the Chancellor's Parking Committee last year, Security changed the parking lots taking away the students' right to park behind Denny Building. Hudson said the committee did approve the loss of additional spaces this past October by approving this latest construction, however.

Hudson did not know how much this venture would cost, but a similar system at Central Piedmont Community College cost at least \$6000.

A member of the Chancellor's Parking Committee verified the committee "approved of the plan without approving of it." The member said the committee saw the need as a necessary evil until plans are made for additional parking, possibly parking decks.

One problem with the plan is the cost will not be made up for several years, possibly causing another raise in the already high parking fees. As the member of the committee put it, "We'll actually be paying to have less spaces to park in." He added he was not returning to the committee this year because it was "futile."

Parrish said he authorized the chaining off of the boondoggle behind the Cone University Center. He said it was for "access" for deliveries and maintenance and for that reason he chose a space near the newly constructed service ramp.

Carolina Journal photo by Lisa Laney



The unusual car-hitch shown above is actually a service entrance. See above story.

Committee is carrying on the orientation program with a 'new dimension'. Dr. Schul readily admits one of the main purposes for the changes was to enable the Committee to accentuate what he considers more positive aspects of the University, downplaying criticisms of the administration, faculty and policy.

A new 'area' of policy has been created to handle the Orientation Committee, loosely described as 'Institutional Policy'. Although a

highly disputed contention, the Office of Student Affairs maintains that despite the fact that students pay the new student orientation fee, the program and the fees are not under student control since they fall under 'institutional operations'. Institutional Control, that is control by the administration, of certain areas of University life has been disapproved of often in the past, especially by

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News Analysis

Murder on the orientation express

By Doug Lerner

This past fall, changes were made in the way new student orientation was to be handled. As a result, the Orientation Committee has seen walkouts and resignations by at least two students, and the office of Student Affairs has been censured by the Student Body Government. In a three-part series, beginning with our Orientation issue in August, we will examine the changes that have been made, why they were made, and the reasons why the Orientation Committee has become the subject of controversy on our campus. This week we will report on the general issues that have been raised in order to make the campus, particularly the students, aware of the nature of the controversy. We think the Orientation Committee is not a single example of a more serious problem facing the student body in the area of student rights; we hope that by becoming aware of the problem, students will find means of resolving it. Questions or comments concerning this series should be made in writing to the Carolina Journal.

—The Editors

In December of last year, the student body learned that changes were to be made in the structure of the new student orientation program. These changes were to be made without consulting students. Among the more important of these revisions was the change in the structure of the Orientation Committee, which is supposed to design the orientation program. The orientation program itself is designed to give new students their first exposure to the whole UNCC campus.

The students were told that no longer would a student chair the committee as had been the

arrangement in the past. Instead, Betty Chafin, the Associate Dean of Students was selected, again without consulting students, to chair the committee. A professional Director of Orientation, Sally Allison, was hired to coordinate the program with the new seven dollar student fee charged freshmen and transfer students to fund the orientation program. In addition, changes were made in the ratio of student, faculty and staff membership on the Committee.

Dean Dennis Rash explained that among the reasons for the changes were the new fee structure, complaints of errors in past orientation programs and specifically the complaints of an academic dean he refused to name.

It has been reported the changes made are having an effect on student participation in the direction of policies of the Orientation Committee. There have been revisions in parts of the short Orientation Handbook for this year which make certain sections appear more 'positive' to the administration. In fact, a high ranking member of the Committee has said, "The major concern of the Orientation Committee is not what the students think, but what the administration thinks."

The academic dean who was largely responsible for the changes in orientation is Dr. Norman Schul, Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Schul says one of the reasons he prompted the changes were, "concerns expressed on the part of people, including myself, about lack of liaison with academic units...that there was not a good understanding (on the part of students) with regard to essentials." Dr. Schul maintains that although there were some things that worked well in the student-run program, the new