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Photo by Kerrie Stenhauer

New attendant guards sanctity of visitors-only parking area

By TOM FLUHARTY
Of the Emerald

"Ah Ha," you say to yourself. "I'll just drive to school early, spin into the visitors' parking lot by the EMU and no one will be the wiser." As you beam with pleasure at your sneakiness and turn into the lot, you notice something new — a parking lot attendant.

"I'm sorry. Students aren't permitted to park here," he says.

"I'm not a student," you retort. "I'm just visiting."
"Then what are those textbooks in the backseat for?"

As you drive away looking for a parking spot somewhere near the North Forty, you wonder what happened to your clever idea. Simple.

A joint experiment among University relations, Campus Security and the Campus Transportation Committee, went into effect this month in the west end of the EMU parking lot. An attendant mans the lot weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and allows only visitors to park there.

The primary purpose of the experiment is to insure

guests central campus parking, explained Muriel Jackson, University relations director. She said her office has found that people don't like to come to the University because of the parking problems.

Jackson explained the new procedure for arranging visitor parking:

When guests are expected, a department should notify Campus Security, which will then tell the lot attendant that the visitor is coming. When the guest arrives, the attendant that the visitor him fill out a standard visitors' parking permit, allowing him to park in the lot free.

Copies of the permits will be kept to determine parking lot use.

Don McCarty, campus transportation committee chair, said that departments can send permits to visitors they are expecting ahead of time.

Jackson said the experiment is an attempt to meet visitors' concerns that there is "no dependable place to park" on campus.

She said observations so far show that the parking slots are getting an expected high-turnover use.

"It shows we're really meeting the needs of the part-day visitor to campus," she said.

Groups seek election rules change

ASUO election rules, including one used Tuesday to convict a presidential candidate of a campaign violation, are under attack from various campus groups.

"The rules are totally inadequate," charges Kirby Garrett, ASUO vice-president. "They're ambiguous, difficult to interpret and often meaningless. They need to be completely revised."

Mike Dotten, chairer of the ASUO Elections Court agrees. "The rules should have been repromulgated before the primaries," Dotten says.

The rules in question comprise a six-page document which governs all ASUO elections to "provide a framework for the fair, impartial, and orderly conduct of those elections." Last revised on March 30, the rules outline principles and administration of the elections, candidate qualifications, election procedures, and

campaign rules, complaints and violations.

But Garrett says the rules don't accomplish their stated purpose. He says many of them are ambiguous, redundant or meaningless. The vice-president cites rule 5.6 as an example of a "poor rule."

"Rule 5.6 is an absurd and counter-productive regulation which serves no one," Garrett charges. "It only serves to inhibit communication with the students." The vice-president also says the rule is "too ambiguous and subject to interpretation."

The regulation states only that "campaign material may be placed off campus in private buildings only with the consent of the owner or proprietor." Garrett says he interprets that to mean "implied" consent. In Tuesday's decision the Elections Court interpreted it to mean express, direct prior consent.

But even the court agrees that rule 5.6 is a "bad rule." In announcing its decision Tuesday it stated that "5.6 is not a rule in the best interests of the students of this university. Stimulating interest in ASUO elections is an important public policy."

Garrett plans to hold a public hearing to solicit student input into repromulgating the election rules when the elections are over. "Essentially I want to just throw them all out and start over." But he says if there is "sufficient interest on the part of all run-off candidates and the student population," he will consider eliminating rule 5.6 before the run-offs begin.

Three of the four candidates involved in the run-off express support for immediate removal of the rule. Jim Davis and Jan Oliver, contenders for the presidential race both say the rule is "ridiculous" and should be removed. David Tyler, candidate for IFC, also feels the rule "should be done away with. All it's done is screw things up."

David Parr, Tyler's opponent, agrees the rule is "bad" and should be eliminated but feels it would be "unprofessional" to do so until after the elections.

ASUO presidential candidate Davis feels his conviction based on rule 5.6 was "unfair and unfounded." He plans to appeal the decision to the Constitutional Committee.

Thursday, May 6, 1976

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