

Paltry parking makes driving to campus challenging

The campus has 3,300 spots, but that number is less than one for every six students and faculty

By Jared Paben
News Reporter

Students who have tried driving to campus know that it's often difficult to find a place to park. In fact, for many students, difficult can often mean impossible.

According to a 1996 report by BRW, Inc., for the University, the most recent study of its kind, there are 6.2 students and staff per parking space on campus, a low ratio compared to other campuses. And with some 4,000 visitors flooding into campus daily, a parking problem can turn into a parking crisis.

The solution?

"Don't bring your car," said Rand Stamm, Department of Public Safety Parking and Transportation Manager. Instead, he recommends riding a bike, taking advantage of the University's free Lane Transit District bus-riding program, or simply walking.

While Stamm admitted that it's very difficult to find a place to park on campus, he said the University has "one of the best alternative transportation programs," citing an abundance of bike racks, lockers and the free, unlimited LTD riding program paid for by incidental fees.

Junior Chris Perdue, who mans the EMU's Transportation Resource Center kiosk, agreed that people should "avoid driving at all costs." The resource center offers information about bus schedules and bike paths and offers bicycle registration cards. There is no cost for the mandatory bicycle registration, he said.

According to the report, most people heed Stamm's and Perdue's advice. Almost 40 percent of people come to campus alone by car, while nearly 30 percent come on foot, almost 16 percent come by bike, and about 14 percent come by public transit. And that doesn't mean they don't have cars available, either. More than two-thirds of students have a vehicle they could use, but only one-fifth choose to drive.

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Jessica Waters Photo Editor

Parking Officer Dawn Kimball writes a ticket to a car parked at an expired timer on University Street in front of the EMU.



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