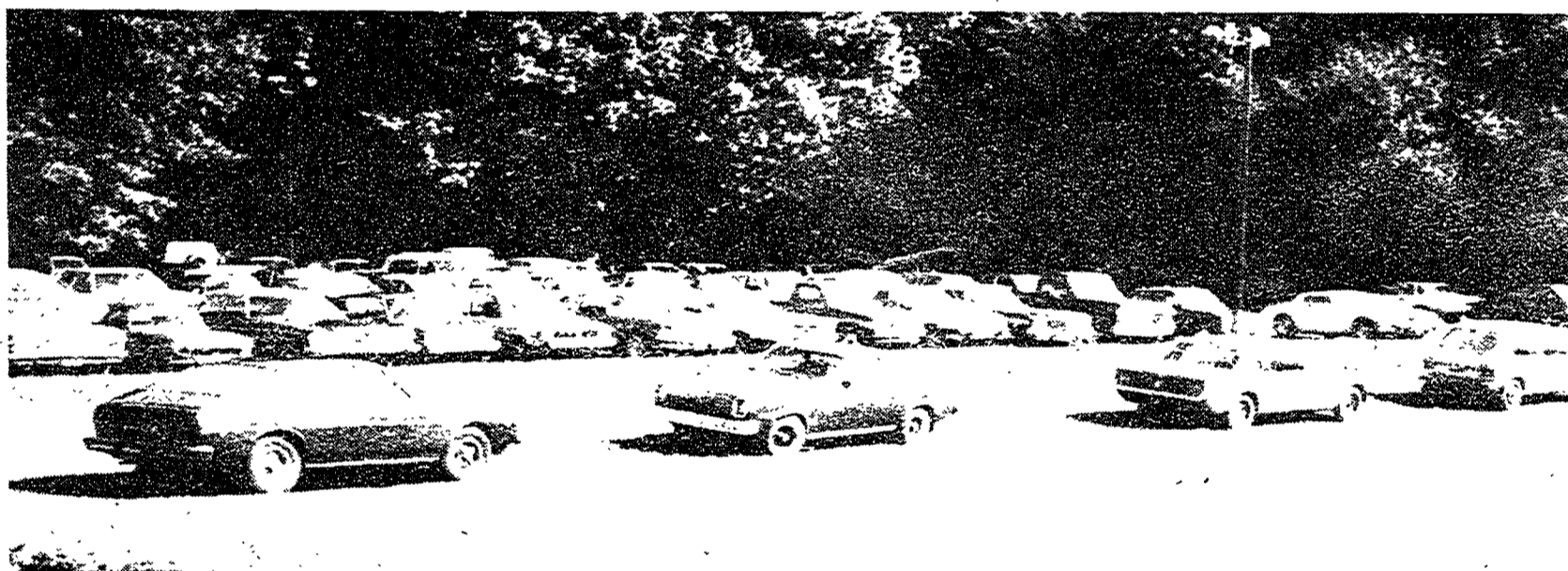


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With the increasing student population at Behrend, parking seems to be becoming more difficult. This photo shows a temporary solution to the problem - parking on the grass.

The Perplexity of Parking

by Jackie Wroblewski
Collegian Staff Writer

There seems to be a bit of uncertainty about the future availability of adequate student parking space on campus. Most commuters seem to be aware of the definite shortage of available parking spaces, particularly on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. The problem exists because of high enrollment and the loss of the Nick Building staff lot to construction.

A request for the funding of additional parking area was submitted to University Park last January. A project was designed for the completion of a new student parking lot on the north side of the Nick Building. Because of a temporary lack of funding, the project has been postponed until funding can be made available.

Gene Johnson, Chief of Police and Safety, said that his department is doing everything it can to

help alleviate the problem.

"A survey is being taken of the space shortage," said Johnson, "at the present time, there are only 798 parking spaces (including staff lots) while 939 vehicle permits have been issued."

Another problem is that many cars parked in the lots do not have registration permits. This seems not only unfair to the students who have purchased permits, but it makes taking an accurate count of cars difficult. In order to fully stress our need for additional parking facilities to University Park, an accurate count must be taken of how many vehicles are actually on campus. The most efficient way of getting an accurate count is by the number of parking permits sold.

Permits are available in the Department of University Police and Safety Services in the South Cottage. The registration and parking fee is \$15 for full time

students and \$10 for part time students. Permits for Fall and Spring semesters can be purchased for \$25.

Until the problem is solved, students are advised to follow the vehicle registration parking and traffic regulations as closely as possible. Student parking areas include the lots near Erie Hall, Wilson Picnic Grove, and the Nick Building.

Students are not permitted to park in the Reed lot except between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday. Students are also prohibited from parking in the gravel construction lot behind H. Platt Builders.

As a temporary solution, cars will be permitted to park outside of designated parking spaces, including the sides of roadways and the grass areas near the student lots.

Johnson stated, "Cars will not

be tagged as long as there are no available spaces in the lots and the vehicle is not hindering traffic flow or the access of emergency vehicles. All vehicles must be registered." Johnson feels that any registered vehicle is entitled to a parking space somewhere on campus.

Chief Johnson asked that when parking, students use their own discretion and have consideration for others until this problem can be solved.

The penalty for parking an

unregistered vehicle on campus is \$15. Other charges are between \$2 and \$10. All penalties are payable in the finance office within 48 hours of issuance. These collected traffic penalties are then turned over to the Student Government Association.

Any student wishing to appeal can do so, also within 48 hours, at the Department of Police and Safety. Failure to clear a traffic violation before the end of the semester will result in a hold of student records.

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