

SGA CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON REAR-LOT PARKING

by R.W. Bonaker

Ed. Note: The following is an account of an emergency meeting of the Student Government Association on Tuesday night concerning the reintroduction of the \$7.50 parking fee. An explanation of the re-elevation of the \$7.50 fee appears on page one of this issue. This insert has been prepared because the emergency meeting took place after The Capitalist went to press.

The SGA, at a meeting on May 22, passed a resolution calling for all students of this campus to participate in a moratorium by not parking in the lot in the rear of the main building. The one day moratorium will take place next Thursday, May 31.

The action was taken to protest the raising of the parking fee back to \$7.50. Provost Robert E. McDermott had lowered the fee to one dollar for the spring term only. The motion establishing the moratorium was introduced by Sen. Aaron Spicher, and it passed 14-0. The SGA currently has 25 members, including senators and executive officers.

Current SGA President Mike Dini said "The purpose behind the moratorium is to call attention to the board of trustees and the university administration that we have an unjust and inequitable fee." The fee was established for all Commonwealth Campuses for a universal fund which is used for initial parking lot construction only. Capitol, as of March 1, 1973, had a deficit in the fund totalling approximately \$50,000. Dini also explained, "We have found the parking situation at many of the Penn State campuses to be inequitable, as many people pay \$7.50 a term to park in a muddy lot.

Sen. Harold Brown, who is chairman of a committee organizing the moratorium said, "We are calling for all students on May 31 to avoid parking in the main lot. Campus residents are asked to walk to school or ride bicycles. Commuters are requested to park on Wharton Ave. near the elementary school, in the lot at the Placement Building, in the dormitory and Moade Heights areas and at the engineering lab. As a final recourse, commuters are asked to park in Olmsted Plaza away from the storefronts. Faculty, even though they do not pay a parking fee, are asked to participate in this protest."

Brown has indicated he will discuss Capitol's moratorium with other SGA presidents at a meeting of the Council of Presidents of Commonwealth Campuses at University Park on Saturday. He said he will urge the presidents to conduct similar action on their campuses prior to the end of the term.

The action of Capitol's SGA took place in the wake of an announcement by McDermott that the long discussed and detailed mandatory activities fee could not be established. Many senators expressed a sentiment that the monies that SGA will be receiving next year will be inadequate.

In his coordinating of the moratorium, Brown said all measures of publicity will be utilized, including signs and positioning a person at the campuses entrances. Each person will reportedly be equipped with a soundhorn to urge students to park in designated areas.

Dini said he is urging all students to comply with the SGA in this matter. He added the protest is a feasible means to protest rising costs in collegiate education as tuition will be dramatically raised next year.