

Parking problem Walker: Beyond the Classroom

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snows? Last year, there was a winter storm around spring break and the parking lots were cleared as were the sidewalks.

But there were huge piles of snow left in back of the parking lot and some near the parking spaces closest to the Olmsted building. As for the parking lot near the library, most snow was removed, but some parking spots were left half plowed.

"Last year, when the snow storm came, it was terrible. Ice covered all spots over parking lines so you couldn't see the lines, and people took up two parking spaces because no one knew where to park," said a student.

Senior Michael Long said it was hard to find a parking spot and there were less available, but it didn't affect him as much.

To some students, winter is a stressful time. Sometimes school is not cancelled and there is not a way for commuters or those living off campus to get to school because their neighborhood is not plowed or their car is stuck. Arriving on campus, parking spaces are occupied by snow, making the situation more frustrating.

The campus uses calcium products and salt to melt the snow and also has plans for snow removal when a storm comes. Many students

suggested the school's maintenance department try to plow the snow into the grass or off the parking lots as best as they can, so parking spaces are available and



Photo by MARIN BENDORITIS/Capital Times
The library parking lot provides parking to those going into the library or CUB but fills up by early afternoon, leaving students to fight for a space.

lines dividing the spaces are not covered.

As for the lots themselves, many students feel as if more parking spaces would be a good investment because an increase in housing would mean more parking spaces would be needed.

A student said, "If we are able to afford an elevator, we can afford a parking lot. They can use the field that is in between the Library and C.U.B."

Junior John Fry also thought the campus should create more parking lots since there is an increase of cars compared to last year and that they should make separate parking spaces for students and staff.

Though the campus parking lot is crowded, our school does try to make it convenient and is always looking for possible places for parking lots. As for now, can I say, "Valet parking, please?"

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he really likes, he said. The first is



Photo by MARIN BENDORITIS/Capital Times

the initial 'Ah ha' moment that his students get when they finally figure out a solution to a problem.

"Second, is the long-term student growth where I get to see how students are doing during their grad and post grad years," he said. "And that's when they become like your colleagues."

It is during class when Walker tries to make math practical to everyday life. That is also what he suggests for students who avoid taking math courses because it makes their learning experience more fun.

Speaking of learning experiences, he is learning a lot about Harrisburg and compares it to upstate New

York, where he grew-up. He said that he enjoys living in both places, but that there is more of a cultural

opportunity to enjoy here compared to where he used to live. His house was about 45 minutes away from the city, so he always had to plan well when he wanted to go downtown.

"I don't have to worry about that here, though, so it's nice," said Walker.

His hobbies include reading and running when the weather is nice. The novel Don Quixote by Miguel De Cervantes Saavedra is one of his many favorite classical books to read. When he is not working on scholarship, he can occasionally be found at a social event. And though he does not currently seem too interested in playing sports, he used to play the usual pickup games in

college including ultimate Frisbee and basketball. Additionally in high school, he played the saxophone.

Walker advises all students to get involved with campus life to improve their college experience.

"There is so much more to college than classes," he said. "You have to take advantage of the entire experience."

Walker obtained his bachelor's degree of science in mathematics from the University of Richmond and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Michigan. His parents, younger sister and brother live in upstate New York. Walker said it would be difficult to describe his ethnic background because he is a mix of a few different races including Scottish, English and German.

There's something about Walker:

1. He enjoys listening to jazz and classical music. His taste is more on the mellow side.
2. His favorite food is taco salad and he does cook occasionally.
3. His favorite drink is milk.
4. One of his happiest achievements is completing his graduate program.
5. His parents are the most influential people in his life because of their value in education.
6. He'd like to leave a heritage and legacy of his positive contributions to the campus and community a few years into the future.
7. He has travelled to Italy, Brazil and France, but his favorite travels are those to his family and friends.

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Veterans on campus

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that you can talk to and will help you out."

His statement is true since first coming to this campus in August, I can tell that the XGI's are among the most well liked and underappreciated people on this campus. They hold an annual blood drive and the Veteran's Day ceremony.

I came from a military family just like most of the ex-servicemen and women.

The first person I interviewed was Mahoney, who served as a Marine. He served from 1999 to 2004. He attained the rank of Enlisted-5 (E-5), in other words, he was Sergeant. His Military Occupational Specialty or MOS was an Avionics Technician. He worked on the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.

Mahoney went straight from high school to basic training at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, S.C. Unlike others who went to the school, Mahoney sought a recruiter to "ship up" with the Corps.

"Going from high school to boot camp was a big shocker," he said.

Mahoney served two tours of duty. His first tour was in Southeast Asia and his second was in Iraq.

When asked what it was like going from the regimented and structured day of the military to the freedoms of a civilian, Mahoney replied, "It's a lot harder than what people say. You can't just turn the metaphorical switch off in your head. You need to adapt and re-adjust to the civilian lifestyle. I did not have a hard time at first, but it was actually a little bit after I got back it all hit me."

Reassured that joining was the right choice, Mahoney said, "Yes, I love my Corps."

He continued, "I chose Penn State Harrisburg because of the support systems here. It seems as though the community in and around the campus is more accepting of veterans.

The fact that the campus is an ex-Air Force base helps out. People here are willing to listen to you. We also get to impart the wisdom and the advice we have on the younger guys and girls in the Guard, ROTC or reserves. It lets us share what happened to us, helping the healing

process, and it also informs the younger ones ideas to talk about with you."

Terry Chaleby, who served in the Air Force for three years, reached the rank of E-4, or Senior Airman. Chaleby was stationed across the street at the 193rd Spec Ops unit at Harrisburg International Airport. His MOS was Crew Chief on the EC-130J Hercules Transport airplane.

Chaleby went straight from high school to basic training.

"I did my basic training in San Antonio," he said. "I actually never left the country while I served."

"I don't have enough activities to occupy my free time. I was even stressed at one point due to the lack of things to do. I suppose that's why I chose chemical engineering. It would occupy a lot of my free time," he continued.

Brett Klingel, who I happen to have political science with, is a Marine. His rank is E-4, or Corporal.

"The thing I really disliked about being in the service was the haircuts. I like having hair and then going to almost no hair was a big shock for me."

Klingel said, "You might know this, Matt, but I was actually in the 3092 platoon during basic training at Parris Island. That's the same one from the movie 'Full Metal Jacket'."

He said the one other thing he does not like because he was in the Corps, is the stereotyping.

He chose PSH because he came from a military family and they also happened to be builders. Deciding he did not want to do that, he came here for structural design. He also appreciates the support system here on this campus.

I urge everyone that has read this article to, if you see someone who has served their country, thank them or just sit down and have a chat with them.

The ex-servicemen and women will be more than happy to sit and speak with you as they were so gracious to do for me.

So to all of the veterans, ex-servicemen and women, active duty and those going in, Penn State Harrisburg thanks you for the sacrifices you will make to serve your country proudly.