

## Administration offers insight into parking fee

By Carol Meiser

Because of a recent petition protesting the \$10/term parking fee that was signed by 225 students who commute to Highacres, the Collegian decided to undertake the task of finding out whether or not these students really do have a just cause in complaining about the standard fee.

Many students have the misconception that all of the money that is collected from the selling of the tickets is used solely for this campus and in an unjust manner. Both of these statements, however, are invalid. First of all, the Hazleton campus does not set the required parking fee; instead, officials at University Park have made it mandatory that all branch campuses have students pay \$10/term (or less if in a carpool with other individuals) if parking their motor vehicles at the designated campuses. The total amount that each campus collects is then distributed as follows: University Park receives 90% and the branch campus receives 10%. For students to say that this small percentage is used unjustly is truly incorrect. This money is utilized mainly for the upkeep of the student parking lots; for example, repaving, "striping," plowing, and cinderizing them. The funds also provide for the salaries of personnel including those on maintenance and patrolling traffic. A portion is also used to purchase parking stickers, registration forms, etc.

According to Mr. Paul Cerula, Business Manager at Highacres, we are actually in the hole because employees have had to work overtime hours in order to alleviate the current excess of student vehicles on campus. Help from outside agencies has aided this situation, but has also had an adverse effect on the campus budget.

Another quibble that many students have is "Why aren't faculty and administration required to pay a fee to park their vehicles?" Paul Cerula answers this question: "Parking for both faculty and administration is considered a fringe benefit of employment here, just as industry provides for employees elsewhere. The maintenance fees for their upkeep comes out of a

different plant budget." Cerula also noted that students with medical permits are allowed to park on the visitor/faculty parking lot, a lot which is reserved only for this group.

To give an example of what it costs for just the construction of a parking lot, Cerula cited Parking Lot B, previously known as the "Freshmen Lot." Paved in 1970, this triple level area cost \$198,000 for its clearing, cementing, etc. Consequently, each student's contribution allowed for the construction of this lot; without it, that lot may never have been built. Theoretically, instead of walking from Lot B to classes, you may have had to park your car at the Laurel Mall (or elsewhere) and walk even further to classes!

Many students argue that many other colleges and universities do not require a parking fee. This is probably due to the simple fact that the state of Pennsylvania issued them funds, whereas Penn State University does not receive any outside aid from the state. They, themselves, must acquire funds from students attending the campuses and distribute this money accordingly.

Consider this analogy. If you were to park your vehicle downtown Hazleton, for eight hours, you would be required to put money in the nearest parking meter for those eight hours, the average amount of time a student spends on campus. Now, a few calculations. For eight hours (at .10/2 hrs.), you would have to pay forty cents. In one week that amounts to \$2.00, and in ten weeks, one term, twenty dollars. As you can see, Penn State is only charging you half that amount and even gives you a "bonus" when you park your car during final exam week.

Will the \$10/term increase? Students may be protesting again, for with the proposal for 150 additional spaces at Highacres, a slight increase may occur in the near future. Students must remember, however, that the current mandatory parking fee provides various services which enable Penn Staters to have a much safer and enjoyable stay at this university.

## G.E.D. class tours Highacres

On Tuesday December 9th, fifteen students from the G.E.D. adult class at Hazleton High School took part in a tour of the Hazleton Campus of the Pennsylvania State University.

Mr. Charles Gallagher, a guidance counselor at West Hazleton High school and instructor of the G.E.D. class, was responsible for making the arrangements for the tour of the campus, which was well received by the students.

Mr. Gallagher stated that there were three reasons why the students were taken on the tour of Penn State: To acquaint the students with a college atmosphere; to make the students aware of a higher education facility in their area; and most importantly, to encourage the

students to continue with their education.

Dr. William David, Director of the Hazleton Campus spoke to the group on the value of an education. Mr. Paul Lenhart, Asst. Director of Continuing Education at the Hazleton Campus spoke to the group on the opportunities open for continuing education at the Hazleton Campus.

This is the first time students from the G.E.D. class took part in a tour to a college campus. Mr. Gallagher said the students were very pleased with the campus and impressed by the faculty. With such a favorable reaction received on this first tour of the Hazleton Campus, Mr. Gallagher foresees other tours to the Hazleton Campus of Penn State in the future.

## UPDATE:

### Drought problem increases in severity

By George Yanoshik, Jr.

Reservoirs were brimful throughout the nation after a wet spring of 1980. The rains stopped, though, in June, and July and August were hot and dry. At first the lack of rainfall instilled no alarm in the residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania; but, when water conservation plans were imposed several months ago and people had to curtail their water consumption, the severity of what is now a nationwide drought was finally realized.

As of mid-December, the reservoirs which supply Hazleton with water contained only approximately 20 per cent of their normal capacity. Since then the reservoirs have dropped to less than 12 per cent of their capacity — it seems that the Hazleton area is literally going dry.

A happy solution to this problem would be a lot of rainfall, although by now the amount of rain needed would probably be enough to cause flooding. The early freeze, which prevented moisture from soaking into the ground has aggravated the drought problem.

To date, 103 municipalities in

Pennsylvania alone have imposed mandatory water-rationing plans, and more and more areas seem to be added to the list every week. In some areas violation of the rationing plans is backed by stiff fines.

Conservation efforts in the four-state region (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware) have cut water use, but not by enough. Officials in Pennsylvania and New Jersey had hoped to reduce consumption by 25 per cent; the actual cutback has been closer to only 10 per cent.

Several weeks ago television-and-poster campaigns — which intended to transform youngsters, in particular, into drought-detectives, timing their parents showers and their sisters baths among other things — made appearances in the New York City area. Although it is not likely that residents of Pennsylvania's Northeast will go thirsty soon, restrictions on industrial water use — even plant closings — are a possibility for the summer of 1981.

Highacres is aware of this

severe problem. Since the beginning of the winter term, the campus swimming pool has been closed. Recently, unnecessary use of cafeteria dishwashers on campus, among other water-consumption curtailments, has forced students to give up such things as lunch trays, etc. Such minor inconveniences, though, are of great help to the overall conservation effort.

With the National Weather Service forecast for the remainder of the winter being "cold — and drier than normal" a collective conservation effort is mandatory throughout the Hazleton area, the Northeastern United States, and the nation.

A note of interest concerning the water-shortage crisis should make us realize just how little we are sacrificing here on campus: students at the Panther Valley High School had to make use of portable lavatories in the halls of their building during the water emergency. Students did have access, though, to the regular lavatories during the lunch periods, after which they had to make use of the portable toilets!

## Loans change as of '81

This past summer former President Carter signed an Education Amendment of 1980, which will affect student loans starting 1981. National Direct Student Loan's (NDSL) three per cent interest rate and nine month grace period will change to four per cent interest and a six month grace period. The Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) with a seven per cent interest rate and nine month grace will change to an interest rate of nine per cent with a six month grace period.

Also, loans will be available to the parents of students. These loans consist of a maximum of 3000 dollars at nine per cent interest with a grace period of sixty days after the loan is taken out.

Maximum amounts per year and total scholastic duration are as follows. Yearly maximum for independent students is 3000 dollars, and a total maximum is 15,000 dollars. Dependent students yearly maximum is 2,500 dollars with 12,500 as total maximum. Graduate students have a yearly maximum of 500 dollars and a 25,000 total maximum. Parent loans are restricted to a 15,000 dollar maximum.

These changes will only affect those students who are first time borrowers. Students, then, who have received scholastic loans prior to 1981 will not be affected by these alterations.

## Aid Center training set

Women's Aid Center, a counseling and referral service for area women, is planning a series of hotline volunteer training sessions for February.

Sessions will be held Feb. 13, 20 and 23, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Center's office, United Way Building, 21 N. Church St. Sessions are designed to train volunteers to provide crisis intervention counseling, emotional support, and information and referral services to the caller in need.

Because of the importance of the hotline, volunteers will be asked on weekdays to be responsible for the hotline from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. the following day. The center also is hoping to find volunteers who would be willing and able to keep the hotline open on weekends.

Anyone interested in becoming a hotline volunteer is asked to call the Center at 455-9972 or go to the office any weekday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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