

Editorial

Parking regulations need to be simplified *Problem still not fixed*

It's no secret that parking, or lack thereof, is a serious problem on campus. The commuter students know it, the resident students with cars know it, the faculty knows it -- even Police and Safety knows it.

As a matter of fact, Larry Silvis, the new manager of Police and Safety, wrote a memo to the student body in order to clarify the confusing parking situation as it now exists on campus.

Unfortunately students will have to carry a copy of this memo around in order to remember all of the rules and regulations for parking. Certain parking lots may be used by certain students with certain permits at certain times but not necessarily by all students at certain times,...

The point is that Silvis has made an attempt to clear up all the questions on parking. Granted, this is a small step, but one which was needed. The next step should be simplification of the regulations, rules and exceptions to those rules.

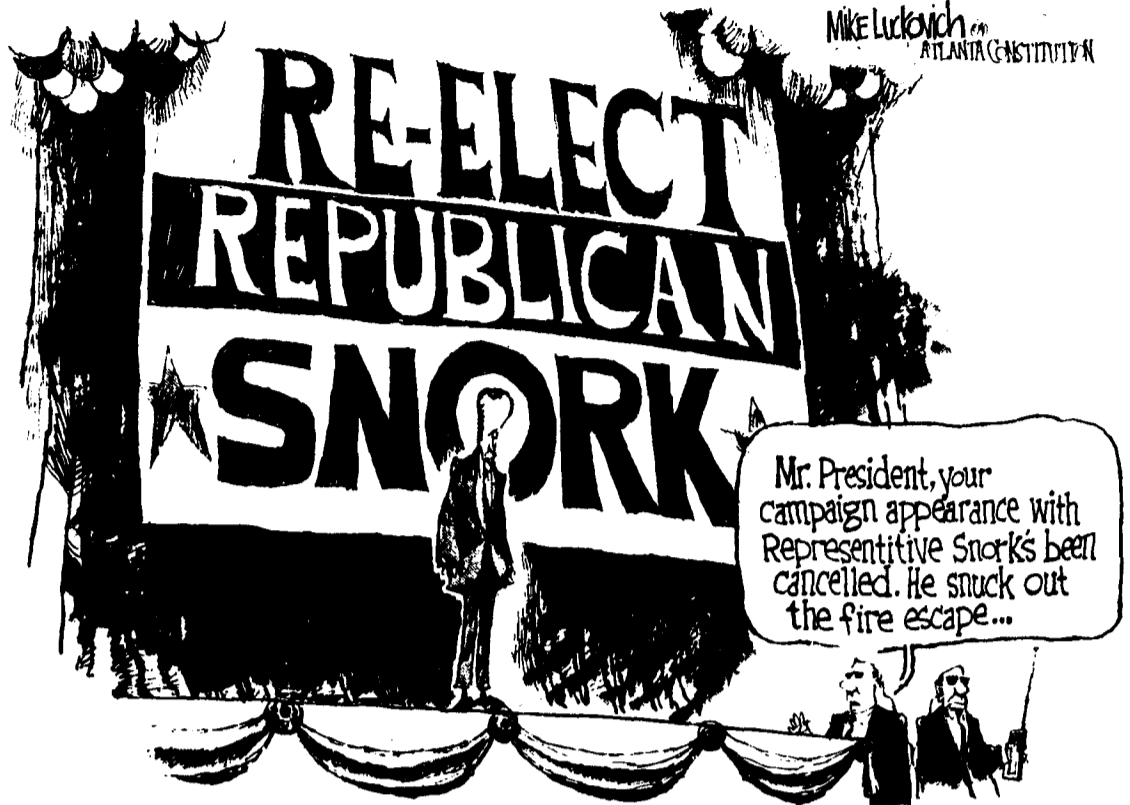
By simplifying the parking regulations, Police and Safety will certainly have significantly less problems with certain cars parked in certain wrong parking lots at certain times during certain days...

Students who park on campus deserve a little more for their parking fee than a lack of regular spaces and tons of restrictions.

Hopefully, the opening of the new parking lot above the apartments, scheduled for today, and the eventual opening of a new lot down by the Nick Building will help alleviate the problem.

Until then, students will just have to continue wondering why they ever paid for a parking permit.

Opinion / Editorial



Letters to the Editor

Paying for what

In my nine semesters here at Behrend I have paid for a lot of things. I'm paying for a quality education and I'm getting it. I pay (a great deal) for my text books, and I get those too. I pay for the interesting food in the Gorge and I get that also. I pay for my car and I drive it. I buy clothes and wear them.

I think you get my point. I'm used to getting what I pay for. But now I guess it doesn't have to work that way. I paid a lot of money to be able to park my car on campus, and that just isn't happening.

Almost every day I have to park my car in a mud hole, along the side of the busy road, or carefully tuck it into a place that I know was never meant to be a parking space. Thirty dollars is a lot of money to pay for nothing.

This has bothered me more and more every semester and I always thought it would get better. I think it has only gotten worse. I let it go, just complaining with my friends about it. But Tuesday was the last straw.

When I returned to my car (that was parked, amazingly, in a paved lot) I discovered that some juvenile delinquent had put about five feet of keyed scratch marks along one side of it. What in the HELL am I paying for!!! For \$30 I should be able to park my car in a parking lot, and feel safe about it! Over the years I have paid over \$100 to park here. By now I should have my own reserved spot and a guard patrolling the lot.

I think the parking fee should be paid at the end of the semester. Only those happy with the parking over the months should pay what they think it was worth. I know I'm not the only one that wouldn't pay. I'd ask for

the \$250 it will cost to get my car re-painted.

There, now I've said all I wanted to. I only wish I'd said something sooner. I wish all of us would say something, anything about how disgusted we are about this parking situation. Come on, guys, maybe we can do something about it.

Greg Ward
9th semester
Management/MIS

Where to write

Letters to the Editor may be submitted in *The Collegian* office located on the first floor of the Reed Union Building or placed in *The Collegian's* mailbox in the SGA suite.

Letters should be submitted by noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date. Letters must include the major, semester standing, address and phone number of the author for verification. Letters become the property of *The Collegian*.

Voicing choice

Voices for Choice was formed in 1989 as a non-partisan, non-secretarian coalition of organizations in Erie County who do not want women to lose their reproductive freedom. This freedom is an integral part of a basic right prized by all citizens; the right of privacy.

It includes the right of a woman to terminate an unintended pregnancy, if she chooses, with a legal and safe abortion during the first 24 weeks of her pregnancy. Having such a right does not mean she will actually choose an abortion; the opposite choice is equally available and often made. "Pro-

choice" is an apt label for our group; "pro-abortion" is not.

The U.S. Supreme Court in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision found a sensible balance between competing rights. The right of privacy takes precedence prior to a fetus becoming "viable." This is a "pro-life" law; every pregnant woman is free to make a difficult decision in the context of her whole life.

Before the fetus has the capability of meaningful life outside the mother's womb, the State cannot interfere with the abortion decision. In 1988 there were 50,000 abortions in Pennsylvania, 93.6% of them before the 13th week and only 0.001% after the 24th week when the potentiality of human life takes precedence unless the mother's life or health is at risk.

A reversal of *Roe v. Wade* would create total chaos in the lives of American women, the laws of the land, and the welfare system. It would be a giant step backwards to the degrading days when the wealthy traveled to foreign countries to obtain safe abortions and the poor had to choose between the risk of being maimed by illegal, back alley abortions or the certainty of birthing unwanted children for whom they could not properly care.

Some of your readers may sincerely believe abortion is wrong, and we respect their right to express their views in sermons, Letters to the Editor, and lawful demonstrations. But it is wrong to impose their beliefs on everyone.

Any legislator whose religious convictions compel him to vote for laws restricting pre-viability abortions not only is abusing the reproductive freedom of women but also is abetting a violation of one of the basic principles of our pluralistic, diverse society--the separation of church and state.

Betty Young
Chair--Voices for Choice

The Collegian

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