A PC Review of Parking Fees

By Jill Wagner

The cuts have been made in the Marian Way median, and construction of the new west end parking lot is nearly complete. Once paved and striped for 376 cars, the resident students now parking in the valley will be asked to move their cars and make way for bulldozers on the east end of campus, where work on an 1,100-space parking structure is set to begin in mid-to-late April.

The five-story, $11 million garage is scheduled to open to employees and students in January 1998. At that time, main campus parking permit fees will rise from $75 to $240 a year unless an alternative plan wins the approval of university administrators.

While construction moves forward, the university parking committee (PC) is reviewing several proposals to either lower the proposed $240 fee or institute a sliding scale fee structure.

Numerous alternative proposals have been passed onto the university-wide committee by an ad hoc group formed specifically to address parking fees. Members of the ad hoc group include staff employees, undergraduate and graduate students and one administrator who are doing the work during their lunch hour.

Some of the proposals introduced to the PC include:

- Charge employees the following fees based on their yearly salary. Under $20,000 — $100; $20,000-$40,000 — $150; $40,000-$60,000 — $200; $60,000-$80,000 — $250; and over $80,000 — $300. Charge part-time faculty and staff $150.
- Charge all full-time and part-time employees a flat rate. However, make a subsidy available to those in need.
- When deciding on student fees, charge commuter students more than residents. Students living on campus already carry more of a burden in fees than commuters, the ad hoc committee argues.
- When deciding on student fees, charge commuter students more than residents. Students living on campus already carry more of a burden in fees than commuters, the ad hoc committee argues.
- Sell reserved parking spaces to anyone — employees and students — for $600 a year.
- Apply a portion of the monies collected through parking fines toward the debt on the parking garage, thereby slightly offsetting the cost to employees and students.
- Charge a per day fee to park on campus to seminar and conference attendees and continuing education students. Currently these visitors park for free.

Chaired by Rana Sampson, director of public safety, the PC is a 20-member group of faculty, staff, administrators and students appointed by various campus organizations.

At a March 19 meeting, a majority of the PC members voiced their support, by a show of hands, for several of the ad hoc proposals. The group agreed charging visitors, selling reserve spots, increasing the price charged at parking meters on campus and reinvesting fine money back into the parking budget are viable suggestions to slightly offset the cost to permit buyers.

(Continued on page four)

University Ministry Events

Bible Study, 12:10 to 12:50 p.m., April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, in UC 104.
Faculty and Staff Prayer Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., April 16. The gathering will feature guest speaker, Father Jack Morris, S.J. Registration required by April 11. Call Sister Irene Cullen at ext. 2265.
Contemplative Retreat for Faculty, Staff and Students, April 19-20, at Prince of Peace Abbey. Waiting list only. For more information, call Sister Irene Cullen at ext. 2265.

Mothers-to-be Luncheon, noon, April 25. For more information, call Sister Irene Cullen at ext. 2265.
Faculty and Staff Families Mass, 7 p.m., April 20, in Founders Chapel. Daily Masses at Founders Chapel, 7 a.m., Monday through Saturday; 12:10 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

New Hires and Promotions

Welcome to the following employees who recently joined the USD community: Joseph Rodriguez Jr., financial aid; Flora Stevenson, dining services; Kathleen Estey, dean's office for the College of Arts and Sciences; Sharon Buntin, biology; Raylene Dickinson, bursar; Ilse Hunnicut, School of Business Administration; Aprile Lane, academic computing; and Rondi Stein, bursar. (Continued on page three)
**Benefits Brief**

- **Summer tuition remission benefits.** The cost of tuition remission benefits during fall and spring exceeded the budget for 1996/97. Tuition remission benefits will not be available for 1997 summer classes.
- **Dependent care reimbursement.** Many employees enroll their child(ren) in summer camps as an alternative to day care. Be aware that the cost of certain summer camps is not eligible for reimbursement as a dependent care expense. The sponsor of the camp must be a licensed day care provider such as the YMCA in order to qualify for reimbursement.
- **Health Net Prescription by Mail.** Forms are available in human resources. Employees may receive a three-month supply of maintenance prescription drugs for a one month co-pay. Application is easy. Allow four weeks for delivery.
- **Medical emergency notification.** Be sure to notify your primary care physician within 48-hours after emergency medical treatment. Tier two and three Health Net medical claim forms are available in the lobby of human resources.
- **Dependent students health coverage.** Dependents must complete a student certification form if they are 19 or older and a full-time student. Human resources must be notified if the dependent is no longer a full-time student. USD will then offer COBRA coverage to the dependent.

To reach Health Net SELECT membership services, call (800) 676-6976. To have your call directed immediately, dial “0” when the message starts. When the second message starts, dial “O” a second time.

— Vicki Coscia

---

**Around the World in 80 Days, Times 14**

*By Jill Wagner*

Liz O’Connell will soon give up her rented home for a two-bedroom, two-bath sailboat. And, yes, she will be sailing. Around the world, in fact. This is not a move to a cushy marina with grocery stores and restaurants within walking distance.

O’Connell and her husband, Gary George, will board Climax IV in November and set sail for Mexico, where they will spend their first winter waiting out the South Pacific storm season. But even when not sailing, the newlywed couple will anchor offshore and live on the 38-foot sailboat.

For O’Connell and George, who were married in August, the excursion is a dream come true. And a heck of a lot of work.

While living and earning her Ph.D. in Chicago, O’Connell, associate dean of graduate and continuing education, sailed racing sloops, but she was never on the water for more than a day. Preparing for this trip has included a class in coastal navigation and a self-taught course in Morse code and HAM radio operation to earn her license.

George, meanwhile, retired four years ago and has spent those years readying himself and Climax IV for the cruise he expects will take three to five years. Part of his preparation included a single-handed cruise to Tahiti and back in 1995. An engineer by training, the skipper built a generator for the boat and is now refurbishing the refrigeration system.

O’Connell, who will resign her position at the university to take this adventure, laughs good naturedly but also with a sense of relief when she tells of all the back-up systems for navigation, electricity, radios and life preservers that their sailboat carries. It’s all George’s doing.

“He’s got a backup for everything on the boat,” O’Connell says. “I thought it was appropriate that a guy with two first names would have a redundancy issue.”

Redundant, perhaps. Safe, definitely.

O’Connell expresses little apprehension about spending weeks at a stretch on the open sea. She and George will take turns as skipper. An auto pilot will steer the boat, although they will alternate standing two-hour watches at night and three-hour watches during the day.

“Gary is an incredible sailor and very patient,” O’Connell says. “It gives me all the confidence I need to work with him.”

While not on watch, O’Connell and George will spend the day plotting their position, maintaining the boat and performing minor repairs, checking in periodically with a network of HAM radio operators and monitoring the weather through FAXed information.

“O’Connell, who admits she doesn’t cook much, will be in charge of provisioning the galley and preparing meals. A shakedown cruise to Seattle this summer will help her know what kind of food lasts the longest and how to provision for up to 30 days at sea. She will also be in charge of first aid and medical supplies.

O’Connell and George both have laptop computers on which they will keep journals and O’Connell is collecting books to read. She plans to set the tone and get in the sailing mood with Homer’s epic, *The Odyssey*.

Plans now call for relaxing and exploring the Mexican coast until April 1998, then cruising to the South Pacific. After the first year, O’Connell and George will wait out the storm season in Hawaii. The next year will find them in New Zealand, hopefully with the boat safely in a marina so the duo can do some exploring by land.

Just when it sounds as if her life is planned step-by-step for the next three years, O’Connell throws out a dose of reality.

“All this, of course, is predicated on that fact that we don’t sink the boat,” she says, smiling with the confidence of a true sailor who really has no such fear but doesn’t want to jinx the trip by sounding too secure.
Gawww-ly, Mayberry is Coming to USD

You know those reruns shown on Nickelodeon, the old classic TV shows that date to the days of black and white? Well, start watching, especially The Andy Griffith Show. And practice whistling that famous tune from the theme song because you just might be asked to show off your talents at this year's Staff Employees Recognition Picnic.

Slated for June 20, the annual picnic is a place for all employees to "Come to the County Fair at Mayberry USD." Game booths and traditional relay races pit the five divisions of the university against each other will highlight the afternoon. All employees are invited to enter a fruit pie or homemade chocolate chip cookies in a bake-off contest, to be judged by your peers. And after lunch is served, there will be time to cheer for the folks celebrating five years of service to the university.

Put on your best or wildest hat to attend the county fair (like Sheriff Andy and Aunt Bea used to do in Mayberry), then take it off to honor the employee of the year and administrator of the year, both of whom will be named at the picnic.

The 1997 event will find a new home on the lawn behind Copley Library, instead of at the Sports Center pool, and will run from noon to 3 p.m.

In the spirit of a county fair where animals are often the centerpiece, a contest in the May issue of the Alcala View will ask you to match the USD employee with their beloved furry friend. A prize will be awarded at the picnic to the person with the most correct matches. Start checking your co-workers' desks for pictures of their pooches and kitties, it might help you win!

Be Brave and Bike

Life's too short to spend every morning sitting in traffic. Try biking to work instead, you may surprised at how cleared-headed you feel once at the top of Marian Way.

Pedal to work Thursday, May 22, as part of the statewide California Bike Commute celebration and the folks at the Hahn University Center will provide a free breakfast. As an official pit stop for the morning cyclists, USD will also be giving away Power Bars, Bullfrog suntan lotion and other goodies.

The UC pit stop will be open from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. For more information, call Greg Zackowski at ext. 4796.

Last year's commuters enjoyed a breakfast of waffles and orange juice.

New Review Process Approved

Guest speaker Thomas Barnett, assistant director of human resources, announced to the SEA board of representatives in March that the performance management evaluation system was approved by the President's Advisory Committee.

The more than 500 staff employees on campus now will be asked to set goals and evaluate their own job performance under the new system. Within the next year, all employees will switch to being evaluated in March rather than on the anniversary of their hiring. The staffers in the finance and administration division have already made this change.

Barnett will spend the next two months training virtually every staff employee and supervisor to use the process that encourages dialogue and personal goal setting within each department.

In other business at the March 12 meeting:

- Social committee chair Yolanda Castro announced the SEA will have tickets available for two Padres baseball games this summer. The first is the June 21 game where free T-shirts will be given to all fans and the second is the Aug. 29 game followed by the KGB Sky Show. Watch the campus mail for fliers announcing the ticket sales.

New Hires and Promotions (Continued from page one)

Congratulations to the following employee who recently received a promotion or reclassification:

Catherine Trzos, executive assistant to the vice president of mission and ministry.

Deaths

Mary Jane Desmond Gorman, mother of M. Jane Gorman, director of the Institute for Christian Ministries, on Feb. 23.

Mary Dummer, mother of Mary Jo Clark, associate dean in the Philip Y. Hahn School of Nursing, on March 9.

Sincere Thanks

Thank you for your prayers, sympathy cards and personal notes in remembrance of my brother. May God continue to bless all of you.

—Barbara Burke

Classifieds

For Rent. 4-bedroom, 3-bath, furnished, custom-built home 5 miles from USD. Available the beginning of summer for one-year lease (owners will be on sabbatical out of the country). $1,700/month. Call Miriam Rothman at ext. 4856 or Randy at 293-3809.

Wanted to Rent. House or condominium, August 1997 through May 1998 for three responsible USD scholars. Prefer within two blocks of campus. Call Jo Powers at ext. 4553.

For Sale. Personal emergency phone dialer, like new, under two-year warranty. Great for elderly living alone. $75 or best. Call Jo Powers at ext. 4553.


Good Home Needed. for 2-year-old Australian shepherd. Neutered male with all his shots. Call Marie Simovich at ext. 4083.
Psst... 
Bits and Pieces from the Readers

It's a guy thing. That's what one Psst... reader concluded after taking an informal survey of who walks over the presidential seal in the Maher Hall foyer and who carefully avoids stepping on the giant tile emblem. One guy stopped in his tracks and stepped to the right while his two female companions waltzed right over the seal as if they had no idea it was there. That was true for the more than two dozen women observed traversing the foyer.

So what is it that compels the men, especially those who live upstairs in the Maher dorms, to shuffle around the symbol?

Good old-fashioned word-of-mouth that starts with the campus tour guides who tell prospective students it's a time-honored tradition to avoid the seal. Apparently once in the dorms, that tradition reinforces itself.

When this tradition began is only speculation. The grapevine says Dr. Hughes had something to do with it.

By the way, our observer noted the older, employee types walking through the building generally stomped across the emblem. A few exceptions were those whose offices are housed in Maher. Word spreads. ...

---

Sparaco is Remembered Fondly

Robert Sparaco became an invaluable member of the university's picnic committee when he marched into Calista Davis' office and offered his help in decorating for the annual fete. For four years he spruced up the event with live trees, palm fronds and fresh flowers — whatever it took to create a festive atmosphere.

Sparaco also served his fellow staff employees as a representative to the Staff Employees Association. He spent four of his nearly 10 years at USD on the SEA board.

Sparaco died from a blood clot in his lungs on March 2. He was 41.

He joined the USD community in August 1987 as a gardener in grounds maintenance and was promoted to supervisor in November 1988.

A campus memorial service held March 25 in Founders Chapel honored Sparaco and his many contributions to the university.

---

Yoga Study Group

All members of the USD community are invited to attend the following special events presented by the Committee on Enhanced Student-Faculty Interaction:

Yoga and the Treatment of Pain, 4 to 5 p.m., April 9, in UC 107. Richard Prince, director of the La Jolla Pain Treatment Center, will discuss the use of yoga in the alleviation of pain.

Zen workshop, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., April 22. Deborah Barrett, co-founder of the Newport Mesa Zen Center, will speak at this workshop.

---

All that Jazz

New Orleans may have the biggest jazz fest in the country, but San Diego won't be far behind this year, thanks to USD's TransBorder Institute. "The TransBorder Jazz Explosion" is scheduled for April 23-27 at the Lyceum Theater in downtown San Diego.

Scheduled artists include ESP PLUS, a local jazz ensemble, The Tijuana Jazz Progressive Ensemble, Octagon, featuring Hollis Gentry III, and Daniel Jackson and The Jazz Masters. All shows on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday begin at 8 p.m.

Other events planned to round out the weekend are "Birdland Revisited: A Miles Davis Retrospective" at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, and a free jazz workshop for children from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27.

Watch for more news about ticket sales at the Hahn University Center box office. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Terra Segura International, a non-profit organization founded by Dan Wolf, director of the Transborder Institute, to clear the 100 million-plus anti-personnel land mines scattered around the world.

---

Parking

(Continued from page one)

According to a proposal shared at an open budget meeting in December, university officials are looking to raise $1.1 million from the sale of parking permits. That money will help pay for construction costs, parking lot repairs and maintenance, and the tram service.

Meetings to hash out the proposals will continue and eventually the PC will forward any recommendations for a change in the $240 fee to the President's Advisory Council.