Parking is Simple at New Complex

Crews work furiously to complete the Mission Parking Complex as early in the spring semester as possible.

By Jill Wagner

A focal point of much attention in the past year, the Mission Parking Complex stands near completion at the main entrance to the campus.

As of press time, employees, visitors, commuter and resident students are expected to begin using the new garage the first or second week of February. Weather delays and the fickle schedules of city and state inspectors kept construction crews working double shifts to open the 275,000-square-foot (more than three times as big as any other building on campus) structure as early in the spring semester as possible.

University officials are determined to open the parking complex sooner rather than later, especially because permit fees increased this semester to help pay for construction of the facility.

With recommendations from the parking committee, public safety officials earmarked the 975 spaces in the garage as follows:

Resident students — first floor and part of the second floor;

Commuter students, faculty, staff and administrators — remainder of the second floor, all of the third and fourth floors, part of the fifth floor;

Visitors — remainder of the fifth floor (about 70 spaces).

Signs, rather than colored striping, designate where each group is eligible to park. In the garage, F/S permit holders share parking spaces with commuter students. The surface lots currently striped with yellow spaces for faculty/staff permits remain the same.

An ad hoc group and the university-wide parking committee spent nearly nine months, from December 1996 to July 1997, examining payment options before forwarding recommendations to President Alice B. Hayes. Permit fees are $120 per year for main campus parking ($60 this semester) and $25 ($12.50 this semester) for fringe lots. Reserved spaces in lots near Olin Hall, Hughes Center, Warren Hall and the Hahn University Center are $360 a year ($180 this semester) and quickly proved to be a

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Join the Lecture Circuit

The beginning of the spring semester brings with it a calendar of impressive lectures sponsored by the School of Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences.

On Friday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Professor Tu Weiming's public lecture will cap a series of events in conjunction with the Ethics Across the Curriculum workshop. Weiming is professor of Chinese history and philosophy at Harvard University, and focuses his research on the cross-cultural dimensions of human rights and environmental ethics. For information, contact the philosophy department at ext. 4705.

Bernard Cooke, the 1997-98 Knapp professor of liberal arts in the theological and religious studies department, will deliver a public lecture on Monday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m., in the Hahn University Center Forum. Cooke will explore the question of whether we can speak of a spirituality that is distinctly Christian. Sponsored by the Institute for Christian Ministries, proceeds will benefit the practical theology/pastoral care and counseling scholarship fund. Tickets are $10. For information, call ext. 4784.

The School of Nursing 10th annual nursing lectureship is Wednesday, Feb. 18, 4 p.m., in Manchester Auditorium. Suzanne Gordon, an author, investigative reporter and health care specialist, will speak on "Life Support: Protecting and Promoting Nursing in a Market-Driven Health Care System." For information, call ext. 4548.
Benefits Brief
Employees who waived USD medical coverage for 1998:
Open enrollment is not complete until your completed medical declination statement is on file in human resources.
1998-99 tuition remission:
Full-time students who are eligible for financial aid must file for 1998-99 assistance before the appropriate Feb./March financial aid/law financial aid deadlines. A notice was sent through campus mail on Feb. 2 explaining basic financial aid requirements, with instructions on how to apply for tuition remission benefits.

Students who are in the process of applying for acceptance to USD, and who are eligible for financial aid, must also apply for aid before the Feb./March deadlines, even though they have not yet been accepted. Tuition remission benefits may be affected if the student fails to meet the appropriate deadline. Contact the financial aid or law financial aid office for deadline and filing requirements.

Health membership service numbers for 1998; Health Net (800) 676-6976; Kaiser (800) 464-4000; DeltaCare PMI (800) 422-4234; Delta Preferred (619) 458-1340.
— Vicki Coscia

University Ministry Events
Twilight Retreat, 5 p.m., Feb. 2, in Founders faculty lounge. Faculty and staff are invited for a time of quiet reflection and communal prayer. For reservations, call Sister Irene Cullen at ext. 2265.

All-Faith Service, noon, Feb. 6, in The Immaculata Church.

Ash Wednesday Masses, Feb. 25, 7 a.m., 12:10 and 5 p.m., in Founders Chapel; 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. in The Immaculata Church.

Bible Study, 12:10 to 12:50 p.m., every Tuesday. For more information, call Father Vince Walsh at ext. 6818.

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Commuter's Corner

The Rail Thing

Debbie Finocchio wishes her co-workers would try it just once. One time on the Coaster commuter train and they'd be hooked, she says.

If the breathtaking views of the Pacific and chance to get some reading done isn't enough incentive, watching the train whiz by a jammed freeway should help. Finocchio, a lab coordinator and instructor in chemistry, lives in Encinitas and rides the train five days a week to the Old Town transit center.

What does she like best about using alternative transportation? "The free time I have on the train to get work done," she says. "Actually, it's a toss up between that and the stress I don't have from driving."

Commuting by mass transit in Southern California may not be quite as convenient as in more compact cities like Boston or Washington, D.C., but Finocchio has some tricks that makes the 75-minute commute hassle free.

She buys a monthly pass that works on the Coaster, bus and trolley, giving her the freedom to use any of the transit vehicles without individual tickets. Since moving to Encinitas in June and choosing a home within walking distance to the train and bus stops, Finocchio's husband also rides mass transportation. The couple figured the monthly passes are as much as they would spend on gas and maintenance for their car.

Finocchio carries one shoulder bag and brings only what will fit in that bag — work, books, lunch. Lightweight binders hold all her work so if papers fall from her lap nothing will blow away. And she is careful to wear shoes that will be comfortable for the mile walk to or from the Old Town station if she decides to make the trek on foot.

The 37-minute train ride ends in Old Town, where Finocchio chooses between the trolley or the No. 44 bus to get across the Morena Boulevard bridge onto Linda Vista Road. The trolley goes to the Napa Street station, from where Finocchio walks to Alcalá Park via the west entrance. The bus drops passengers at the campus' main entrance. The same connections take her back to Old Town in the afternoon.

Regular USD commuters often meet at the bus stop or station and share the ride home together, Finocchio notes. Just one more perk compared to battling traffic alone.

Transit schedules are available at the Hán University Center information desk. Transit passes can be purchased at the UC box office.

Survey Results to be Shared at Town Hall

Larry Gardepie, business process analyst and administrative liaison to the Staff Employees Association, reported at the January meeting an excellent return on the values surveys distributed to faculty, staff and administrators last October.

Forty percent of the faculty and administrators completed the survey that questioned how well the university community lives up to its stated mission and values. Staff employees returned the surveys at a rate of 34 percent. With this type of survey, anything over a 10 percent return rate is considered excellent, Gardepie noted.

Survey findings will be discussed at a town hall meeting, from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 12, in the Manchester Executive Conference Center auditorium. A spokesperson for each group of employees will begin the discussion with his or her impression of the survey results, what common themes arose and what people are looking to improve. Alex Lailson, locksmith in building maintenance, is the staff representative.

All employees are encouraged to read the summary of results distributed through campus mail and attend the town hall meeting.

Walk This Way

Marsha Gonzalez, public safety officer, is forming a team for the Multiple Sclerosis walk-a-thon, set for March 22 at Seaport Village. Last year a USD team raised $700 for the charity — Gonzalez is striving for $1,000 or more this year.

Walk-a-thon participants can stride a 5K or 10K. For more information, contact Gonzalez at ext. 4517.
Staff Salary Schedule Changes

Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of the new staff salary schedule effective Jan. 19, 1998. The new schedule reflects a 6.5 percent adjustment over the previous salary schedule. However, it does not mean every staff employee automatically receives a 6.5 percent raise.

This change, originally proposed to take effect in 1999, is intended to help keep USD salaries competitive with the larger job market. Efforts by Dave McCluskey, acting vice president for finance and administration, and Judith Muñoz, director of human resources, facilitated the change earlier than planned.

Staff employees whose current salaries fall below the new minimum in their pay grade will automatically be adjusted to the new amount. No department action form (DAF) is necessary for these changes. The adjusted hourly rate will take effect beginning with the Feb. 9 paycheck. These changes are completely separate from, and in addition to, merit increases expected in March.

Also, a small amount of discretionary money was given to each vice president for salary adjustments to people who have been at the maximum of their range without pay raises, and to people who have been in the same position for more than four years and are still below the first quartile in their pay range. Adjustment in these categories is separate from the merit increases set for March.

Because there are more employees in these two categories than there is money to make adjustments, changes will be made based on performance. For more information on the changes being made in these categories, consult your supervisor.

For questions about the new salary schedule, contact Thom Barnett, assistant director of human resources, at ext. 6611.

Parking
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hot item when permits went on sale in January. Parking services officials report selling 60 reserved permits on the first day of sales. Special striping in these lots will designate which spaces are reserved. Violators will be fined $100 for illegally parking in a reserved space.

Hayes also embraced the recommendation to charge visitors to park on campus and set the daily rate at $3. The expected income from visitor fees helped to offset the annual rates charged to employees and students. However, Hayes will delay charging individual visitors until August, when public safety will have had the chance to see how traffic flows through the new entrances and determine how to best use the new kiosks. In the meantime, conferences, workshops or seminars that bring 20 or more guests to campus will be charged $3 a day per car.

The Mission Parking Complex is the first structure of the university's master development plan to be constructed. Combined with the new parking lot in the west canyon, the garage increases the number of spaces on campus over last year at this time.

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