

UNL creates additional parking spaces for faculty, staff

By Jerry Guenther
Senior Reporter



Although some commuter-student parking spaces have been replaced with faculty and staff parking, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln parking administrator said about the same number of spaces still will be available to students.

Lt. John Burke of the UNL Police Department said about 80 student stalls in the southwest corner of Lot 25, located north of the women's softball field, were switched to faculty and staff parking last week.

That change was necessary, Burke said, because about 45 faculty and staff spots beside the power plant were closed last May.

The lot next to the power plant had to be closed because cars parked there received paint damage from acidic mist that was sprayed from air conditioning coolers, he said.

But UNL parking officials created about 80 new stalls for students in Lot 25, which will compensate for the stalls they lost, Burke said.

He said the new spaces were created for students instead of staff to keep student and faculty lots segregated for easier enforcement.

Officials were able to create the new stalls

when an abandoned railroad track was removed earlier this year, Burke said.

Eventually, the rest of the abandoned railroad track will be removed in the faculty and staff parking lot north of Nebraska Hall, adding additional faculty and staff parking spots, he said.

Burke said 22 of the 80 new faculty and staff spots will be converted this fall to two-hour meters to help ease the demand for parking from people using the Recreation Center.

After those spots are converted, Burke said, 42 student stalls from Lot 25 also will be converted to two-hour meters.

In a separate change, Burke said, two rows of metered stalls in the lot between Andrews Hall and Selleck Hall were changed to faculty and staff spots on a trial basis.

Burke said UNL created those spots because faculty and staff members needed some extra

parking. But a decision on whether that change will be permanent will not come until later this fall, he said.

"When school starts," Burke said, "it's tough to figure out how many spots will be needed in each area."

He said about 75 spots on the west side in Lot 16 have been sold to faculty members as reserved parking. Only 18 of the spaces previously were reserved. Lot 16 is north of the Union Plaza.

The reserved faculty spots cost \$240 a year, and gates will be added to make the area accessible only by a computerized card, he said.

Until the gates are installed, Burke said, a "parking cadet" has been placed at the entrance to prevent unauthorized motorists from parking there and to help drivers find other parking places.

Burke said a new student lot near 19th and S streets that was completed last November only

has been about half-filled when he has monitored it.

The lot has 500 commuter stalls, and 170 spots for students in fraternities, sororities and residence halls, he said.

"I think it takes a little bit (of time) for people to get used to that new lot," he said.

Burke said motorists who park in the wrong areas cause the biggest parking problems.

UNL police have not strictly enforced parking restrictions so far this year because many people are not used to them, he said.

Parking officials sell about 35 percent more commuter parking permits than there are spaces available, and about 4 percent more faculty and staff permits than spaces available, he said.

Residence hall parking permits are not oversold, he said.

Burke said UNL parking administrators oversell more commuter permits than faculty and staff permits because students use the lots at more varied times than faculty and staff.

Students still may buy parking permits for this year, Burke said, but sales for commuter lots are nearing capacity.

So far, Burke said, he hasn't received many complaints about the parking changes.

"I hope that's a good sign," he said.

Hill to formulate strategic plan

By Jana Pedersen
Senior Reporter

In an attempt to come up with a "truly new and creative" idea, ASUN president Bryan Hill announced that he wants to develop a strategic plan for combatting problems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Hill said he wants to organize a group of UNL student leaders, faculty members and administrators who would participate in a weekend retreat.

At the retreat, he said, participants could discuss problems they feel are

important at UNL and come up with solutions, which then could be formulated into a strategic plan.

Hill announced his plan at Wednesday's Association of Students of the University of Nebraska senate meeting.

Hill said he modeled the retreat idea after a similar project called "New Horizons," which was organized by state Sen. Bill Barrett, speaker of the Nebraska Legislature.

"New Horizons" involved people from across Nebraska who met to address state problems they felt were important, Hill said.

He said the success of "New Horizons" led him to believe a similar idea could work in developing a strategic plan for UNL.

A standardized, scientific survey of UNL students also could be used in developing the plan, Hill said.

The survey would ask students which campus problems they feel are most important and give students a chance to suggest solutions, he said.

By combining the survey results with ideas formulated at the retreat, Hill said he could develop a strategic plan for combatting problems at UNL that adequately represents student, faculty and administration views.

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Benford said. "Most choices available to other youth are not available to them."

Benford said more money should be spent on education, scholarships, employment and things that "encourage youth in other directions."

Jay Corzine, associate professor of sociology, said educational programs must begin in elementary school if they are to be effective.

Some programs are more effective than others, he said. For example, telling students that using needles is more dangerous than other means of taking drugs may reduce intravenous drug use, while telling students to avoid all drugs, including alcohol, will not be as effective.

Corzine agreed with Joneson that Bush's program covers a broader scope than previous drug programs.

The focus is on cocaine, Corzine and Miller said, because it is one of

the new drugs. Corzine said that crack, refined cocaine in crystalline rock form, has a high potential for profit, so there are many groups vying for control of the trade. This increases the amount of drug-related violence.

There is some indication that someone high on crack is more violent, Corzine said, but he thinks that most of the increased violence is caused by people vying for money.

She also said money for an anti-drug program should be taken from defense spending, not from housing.

Robert Benford, assistant professor of sociology, agreed. Benford said that like U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden Jr. D-Del., he disagrees with the Bush administration for spending \$300 billion on the military, while refusing to spend even a fraction of that amount for a drug war that the United States is losing.

"It seems that most of the money

is being allocated to programs that treat the drug problem as an individual problem, after the person already has the addiction or problem," Benford said.

But "this is fundamentally a social problem," he said.

Benford said his biggest objection to Bush's proposal is the "failure to distinguish between users and abusers."

This is a problem, he said, because jails are full and criminals may have to wait to go to trial. While in jail, he said, they learn to become better criminals. Then, he said, they are let out of jail.

The drug problem, he said, is primarily an inner-city problem. So it would be a mistake to take money away from programs such as housing that might help those in urban areas, he said.

"Inner-city youth have to have viable alternatives for careers,"

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bases of all living organisms, Willett said.

DNA sequencing can be valuable to researchers dealing with diseases such as cancer and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Koenig said.

"It is important that we recognize that through sequencing we can conceivably find the mystery surrounding over 400 genetic diseases that plague humans, including cancer, and eradicate them through the help of medical science," Willett said.

DNA sequencing is not limited to humans, Koenig said, but is useful when studying any living organism.

Currently, GenTest is working for the Smith-Kline Animal Health Program in Pennsylvania and the Frederick Cancer Research Facility in Maryland, Willett said.

Willett and Koenig said they were inspired to start the business in January 1989 when John Brumbaugh, a UNL biology professor, spoke on the subject in an entrepreneurship class they were taking.

Brumbaugh is the former director of the Laboratory for DNA Sequencing and Genome Analysis at UNL and has been involved in DNA sequencing for more than six years, Willett said.

Brumbaugh developed the testing methods that GenTest uses, he said.

Willett said Brumbaugh brought his idea to the class because, as a professor, he could not expand his research to private businesses.

After discussing the business idea with Brumbaugh and researching the market, Koenig and Willett saw great potential in the business, Koenig said.

Koenig and Willett both graduated from UNL in May 1989. Willett received a master's degree in business administration and Koenig received a bachelor's of science degree.

Koenig said they turn to Brumbaugh for help with any business problems they have.

Koenig and Willett began the business July 5 with private funding, Willett said.

Their office is located in the Whittier school building, which now is used for research. They rent their laboratory space at Manter Hall from UNL, he said.

Rhonda Fliege, the laboratory technician, is their only employee, Koenig said.

Fliege, who graduated from Kearney State College in May 1989, said she enjoys the job because it is challenging and interest-

ing.

Fliege said she does most of the actual DNA sequencing. Koenig and Willett help out when they can, Koenig said.

The whole process of sequencing DNA takes four to five days, Fliege said.

GenTest charges its customers a minimum price of 99 cents per DNA base, Willett said, plus a \$100 fee for projects less than 1,000 bases long and \$50 for projects between 1,000 and 5,000 bases long.

GenTest's owners said they hope to expand their business to diagnostics and forensics, where researchers analyze DNA left at the scene of a crime to identify criminals.

Willett said he hopes their business someday will become a major diagnostic and sequencing company for the country in addition to benefiting Nebraska.

"This business is the type of thing Nebraska needs," he said. "It will bring new opportunity to our state. It will increase the number of highly technical jobs and encourage those who specialize in that area to stay in the state."

For now, however, the company's main goal is to satisfy current customers and establish a good reputation, Koenig said.



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