Parking Glut Mismanaged

The University parking situation is one of the most annoying and mismanaged problems on campus. In return for paying $15 for a parking decal, one may expect nevertheless to pay parking tickets, drive around campus for long periods of time looking for available space, and to be forced finally to park illegally.

One would think that the University could do more about the parking space glut than build a parking garage with the money they collect from the Coliseum, decals, fines and meters. The University collected $92,624 from these sources over a six month period last year alone.

The parking garage will cost over $1 million and it is being financed by this money collected from the students. But the garage only serviced 646 garage decal owners this year. Out of over 5,000 students with registered cars, this number pales in significance.

Also, these 5,000 students with student decals are served by only approximately 3,000 parking spaces designated for students. And out of over two thousand students with commuting student decals, only 400 spaces have been allotted.

One must also remember that not all students, especially off-campus students, have decals for their cars. Last fall, there were almost 12,000 students living off-campus. This number comprises almost two thirds of the student body. Most live too far away to walk to campus.

The majority of USC students, therefore, must drive to class. They are forced by the lack of decal space and meter space to throw away their money on tickets for illegal parking they are forced to accept in order to attend class.

Once again the University (and city) take unfair advantage of the students that support it. And once again, the students get little in return.

"It is a newspaper's duty to print the news, and raise hell." -- Wilbur F. Storey, The Chicago Times, 1861

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