

PS: parking on this campus sucks



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OOH, THERE'S A SPOT Campus lots are filling up, but Parking Services doesn't seem to be doing much about it.

For less than \$60, most Edmonton-area students can easily access all that Edmonton Transit Service has to offer, like hundreds of bus routes and LRT service to campus. However, not everyone can enjoy this privilege. In my area of the city, bus routes have been cut heavily rather than increased. So, about three years ago, due to the unreliability of service in my area, I bought myself a car, insured it, bought a parking pass to Windsor car park, and all was well. Times change, however, and with the parking situation on campus in dire need of a fix, I'm wishing I had stayed on ETS' case to improve their service.

Prices have increased every year for campus parking, but spaces haven't. Also, even as much as demand increases, you can't sell more spaces than actually exist, can you? Though it may seem like a myth, the state of parking has left me wondering if the University has actually oversold its parking lots. It seems that there aren't enough spaces to accommodate the amount of cars, the University doesn't keep tabs on when the lots are actually full, and that priorities don't go to pass holders.

Up until last year in Windsor, I used to be able to find a decent space on demand. Now it's either a case of come a half-hour early, circle the lot

like a vulture, wait for someone to leave, or come late, right when people are clearing out from a previous class. I know of some pass holders that actually have to park at a meter before their class, then move their car and look around for a space during a spare.

Meanwhile Parking Services has done nothing as far as I can tell, and it seems that certain things are looked the other way on, while other things are ridiculous and in need of change. First of all, do we need the motorcycle spots to remain for motorcycles after it snows? I think most of us Windsorites have been dinged with a ticket thinking there's no way they would ticket you for parking in one of the motorcycle spots in a snow-storm in December.

Then there's those cars we've all seen that never move. Anyone who tries to get a space on the bottom level has seen the non-running red late-'60s Plymouth Fury II—the one that sits in the same space, day and night, and never moves. This has to be either illegal or some sort of parking lot scandal involving employees. No one should be allowed to have unrestricted, 24/7/365 storage of their vehicle in a university lot where spaces are desperately needed.

Finally, the lots also just aren't monitored well enough. We read in Campus Crime Beat about cars being stolen. I've also witnessed road rage as frustration increases over finding spaces. People end up speeding, having accidents, fighting with other drivers,

vandalizing cars and stealing them. It's now to the point where using the lot is a dangerous risk to you and your car, as innocent a bystander as you might be. In years passed, I regularly used to see parking patrol trucks around the lot. Now I don't see them anymore, even when parking patrol and security should be stepped up in the lots.

Parking needs to be safe, reliable and easy for all students and visitors to the U of A, and PS has not been there to implement or enforce any policies to make this so, from what I've seen. We won't see any new spaces unfortunately, but we should see new rules, new policies and increased patrol that prevents problems like I've described. And it needs to be soon, before it gets more out of hand than it already is.

THE BURLAP SACK

Coca-Cola and Nestlé are going to release a drink called Enviga in the US in January. They claim that if a person drinks three of the 355ml cans, that person can burn 60-100 calories. According to CBC's website, "the claim is based on research on how an antioxidant in green tea speeds up metabolism and energy use, especially when combined with caffeine."

CBC also writes that Coca-Cola's "claim depends partly on research that hasn't been publicly released or formally reviewed by other scientists, and skeptics aren't convinced of the health benefits." Okay, Coca-Cola, come to the U of A, and ask any scientist on this campus how reliable a non-peer-reviewed study is, or what they think of data that aren't publicly verifiable. Of course your "study" shows that people burned 60-100 calories if they drank *three* Envigas! If I drank three 355ml of anything, I would burn calories from getting up and dashing to the can every two minutes!

And besides, even if I wanted to ply myself with caffeine and green tea extracts to burn calories, couldn't I just drink regular caffeinated tea and then some green tea, rather than buying Enviga? Or just exercise?

According to the CBC, "Coca-Cola says the product can be part of a balanced lifestyle." Well, Enviga can also be part of the contents of my burlap sack. Delivering a nice, satisfying beating and mopping the floor afterwards can burn 60-100 calories too.

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