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Parking shortage not viewed as critical

By DUNCAN MANSFIELD
Gamecock Staff Writer

USC is adequately handling its campus parking situation, according to George A. Key, director of Public Safety, Security and Communications.

Campus security officials conducted surveys of the USC parking situation and studied parking plans of other universities. Their findings revealed that a two-to-one ration of total studentnt decals to parking spaces satisfactorily met USC parking requirements,Key said.

The University provides more parking spaces in relation to the 2,877 decals issued to faculty and staff, than is the case with student parking.

"People want to park within two blocks of their destination,"Key said in refrence to the much debated campus parking problem. Key observed that many students who have parking decals for University lots will use meter parking spaces to get closer to classrooms.

Campus security statistics show 6,697 parking spaces available on campus. This figure compares to 6,238 spaces in use last year. Campus parking consists of 1,791 spaces for faculty and staff, 3,483 surface student spaces, 515 campus

meter spaces and 908 spaces in the Blossom Street garage. An additional 500 An additional 500 spaces will be available on Jan. 1 when half of the Pendleton Street garage is opened.

There are also 1,700 city parking spaces within a d istance of foru to five blocks surrounding the campus. These spaces include street parking, meters and parking lots.

This year the University sold 6,800 student parking decals. Campus security figures show that 2,262 decals belong to students living campus.

Assuming these vehicles are moved from the student lots infrequently, only 2,129 spaces can be guaranteed to the be available for the 4,538 commuting students who own parking decals.

While it is common knowledge among students that they cannot park in faculty-reserved parking areas between 8 a.m. and 5p.m., the reverse istrue for the faculty. One University dean received a ticket when he parked in a student lot recently, Key said.

When many parking tickets are issued, Key feels it is a sign "the parking control is not working properly." From July -1 Dec. 31, 1974, there were \$61,483 collected in campus parking fines. A total of \$58,885 was collected from between Jan. and June 30, 1975. Money received from parking tickets is placed into a bonded account by security officials to be used for general im-

provementns of all parking facilities,Key said.

"Our goal is to let no person (faculty, staff or student) accumulate more than \$25 in parking fines," Key said. One student collected \$300 in parking fines a few years ago, Key recalled.

In an effort to decrease the number parking violations, campus security has begun to tow in cars that have been fined more than \$25 in cases dwhere the owner has failed to answer two summons. To get his car back , the guilty owner must pay his parking fine and a \$15 towing fee...

"Towing should have a very telling effect" on parking violations, Key said. "Everybody says they (the meter patrol) are doing a terrific job," he said sarcastically. "But we (Campus Security) could write five-times as many tickets, if we wanted to," Key said.

USC does not receive money from the State for parking. Because of rising construction costs, Key expects the parking fees at the new Pendleton Street garage to eventually exceed the \$35 per semester fee at the Blossom Street garage.. Key said the Blossom Street garage cost \$1,600 per parking space, but the Pendleton Street garage will cost \$2,600 for each space.

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