Lots freeze over
Parking is snarled

By Linda Weichenrieder

Clove Road became a virtual parking lot on Monday and Tuesday as a line of cars, rerouted by the closing of the quarry, stretched for at least a half mile in both directions. The only means of getting anywhere via Clove Road was by foot, and students did exactly that as they squeezed their way through a narrow path between the lines of cars and snow.

Since there are no sidewalks from the parking lot on Clove Road, walking in the frigid temperatures was dangerous and almost as treacherous as trying to park a car on campus.

The hissing sound of skidding tires typified many students' feelings towards the icy conditions of the parking lots.

"They could have planned better to have the lots cleared," said Linda Garosi, a sophomore computer science major, "I saw so many cars sliding into each other in the Clove Road lot that I waited for one hour to get a spot in the lot across from Partridge Hall."

Other students who commute to school by bus weren't as affected by the icy conditions on the campus. "It was O.K. getting here, but I take the bus from Newark and it was late as usual," said part-time student Wanda Kee.

According to Joseph McGinty, director of maintenance, the college did everything that it could to have the lots cleared by Monday. "After we had the first major snowfall we plowed the lots and they were in excellent condition," he said. "During Saturday's rain and snow we kept working on the lots. Once we cleared all the snow, the rain just kept freezing and made it worse. We can't plow rain. We saw it freezing as we were working. The 600 bags of salt we had are already used up. Our crews always put salt down, but if there aren't any cars driving over the surface, the salt won't do too much, especially when it's so cold out."

McGinty explained that the upper lots are much easier to care for since they are level and not on an incline, like the quarry lots. He pointed out that the temperature in the lower lots is often 10 degrees lower than the surrounding areas. "It's like being in the middle of a swimming pool," he said.

By Dianna Hahner

Late add canceled

At last Saturday's late registration period students braving the hazardous weather in anticipation of unbearably lengthy lines and chaotic scenes inside Panzer Gym, were instead met by a barren gym with not so much as a light on, or a sign up to announce the obvious. Registration had been canceled.

Marshall Butler of the Office of the Registrar decided to cancel the late registration session scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, January 23, at 6:15 a.m. that morning. Butler said "It would be unfair to bring people out due to the weather conditions!"

Butler added "I was concerned, not only about the snow that morning, but also about the ice and slush predicted for midmorning."

Ticketing goes ahead as usual

By John Papastrat

Despite insufficient parking availability on campus this first week of classes, most local police departments were ticketing illegally parked vehicles in routine fashion in the communities surrounding MSC.

Lieutenant John Kwasnik of the Clifton Police Department stated that local officers sympathize with the commuters' plight, but had no intention of inconveniencing the townpeople by not enforcing parking codes. Kwasnik said that they also realize that MSC has a responsibility to clear its own lots.

Both Sergeant Robert Warcholt of the Little Falls Police Department and Kwasnik reported that they did not receive official request from MSC authorities to stop ticketing illegally parked or overtime parked vehicles of MSC students in light of the hazardous conditions on campus.

In response to a request from MSC authorities, Montclair Police did not penalize illegally parked commuters this past Monday. However, according to Montclair Chief Edward Gibian, they began enforcing regular parking codes this past Tuesday and "intend to continue strict enforcement."

According to Sergeant Charles Gibling of the Montclair State campus police, ticketing was virtually suspended Monday and Tuesday. He added, "Officers are now using their discretion as to whether a vehicle deserves a ticket considering the parking situation."

Warcholt said, "Little Falls Police ticket illegally parked vehicles in the Clove Road area. According to Kwasnik, Clifton Police enforced parking codes on Valley Road as they normally do."

A maintenance worker attempts to clear a path through the snow and ice. Slippery conditions caused one student to fracture an ankle.

Photo by Wayne Pierson
editorial

Administration must take blame

The commuters of MSC have faced many frustrating situations through the years: a ratio of three cars to each parking spot; over zealous police departments in the surrounding towns that quickly ticket any car with an MSC sticker, and a college administration that will 'boot' any car whose owner has unpaid campus tickets.

Throughout all this, the commuters have grumbled a bit but have generally managed to keep a stiff upper lip and take it in stride. That stiff upper lip finally curled in anger this week as commuters returned for a new semester only to find closed parking lots and massive traffic jams.

These commuters displayed anger, but they also displayed righteous indignation towards an administration that failed to consider all the possible ramifications of its decision to allow students to park with only one parking lot de-iced enough to permit its use.

There can be no blame placed upon the maintenance people for the conditions earlier in the week. They worked 12 to 14 hours a day to try to make the lots usable. These people should be commended for their efforts in the face of adverse conditions. They were forced to resort to hand spreading of salt in sub-freezing temperatures with biting gale force winds.

The responsibility must fall directly on the shoulders of Dr. David W. Dickson, president of the college, and Dr. Elliot Mininberg, vice president of Administration and finance. Mininberg inspected the campus at 7 a.m. Monday morning and recommended to Dickson that he not close the school. The final decision was made by Dickson.

It is obvious that neither of these men considered the effect of closing the majority of the parking lots on campus, leaving two open, with a combined capacity of about 1000 cars to the 8,000 decal holders.

Where did they expect these people to park their cars? Many were forced to park illegally on Clove Road and on Valley Road, where they were ticketed by the large and Little Falls police departments. Others gave up and went home, missing both class and the first day of add/drop.

These commuters fortunate enough to finally reach the campus found that the condition of the sidewalks were worse than those they had faced on the roadways. Sheets of ice, slick as glass, coated most of the paths on the campus, causing numerous slips and falls. One fall was serious enough to break the ankle of a dorm resident.

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The commuters must take blame.

Students hot about ice

To the editor:

Montclair State students, faculty and staff were greeted this semester with a new twist to the Montclair State experience: a ratio of three cars to each closed lot. As I walked on campus Monday morning, a line of cars stretched from Clove Road to College Avenue. The passengers were waiting to be told where they might possibly find a parking space.

Once on campus, students were literally forced to slide from one class to the next. Sidewalks were transformed into sheets of ice.

There is no reason, we should have had to face these treacherous conditions, in order to attend classes.

Examples of the danger are rampant. Monday there was a six car accident in the Primrose Diner parking lot as students searched for a space. Tuesday, a female student slipped and broke her ankle as she left class. Besides these major incidents, there were plenty of annoyances. Most students were late for class, others never made it, still others reached class only to find that their professors had not arrived, and groups of confused students were simply told to go home by campus police.

We were repeatedly told by the administration that everything possible had been done to clear the lots, with no success. In that case, there was only one solution -- classes should have been cancelled. It stands to reason that if any institution cannot provide safe facilities, it should limit the possibility of an accident by keeping its population to a minimum.

I realize that the source of our problem, the weather, is out of our control, but as the spokesperson of the student body I urge the college administration to make every effort to not subject us to the conditions we faced this past week.

Sunita Lal

SGA president

To the editor:

This open letter to the school administration most likely expresses the frustration and the chagrin of the student body.

This semester I'm doing a full-time, off-campus internship. During the Winter break, I received an incorrect schedule. If the schedule book weren't so confusing, I would have registered for the right classes. In the registrar's office, I even made the same numerical mistakes I did.

When I took the day off to come up to school to fix my schedule, I found a parking lot sale. I wasn't in the mood to play musical cars, so I drove into the Clove lot. After 10 minutes of driving and not finding a parking space, I proceeded to pull out onto Clove Road. Because of the illegally parked cars on Clove Road, a school bus crashed into a car (it was just too narrow for both to pass), causing a major 10 minute back-up on the slushed filled street. When enough cars behind me backed up to enable me to K-turn, I got stuck and had to be pushed out.

Once I got on campus, I was informed that the Quarry lot was closed due to icing. How can you expect a commuter school like ours to function with three-quarters of the parking spaces inaccessible? I was forced to park illegally on Clove Road.

Phil Karali, student
government vice president, said that the lot is solid ice. "They tried to plow it, but it turned, into ice again; even the plow trucks got stuck."

Granted, that's a reasonable excuse not to open the lots, but why then, President Dickson and Dr. Mininberg, wasn't school closed until the lot could be cleared? You have nicely cleared out parking spaces behind College Hall. But the majority of students paying $27 per credit to come to this institution of higher learning rely on the Quatry to park.

You turned the first week of school into a circus. I think the students of this school deserve more consideration than you have given them this week. I've gone here for four years and devoted much of my time to helping better this school. I think you caused me and my fellow students more aggravation than the cost of gas riding around trying to get to classes or to late registration is worth.

Congratulations, the forgotten majority -- we commuters have been forgotten once again.

Lynn S. Zlotnik

Editor's note: The Montclarion was not originally planned to appear this week. However, the conditions and circumstances of the first two days of classes warranted coverage. Because of the short time allotted to us, we were only able to produce four pages. Next week's Montclarion will be its normal size.
Parking backed up

cont. from p.1

damn wilderness out there," he
protested.

McGinty added that the
entire maintenance and ground
crews were actually taking
risks while working on the
quarry lots. "I took one hell of
a flop and so did some of the
other guys. The plows and salt
trucks were even going out of
control; one truck hit a pole and
another ran into a bus stop.
There was really no way we
could have prevented these
conditions," he said.

Elliot Mininberg, vice
president of administration and
finance, inspected the
sidewalks and parking lots and
sidewalks at 7 a.m. Monday
morning. He said that there
were "a few spots that were
treacherous" and ordered that
the quarry lots be closed. "By 1
p.m. many areas were not
unwalkable," he said.

Mininberg added that it was
the president's decision to open
the quarry lots on Monday only, so on
Tuesday many students
parked at the Primrose Diner.
"We like to cooperate with
Montclair State College," said
Giro Manno, manager of the
Primrose Diner. "I think the
majority of students are nice
kids, but the past few days
some of the students who
parked in my lot were terrible!
They pancked and didn't give
a damn where they parked their
cars.

Manno continued, "Many of
their cars got stuck and were
blocking my customers in. I
was out there myself, along
with some of the guys from
Chi Alpha pushing out the
stuck cars.

"When I threatened to have
the cars towed, one student
screamed some really
obnoxious things at me. I
didn't have any cars towed
anyway, but about 90 per cent
of my business was destroyed
between the hours of 9 and 5 on
Monday and Tuesday." He

Manno added, "MSC
security never even came by to
see if anyone was stuck, which
is unusual because they usually
stop in three or four times a day
for coffee."

On Wednesday morning, the
quarry lots were reopened
with most parking spaces "ice-
free". Today, according to the
National Weather Service,
temperatures should be in the
high 30's to mid-40's, which
may melt the remaining ice.

Icy conditions caused a snowplow to lose control
and shatter the glass in the TNJ bus shelter this week.

Police delay 'Boot'

By John Papastrat

Application of the metal
device called the 'boot',
originally planned to begin
January 1, has been
postponed. MSC police will
evertheless immobilize all
vehicles having three or more
unpaid parking fines with the
'boot'.

The reason for postpone-
ment was a delay in the
decision of the process to be
used in identifying offenders.

\begin{quote}
Campus police Lieutenant
Charles Paige said that the
campus police are not sure if
they will send out patrols to
find violators, or if they will
issue tickets for prior
violations.
\end{quote}

Paige said that he and Chief
Jayne Rich are now in the
process of deciding the most
effective manner in which to go
about 'booting' vehicles.

\begin{quote}
Campus police Sergeant
Charles Giblin said that the
college community will be
notified as to when the boot
will be put into effect.
\end{quote}

\begin{quote}
When a car is booted it will
\end{quote}

Black Student Cooperative
Union

Having a Special Election

The offices that will be open are:

Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

These positions start as of the 10th of February 1982
and end as of June 1, 1982.

Requirements:

1. At least 2.0 cumulative grade point average
2. A member of BSCU in good standing

Call the BSCU office for more information—893-4198
Cancelation a result of foul weather

cont. from p.1

Butler explained that faculty members, student planning to assist the various departments, and other employees of the college, were notified of the closing by phone beginning at 6:30 a.m.

I tried to apprise students of the closing by notifying security to take calls, explained Butler. Several local radio stations were also requested to announce the closing. Butler said “I am aware that the radio stations began carrying the announcement at 7:00 a.m.” but added that he does not know how long after that time the stations continued to broadcast the announcement. Butler explained that most people would not be listening for school closing on a weekend morning, and consequently many may have missed the announcement.

The Saturday registration period was scheduled in response to the proposed end of the add/drop period announced last spring, according to Butler. After the add/drop period was reinstated the Registrar decided to allow the Saturday session to remain although it was in addition to normal procedures, as it had already been announced on campus.

“Plowing during the week kept the campus roads in excellent condition during the change of program period prior to the opening of the semester,” said Butler. He added, “To my knowledge there were no incidents or accidents on campus due to the weather.”

Butler explained that there will be no additional registration time scheduled in order to compensate for the Saturday closing. Butler feels confident that the departmental add/drop periods scheduled during the week, in conjunction with the hours designated by the Registrar and the Business Office, will be sufficient for all students, including those inconvenienced by the Saturday closing, to complete scheduling.

Information from faculty members and employees working at Panzer Gym on Saturday morning estimate that about twenty to forty students actually arrived at the gym seeking registration, according to Butler. “I hope they were local students who didn’t have to drive forty miles just to find out that registration had been canceled,” said Butler.

Butler said of this year’s registration that the Saturday closing has not caused any significant change in the number of students seeking changes at this time.

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