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THE MONTCLAIRION

Vol. 56 No. 1

Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Thurs. Jan. 28, 1982

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 line 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 much better to have the lots cleared. MSC always reacts to everything after it happens,

said Tom Carr, a senior allied health major.

"It's the worst I've ever seen it here in my entire four years here. My car was stuck twice but luckily two students helped me. The school shouldn't have been opened until the lots were cleared" said Lynn Zlotnick, a senior broadcasting major.

Linda Garosi, a sophomore computer science major said, "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

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Icy sidewalks caused problems for students during the first week of classes. This student tried navigating the walk in front of the Student Center. Maybe he should have brought his ice skates.

Photo by Wayne Pierson

Late add canceled

By Dianne Hahner

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."

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Ticketing goes ahead as usual

By John Papastrat

Despite insufficient parking availability on campus this first week of the semester, 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 local townspeople by not enforcing parking codes. Kwasnik said that they also realize that MSC has a responsibility to clear its own lots.

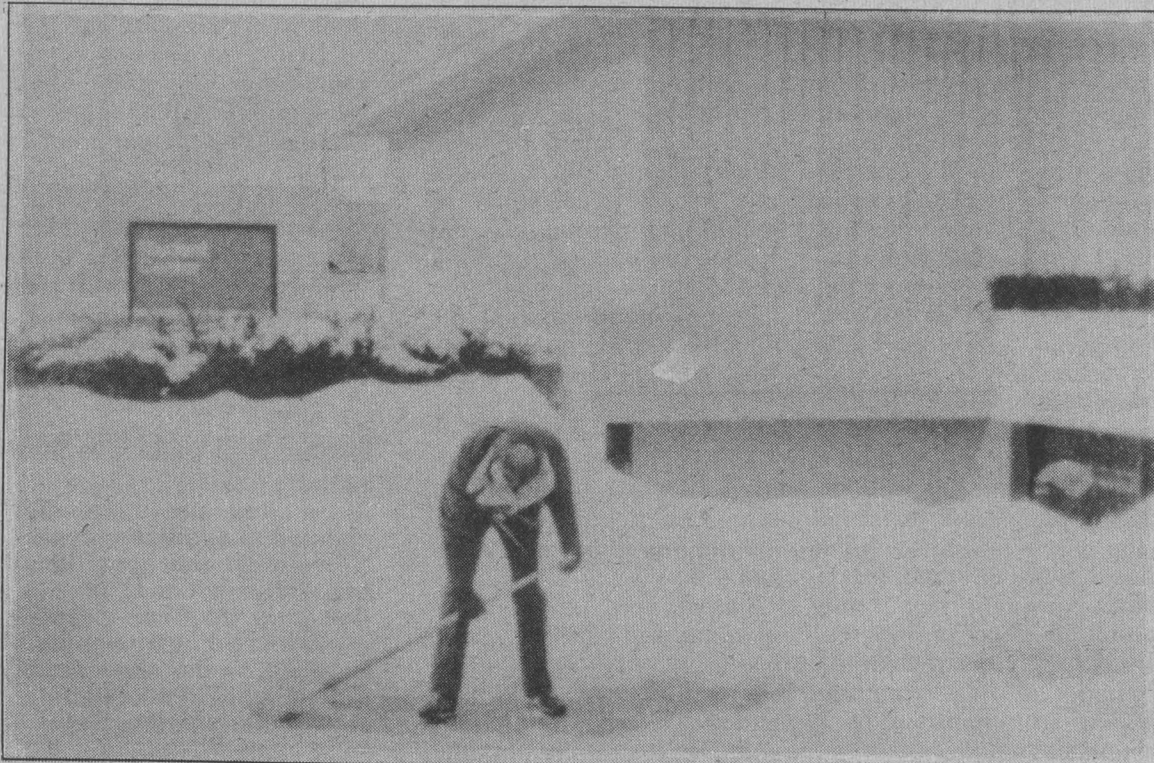
Both Sergeant Robert Warcholit of the Little Falls Police Department and Kwasnik reported that they did not receive official request from MSC authorities to stop ticketing illegally parked or overtime parked vehicles of MSC students in light of the

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 Gibin, they began enforcing regular parking codes this past Tuesday and "intend to continue strict enforcement."

According to Sergeant Charles Giblin 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."

Warcholit 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.

The 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 school to open 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.D. 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 Clifton and Little Falls police departments. Others gave up and went home, missing both class and the first day of add/drop.

Those 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.

The administration can make no excuses for its actions, nor will the commuting students accept any. The horrible conditions faced by these students cannot be passed off as an error in judgement. Men in such high positions of responsibility should not make such grievous errors. This will long remain a black mark against the administration, and rightly so. They have both inconvenienced and insulted the students of MSC with their actions.



letters

Students hot about ice

To the editor:

Montclair State students, faculty and staff were greeted this semester with a new twist to the parking problem -- closed lots. 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.

Sonjui 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, the registrar 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 carnival. 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 slush-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 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 pits, 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 Quarry 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. Zlotnick
broadcasting/1982

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.

THE MONTCLARION

The Montclarion is a Class One Organization of the SGA.

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Parking backed up

cont. from p. 1

damn wilderness out there," he professed.

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 school, and that teachers were asked "to have forgiveness" for students missing class.

"The college belongs to all of us," he said, "and suffering belongs to all of us." Mininberg added that the college is not responsible for any accidents unless one can

prove that the college was negligent. "All students are responsible for tickets incurred. The students are free to play with the rules and free to go elsewhere, but there shouldn't be any resentment toward the \$10 parking fee because the school doesn't guarantee a parking space," he said.

Students who went off campus to park were allowed spaces at the Robin Hood Inn 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 panicked 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."

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 30s to mid-40s, which may melt the remaining ice.

Police delay 'Boot'

By John Papastrat

Application of the metal device called the 'boot', originally planned to begin January 11, has been postponed. MSC police will eventually immobilize all vehicles having three or more unpaid campus fines with the 'boot'.



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

Photo by Dan Whittaker

The reason for postponement was a delay in the decision of the process to be used in identifying offenders. 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 check cars which are being issued tickets for prior violations.

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.

Campus police Sergeant Charles Giblin said that the college community will be notified as to when the boot will be put into effect.

When a car is booted it will cont. on p.4

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Cancelation a result of foul weather

cont. from p.1

Butler explained that faculty members, students 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 all ready 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.

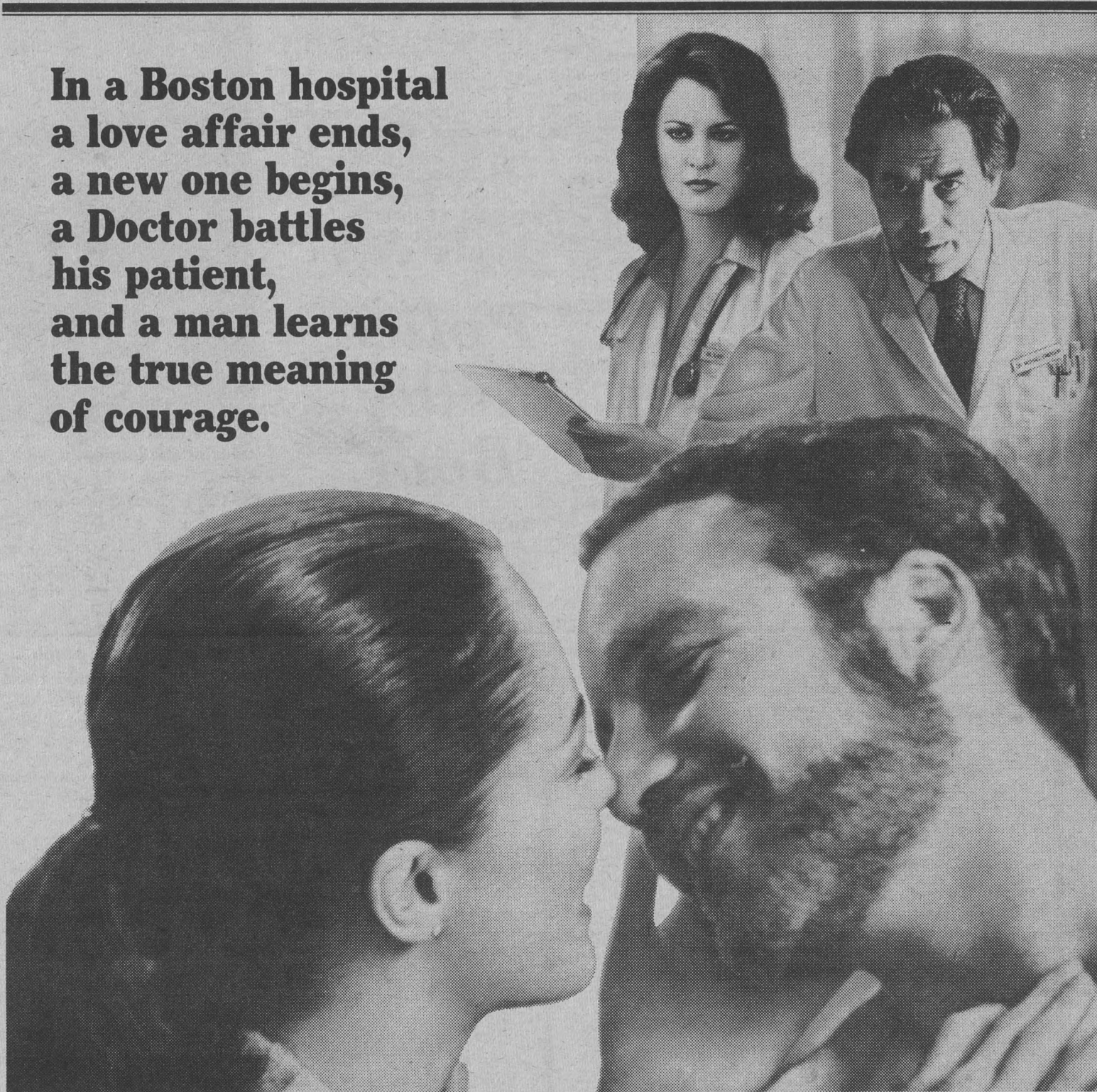
Information from faculty members and employees working at Panzer Gym on Saturday morning estimate

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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'Boot' delay

cont. from p.3

be held until payment of all overdue fines are paid by cash or check to the business office. If the office is closed, payment may be made only by check, made payable to Montclair State College, placed in a stamped envelope addressed to the business office, and deposited in the mailbox at the west end of College Hall. A campus police officer will witness the writing and depositing of the check before releasing the vehicle to its owner.

In a letter to the campus community, Rich warned that attempts to drive a 'booted' car could result in damage to the car.