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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 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 icy 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 were 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 Tower than the surrounding areas," he added.

Late add canceled

By Dianna 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."

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 Warchol 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 Giblin, 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."

Warchol 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."
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 curdled 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. Dickson. W.D. Dickson, president of the college, and Dr. Elliot Minninger, vice president of administration and finance. Minninger 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 little 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, novel, or otherwise. The identity accepts the blame of 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 gross errors. This will long remain a black mark against the administration, and rightly so. They have both incompromised and insulted the students of MSC with their actions.
Parking backed up

cont. from p.1
damn wilderness out there," he
professed.
McGinry 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 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 there 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 1, has been
postponed. MSC police will
eventually immobilize all
vehicles having three or more
unpaid campus fines with the
'boot'.

The reason for postpone-
ment 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
notify as to when the boot
will be put into effect.
When a car is booted it will

cont. on p.4
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.

In a Boston hospital, a love affair ends, a new one begins, a Doctor battles his patient, and a man learns the true meaning of courage.

‘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.

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