



# The Rocket

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## Parking problems persist

### Students, faculty agitated about parking issues

By Amy Kelly  
Rocket News Editor

Slippery Rock University enrollment reached a new high of 8,325 students and parking spaces increased by 2.6 percent, but many are still voicing concerns about parking problems on campus.

According to SRU Police Chief Windy Stafford,

are occurring with the parking problem we are having," she said.

While commuters make up 66 percent of the campus population, they're allotted 19.9 percent of the total parking spaces and share another 11.8 percent in the West Lake Parking Lot with staff.

"Most of the time you have to park so far away that it would just be faster to walk," Graham said.

The East Lake Parking Lot, the Gail Rose Lodge Parking Lot and the Ski Lodge Parking Lot comprise 22.2 percent of all parking and are open to commuters, staff and residents. These lots feature the only spots on campus that all three groups have free range of the territory.

"Having a parking garage would be a lot of money to pay off," Graham said. "But with enrollment expanding, you might have to think about building one."

While there are currently no plans for such a project, it could,

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STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

Sophomore, journalism major Jackie Sabo walks to her vehicle in West Lake Parking lot while a parking "vulture" follows close behind, waiting to pounce on the open parking space. Many SRU students and faculty are seeing these vultures more and more with enrollment growing.

## Spot finding ranks among top concerns

By Doug Hoagland  
McClatchy Newspapers

There's a name at Fresno State for students like Catalina Lopez. Parking vulture.

She drives into a Fresno State lot, spies a student walking to a car and follows along to snag the space. The 38-year-old from Kingsburg has offered rides to those students, and she recently faced off with another motorist at an empty space, wagging her finger and declaring "It's mine."

Like Lopez, thousands of commuting students plot and scramble for parking every day at California State University, Fresno, with tempers sometimes flaring as motorists vie for spots.

Because the university expects parking

needs to grow, it may build its first multi-level parking garage sometime in the next five years.

But for now, the school says its 4,636 student parking spaces are enough for the 22,000 students who come to campus during the week.

The problem is that students—even when offered incentives—aren't using remote lots, says a university official.

Students say they would rather pursue parking in preferred locations even if it adds to the stress that comes from juggling school with work and family.

"It's just atrocious," said 21-year-old Elizabeth Echeveste, making the 10-minute walk from the satellite Save Mart Center parking lot to a science building. "It's my fifth year here and I think it's just gotten progressively worse."

Student leaders agree. "Parking, while always difficult, has become a crapshoot with increasingly depressing odds," opinion editor Mathew Gomes wrote recently in the Fresno State newspaper. The 21-year-old uses the term "parking vultures" to describe students who circle lots hunting for a space.

The competition can lead to conflict. School started less than one month ago, and one motorist already has reported a verbal confrontation over a space, said Amy Armstrong, spokeswoman for the University Police Department.

"There could be more," she said. "It's not usually reported."

Parking ranks among students' top concerns, said Stephen Trembley, 21,

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there are currently 3,859 total parking spaces available on campus. After eliminating the 108 handicapped, 52 15-minute and 105 reserved spaces that figure drops to 3,594.

Ann Graham, a 20-year-old junior biology major, lives at the Pine Glenn Apartment complex located on Kiester road and has been walking to campus lately because of the magnitude of drivers.

"Classes are expanding and no corrections

## Screens serve as information center in classroom building

By Alan Jaquith  
Rocket Contributor

On the first floor of the Eisenberg Classroom Building there is a new addition of four technologically advanced screens.

Bruce W. Russell, dean of the College of Business, Information, and Social Sciences, intends for the display to become a place to inform students of upcoming events and student and faculty accomplishments.

The four screens will display, in the near future, material from all the departments in the College of Business, Information, and Social Sciences. Further along, plans include to show material from other departments in the university, and also for the display to serve as a general information center and, possibly, as an emergency information center.

"Right now we are trying to keep this easy and convenient," Russell said. "In the future I'm hoping to give



ASHTON RUBY/THE ROCKET

John Grossman, Alison Nuckols and Brian Caldwell admire the four new screens that provide information during the day in the lobby of Eisenberg Classroom Building.

the video production classes, with the permission of the student, the opportunity to display any appropriate material created in class."

Russell has enlisted the aid of the Public Relations Student Society of Americato serve as the original content

providers. The PRSSA is responsible for contacting each department and collecting the information that they wish to be displayed.

"We are creating a way to gather information from students and faculty in our College. We intend to provide

information on club meetings, internships, students and faculty of the month," Bridget Kelly, 21, a senior public relations and marketing double major, said.

According to Danielle Scotti, a 21-year-old senior public relations major, the general consensus is that most students are unaware of when student organization meetings are being held.

PRSSA will be sending a letter to faculty members informing them to have students submit the information.

"This will be the Grand Central Station of information," Scotti said.

Scotti and Kelly are the account managers for PRSSA.

The future information center, which was installed by Smart Solutions, Inc., has three display options.

The screens can display two video signals and two computer images, which can include material

from the Internet and PowerPoint presentations. Also, all four screens can display a separate image or video feed. Lastly, all four screens can work in unison to display one image or video feed.

The project, which had been in development for a about year and a half, first occurred to Russell after viewing a similar display during a visit to the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry Township.

Russell intends to get full use out of the newest addition to the Eisenberg lobby.

"The options are endless. We'll start basic, figure out the processes, and expand from there," Russell said.

The display, which cost \$19,745, was paid for out of three separate accounts.

The Alumni Foundation took on \$5,000 of the total cost, with another \$10,102 coming from a SRU one-time fund, as well \$4,643 from the Student Enhancement 1924 budget.

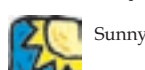
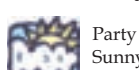
### WEATHER

Forecast from National Weather Service

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



High: 82; Low: 57

High: 81; Low: 52

High: 75; Low: 49

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