

Parking

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per semester for the privilege of A parking sticker there doesn't even guarantee you'll actually find a spot, only the opportunity to look for one.

At UNLV, we have free, guaranteed parking in a relatively low-crime area. So what's the problem?

For one thing, our parking facilities are maintained and renovated without a fee. Revenue comes from tickets issued by the Department of Public Safety. If money is needed for expansion, Public Safety can't raise their fees—they have been turned down several times. Instead they issue more tickets and charge outrageous fines.

At the same time, we aren't using our current spaces as effectively as possible. Students who take late afternoon and evening classes park in the same distant lots as day students, but pass several empty faculty spaces on the way to class.

While parking is a good deal on this campus, it is not a fair deal.

A much less cumbersome system would be to deregulate parking. Let everyone who works and studies on this campus have an equal opportunity to occupy any open spot they can find. Having a commuter-oriented campus, it's

understandable that some of the parking is going to be a considerable distance away from the classrooms, but to have unused spaces left empty simply because they're remarked "faculty" is senseless.

Opening up parking would also reduce the amount of tickets issued to students. According to Public Safety, students paid \$300,000 in fines last year—about \$15 per student.

Getting a ticket is more than inconvenient, it leaves the individual bitter towards the university. Even a fee (a word synonymous with tax in these parts) is preferable to a fine.

An up-front fee, say \$5, would be cheaper in the long run. We could cut back on ticket writers and processors and spend less time and money gerrymandering the parking lots to favor the faculty. It would also shift more of the cost to faculty, who emerge from the current system almost scot-free.

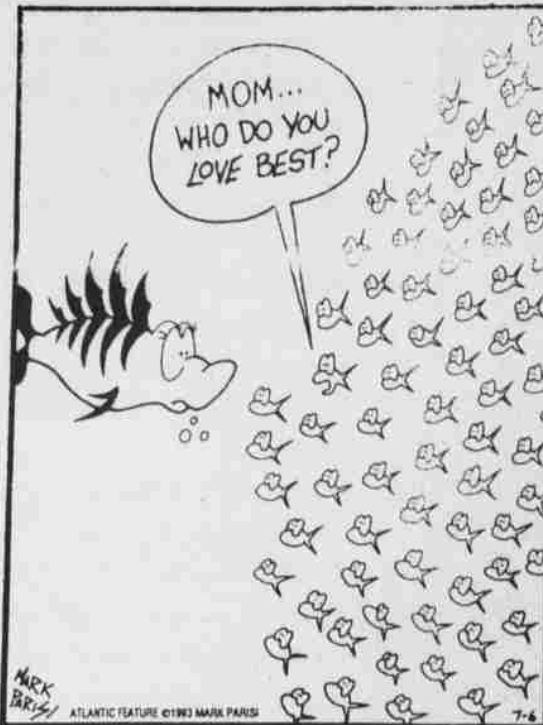
Until that time, please remember: it's your duty as a Rebel to commit minor parking infractions. Public Safety needs the constant flow of income generated by fines. Without it, our parking cannot remain free.

Nick Haley is the managing editor of *The Rebel Yell*. His column appears on Tuesdays.

THE REBEL YELL

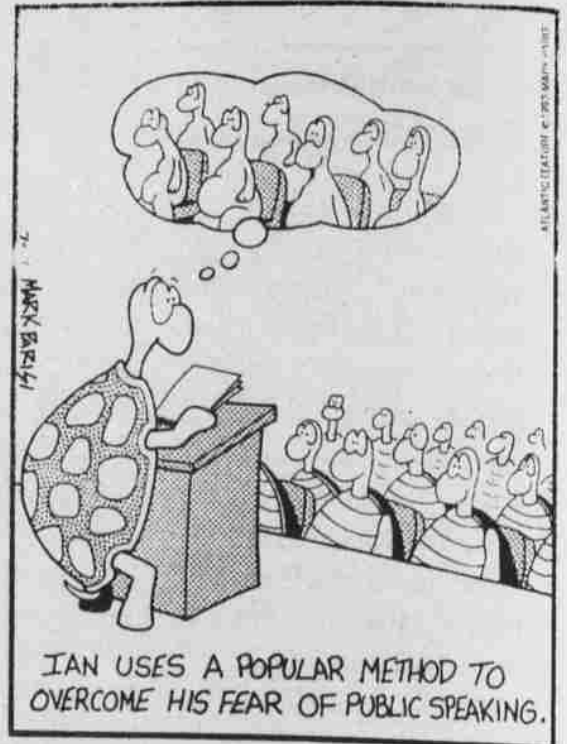
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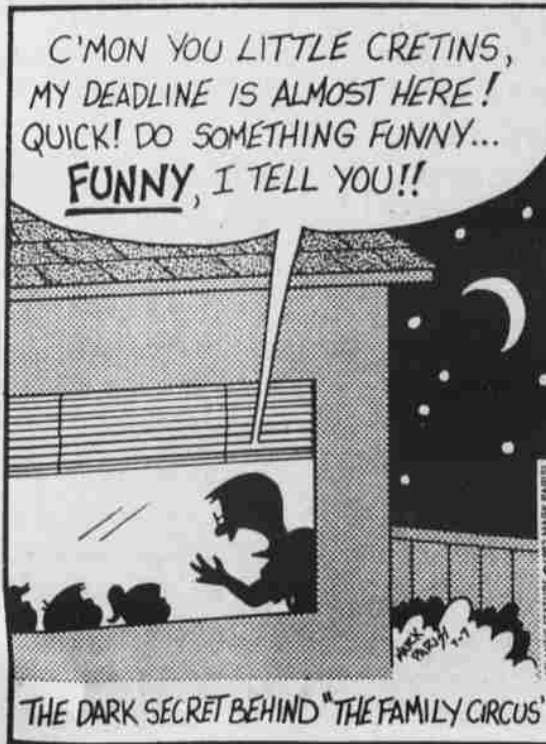
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