

Complaints, complaints

Parking gates installed to save labour costs

By DEBBIE PEKILIS

Automatic parking gates have been installed in the Atkinson (HH) lot following complaints from Atkinson residents about unauthorized people parking there.

These gates, according to Edward Annis, director of the Department of University Facilities, will reduce the labour costs of hiring a guard to regulate parking.

Annis said these parking gates are the second set to be installed in a parking lot on campus. The first set of gates was installed four years ago in parking lot AA (in front of the Ross Building) in response to similar complaints from commuters using that lot.

"Several years ago, we tried to install gates in peripheral (single letter) parking lots," said Annis, "but we ran into mechanical difficulties."

Annis explained how the toll gates would work, "When people buy permits, they get cards which fit in the slot of the gate. When they put the card in the slot, the gate opens. This card is changed every year. When you get a new permit, you get a new card."

He added, "When people bought parking permits this year, they were told to come back for their cards. Notices were sent out to people who bought permits."

"To keep unauthorized people out of the lots," Annis explained, "you have to have a parking official and this adds to personnel costs. You only pay once for the gate when it is installed, but you have to pay a man year after year." He added that the gates are a "minor installation" which cost \$8,000, whereas a man hired to control parking in the lots earns a yearly salary equal to that or more.

Although the gate in the Atkinson parking lot was approved last year,

it was not installed until this September because the "tenants requested a delay until the summer was over," he said.

Annis describes the automatic gates as a "continuing programme that will increase as personnel costs rise in order to keep parking fees as low as possible." Eventually, he said, the university hopes to install gates on all reserved and unreserved parking lots.

CYSF President Barry Edson said he and the York University Tenants Association (YUTA), which represents students in Atkinson and Assiniboine residences, protested the installation of the gates. His first telephone conversation with Annis was on May 19 of this year.

"Annis informed me that the costs of parking would go up \$30.00 per space over 3 years in the HH (Atkinson) and I and I-extension parking lots (in front of the graduate residences on Assiniboine)," said Edson.

He added, "I informed the tenants' association at their meeting on May 27 of the increase. A survey (petition) was sent around. We collected over 300 signatures on a petition protesting the increase in I and I-extension."

He said the Atkinson tenants did not protest the parking gates in their lot, because they could not get parking spaces on Monday to Thursday evening.

"Where the protest took place, the cost increases and installation of the gates was prevented," Edson said.

Terry Walker, former president of YUTA, and now their representative on the Parking Commission, said he was informed by Edson at the meeting about the proposed installation of the parking gates. After the petition had been sent in, he said, he had word from



Danny Lam photo

Due to numerous complaints from Atkinson residents that unauthorized persons are using the reserved parking lots, the York security department has installed parking gates.

Annis that the gates would be postponed for the time being. "I have heard that the gates would not be put up now and our petition would go to the parking committee. I've heard rumours that the gates would not be put up, but no official word in writing."

David Fleet, current president of YUTA said the tenants' association had been led to understand the university would install the parking

lots I and I-extension and HH. He said as well they believe requests from Atkinson tenants for the parking lot gates were "unsubstantiated". As far as we know there were no formal requests. We don't have any reason to believe the university wasn't telling us the truth.

He said, "YUTA opposed to parking gates in I and I-extension. It is not clear to YUTA that the

majority of Atkinson residents really do want the gate, given that the costs will rise." He added that if some people in Atkinson want the gates and others do not, "a compromise ought to be looked at and is possible between the different interests."

"The problem with the gates is that it blocks off people on weekends and after hours, as well as people who are unloading things.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

12 NOON - ROSS S167

AGENDA: 1. Election of new executive

2. Discussion and vote on GAA position on October 14 Day of Protest against wage and price controls.

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