

Parking procedure is questionable

By SHAWN DEMPSEY
STAFF WRITER

Quoted from the Splinter, "PARKING ALERT - A wheel lock will be utilized for students who receive several tow warnings. The fine for removal of this apparatus which makes your vehicle inoperable is \$20."

This brings to mind several deep and intriguing questions, such as, how will this "be utilized for students?" Wouldn't it be more effective to utilize the wheel lock on students' vehicles rather than on students, as the quote suggests? If a student is utilizing the wheel lock, is he able to move his vehicle? For that matter, is he able to move? If he cannot move, does he need his car? Could this be a new tactic to improve class attendance?

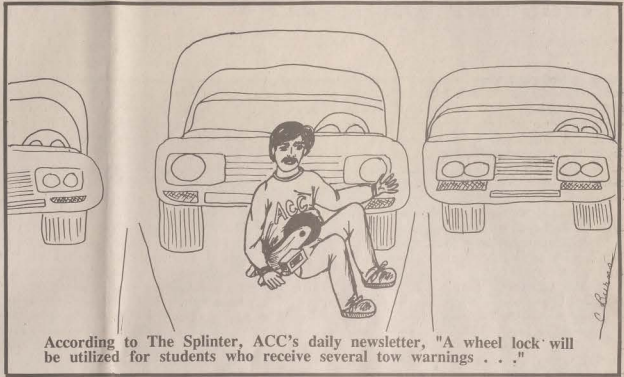
And how many warnings does it take to get towed away? If the tow warnings were enforced, wouldn't it seem unnecessary to use this apparatus? Has anyone actually seen a vehicle being towed? Is there no real danger of

being towed away, only wheel locked and disabled in the parking lot forever? And if towed, where does the car go? Is it a nice place where a happy home will be provided?

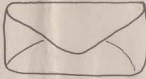
And doesn't a vehicle receive a tow warning when it is improperly parked? Improperly parked? Does this mean the vehicle is parked in the wrong area? Doesn't a wheel lock immobilize the offending vehicle in the offending position? Could this possibly be defeating the purpose?

And how many of these locks are there? Are there several, or just one? If there is just one, and it is being utilized to disable a defenseless vehicle, does the rest of the student body need to worry about being towed away? If there are several of these contraptions, could this be a conspiracy? Is this the new punishment for the ever dreaded PARKING OVER THE LINE?

Isn't a car private property? Is it legal to lock it? Is it legal, is the telephone number for Dial-A-Ride a part of this service? Will absences due to carjacking be excused?



According to The Splinter, ACC's daily newsletter, "A wheel lock" will be utilized for students who receive several tow warnings . . ."



Letters to the Editor

Movie Message is Befuddling

By JIM BALLMER
STAFF WRITER

At the end of the politically befuddled movie "Falling Down", an exasperated Michael Douglas asks, "I'm the bad guy?" Well Michael, to the non-white male population, you quite possibly are.

We are in the midst of an unusual social upheaval. With the election of Bill Clinton, women and minorities have been included in more political offices than ever before. At the beginning of this century, women weren't allowed to vote. Now women make decisions at the White House and voice their opinions. Racial minorities have made equal strides. You'll rarely see a TV commercial that doesn't have a representative from every race on the globe. What does this trend mean for the white male? Both sides aren't sure.

Gun-toting gang bangers, feminists, multi-culturalists, affirmative action employers, rap artists, and Japanese tycoons are just a few annoyances that menace the modern day white male. And they're all saying the same thing; we never told you how much we disliked you, until now.

What is the white male doing in response to this heat? Some "fight back" and join the Aryan nation, some

talk to a "shrink", some avoid the subject and under indulge themselves in their jobs (we are in a recession you know), some drink, and some go on a "find my manhood-self-discovery-male bonding weekend", which comedian Denis Leary says is "another term for circle jerk as far as I'm concerned."

Times aren't too bad though. As far as hard facts and statistics are concerned, white males are still enjoying the biggest pieces of pie on the graphs. Only 39.2 percent of the U.S. population is white male, yet they account for 82.5 percent of the Fortune 500 (people worth at least \$265 million), 92 percent of state governors, 90 percent of major daily newspaper editors, and 77 percent of Congress, to name a few.

If the white male holds the position and the money, then why the anxiety? I think it comes from the fact that we're not sure where the "line" is anymore.

In the time you took to read this article, people around the world were working to mold a better planet, working to make a better future. Nobody is sure what the future of the white male is, but for the present, I think software editor Neil Froemming said it best of white males. "We still have the power, but nobody likes us."

In the last issue (Spring '93) of THE POLEMIC, the Co-Editor, Ms. Konwinski, editorialized about minorities. In the editorial she purported to show that "Palestinians, Afro-Americans, Arabs, Jews and Atheists" are not minorities. On the contrary, she argued, "your brother and your dad" were the minorities. This opening salvo of this disjointed and distasteful diatribe indicates the racial, ethnic and religious insensitivity of the author since the assumption is that all the readers of this editorial (and their brothers and dads) were white, Christian Anglo-Saxons. Or is she suggesting that the Palestinian, Afro-American, etc., students or instructors at Alpena Community College cannot read?

Her second assumption is that the use of the term "minority" always refers to numbers. Most of us have come to understand that a group is sometimes referred to as a minority because they are less powerful than those who control them. Linguistic purists may bristle at such a use, but women, as one blatant example, are often referred to as a minority despite their numerical superiority, because they have been exploited and underempowered throughout history.

She then goes on to assert that it is the Palestinian, Afro-American, etc. who "join the service and when faced with war, decide it's against their religion to fight". Would Ms. Konwinski care to place a wager? I would be will-

ing to bet significant parts of my anatomy that the overwhelming majority of conscientious objectors in American history have been white, and Christian. I've never heard of an atheist C.O., although I would assume that's possible.

Her next assertions parrot the litany identified with white supremacy groups and other far right wackos. First, that the folks who "work for a living, struggle to keep going, etc." are Caucasian Christians. Secondly, that "the poor, the disadvantaged, and the lazy" are Palestinians, Afro-Americans, Arabs, Jews, and Atheists. Stereotypes, generalizations and simply not corresponding to the facts.

Her final "proof" is the breakdown of the entire world population, in which she numbers 58.4% Asians, 12.4% Europeans, 8.4% Soviets, 5.2% North Americans and .6% Australians and New Zealanders. She then says these figures show that those who are called "minorities" are really in the majority and vice versa. This is a specious argument for at least the following reasons:

1. If we're talking about "whites", we are not Soviets, Europeans, North Americans, and Australian/New Zealanders counted together? If so, they constitute 20.8%, the second largest block, and minor only to the Asians. Also, however, if they are, we would have to exclude Mongolian Soviets, Aboriginal Australians, Native American North Americans, Afrikaaner Africans, Gypsy Europeans, Semitic Africans,

etc., etc., ad infinitum.

2. The previous paragraph should make it obvious that Ms. Konwinski's problem (obviate me, one of her many problems) with logical thought is that she has confused race with nationality and/or religion. Furthermore, if she is suggesting that the largest group (Asians) are a minority that is dredging from the American welfare bowl in disproportionate numbers, I would suggest she check her statistics.

In brief, (for which I'm already too long winded) the editorial was racist, bigoted, and nationalistic. All of these, of course are permissible, if regrettable, on the editorial page. What is less excusable is the lack of logical and factual support for her positions, which indicate a neglected education at best. It certainly would not reflect well on our institution if other college students elsewhere suspect that the editor's opinions are shared by the general student body.

Keith Titus
Instructor

Editor's comment: One of the purposes of The Polemic is to open the avenues for free discussion. Thank you for your input.

Students Speak

What kind of concerns do you have about Gov. Engler eliminating the use of property tax to fund Michigan education?



Alice Blasky

"I wish Connie Binfield the best of luck in her little project. I sincerely hope that this will help the school. But if it doesn't work, there better be a back up plan."



Norma Reynolds

"I'm looking forward to a job in the school system in about 5 years . . . if the state isn't sure how to fund education in the future, my chances of getting a job will be decreased . . ."



Jay Bushey

"If this passes, the best of luck, but I wonder where they will get the money for the schools. Either way, I feel that we will be taxed in another way, so let it be."

THE POLEMIC STAFF

AdvisorSonya Titus
Copy EditorDenine Konwinski
Layout EditorJen Goodburne
PhotographerLinda Simpson
CartoonistCarol Burns

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Shawn Dempsey Don Clute
Jim Ballmer Kendra Jones
Tina Jones Jenell Lefevre
Melody Sharp Jeremy Williams
Sarah Edwards Howard Buse
Gary Pingel Scott Reed
Matt Stema Don Filarski