

Students wearing corporate logos should not complain about Vol State logo on vehicles

To the Editor,

I usually do not respond to editorials and the like, as I understand that different people have varying opinions on any given topic. The most recent editorial and story regarding the parking decals had a hint of human hypocrisy in it, and, I feel that it should be exposed.

I understand that there are people who simply do not wish to have decals of any kind on their vehicles. Some do not want to be "rolling billboards". Others wish to be "rolling billboards" only when they can prominently display decals of their choosing.

I also understand the concerns of both Dr. Nichols and Campus Security. Vol State is a business, and, like any other business, it needs to get the most marketing value out of the dollar. Would the taxpayers of Tennessee prefer that Dr. Nichols find a more expensive method of marketing?

I am sure that he could if he applied himself. As for Campus Security, they need to be able to quickly identify those vehicles that are supposed to be here. Although, this is problematic as VSCC is a public institution funded by both state and federal tax dollars. To the best of my knowledge, (and I could be wrong), virtually anyone who is not actively engaged in prohibited behavior may be on campus during open hours of operation.

Personally, I would like to see more strict enforcement of the parking violations. Many faculty/staff must either park across the street in the Annex lot or in student spaces, when available, due to students parking in

faculty/staff spaces. I have witnessed, although never reported, several repeat offenders.

This leads me to believe that either Campus Security is not enforcing the parking regulations or SGA is too lenient and dismissive of most of the violations. I would be interested in the statistics. Either way, students are not discouraged from taking faculty/staff spaces.

To compound this problem, there are those faculty/staff that spend most, if not all, of their day in one building yet park in the lot of another even though there is ample parking in the lot adjacent to their building. I would suggest color-coded decals for faculty/staff next year, but I realize there are those who have legitimate business in multiple buildings. In both the above cases, a little common courtesy would go a long way.

I am not against doing away with decals for students, but I would certainly want more strict enforcement of parking violations. Also, keep in mind that without advertising, Vol State may lose potential students to another institution. Without students, there would be no Vol State, and thus, no *Settler*, editor, or staff.

I have had people notice my parking decal in the parking lot of local retail establishments and stop to ask me about VSCC. Naturally, I make VSCC seem like the "greatest thing since sliced bread." So believe it or not, (and like it or not), advertising via the parking decals does work, at least to some extent. I would certainly hope that current students and faculty/

staff are not so ashamed of VSCC that they cannot bring themselves to display a simple parking sticker.

As I am sure that you are aware, many local businesses are requiring that employees display their company's parking decal somewhere on their vehicle. Just of the top of my head, I can think of only every area hospital, GAP, and every college campus that I have set foot on in the state of Tennessee. Those who do not wish to become "rolling billboards" may as well get used to the idea, just as they have become accustomed to wearing corporate logos on their bodies.

One final suggestion for next year's decals: rather than having stick-on decals, issue the type that hang on the review mirror. VSCC used to do this with students back in the 1980's, and more recently, with faculty/staff. This way, people can remove them while driving.

Those so ashamed of VSCC or who simply do not want to distract from the sleek lines, dents, rust spots, or fade paint job of that "hoopy-mobile" can remove the permit painlessly. These are just a small sample of the thoughts that have kept me out of the really good schools (VSCC notwithstanding).

Michael Hill
Biology Lab Technician

To the Editor,

Thank you for [writing] the article on the fitness facility. Some did not know the facility existed, much less where it is located.

My rub on the article was that one student was interviewed, no faculty or staff and this student over exaggerated the condition of the facility as being filthy.

I, along with the other physical education staff and maintenance custodians, take issue with that fact as presented (being filthy). I check the facility everyday M-F several times a day since my office is close to it and I make it my job to inspect the condition and the users of it.

I am not here in the evenings and notice the next day the free weight equipment may be in disarray, but not filthy.

I know the student quoted in the article, and I have personally helped him with his fitness programs many times even in wellness class.

I think if questioned he would attest to this. To say faculty would not assist him is false.

Please thank Ms. Akin for doing the article and the picture, but this is not the image that is projected by the faculty or the facility to those who use it or would want to use it.

Thanking you,

Ron Timberlake

Permanent parking stickers bad idea

Bravo to the article and editorial slamming the new parking sticker!

I am really disappointed by Dr. Nichols' remarks concerning the parking decals. *The Settler* reports that Dr. Nichols doesn't really care what the students think. He says if we don't like the stickers, we don't have to park on campus. What he means is this: If we don't like his rules, we can withdraw. He won't even consider grievances. He's the boss. It's his school.

The quote from Danny Pippin, assistant chief of campus police, is just as disappointing...and rather baffling. *The Settler* quotes him as saying the stickers are "free advertising." Why is the Assistant

Chief concerned with advertising? Why does he think we, the students, are concerned with advertising? Anyway, it's not *free* advertising if it depends on the students' cars for visibility. It's only "free" for the school.

The real purpose of the new, larger, Dr.-Nichols-approved decals is that they are far more visible than the old ones. In fact they are so visible that security officers will be able to sit in their cars and scan the parking lots for violations. It will be much easier to hand out tickets. And consider this: Volunteer State Community College will have security officers whether or not the parking stickers are required. That means every \$10 fine will be pure profit for the school.

I'd also like to add another objection to the decals: They are not re-usable. They cannot be moved from car to car. If I have to borrow or rent a car, I'll be in violation. The old decals were removable. Now I suppose I'll have to make a trip to the security office if I drive a different car.

Let me restate my opinion: I don't like the new stickers. And I find Dr. Nichols' because-I-say-so attitude to be overbearing, insulting, and demeaning to everyone--students, employees and faculty alike. I'm in my thirties and a part-time student. I don't want a gigantic white sticker that is visible from the moon on the back of my car, especially not one that says STUDENT. And I don't want to be

a rolling advertisement for Vol State. In the interest of campus safety I would, however, approve of a small, removable decal like last year's, or maybe a pass that would hang from the rear-view mirror. That's reasonable.

Thanks for your time...and for the editorial.

Jay A. Rowell

GOT AN OPINION?
College, local, state, and federal issues make you want to speak your mind?
Send letters to:
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