Partial permit refund result of low fuel prices

Isabella Bravo
STAFF WRITER

Low fuel prices are bringing U park-
ing permit holders a small refund.

Because of a recent drop in the cost of diesel fuel, the Utah Transit
Authority has scheduled to remove
the fuel surcharge from the price of
the U’s Ed-Pass, bringing the cost
down 10 percent. Commuter Services
has subsequently scheduled a partial
refund on all parking permits that
have been paid in full.

UTA tacked a fuel surcharge onto the
U’s contract for the transit passes
beginning in July, said UTA spokes-
woman Carrie Bohnack-Ware. Commuter Services pays for the Ed-
Passes, available to all students and
faculty, with money from the pur-
chase of parking permits.

Commuter Services, as a subdivi-
sion of the U’s Auxiliary Services,
is not a state-subsidized department
department on campus. Commuter Services can only spend money that it can
generate, so to compensate for the sur-
charge, Commuter Services added
a 10 percent increase to the price of
parking permits at the beginning of
the new semester.

The permit price adjustment ac-
counted for a fuel surcharge added
to all installments on the contract
with UTA.

Commuter Services paid the fuel
surcharge from July to December
2008 and will pay the surcharge for
the first three months of 2009. UTA
removed the surcharge for the last
installment of the school year that
accounts for the U’s public transit ac-
access from April to June 2009, Boh-
нак-Ware said.

Alma Allred, director of commuter
services, said the refund amounts
to one-fourth of 10 percent, because
UTA only removed one-fourth of the
surcharge.

The U permit refund is $3.30. The
refund for E permits is $1.65. Allred
said $3.30 sounds small, but the to-
tal refund that Commuter Servic-
es is responsible for will be more
than $24,000. Refund money comes
See UTA Page 4

Parking Permit Refunds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Type</th>
<th>MR/R-24</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>E</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Price</td>
<td>$1,340</td>
<td>$1,232</td>
<td>$572</td>
<td>$264</td>
<td>$132.00</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
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<td>Fuel Surcharge</td>
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<td>$123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refund</td>
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<td>$30.80</td>
<td>$14.30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Blair Dee Hodges
STAFF WRITER

When Cynthia Purse was a little
girl, she wanted to save lives by be-
coming a doctor. Later, after meet-
ing an engineer who helped dev-
develop an MRI machine, she quickly
switched fields.

Purse said she realized that by de-
voping a machine that can provide
detailed images of internal parts of
the body, she could save more lives
through inventions than helping
sick patients.

"I thought, ‘What can I do to
so a day for a doctor, or millions
of people for an engineer?’" said Purse,
an electrical engineering professor
at the U. "I could have more impact
on the world being an engineer.”

To inspire high school students
throughout the state, just as she was
inspired years ago, Purse helped or-
genre “Meet an Inventor Day” which
was held Saturday, where engineering
students and professors demonstrat-
ed their latest inventions.

About 100 students attended the
event, which was hosted by "

U hosts Inventor Day for high schools

Beta EJ, a group of College of En-

gineering honor students. The U

funded the event through a five-
year, $1 million grant provided by

the National Science Foundation.
The purpose of the grant is to in-
crease the number of engineering
students in the United States.

"We want more engineers be-
cause they affect our quality of life
and our economy, both locally and

nationally," Purse said. "We’re eval-
uating ways we can get more stu-
dents interested in engineering. If

they see what engineering includes,
most will find something that inter-
ests them because it’s such a broad
field with so much impact.”

Maddie Frommelt, a junior from
Alta High School, said she had
mixed feelings about a demonstra-
tion of a device invented at the U

designed to restrict cell phone use
while driving a car.

"I think it’s a really cool idea, but
I don’t want it on my phone," From-
melt said. "Not that I talk all the
time when I’m driving, but what if I

really needed to use my phone?"

At another presentation, Daryl
Wased, a senior in electrical en-

gineering, described how researc-
ching electrical charges in human
muscles can lead to important discover-
ies in the medical field. By hooking
students up to a pair of electrodes,
he showed how electrical voltage
generated by muscle movement can
be recorded on a computer. Wased

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