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Campus Parking **By Daniel L. Prater**

Voice Staff

"It happens every year," said Fayetteville State University traffic enforcement supervisor John McKoy, when asked about the recent campus-wide bulletin warning against using counterfeit parking permits.

While most students comply with the policies on campus, McCoy said there are always a few who believe they can get over on the system. The number of violators usually consists of two or three each semester, but traffic enforcement has never pursued the matter as aggressively as now.

McKoy suggested that traffic enforcement's response to illegal parking shouldn't be blown out of proportion, but the consequences are very serious. According McKoy, violators may receive a boot until the illegal permit is surrendered and could be considered ineligible for a parking permit for one calendar year. In addition, any employee or student found to have violated this ordinance shall be subject to disciplinary action and the payment of a civil penalty.

However, McKoy said he understands the hardships of today's economy put a clear strain on any student's budget. "People are trying to get over on tough economic times," he said. As most students know, permits start at \$25 per semester while gated area permits cost up to \$175.

McCoy says the majority of violators are commuter students, but even faculty members have been found in violation of the parking permit policy. Nevertheless, McKoy said students are getting better at duplicating permits. Many will use off campus resources to construct the forgeries.

However, students fail to realize traffic enforcement officers have an eye for spotting fakes, McCoy said. FSU changes permit designs every September. In addition to their training to identify a fake, the officers have hand-held CPUs to check registration on the spot. McKoy said many students underestimate the capabilities of Fayetteville State's traffic enforcement.

Students come into the Department of Police and Public Safety and argue they have the proper permit or pretend they didn't know the DPPS was the only issuing office on campus. However, when McKoy says, "Ok, bring in the permit and let's see it," the students begin to get sheepish and don't want to produce it for inspection.

McKoy mentioned the craziest traffic violation occurred when a student was late for class. "(The student) pulled into a handicap spot with no handicap sticker and ran into the building...and left the vehicle running!"

Sadly, students occasionally attempt to cause confrontations rather than take responsibility for their actions. Often times people look to blame traffic enforcement for delays, "It's part of the job to have thick skin," McCoy said. "Sometimes we

Parking Fines & Vehicle Boots

Vehicle Boots

Any vehicle parked on University owned or leased property which has three outstanding parking violations will be subject to having a wheel boot placed on the vehicle. The wheel boot will stay on the vehicle until the Pacifity, Staff, Student, or Driver of said vehicle pays outstanding fines or makes arrangement, with the parking enforcement staff at the University's Police Department.

Notice of Outstanding Parking Fines

The Traffic Division will send monthly email notifications to each Faculty, Staff, and Student with a valid email address of outstanding parking fines. If you believe you may have outstanding parking fines, please contact the traffic office at 910-672-1726, Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Collection of Outstanding Parking Fines/ Transcript Holds

Effective March 1, 2012, any parking fines which have not been paid within 30 days shall be forwarded to the NC Department of Revenue for collection. Such collection action may include garnishment of wages and/or retention tax refunds.

A transcript hold shall be placed on the account of any student with at least 3 outstanding fines

Reduction Offer - Outstanding Parking Fines

Individuals who have outstanding parking fines will be eligible for 25% reduction in the amount owed if fines are part in full on or before February 28, 2012. This offer is applicable only if the individual has a current University parking permit. Individuals who do not have a current University parking permit must purchase a permit before taking advantage of the offer.

Note: The 25% reduction only applies to outstanding parking fines that were due before the issuance of this bulletin.

get cussed out when people have to wait." Additional traffic due to construction projects and recent refund checks can make parking difficult as well.

Most tickets can be avoided. Residential students should leave their vehicles in the assigned areas until 5 p.m. UPA students fall in the same category, since their permits only allow parking in UPA until 5 p.m.

"If you have a citation, come and pay it as soon as possi-



ble," McKoy said. "Our office will express possible leniency if the issue is dealt with in a timely manner. It's not going to go away." McKoy said students have attained over \$1,000 in fines due to late fees.

So if you hear any students wanting to sell their parking pass, don't fall for a cheap alternative, or you may find your vehicle booted and yourself on a trip to the Department of Police and Public Safety.

CIAA Tournament:

The time has come once again to lace up the sneakers and get ready for the CIAA Men's and Women's basketball tournament. This year, Fayetteville State's men basketball team stands 8-15 as of Sunday Feb.. 19 overall coming off two wins against St. Augustine's and Livingstone, with four games left until the showdown in Charlotte comes. While the Fayetteville State's women team sits 11-13 overall before facing Barber-Scotia on Feb. 16. Both teams have had their fair share of ups and downs this season but both

will be looking to send a big message come tournament time.

The Voice had a chance to speak with the men's basketball head coach, Alphonza Kee, and asked him a few question regarding the CIAA tournament. Coach Kee, who is in his second year as FSU's men's basketball coach, said "we will continue to take it one game at a time while we continue to improve game by game and day by day" when asked about what the team is focusing on to win the CIAA tournament. The coach continued to say "We

have gotten better every game whether it was a win or loss." Coach Kee hopes to keep the upward progress going entering the CIAA tournament week, but only time will tell if the Broncos will be able to bring home their first tournament championship in recent memory. And the Lady Broncos hope to repeat the success of the 2009-2010 season.

The CIAA tournament is set to take place Feb. 27 - March 3 at the Time Warner Arena in Charlotte, NC. Bowie State Bulldogs, Chowan Hawks, Elizabeth City Vikings, Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls, Lincoln Lions, Livingstone Blue Bears, St. Augustine's Falcons, Shaw Bears, Virginia State Trojans, Virginia Union Panthers, and the Winston-Salem State Rams will join the Broncos in Charlotte for the big dance. The Broncos hoped to defeat Shaw University after they ran, through the tournament last year taking home both the men's and women's trophy. But, we know for sure that win, lose, or draw Bronco pride will be in full effect in Charlotte come Feb. 27.

