

# The good and bad about parking at UNC

## Freshmen still can not have cars, and the future does not look bright

## A chance for a permit possible at registration

By **RON CRAWFORD**  
University Editor

Chapel Hill's parking problem is not likely to go away soon, campus officials say, and the big losers again this year are the freshmen.

"Freshmen have been prohibited from parking for at least six years," said Mary Clayton, UNC's director of transportation. And, because of limited parking space, there's no end to the ban in sight.

"There's certainly no immediate relief in the sense that we're not building more parking except in the fringe lots," Clayton said. "There's only so much space. There's a fixed limit. When land's at a premium, buildings are going to get priority over parking."

The campus will lose 350 parking spaces to construction this year, she said.

Clayton said the Traffic and Parking Office handles about 15,000 requests for parking space a year. But the campus only has about 11,000 parking spaces.

Because of the great demand, parking on campus is regulated by a permit system. Each lot requires a specific permit that must be purchased at the Traffic and Parking Office and displayed at all times.

Most freshmen who are caught parking on campus are fined \$10 for parking without a permit, said Mary Fox, UNC's parking control coordinator. Student parkers discovered to be freshmen are

fined an additional \$25.

Anyone who receives three or more violations is considered a repeat violator, said Fox. After the third violation, the violator's car will be towed.

Students who wish to purchase permits should register during the preceding spring semester, said Clayton, but even then, they are not assured of getting a permit. Graduate students get first priority for permits, followed by seniors, juniors and sophomores. Because of this hierarchy, which is set by the student government, many sophomores don't get permits, said Clayton.

The University does make exceptions in certain cases, however. If a freshman feels he has a compelling reason to have a car on campus, he can apply for a waiver at the traffic office.

Acceptable reasons for granting students waivers include employment at home, which must be verified by an employer; military obligations, such as Army reserves; and medical reasons. Applications for waivers on the basis of medical reasons must include a letter from a physician.

By **TAMERA MAJORS**  
Staff Writer

Students who did not get campus parking permits in the spring may still have a chance when they return to school.

All available permits will be for sale at registration in Fetzer Gym in August, according to Mary Clayton, director of transportation with University Police.

"Access permit distribution used to be held separately from registration, but this year the two will be done together," Clayton said. "We don't know the exact number of permits that we will have for sale at that time, but we usually have about 300 available."

There are approximately 11,000 parking spaces on the UNC campus and about one-third of those go to students. The other portion is for faculty, staff and visitors.

Prices range for these spaces from \$10 to \$114.75 for an academic year.

The least expensive is P Lot, which is located down Airport Rd. at the Horace Williams Airport. Students who buy this permit for \$10 also receive a free bus pass to get them to campus.

For a spot around the residence halls, students can expect to pay around \$80. Law students or medical students who may park in employee zones must pay a little over \$100 for their spaces.

The number of spaces allotted for the 1987-88 year is about 350

less than the previous year, Clayton said. This number is a permanent loss due to construction advancements.

"The University has grown greatly and land is a premium for growth," Clayton said. "Parking lots are flat and cemented and great for building. Parking decks are expensive, but they are permanent and an important alternative."

But until such advancements are made in parking, students must continue to struggle for a spot.

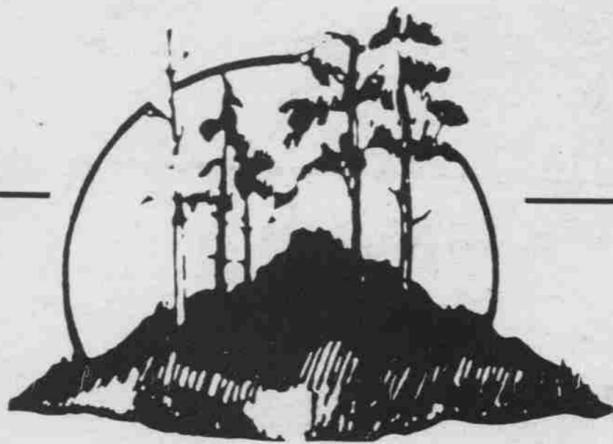
Clayton encourages students who fail to get a permit at registration to check with the parking office in the basement of the Campus Y building for permits that have been turned back in.

"Permits are turned in that go unused," Clayton said. "During the first week after Labor Day we have permits returned — and other students who want them have already given up."

"We encourage people to check back because there are changes throughout the semester. We post a list of available spaces by 4 p.m. each Monday. Those spaces will be distributed the following morning beginning at 7:30 a.m."

If a student's need for a parking permit meets the hardship qualifications established by Student Government, then a student may receive a permit through that

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