

Avoid the parking problem; get there on Moped or bike

By JUDY WILSON
Staff Writer

The most efficient way to get around campus is either by Moped or 10-speed bicycle, according to University Police Sgt. Ned Comar.

"These vehicles offer local students more freedom of effort than cars do," he said. "If I were a student residing on campus or nearby, I would use a Moped or bicycle so I wouldn't need to worry about parking, slashed tires, broken windows, stereo theft and outlandish insurance. It's also cheaper to operate a bicycle or Moped than it is to operate a car."

"You don't need a permit to use a bicycle or Moped on campus," he said. "We'd rather have these vehicles to deal with than cars."

Comar said a vehicle is considered a Moped if it has pedals that will move it and if it has a certain amount of horsepower. "If it can't be pedaled, it's a motorcycle," he said, adding that a motorcycle driver must have a special driver's

license, wear a helmet, shine a headlight, abide by insurance laws and have a license tag.

Students who ride Mopeds and bikes must follow certain rules of the road. Comar said the rules are simple; just think as if you're driving a car. "Riders of Mopeds and bikes in any public areas must obey all rules of all other vehicles, such as cars," he said.

These rules include those pertaining to speed limits, stop signs, turn signals, reckless driving and DWI. The driver of a Moped or bicycle can be charged with driving while impaired by alcoholic beverages.

"Violations of these rules are not misdemeanors, but they are infractions, and violators must pay fines," said Comar. "You have to go to court for reckless riding, though."

"There is a University policy against riding Mopeds on sidewalks," he said. "If you violate this law and then hit a pedestrian, you

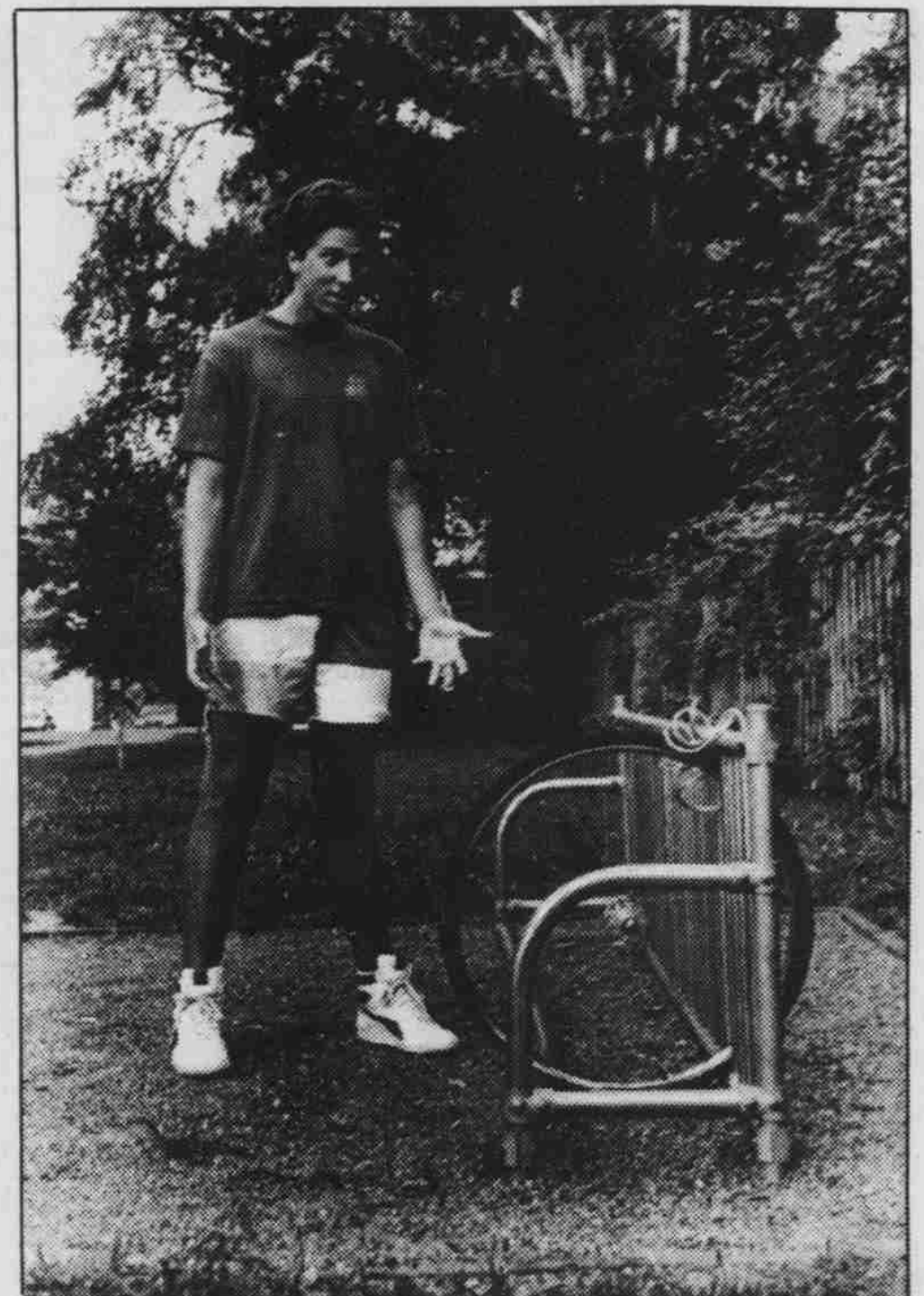
will have a terrific, large lawsuit to deal with.

"Most people would sue, and since Moped drivers are not required to have insurance, you would really drain your personal resources. From a legal standpoint, you don't have a legal leg to stand on."

Except for a few restricted areas, bicyclists are allowed to ride on sidewalks. "There are four blocks where bikes are not allowed," said Comar, "and they are the blocks on Franklin and Rosemary Streets between Columbia and Henderson Streets."

Students can park on campus at any place where there is a bike rack. "Fastening bikes to wheelchair ramp railings, stair railings and trees is prohibited," said Comar. "We might cut them loose if they're parked in one of these places."

See MOPEDS next page



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