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BOT to Vote on Increase For Parking Ticket Fines

The increases for the tickets would make parking on sidewalks and landscape a more costly offense.

By KATY NELSON AND JOE SULLIVAN
Staff Writers

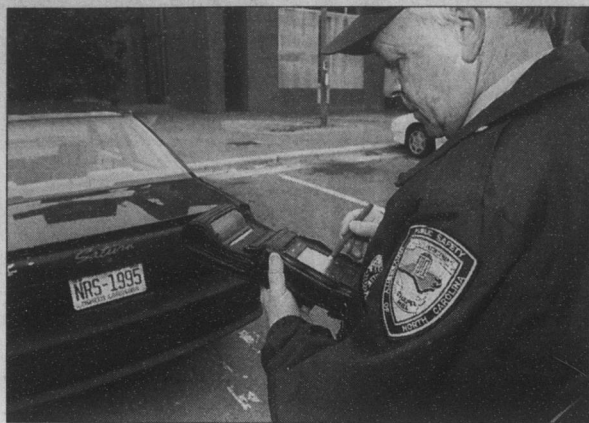
Junior Steve Lyerly says he has accrued more than \$500 in parking fines in his time at UNC.

He has the habit of parking his car on Stadium Drive with his hazard lights on while he runs into Carmichael Residence Hall to pack for a weekend at home.

Despite leaving notes on his dashboard saying he will be back soon, Lyerly invariably returns to a note of a different kind from a parking enforcement officer, with a fine attached.

But while students and faculty members lament the financial burden of parking fines, the \$1.6 million in proceeds from the tickets are put back into the parking lots, being used by the Department of Public Safety to create and maintain parking spaces.

Still, for most drivers, a parking citation is the last thing they want to find on their dashboards — especially because Chancellor James Moeser signed a recommendation last week from the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee to raise several



DTH/ARIEL SHUMAKER

Officer Tom Finch issues a parking ticket Thursday afternoon. "I don't make the rules, I just enforce them," he said about ticket fines.

parking fines, including citations for parking on the landscape and sidewalks.

The increases in fines for parking on sidewalks and the landscape are needed to make them equal to those charged for parking in a parking space without a permit because the latter is currently a more expensive offense, said Derek Poarch, director of the DPS.

"It's better to pass on these fee increases to violators than to parking pass holders," he said.

These fee increases, as well as potential increases in athletic and special event parking violations, will be considered at the Board of Trustees meeting in March and would take effect Aug. 15.

The \$1.6 million in parking fines levied last year directly supports the DPS's parking and transportation budget, which does not receive any University or state funds.

The \$12.9 million in the department's budget is used for maintenance of parking lots and decks as well as to pay staff salaries. The rest of the budget comes from sales of parking permits, sales of visitor permits, parking meters and

charges for special event parking, Poarch said.

Deborah Hawkins, DPS parking enforcement manager, said there are no parking citation quotas for the six to eight parking enforcement officers who patrol campus on weekdays.

Parking enforcement officers have the right to tow vehicles for fire lane violations, safety hazards and in cases when owners have more than \$250 in outstanding tickets, Poarch said.

Although there have not been any reports of physical abuse since Hawkins joined DPS 11 years ago, parking officers endure verbal abuse, she said.

Poarch said, "It's a very tough job to do. No one wants to get a parking ticket. Parking enforcement officers have not been treated politely on a number of occasions."

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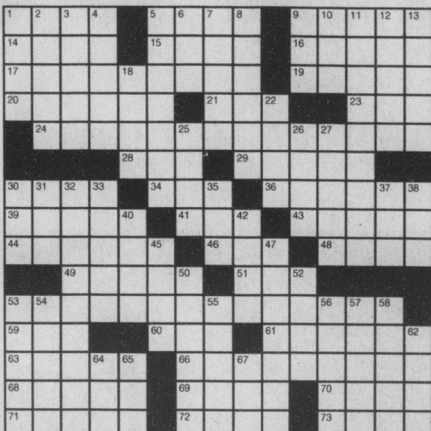
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