

Students try to avoid DPS parking tickets

Appeals process generous, some say

BY DANIEL PATE
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to getting out of a parking citation, UNC students have many answers — though not all work.

With the Department of Public Safety giving out hundreds of tickets per month on campus, students without a justifiable reason have to use creativity to establish the perfect excuse, otherwise they're forced to pay the fines.

"The DPS is 90-percent funded by my tickets," said sophomore Molly Brewer, who has received eight tickets during her college career.

But of the almost 200,000 tickets DPS issued in almost four years, about 40 percent of them cost students no money.

Freshman Jill Zartman said she knows a friend who has received 13 tickets this year and has yet to crack open her wallet.

Freshman Katie Terry says she plans on telling the officer about her stressful week if she is ever caught with a parking violation to try to get out of a ticket.

Randy Young, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said the average number of citations issued per month ranges from 700 to 800.

The highest months include September and February, which usually see as many as 900 tickets.

DPS provides tips for people who want to avoid a parking citation, but Young said the best way to escape a ticket is to simply pay attention.

"There would be a lot less violations if folks simply heed to the signage on the entrances next to the lot and the special events signs," he said.

Most students who do receive parking citations feel they can appeal by simply explaining the situation.

"I've never heard of anybody having a hard time if they had a legitimate appeal," said sophomore Tripp Gobble, who received a ticket in the Swain lot after needing 10 minutes to retrieve his laptop from Hill Hall.

Gobble appealed the ticket, and it was removed.

Senior Geoff Bridges said a friend received a ticket for parking in a lot at 5:03 p.m., when the lot is open after 5 p.m. After explaining the circumstances, his friend was cleared of the citation.

Young said many tickets come from people outside of the

Appealing a ticket

- ▶ Tickets must be appealed within 10 days.
- ▶ Notification of your appeals status will be sent to you within two weeks.
- ▶ Students who don't pay the citation will have a hold placed on their University Registrar records.
- ▶ You can review appeal guidelines during business hours at the Department of Public Safety.
- ▶ For more information see dps.unc.edu.

University who aren't familiar with regulations, whether they are told erroneous information or have the notion that parking is not enforced or is free.

"Typically we don't hear those reasons from people that are affiliated with the University," Young said.

And students say it's important to keep in mind not to act like a victim when convincing an officer to drop a citation.

"Don't blame it on them; put the blame on yourself," Gobble said.

Contact the University Desk at udesk@unc.edu.

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Clinton reiterates position on trade

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Sen. Hillary Clinton emphasized her opposition to a proposed free trade agreement with Colombia, two days after her chief campaign strategist was demoted for his role in supporting the deal.

Many labor unions, including the CWA, oppose these deals, saying they displace U.S. jobs and allow abuses of workers and the environment in other countries.

Sen. Barack Obama also noted his opposition to the Colombia deal when he spoke to the CWA.

Candidates take on Gen. Petraeus

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The top commander in Iraq found himself in the middle of presidential politics Tuesday — literally — as he was questioned by White House candidates politically and physically on either side during a congressional hearing.

Republican Sen. John McCain elicited answers that he hopes will bolster his call to stay the course. Democratic Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama argued U.S. troops should come home.

Gen. David Petraeus asks Senate for suspension of troop withdrawals

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The U.S. general commanding the Iraq war called for an open-ended suspension of troop withdrawals this summer, reflecting concern about a recent flare-up in violence and leaving open the possibility that few, if any, additional troops will be brought home before President Bush leaves office in January.

Gen. David Petraeus told a Senate hearing Tuesday that he recommends a 45-day "period of consolidation and evaluation" once the extra combat forces that Bush ordered to Iraq last year have

completed their pullout in July. He said the past year's progress is "fragile and reversible," and didn't commit to any additional troop withdrawals beyond July.

"This process will be continuous, with recommendations for further reductions made as conditions permit," he said. "This approach does not allow establishment of a set withdrawal timetable. However, it does provide the flexibility those of us on the ground need to preserve the still fragile security gains our troopers have fought so hard and sacrificed so much to achieve."

U.S. and N. Korea progress in talks

SINGAPORE (AP) — The United States and North Korea said they made good progress in talks Tuesday on resolving a deadlock over a disputed inventory of the nation's nuclear programs.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said he and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan had "a full discussion on all issues."

U.S. officials said they expected an imminent announcement from China, perhaps on Wednesday, that the next six-party talks at the envoy level would take place in Shanghai on April 16.

Iran to improve nuclear capacity

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced major progress in Iran's push for nuclear power, saying Tuesday that his nation was installing thousands of new uranium-enriching centrifuges and testing a much faster version of the device.

That would represent a major expansion of uranium enrichment — a process that can produce either fuel for a nuclear reactor or material for a warhead. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice cautioned, however, that the claim could not be immediately substantiated.

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New York Times Bestseller Eric Jerome Dickey is coming to the Bull's Head Bookshop to sign books and read from his new novel *Pleasure*.

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