

Towing of parked cars studied by CS council

By NANCY ANDERSEN
Battalion Staff

On Nov. 8, Caroline Hill said her car was legally stolen.
Sharon Kelly said her car was towed off last Thursday and she had to pay \$55 the next day to get it back.
The problem facing Hill, Kelly and other College Station residents is the towing situation.
Presently, there is no ordinance regulating wreckers and towing service operators.
A towing company, for example, is not required to report to College Station police if a car has been towed off.
In addition, there is no limit on the amount wreckers may charge car owners.
At a workshop meeting Wednesday, the College Station City Council discussed a new ordinance which would bring the towing companies under city scrutiny.
The new ordinance, said City Manager North Bardell, should require private parking lots to have prominently displayed signs warning car owners their cars will be towed if illegally parked.

In addition, Bardell said, towing companies should notify police of the time and place whenever a towing occurred and the place of storage.
The proposed ordinance would allow the council to set a maximum fee, North said. The council would hold a public hearing before setting the fee, he added.
Hill said her car was towed off by D&H Wrecker Service while she was shopping in Skaggs Alpha Beta.
D&H is under contract with University Square Shopping center owner John Culpepper to tow any illegally parked cars.
Hill said her car was legally parked in the parking lot.
According to state law, Hill said, there is nothing to prevent towing of legally-parked cars in private parking lots.
Due to the lack of a wrecker ordinance, Bardell said, the council is helpless to change the situation.
The council will adopt a new ordinance at the first meeting in January, Bardell said.

Crime rate rising in parks

Campers warned of thefts

With the ballooning crime rate among campers and rising incidence of drug trafficking in parks, a Texas A&M University parks expert warns holiday campers from the city not to leave their street sense at home when venturing into the woods.
"For some reason, people in a big park seem to think they are completely safe and secure," said Dr. Jim Fletcher, a professor in Texas A&M's Department of Recreation and Parks. "They don't put gear away. They don't lock cars. It's just as essential to take the same precautions in the woods as they would when they're home in the city," he said.
Fletcher suggests campers always

The reason: a rise in the number of crimes against property reported in the state and national park systems. Thefts have ranged from expensive down sleeping bags to four-wheel drive pickup trucks. Vandalism is also creeping up in the forests, though the expert admitted the problem is more severe in city parks where a vandal can show off his handiwork in front of other vandals.
"Most vandals aren't going to drive 80 miles just to write obscene things on a tree," observed Fletcher. "But if gear is just left lying around, some park users will take everything that's not nailed down."

lock their cars and always secure personal possessions like stoves, clothing and sleeping bags when away from the camping site.
Still, there is a growing number of reports about drug trafficking. It seems often the isolated park areas are excellent exchange points. Controlling drug traffic however, is a chore beyond the scope of most park rangers.
About the best park rangers can do is help identify possible contacts and pass the information on to state and federal agencies that normally handle drug enforcement, said the Texas A&M researcher.

A&M team wins horse judging meet

Texas A&M University's horse judging team received first place honors and a \$1,000 scholarship at the World Championship Intercollegiate Horse Judging Contest in Oklahoma City.
The competition, sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association, featured 25 teams

from 18 colleges and universities throughout the United States. Team members are Paul Buchanan, Stacy Harper, Suzanne Pundt, Mariann Hamilton, Marilyn Webb, coach Karen Hinkle, Dr. Zerle Carpenter, Russ Taylor, Linda Warinner, Jim Pool, Mark Fenton, Marc Gellart and Dr. Gary Potter.

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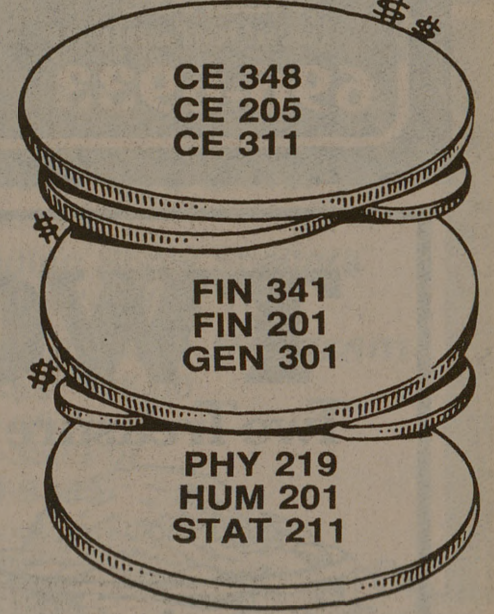
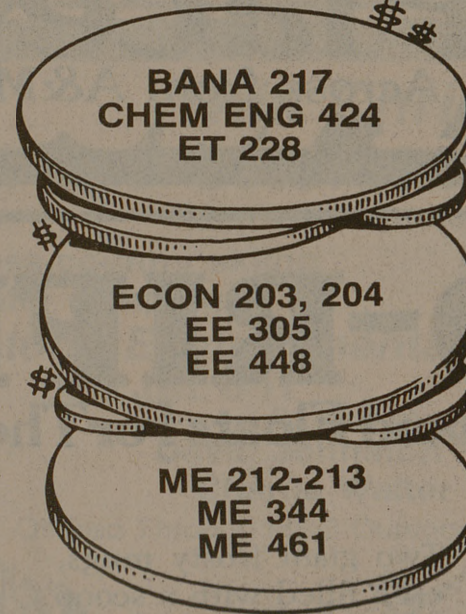
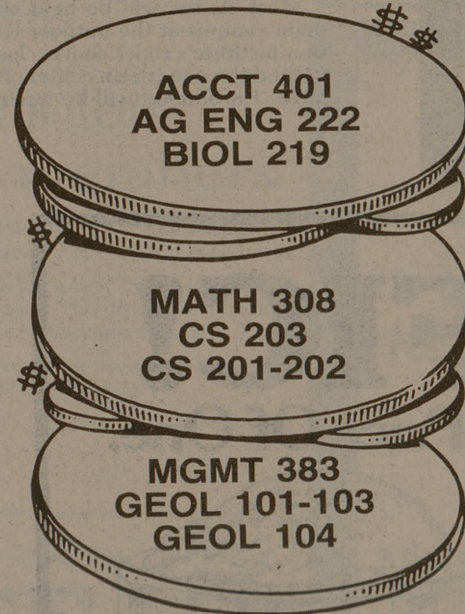
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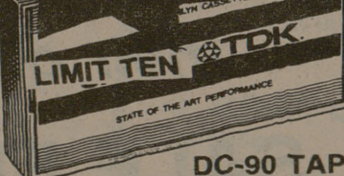
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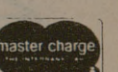
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