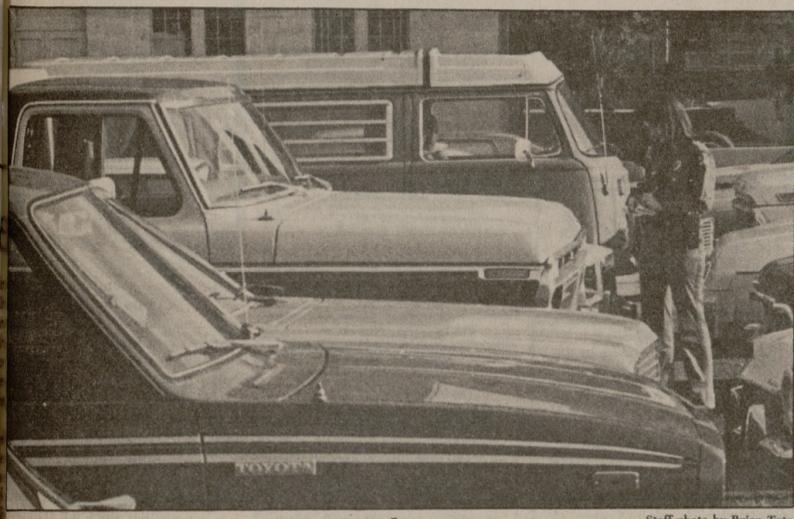


Local



Paying the price

Staff photo by Brian Tate

University Police Department officer Celeste Hurley writes another parking citation for one of the many vehicles found illegally parked each day on campus.

Higher fines not a deterrent to campus parking violators

By JANE G. BRUST
Battalion Staff
Parking fines on the Texas A&M University campus doubled in the fall as a deterrent to future violations. However, the increase does not seem to be effective. Thomas Parsons, director of security and traffic, said 48,540 tickets were written between September and December 1979. He said 41,358 tickets were written during the same months of 1980. Parsons said he does not think the

decrease in tickets is due to the increase in fines. Instead, he attributes the decrease to a change in ticket writing policy. "Last year we gave two violation notices for unregistered vehicles," he said. "One was for being unregistered, one was for being illegally parked." Now only one ticket is written in such instances, cutting down on the total number of tickets written. Tickets for parking violations are \$10 each; for moving violations, \$20 each.

Improvement of existing lots. Eight of the University's 100 parking lots utilize electronic gates to reserve spaces for authorized cars. The gates, which open with specific combinations, can cost \$5,000 each, Parsons said. He said it is difficult to control parking violations even with the electronic gates because authorized persons give the gate combinations to other people. Parsons said he does not foresee installation of electronic gates for all campus lots.

City Council considers oil measure

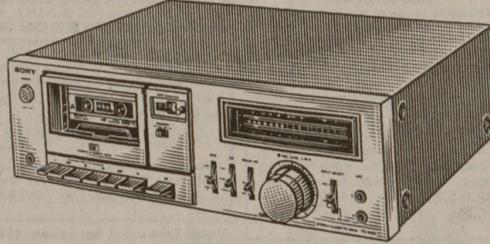
The College Station City Council will consider an ordinance on allowing oil and gas drilling in the city limits at its regular meeting Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the city hall. Other ordinances to be considered are increasing wrecker service fees and health service fees. Also on the agenda is a public hearing concerning rezoning two tracts of land west of and adjacent to F.M. 158 near Highway 30. A 1.186-acre tract would be rezoned industrial and a 2.246-acre tract rezoned residential. The council will also hold a public hearing on the proposed 1981 Community Development Block Grant Application.

Parsons said the fine increase was recommended by the traffic panel comprised of 21 students, staff and faculty. Although the fines have doubled, the revenues have not. Parsons said only \$190,125 was collected in the fall and some of that money was paid for tickets written in previous months. "We've had some tickets on file for a few years," he said. The University regulations manual says that failure to clear tickets could result in the driver being blocked from registration with the University. Six or more tickets in one year could result in the loss of parking privileges on campus. Parsons said the ticket revenues fund a reserve, some of which pays for new parking areas. For example, he said the lot being built behind the Zachry Engineering Center cost \$1,100,000. "It takes some time to build that big of a reserve," he said. In addition to the construction of new parking areas, ticket revenues pay for the maintenance and im-

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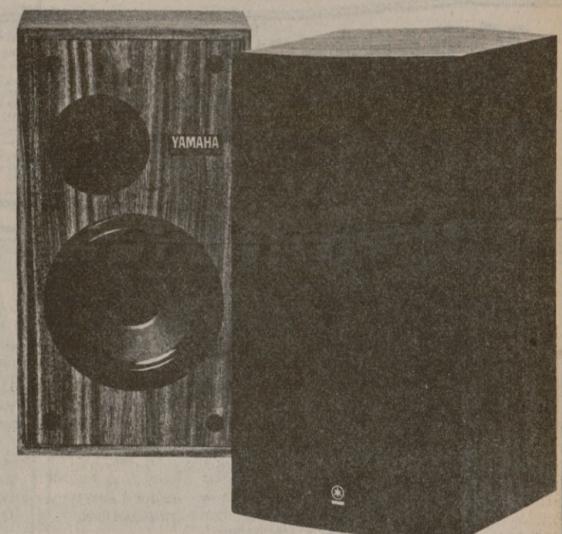
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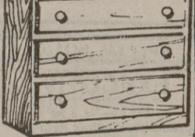
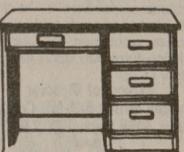
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