

ping or rolling. A player can carry the collection in an \$18 disc golf bag with ease.

Equipment for regular golf costs at least 20 times more than disc golf equipment. A bottom-of-the-line set of irons and woods costs about \$200 while the best set of clubs can cost over \$500. Not included in the equipment are little extras

such as gloves, balls, special shoes, funny clothes, tees, and a big bag for lugging everything around.

M McNorton, who has played disc golf for six years, says that he stopped playing regular golf, softball and tennis when he discovered disc golf.

"I like disc golf better than regular golf," McNorton says. "All I do for recreation now is play disc golf."

"If I'm ever down, I go out and play a round with the boys and it brings me out of it. It's like medication or therapy or something."

Disc golf is more casual than regular golf for a number of reasons. For example, on a disc golf course you can usually drink beer, which is almost as much a part of the game as the disc itself. Like a koala bear needing his daily eucalyptus fix, a disc golf player will tote a couple of brews around during a game in his \$18 bag.

A regular golf course doesn't allow a bunch of young, club-wielding yahoos out on the fairways drinking beer, driving carts and tearing up grass unless your father owns the club. Some people sneak beer onto a regular course, but those geezers that work at the clubhouse get pretty hot if they catch you with a bag full of cold ones. You might lose your beer, green fees, clubs or life, depending on the extent of the old man's geezerness.

Not unlike the border patrol, these guys occasionally check your golf bags or "soft drink coolers," especially if you look

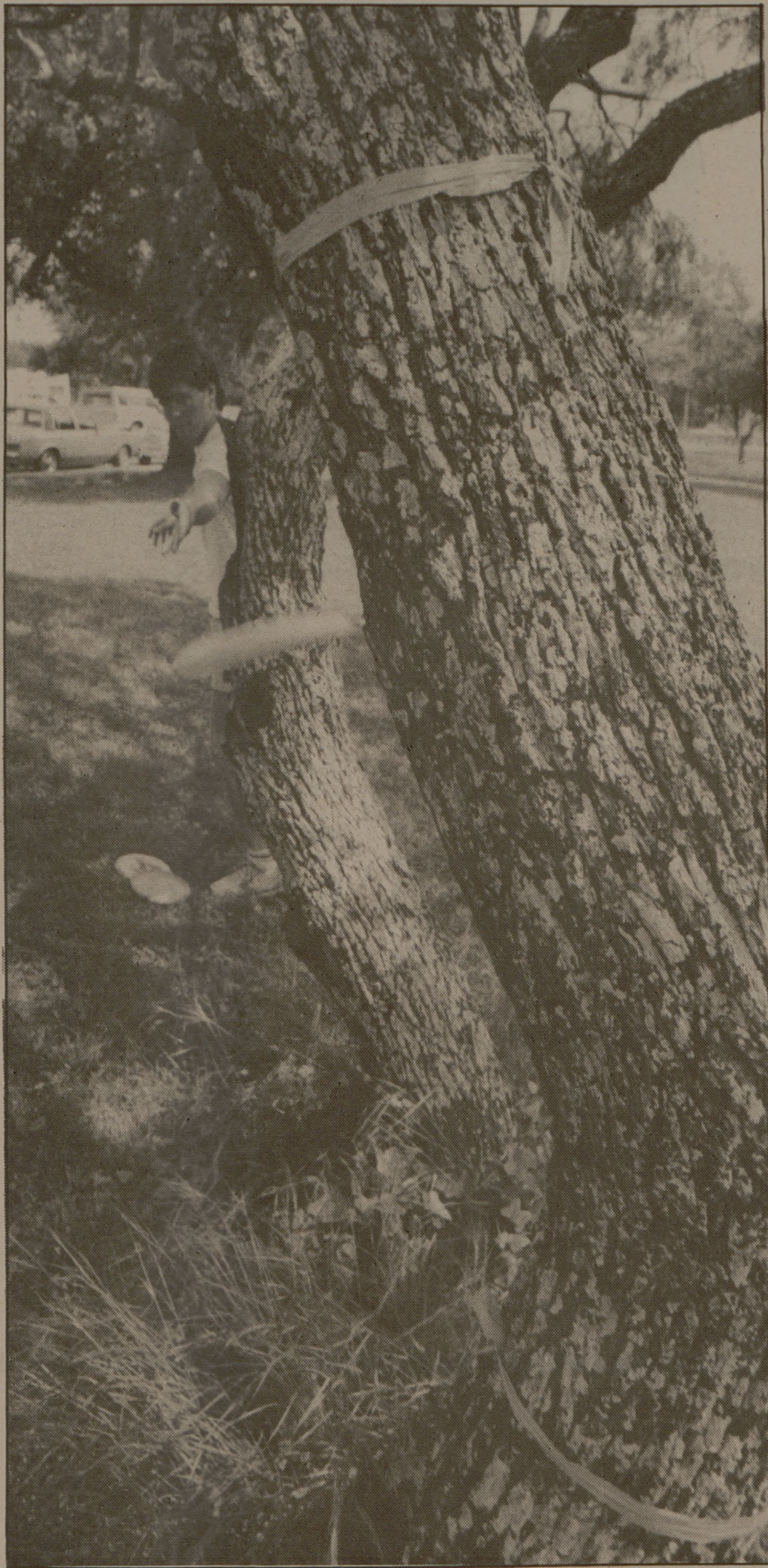
under 25, have a drunken gleam in your eye or have just run over the golf pro in your battery-operated cart.

You don't need a reservation to tee off on a disc golf course. Play moves faster because the holes are shorter, so nobody has to wait for more than a four or five minutes on players ahead.

On a regular golf course you might have to wait for 15 minutes on the groups of 100-year-old duffers ahead of you hacking up the grass. These guys usually take between six or seven hacks before they're within spitting distance of the green. Even with the cart, they take just as long to get to each hacking spot.

Like regular golf, disc golf has tournaments. McNorton says the Professional Disc Golf Association holds at least 50 tournaments around the country every year.

Winners of local and regional contests go on to the World Disc Golf Championships. In 1985, 200 participants played for the championship and \$30,000 in Tulsa, McNorton says. He says the same number of participants are expected to play for a \$40,000 prize in the 1986 championships in Charlotte, N.C.



Scott Fisher putts around an obstacle on the A&M disc golf course