

State/Local

New parking ticket billing plan eliminates lines, blocks, towing

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

As part of a new parking ticket program planned by the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic, excessive parking tickets on a registered car won't necessarily lead to registration blocks or tows. Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Traffic, said beginning next semester, parking tickets will be billed to the student, allowing students the opportunity to pay the tickets before they accumulate. "We will bill the cost directly to the student's account, much as lab breaches or overdue book charges are handled," Williams said. "This way, it will be easier for the student to keep up with his tickets."

Under the new plan, students will be billed at a certain date during the semester, regardless of the number of tickets. The first billing is planned for the beginning of the spring semester. Students have the entire semester to pay. "The tickets all have to be paid eventually, and maybe it will be simpler to pay them in one lump sum," Williams said. "This way, also, students won't have to stand in line at the police station." There will be at least two billings per semester, with plenty of time to pay before registration, Williams said. Students often are blocked from registration because they neglect paying tickets and forget about them. "We realize that tickets accumula-

te," Williams said. "The students may get one or two tickets during their first years of college and pay them. But then they may get a few more, put them in the glove compartment or wherever, and let them build up. Then they wonder why their cars have been towed. We want to stop this from happening." Williams said students with three or more unpaid tickets could have their cars towed under the current system. "Under the new system, we will not tow registered cars, even if they have accumulated tickets," he said. "We will, however, continue to tow cars in handicapped spaces, bus stop areas, 24-hour reserved and those blocking entrances and other cars."

Williams said students who want to appeal will have a 10-day grace period after the ticket is issued before they are billed. But once students are billed, they will have to deal with the fiscal department, he said. Graduating seniors are responsible for paying parking tickets. "We want the seniors to know that they will not be able to receive their transcripts unless all fines are paid," Williams said. "They will not be blocked from graduating, but they can't pick the transcript up."

EEC markets' merger will be topic of KANM national teleconference

The economic effects of the 1992 integration of European markets on the United States will be discussed at a nationwide teleconference Thursday at KAMU-TV. The teleconference will be from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendance is free and open to the public. The teleconference, titled "European Integration 1992: Implications For American Business," is being put on by the Center for International Business Studies, in conjunction with A&M's Office of International Coordination. Cathy Loving, international coordinator for the Office of International Coordination, said five basic issues will be addressed during the teleconference: the risks and opportunities that will result from integration; the new rules, regulations and standards that will affect the U.S.; the kinds of strategies will help U.S. companies survive and prosper; whether the elimination of the international market will raise a protectionist barrier and whether the financial environment will change in 1992. Loving said several distinguished speakers and panelists will be present at the teleconference, including U.S. Secretary of Commerce C. William Verity and Peter Hale, the director of Western Europe For International Trade Administration.

Panel tells students best methods to land co-operative position

By Richard Tijerina
Staff Writer

To get anywhere in the company with which you are hoping to co-op, you must work like the devil and never give up the hope that you will be hired. That was the basic message 10 students who have experienced co-operative education said at a panel discussion sponsored by the A&M Co-op Students Association Tuesday night. The presentation, designed to inform students planning to co-op of the ways to get hired by a good company and the tricks to move up in the job, helped prospective co-op students learn the best ways to land employment. Students on the panel had worked with such organizations as General Dynamics, the CIA, NASA, IBM and Texas Instruments.

A panel member who worked for the CIA said he kept calling the agency weekly for months until he finally landed a job. "Whoever you're applying with, keep calling," he said. "If they say they're working on it (your application), call back in four days. I talked to as many people as I could. Finally, they said they would call me back in a couple of days. They did and I got the job." Brenda Bjork, who worked with General Dynamics, said staying in contact with the prospective company is the best thing to do because the worst they can do is reject you. All the speakers agreed that money should not be the primary reason for working on a specific job, while happiness with your job should be.

Conroe woman kidnapped by Madisonville escapees

(AP) — Two jail inmates remained at large Tuesday after escaping from the Madison County Jail and then reportedly kidnapping one of the inmate's estranged wife. Vena Marie Clement said her sister, Lenee Suzanne Dean, was dragged out of her home Monday morning by Gregory Orley Dean and that it wasn't until she called the Madison County Sheriff's Department to ask why Dean was out did they notice he had escaped. "Madisonville (county jail) didn't even know he was out of jail until I called," she said. "They said, 'No, he's not. He's here.' They (the escapees) might have been out since 2:30 in the morning for all they knew." When she called about 8 a.m. Monday, Clement was told Dean was in his cell. But the 20-year-old, in fact, was missing from jail and may have been at large with cell mate Jon Raymond Ratliff as long as eight hours before jailers learned from Clement that the inmates were gone. Madison County Sheriff Ed Fannin said the two inmates were last seen in their cell at 11:30 p.m. Sunday by a monitor, who later discov-

ered them missing during a routine check Monday morning. Dean had been held jailed since Sept. 6 in lieu of a \$20,000 bond on aggravated robbery charges. Ratliff, 23, has been in custody since July 31 on a \$50,000 bond on auto theft charges and a probation violation. Fannin said the pair escaped the cell through the ceiling after cutting a hole through a steel plate with a hacksaw. The hacksaw, he said, may have been slipped to the inmates in a food package they received from visitors Saturday. Ms. Clement said Dean had threatened his 20-year-old wife in letters he wrote from jail after she threatened to divorce him because of his incarceration. "He said in these notes he sent her that he was going to kill her real slow and nasty," Ms. Clement said. "Yeah, I'm crazy ... and if you don't do what I say I'm going to kill you," one of the letters said. "Like I said before, it won't do you any good to tell anyone, because what could the cops do ... but tell me to stay away."

Rice students receive large tuition increase

HOUSTON (AP) — Rice University students will find an \$800 increase in their tuition bills next year, causing many to wonder whether they'll be able to afford to attend the private school. Lisa Thompson said she has been filling out scholarship applications in hopes she can spend her senior year at Rice. She said she has been making ends meet — just barely — with tuition at its current level of \$5,300 per year but won't be able to handle a jump to \$6,100 in the 1989-90 school year. "Unless I get a scholarship or something else spectacular happens, I have to go someplace else," Ms. Thompson said Monday. "There are no ifs, ands or buts about it. I'm scraping the bottom now." Despite the tuition hike, school officials say Rice's admissions policy will ensure that qualified students won't be turned away for lack of money. Rice, rated the ninth-best major university in the nation this fall by U.S. News & World Report magazine, has about 4,200 students, including about 2,700 undergraduates. Even with the planned increase, Rice would remain the least expensive of the magazine's top 10. Rice's board of governors Friday approved the increase requested by school President George Rupp. The increase was announced Monday. Rupp said the total rise in costs, including tuition, room and board, will be about \$1,000 per year. That will mean an annual price tag of about \$10,475, he said. Among his reasons for the increase, Rupp cited intense competition to attract and keep top faculty members. The school also has had to offset cuts in state and federal financial aid and has seen educational revenue from tuition drop from 41 percent in 1970-71 to 25 percent last year. That decrease did not pose a problem during the time when Rice's endowment was growing dramatically, Rupp said, but the growth rate has slowed and there is pressure to look to other sources for income.

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

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