

# Police to tow illegally parked cars

By George Miller

Cornhusker football fans who prefer parking in any available space on game days, can expect to have their car towed away this season, John Duve, university parking coordinator, announced.

Duve said that any vehicle blocking traffic or parked on lawns, sidewalks or curbs will be towed.

Towed cars will be taken to the university holding lot, 1100 N. 17th St. A towing fee ranging from \$10-\$15 must be paid by owners in order to retrieve their car.

In addition, Lincoln Police also will tow cars to the 17th St. lot, according to Inspector Dean Leitner of the Lincoln Police Uniform Division, which is in charge of traffic control.

Last Saturday, during the Louisiana State University game, 63 illegally parked cars were towed away.

Leitner said that was fewer than expected and credited good advance publicity about the changed parking policy with creating "tremendous cooperation from the fans."

#### Property damage

Leitner also said that persons renting parking spaces on grassy areas between streets and sidewalks will be arrested. He said that thousands of dollars in property damage is done by cars parked on these areas which is Lincoln city property.

Fraternities along 16th St. are the worst offenders, Leitner said. He warned that violators will be ticketed or even taken to police headquarters.

"There is no reason for taxpayers to have to pay for property damage for this kind of parking," Leitner said. "We can move traffic a lot faster, more safely and with less accidents if people would park in parking lots."

Duve said the university traffic regulations have always included the towing provision, but because of the number of cars around campus on game days, a tendency not to enforce the rule prevailed.

However, many unoccupied spaces in lots on campus and the State Fairgrounds easily could accommodate the illegally parked cars, Duve said.

#### 6,000 spaces at fairgrounds

"I've never seen the fairgrounds half full during games," Duve said. "There are about 6,000 spaces out there."

Duve said he counted 250 cars parked illegally during last season's Oklahoma State game which could easily have been parked in campus lots, he said.

In the past, Campus Police helped prevent gate crashing and provided emergency service. Now, with gate crashing instances decreasing, more personnel can be used to guard against parking violations. All campus security personnel will concentrate on citing illegally parked cars on game days, Duve said.

The decision to enforce the parking regulations was made last year, he said. Notices of the parking crack-down were sent to each ticket-holder and flyers suggesting legal parking places were placed on illegally parked cars.

There were three main reasons for the crack-down, according to Duve. One is that illegally parked cars interfere with emergency ambulance and fire service.

"There are approximately 75,000-80,000 people in the stadium on game days," Duve said. "Emergency personnel must often be dispatched to emergencies like heart attacks, personal injuries and fires during the game. We can't respond when there are cars plugged in everywhere."

Another reason is property damage to lawns, shrubs, steam tunnels and sidewalks. Every year the Grounds Dept. must repair damage caused by parked cars.

"It's too bad the Grounds Dept. cannot direct their efforts to new areas instead of repairing old areas," Duve said.

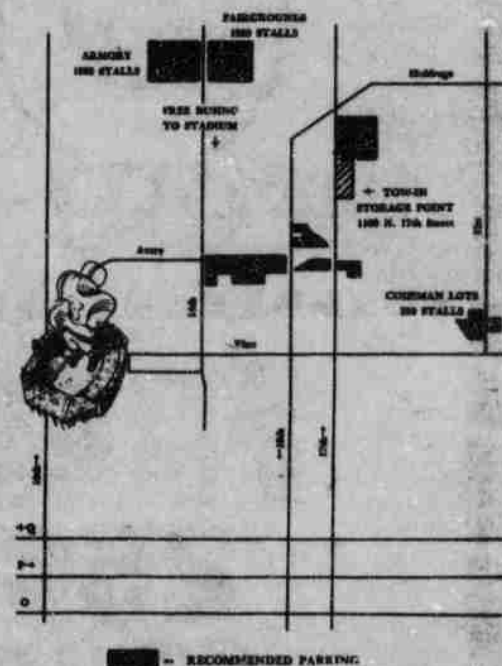
The third reason was one of equity.

#### Equal treatment

"A student on campus could not expect to park during the week like some visitors on game day," he said. The problem accumulated so that people expect to be able to park on lawns. We feel that an individual parking illegally should be treated equally during the week as he is during the weekend," he said.

Duve said all area 2 lots are open during weekends. He recommended parking at the National Guard Armory or State Fairgrounds. The Athletic Dept. sponsors a bus from the fairgrounds and armory to the stadium.

Parking spaces are also available at the lots near 21st and Vine streets, lots on 17th St. near Holdrege, and lots between 14th and 16th streets near W and Avery streets, and 16th and 17th streets near Nebraska Hall.



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