



Photos by Brian Erb

# Towing

## Task force to look at hauling troubles as furor mounts over impounding, rates

By Dave Sokolowski  
Of the Emerald

Returning to the car after a day of shopping and errands to find a parking ticket on the windshield is a frustrating experience. But that situation doesn't compare with returning to the parking space and finding it empty.

"Someone stole my car," is the first panic-stricken thought that comes to mind. The second may be "authorized parking only."

The blood pressure rises. Fury builds up at the thought of being towed.

Situations like this one have angered enough people that the Eugene Police Department claims it has received a recent deluge of complaints.

As a result, the Eugene City Council formed a task force to look into complaints and review city ordinances regarding impounding. The task force is comprised of representatives of the public, businesses currently using towing services and a Eugene towing firm.

Citizen complaints center mainly on high rates, circumstances surrounding the towing and verbal abuse, says Vick Mann, a lieutenant with the Eugene Police Department.

Despite the large volume of complaints, most people who park in an impounding zone know they're in violation, says Leon Swager, owner and operator of Emerald Towing.

Emerald impounds for about 80-90 percent of the city's private lots, Swager says.

He says he was a nice guy until taking over Emerald Towing in October 1982, but he's toughened up after having to deal with irate people.

"One of my employees was slapped in the face after their car was paid for and released," Swager says. "I've been pushed around in the office and the police have had to come and break it up."

Towers also have problems accepting checks and credit cards, Swager says. In fact, payment was stopped on the first check he accepted after coming to Emerald.

"They refused to pay it. I was forced to take them to small claims court and they had to pay me the \$71.50 impounding fee on top of court costs," he says.

He defends high impounding rates, saying they are hiked up by the cost of operating the business and his three \$30,000 trucks. Emerald is the only towing company in the city that charges a flat rate for impounding, he says. Other companies charge separately for hook-up and storage.

Impounding signs are causing much of the trouble. In 1981, the city passed an ordinance outlining sign regulations. Signs must be between three and 10 square feet and state specifically who can park in lot space, according to the ordinance.



## Waiver exams changed

Students who want to waive part of the University's writing requirements should be aware of some recent changes in the Writing 121 and 122 exemption examinations, English department officials say.

The exams, scheduled for Nov. 28 and 29, will no longer require an objective portion. In two hours, students must read a passage and respond in an essay. Students who pass will earn an exemption — but no credit — for the course. The exam cost has been reduced to \$3.

To learn exam schedules and to sign up for each exam, students should contact the Testing Office,

238 Student Health and Counseling Center at 686-3227. Further information is available from the English department, 118 PLC.

In other news, department head John Gage says Writing 123 will not be offered for the remainder of this year.

Students who are interested in an elective composition class that teaches writing in a similar way should enroll in Writing 216, Gage says.

"Students who want to learn about techniques of using the library in relation to their research should consider LIB 127 or LIB 199, taught by the library staff," he says.

\*\*\*\*  
\* **CHAMPAGNE** \*  
\* **LIQUIDATION** \*  
\* **Ladies!** \*  
Join us Thursday  
nights at  
*Callahan's*  
as we attempt to  
liquidate our entire  
stock of  
**Champagne---FREE!**  
9 pm - midnight  
\* 440 Coburg Rd • 343-1221 \*  
\*\*\*\*

**10c**  
**OFF**  
any slice plus  
a free soda  
Offer good Monday  
through Friday  
11:30-Midnight Mon.-Fri.  
3:30-Midnight — Weekends  
1211 Alder on Campus  
686-9598  
**Sy's Pizza**

## emu Fountain Court Cafe

### Luncheon Specials

Served Daily 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
All Specials \$1.95

**MONDAY**  
Baked Ham Noodle  
with Cheese  
Sweet & Sour  
Meatballs  
Buttered Rice

**TUESDAY**  
Biscuit Topped Beef  
Stew  
Reuben Sandwich  
Potato Salad

**WEDNESDAY**  
Herbed Chicken with  
Dressing  
Hunter Style Steak  
Quiche Lorraine  
Spinach Quiche



## Happy Thanksgiving

**Mexican Food Bar**  
Burrito Supreme / Fried Burrito  
Taco & Enchiladas  
Spanish Rice & Refried Beans

**Salad Bar**  
By the ounce  
15¢

**Chef's Choice  
Soup Bar**

Two special soups and  
Chili served daily