

# Students take care of routine car maintenance

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Staff Writer

With the influx of students to USC, more and more of whom are driving cars (you can tell by the fewer number of parking spaces), students might need advice to keep their machines moving and campus traffic flowing.

Jeff Snow, service manager for the Goodyear Auto Service Center at 1400 Gervais St., said there are important areas of a vehicle to focus on first for preventive maintenance and care.

"The most important things on your car are the tires, all your fluids, your oil and your radiator fluid/antifreeze," Snow said. "Tire pressure is very important because your car can't run indefinitely without the correct pressure. And that's where the rotation and balancing process comes in as well.

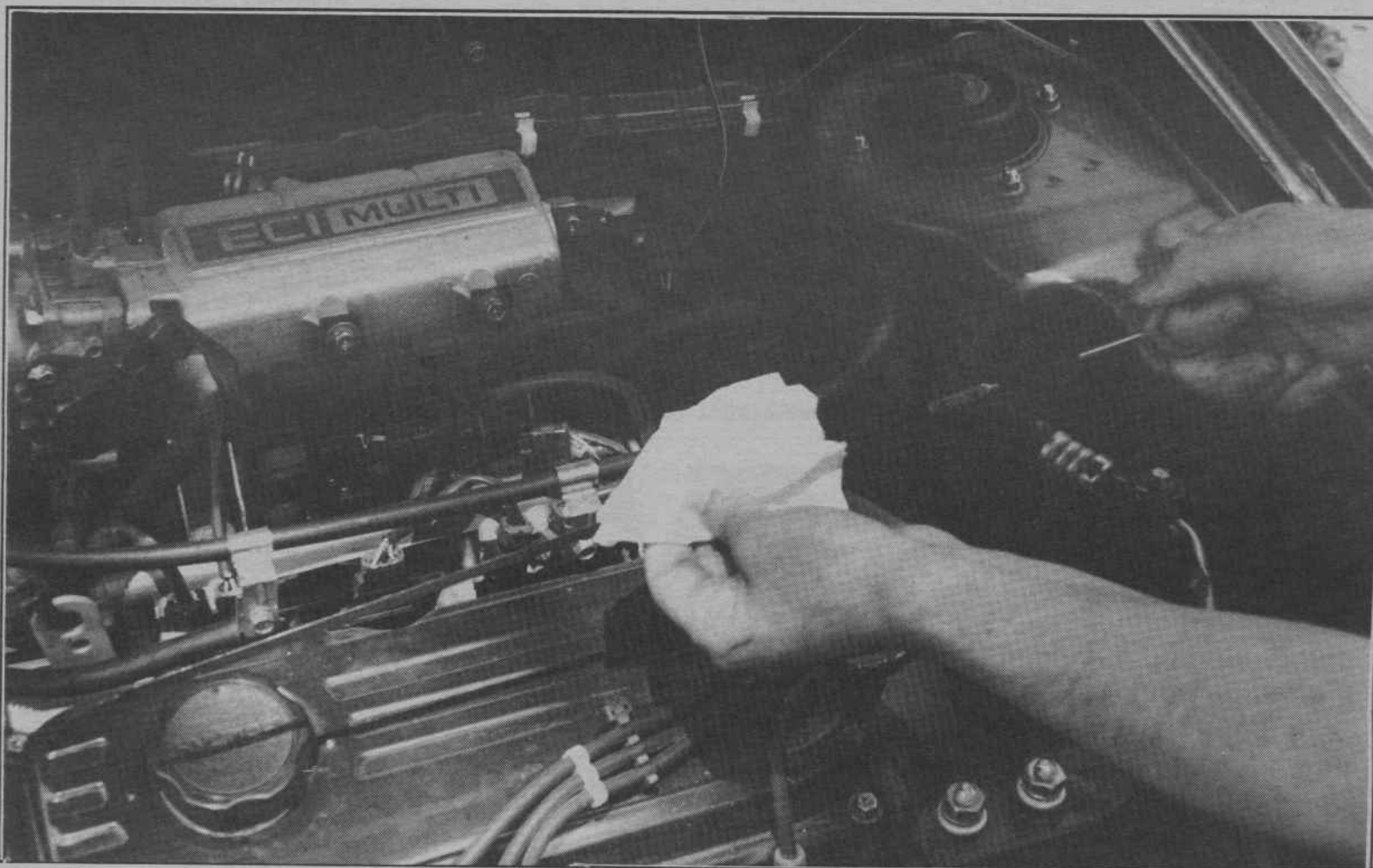
"Your tires are the most important part of the car because that's the first thing on the road. Then it's your brakes because you have to stop."

Snow said changing the oil was especially important in Columbia because of the hot weather.

"We recommend you change your oil every 3,000 to 3,500 miles because oil breaks down faster in this heat," he said.

Snow listed other automobile areas that should be checked to prevent problems:

- oil filters should be changed when the oil is changed;
- brakes should be checked every 24,000 miles as required or according to driving habits;
- transmission fluid should be



Eric Glenn/The Gamecock

Always check your car's fluids. Oil should be changed every 3,000 to 3,500 miles.

- changed every 24,000 miles;
- tires should be rotated and balanced every 5,000 miles;
- alignment should be checked annually or at least every 6,000 miles;
- air filters should be changed every 12,000 miles or according to dri-

ving habits;

- tune-up engines every 12,000 miles on non-computerized cars and every 24,000 miles on computerized cars;

Snow said cooling systems should be checked once a year or

every 12,000 miles because antifreeze can produce an acid buildup.

"Antifreeze can produce white splotches on your radiator that can circulate and eat away at other parts of your car," he said.

Snow said students can bring their vehicles to Goodyear for a detailed inspection. Goodyear offers a 15 percent discount to students with USC identification.

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