



October 1972 photo

PARKED CAR. A Toyota car stuffed into the stairwell at Cariboo College as a year-end prank by engineering students Thursday morning draws the attention of science department chairman Colin James.

Cariboo engineering students pull off crazy car stunt

By JODY PATERSON
Daily News Staff Reporter

Early-morning arrivals to Cariboo College's science building Thursday were puzzled by the red Toyota stuffed on its side near an inside stairway. They'd heard college parking was a problem, but had it really come to this?

But within minutes, they'd learned the incident wasn't linked to parking-lot congestion.

It was, in fact, linked to that primitive urge in certain students to dangle cars from bridges, hoist them into fountains, and generally put them where they didn't belong.

The spectre of Wild and Crazy Engineering Students had risen.

The college's 25 first-year engineering students, capitalizing on a beloved tradition of their University of B.C. compatriots, managed to slide, wiggle and manoeuvre a 1972 Toyota onto its side in a tight spot inside the science building early Thursday.

Some of the students, who didn't want to give their names, later said they'd been aiming for the foyer, "but didn't want to push our luck."

"It was a good class effort,"

said one student. "And it was an honorable death for a dying car."

The car caper was a "year-end wind-up" for the students, who write the last of their final exams today.

Colin James, chairman of the college's science and engineering department, thinks his students' antics are "excellent."

"This is the first time engineering students here have done something like this, and I think it's great. It shows some spirit," said James. "I guess they wanted to do something to show their abilities, their ingenuity, and I'm impressed."

James pointed out that the students used dollies to get the car inside and then laid paper on the floor to ensure the floor wouldn't be damaged.

"This establishes a tradition that other years will have to follow," he said.

College vice-president David Cane said he's "appreciative" that students didn't cause any damage when they brought the car in, and added he's expecting the stunt to get bigger and better next year.

"I expect they'll find a way of getting it onto the second floor," Cane said.