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Obstacles await campus parkers

South University area irked with students cars due to day long parking

By GARY LEY
Of the Emerald

University students who drive to campus often run an obstacle course in their quest to park close to their classes.

Metered parking spots are usually taken by 8:30 a.m.

Park anywhere on campus illegally, and you run the risk of being ticketed by Campus Security.

To park in the lot to the south of Bean complex costs \$18 a year and requires a major hike to many classrooms.

You can park on the streets to the south of campus for free and be relatively close to classes, but residents in the area are increasingly hostile to the daily invasion of students' cars, and parking there might be severely restricted — if not eliminated — in the future.

The parking problem is a result of poor use of present campus parking facilities and a lack of room on the west side of campus according to Campus Security, University administration and residents of the south university area.

"There isn't as much parking near the academic area for students as there should be," says Dick Tanner of Campus Security. "And I've seen Lot 34 (the large one south of Bean complex) full just twice. That was for Elvis and the Olympic Trials."

"Our problem is the west side of campus where most of the cars coming to campus are and where we don't have many spaces," says Ray Hawk, vice-president for administration and academic affairs.

Les Childress-Ullman of the South University Neighborhood Association (SUNA), says "what bothers us is that parking outside our houses is often closer to many classrooms and that the student lots are half-full."

SUNA has proposed a permit system, which would place a two-hour limit on commuter parking in the area. The City of Eugene is studying the SUNA plan and is likely to approve it, according to Jim Hanks, an engineer in the city's public works department.

The 150 to 200 people who park their cars in the south University area will have to move their cars, contributing to parking hassles in another area.

Hawk says the University is familiar with the problem and has given parking a high priority in planning committees.

Hawk says the University is "in the talking stages right now" regarding a parking structure to be built on Lot 16, which is behind PLC between Alder and Kincaid Streets. He says the facility would be multi-level and would be paid for by the users.

"We don't have anything concrete now but the prospects are in the cards," says Hawk.

Tanner agrees this structure would ease the parking problem, but says the traffic congestion created on Alder Street would be severe. He says he thinks the field north of the Music School would be a better site.

"We could cut parking under the tennis courts on Alder Street, too, or cut into that bank south of Mac Court and put a field on top of it," Tanner says.

Tanner says students have access to 953 campus parking spots. The security office has sold 1,365 student parking permits since September.

But not everybody who has a permit is on campus at the same time so Lot 34 stands half-full much of the day. And other students don't fill the rest of the lot because of the \$18 fee and the distance from classrooms, Tanner says.

Tanner says security is kept busy enforcing campus parking regulations.

"We write about 300 tickets a day now. About 200 of those will be on meters. In a month we'll write 4,000 to 5,000," says Tanner. He says this is about the same as in the past few years.

Tanner says the parking area with the most violations is the Music School's. A Eugene police officer is assigned to Campus Security to patrol that lot.

Tanner points out that the parking problem has only become worse in recent years. One of the reasons, he says is that 100 spaces were converted to lawn when Oregon Hall was built.

"There's a certain segment on campus who would prefer to look at green grass rather than a parking lot," Tanner says.

Tanner says the same people want to discourage cars on campus in favor of rapid transit.

"But I haven't seen any rapid transit around here," Tanner explains.

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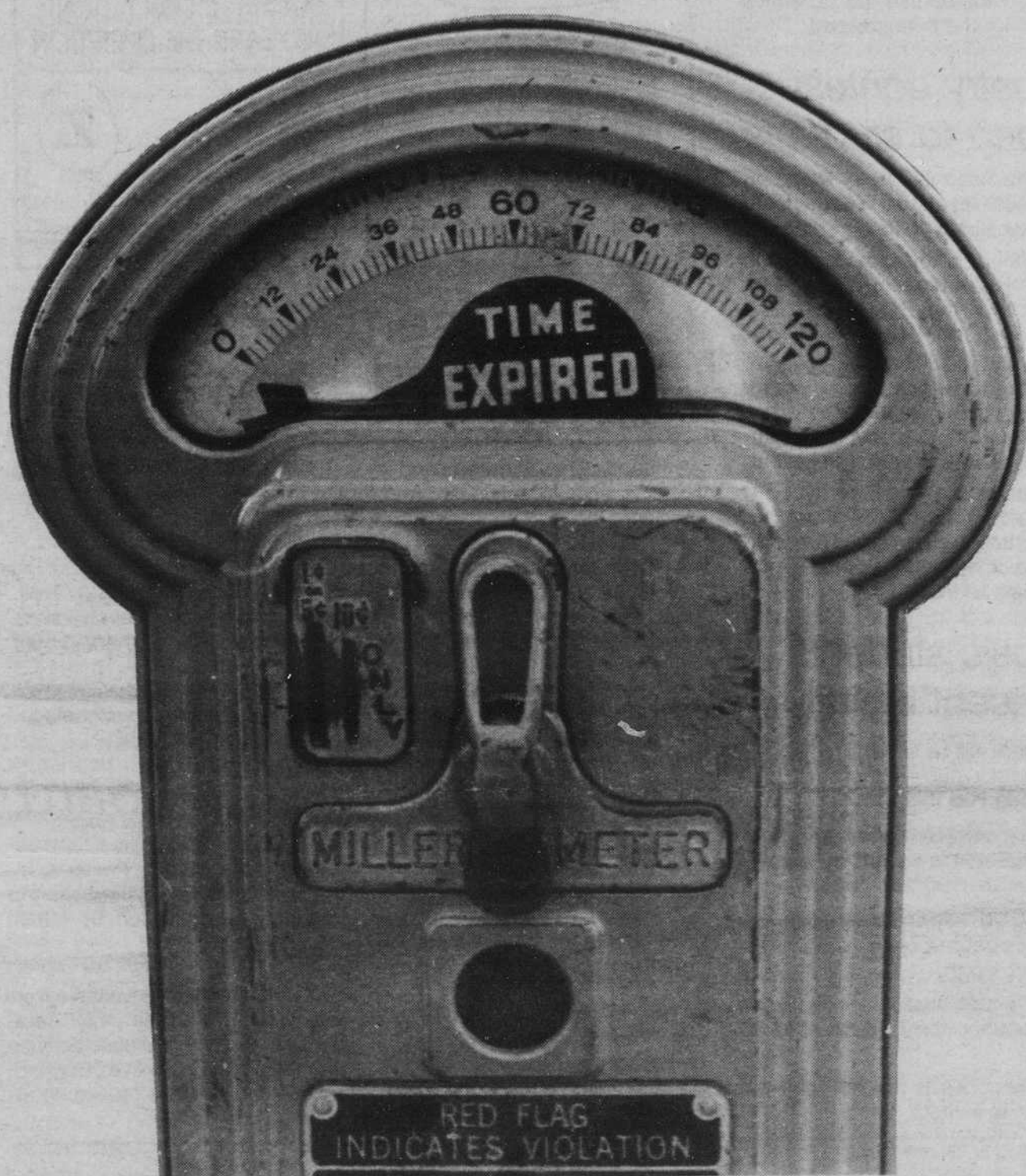


Photo by Greg Gawlowski

As this potentially menacing flag pops up, it signals the start of a race to the meter between police and parkers. Auto losers in the race are subject to fines from Campus Security and Eugene Police

Amazon debt question settled

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

The Amazon housing building reserve fund currently has over \$67,000 according to Ross Hall, state comptroller. While this official source answers the question of surplus or deficit for the fund, it also raises a number of other questions.

That sum is easily enough to meet the one percent building repair reserve fund needed to comply with the minimum rate recommended by the State Board of Higher Education.

Meanwhile, Gary Feldman, ASUO president announced Wednesday, that Congressman Jim Weaver has sent a personal request, along with over a hundred other letters, to Governor Bob Straub requesting a state audit of the housing

department books.

"That housing department needs a real shake-up," says Feldman. Besides the audit Feldman calls for periodic and open reviews of the entire managerial structure of the housing department.

He suggests the implementation of a review board consisting of Amazon Community Tenants (ACT), dorm and ASUO representatives as well as University officials to regularly be able to review the housing department's figures.

Feldman also questioned how Bob Minshall, a certified public accountant, did not notice the mistake in eight months of review.

The controversy started over a memo issued by Minshall, cost-accountant for the Business Office, to Richard Romm stating that an estimated Ama-

zon budget surplus was actually a deficit of \$45,810.

As it turns out, both housing office figures were incorrect.

Nancy Lawrence, ACT spokesperson, says the discrepancies could have resulted from too many auditors. Apparently, Minshall, the Controller and Don Thomas, assistant manager of the University business office, all make entries into the reserve fund, thus creating a three-ring accounting circus.

Minshall's memo also showed the replacement rate increasing from one to two percent, because of the deficit projection. H.P. Barnhart, University Housing director said last week that the increase was intended only as recommendation.

Neither Minshall or Thomas were available for comment.