

Money crisis stalls bicycle traffic project

By JULIE KENNEDY
For the Emerald

A lack of funds has forced the University to postpone indefinitely a long-term project aimed at improving bicycle accommodations and traffic on campus, says James Hoard, one of the project's organizers.

The initial phases of the proposed project, involving the modification of present bike racks and the construction of over 1,000 new, covered bicycle parking spaces, requires \$10,000 to \$11,000, Hoard estimates.

So far, funds have not been specifically allocated for the two-

year project, scheduled to begin this September.

Ray Hawk, vice president of administration and finance, says a lack of information caused the postponement.

"The transportation sub-committee of the Campus Planning Committee worked last year to develop the plans, and they didn't get the plans into us until the end of spring term," Hawk says. "We feel we need more input from the rest of the community, because these plans are rather far-reaching, and involve a lot of expense. First we have to see whether people basically agree with the plan."

"It is the best bicycle plan I've seen so far," he adds.

Initial funding for the proposed bicycle facilities will be available from the campus parking account, Hawk says.

"But if we do provide bike parking, bicyclists are going to have to pay part of the cost," he says.

That means bicyclists may have to pay a registration fee or a bicycle parking fee to the University if the new proposals are implemented.

"A fee for bike parking is permitted by law, and user fees can be used to purchase (and maintain) covered bike racks," Hoard adds.

The parking fee may be about \$6 per year per student, and \$12 per year for faculty and staff members, Hoard estimates. Reserved bike parking for a somewhat higher fee is also being considered.

On a nice day there are more than 3,500 bicycles parked on campus, Campus Security estimates, and accommodations for these vehicles have long been inadequate.

Bicycles are locked to parking meters, telephone poles, and even trees because bicycle racks accommodate fewer than two-thirds of the bicycles on campus.



Photo by Dennis Hickok

Because there are no designated routes through campus, sidewalks and ramps intended for pedestrian and wheelchair use are often dangerously congested by bicyclists.

To complicate the problem, many cyclists "fail to follow the rules of the road," says campus security officer Dennis Kelley.

The sub-committee's proposal includes plans for a system of campus bicycle routes and for the management of bicycle traffic.

"The general solution was that bicycles should be restricted to designated routes," says Hoard.

The system is designed to separate bicycle and pedestrian traffic as much as possible, to alleviate sidewalk congestion, and to minimize bicycle-pedestrian conflicts and accidents. Areas where bicycle-pedestrian conflicts

are frequent will be designated as areas where bicycles must be walked, according to the plan.

"If the campus plan is approved and implemented," he adds, "we will restore areas that are now ruined by bikes, and prevent further destruction of campus landscaping."

"There will be a need to educate people about the new restrictions," Hoard says. He suggests that the bicycle rules be largely self-enforcing, but that campus security enforce the regulations if necessary, and impose fines for violations.

The Campus Planning Committee needs student opinion and input concerning the bicycle problem and the proposals for new bicycle accommodations. Students may obtain a complete draft of the proposals from Hoard at 245 PLC or by calling 686-3927.

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Language groups socialize

By SONIA DMYTRYSHYN
Of the Emerald

Stammtisch. Tertulia. Serata Italiana. La Table Francaise.

The words are different, but the meanings remain the same — they're all gatherings for people who speak foreign languages outside the classroom.

Sponsored by language departments, faculty and students, the groups meet informally so that natives and foreign students can converse.

Language gatherings are available in German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, French, Swedish and Norwegian.

German speakers meet each Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Pizans, 1225 Alder St., for a "Stammtisch," or "steady table."

Founded four years ago by

Prof. Helmut Plant, the Stammtisch is based on an old Austro-Bavarian custom of getting together to talk, drink and see friends.

"It seems to appeal to the Germanic mentality," Plant explains. "Tertulia" is the Spanish word for "gathering," and Spanish speakers gather Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Queen Marie Room, second floor Friendly Hall.

Luis Verano, a Spanish GTF who founded the Tertulia in 1971, points to the informal atmosphere as one reason for its success.

"The goal at these gatherings is to talk, and one does not have to say intelligent and witty things," Verano says.

Folk music, slides and pictures are also part of Tertulia.

"Serata Italiana," or "Italian Evening" is slightly different from

the other language groups. It can be taken for academic credit and is open to students on or above the second-year level, following a loose lesson plan.

Meeting Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. in the Excelsior's bar, 754 13th Ave., the Serata was formed three years ago by students.

"We don't want it to be anything formal," says Silvia Giustina, Italian language professor. "We'll talk about food, a movie shown in class, folk music, Italy."

The Chinese Language Table meets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Thursday in 115 EMU. Continuous in some form since the early 1960s, the table combines faculty and student, native and non-native speakers.

Angela Jung, Chinese language and studies professor, says the table is especially helpful for students learning Chinese. "If they are having trouble we can help them and correct them," she explains.

A table for Japanese speakers meets immediately after the Chinese table, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in 115 EMU.

Swedes, Norwegians, Danes or anybody speaking their languages can get together Wednesdays between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in 115 EMU.

"We just chat about anything," Scandinavian Prof. Ingrid Weatherhead says. "It's a culturally broadening thing."

"La Table Francaise" is a winter term offering from the French department. Dr. Elizabeth Marlow says the table has been "most successful in the past," but was shelved this term in lieu of other projects.

Conversation for credit is available at most levels, and advanced students can arrange non-credit conversations with individual instructors.

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