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Students lose free parking, but neighbors regain theirs

The days of free parking south of the University are soon to be over — at least for the next six months anyway.

A parking restriction program, developed at the request of the South University Neighborhood Association, will go into effect in early November.

About 120 two-hour parking signs will be placed on 33 "block faces" (one side of a block) between Hilyard and Emerald Streets and 18th and 22nd Avenues.

The area encompasses about 96 block faces, but not all will participate in the program.

The two hour parking limit will be in effect from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

SUNA residents who do not buy a \$5 parking permit, allowing them unlimited parking privileges, will have to abide by the two-hour limit.

SUNA resident Don South says he has no expectations about the program but that he assumes the vast majority of participants will want it to continue.

The traffic department will be evaluating the program every 60 days, and at the end of six months, will complete its evaluation, taking into account the response of SUNA residents and the restricted "parkers" involved.

For several years, SUNA residents have complained that University students continually occupy all available on-street parking in their neighborhood during the day.



Photo by Doug Williams

An hour's free parking is better than none, as students will discover next month when the South University Neighbors Association posts its two-hour-limit signs along 33 blocks near the University.

Congress slashes paraquat

The government's paraquat spraying program will soon be over, the Oregon head of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) said earlier this week.

Ron Friedland said a Congressional vote to cut off paraquat funding — that became effective Oct. 1 — will virtually dismantle the three-year-old, \$40 million program. Tons of the herbicide

were dumped on Mexican marijuana fields during the program.

"As I understand it," Friedland said, "it will end the paraquat program."

However, the bill, which was engineered through the Senate by Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill. and in the House by Reps. Harry Waxman, D-Calif., and George Miller, D-Calif., contains language which

would allow resumption of spraying if methods can be devised to warn the estimated 15 million consumers that the marijuana was contaminated.

Paraquat testing has been unreliable and efforts by the state department to color contaminated pot by adding red dye to the herbicide have been unsuccessful.

According to the national NORML office, the bill requires development of a coloring process which will "clearly and readily" warn potential users before funding can resume.

National NORML director Keith Stroup called the funding cut-off "a major victory in the continuing drive to stop the use of dangerous herbicides on marijuana fields in Mexico."

Friedland said the vote came on the heels of a March decision by U.S. Judge Joseph Waddy that the government would have to file an environmental impact statement on its paraquat use.

He said the decision was the first time the government has had to file such a statement for its activities on foreign soil.

"I'm elated," Friedland said of the congressional action, "It's long overdue. It was a boondoggle to begin with."

The program, he said, "was entirely the concoction of the Mexican government and the federal drug enforcement bureaucracy. When Congress finally took action, they took very responsive action to cut funding for a program that never should have been in existence in the first place."

emu Food Service

