

Unhappy 18th Avenue motorists complain to bicycle committee

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

A new bike path on West 18th Avenue is perhaps the "most controversial" action taken by the city in a long time, according to Sgt. Bob Laws of the Eugene Police Department.

At a bicycle committee meeting Tuesday morning, Laws said he had received a number of complaints from motorists about the three-week-old path, which stretches along 18th Avenue from Chambers Street to Bertelsen Street.

Motorists complain that bicyclists should use the bike-pedestrian path located about three blocks north of 18th, Laws said. The path, used exclusively by pedestrians and bicyclists, stretches from Jefferson Street to a point west of the Westmoreland student housing complex.

Additionally motorists complain of special privileges, funded by tax dollars, given to bicycle riders, Laws said.

"I want you to be aware that there may be a substantial backlash by some people, who may

take this to the Legislature," Laws said.

Laws added that some people may appeal to the Legislature to have them "legislate bicyclists off the street."

Apparently the traffic lanes are narrower in some places on 18th Avenue than was originally intended. Dave Spradlin, bicycle coordinator for the city, reported that he measured 9-foot-wide lanes at 18th Avenue and Pierce Street. The lanes were supposed to be 10-feet wide, according to Mike Weishar, assistant traffic engineer for the city.

In other business, Laws said the Eugene police are exploring the possibility of a bicycle patrol. The patrol would focus on the Willamette River Bank bike path and would involve placing an officer on a bicycle to patrol the path.

Scott Lieuallen, a city councilman and an employee of the Collins Cycle Shop, told the committee that he and other employees of the shop would be willing to assist such a patrol.

Technical improvements could be made on bicycles, Lieuallen

said, that would enable officers to carry a radio and other equipment.

Laws said the largest argument against the bicycle patrol was the restricted mobility of an officer. He said the department did not have enough officers now to place a person on the bike path. He said that paths are very infrequently patrolled on foot now because of the mobility problem of an officer on foot.

In other business, the bicycle committee:

- Decided to submit information to the Downtown Development Board concerning downtown bike racks. The committee will propose possible bike racks that may be funded by the city in conjunction with downtown businesses.

- Accepted for review a questionnaire from Regional Consultants Inc., which is intended to obtain information on what policies the city might adopt to increase bicycle riding.

The questionnaire is an attempt to move toward the Bikeway Master Plan goal, which calls for 5 percent of the trips in Eugene to be made via bicycle by the year 2000.

Planners OK mine district

A quiet public hearing on strip mining took place in the shadow of election results returns Tuesday night in the Lane County Public Service Building.

A combined county quarry and mining operation zoning district proposal was unanimously adopted by the Lane County Planning Commission at the meeting.

The district, subject to approval by the county commissioners, would apply only to operations of at least 10 years duration and to

those having an average annual production of 30,000 cubic yards or more. The operations would include strip, shaft and open pit mining.

Local environmentalists are opposed to the new district, saying provisions of the plan do not require reclamation of mined areas, removal of structures and buildings or appropriate refilling.

"Why have a quarry and a mining zone?" asked Janet Gillaspie, former Survival Center director. "We don't need both. The plan-

ning commission is not using adequate foresight with regard to issues as serious as open pit mining."

The adopted proposal reads, "Reclamation of land subjected to quarry and mine extraction operations is an ongoing process which should occur as phases of the quarry and mine extraction operations are complete."

The new district, QM, would be applied to areas now classified Exclusive Farm Use, Farm Forestry-20, Forestry Management and General-10, if requests for zone charges are approved.

Areas within the county having substantial mineral deposits include Fall Creek and the Bohemia Mountains outside Cottage Grove. There have been rumors concerning inquiries from national mining interests.

Evaluation forum open

The Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Courses will have an "open forum" meeting today at 3:30 in the EMU, room to be posted. Student access to course evaluation information and evaluation format will be the topic of discussion.

Helmut Plant, German professor and committee member, says that he has called this special meeting so that the committee can gain student input on the evaluation controversy.

"The meeting is to discuss the

implications of different motions concerning student course evaluations that will be presented to the University Assembly in December," says Plant. Compromise legislation will be worked out in the Senate in the last week of November.

The Committee's recommendation would allow student access to statistical course evaluation information, while other motions would eliminate the possibility of student access. Plant says all interested persons are invited to attend.

Socialist to speak tonight

Jack Clark, national secretary of the Democratic Socialist's Organizing Committee, will be speaking at the University tonight at 8 in 161 EMU. His topic will be "Socialism's Answer to Unemployment."

The Democratic Socialists Organizing Committee comprises individuals active in the Democratic Party who are working to change the direction of the U.S. economy toward a socialist perspective. They see the Democratic

Party as the best available, appropriate vehicle for such changes.

Among its members, the committee boasts feminist Gloria Steinem and Georgia State Sen. Julian Bond.

The speech, sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum, will be held in Room 161 of the EMU beginning at 8 p.m.

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