

# Bike racks may help end confusion

By NANCYANN LOFGREN  
Of the Emerald

The University's bicycle parking is "helter skelter at best," but modest funds will filter down to fund more bike racks and bike lane designations this year, says Ray Hawk, University vice president for administration and finance.

Immediate relief of bike parking chaos will arrive next week with 50 portable racks designed to hold 10 bikes each.

About 100 more racks, con-

structed by Oregon penitentiary inmates, will be purchased this year as a "stopgap thing to get us through," until more money can be found, says Harold Babcock, director of the University Planning Department.

"More dollars are going to have to be found to deal with the problem. It's not going to go away," Babcock says. "The bike racks are step number one."

"There are so many bikes, and I think there will be many

more. This is a start to get something done," Babcock says.

Bike rack placement will follow the plan devised this year by the campus planning commission but the plan recommends permanent racks, not portable ones. The total bike plan calls for bike paths that tie in with the city's bike routes, travel zones designated for bicycles, a bicycle thoroughfare, special dismount zones and areas restrict-

ed from bicycle use.

Hawk says the bike plan is a very good one, but implementation of the plan is "the difference between need and funds."

"We don't get any revenue from bikes," Hawk explains. Any money to construct the bike plan would be diverted from other University projects or from the campus parking revenue surplus.

And the University is not willing to dig too deeply into

parking surplus funds because that means drivers would pay for something they do not use, Hawk says.

The president's staff is "very unlikely to offer any significant funds" toward implementing the bicycle plan, Hawk says.

The bike project "won't move as fast as people want it to," Hawk says, adding, "It will be a slow process of trying to implement funds from any source we can find."

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## Nuke

But it will be difficult to stop the bill in Congress, Weaver said. "This is a tough, hard ballgame back there."

"There are the votes back there to pass the bill, but we have won some tough battles," he said.

Weaver predicted the Senate will stand together in favor of the so-called Jackson bill, while the House will be split in its stance.

"There is a lot of hardball going on here too," Bartels responded, characterizing the bill as "vague solutions to concrete problems."

The hydro-thermal power program provided for in the bill will mask the true cost of power generated by existing or future coal and nuclear plants, he said.

The bill also gives the Bonneville Power Authority more authority than it is allowed by law and, "I don't want to expand the BPA director's power, I want to cut it back and force it (BPA) to obey the law," he said.

The bill is necessary because it addresses the problem of forecasting future energy needs in a rational way, Lobdell said.

Lobdell said he does favor amending the bill to include a two-tiered rate structure that would differentiate between low-cost hydroelectric power and high-cost nuclear power and removing the "guaranteed purchase authority" that would allow the BPA to include the cost of a new power plant in customer rates even if the plant never produces electricity.

Frank concurred with Lobdell saying, "We need a strong regional energy policy."

"Today we have nothing. The power bill would for the first time give us a comprehensive planning forum to meet our energy needs through conservation first, through the development of renewable resources second and only third and last through the construction of thermal (nuclear and coal-fired) power plants," he said.



Photo by Jimmi Harris

John Lobdell, public utility commissioner, spoke out Saturday in favor of the Northwest power bill as Rep. Jim Weaver looked on.

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