

Survival Center: give funds to bikes, not autos

By GLENN BOETTCHER
Of the Emerald

Survival Center director Peter Gray says \$250,000 in surplus University parking funds earmarked for a new parking structure should instead be invested in improving campus bicycle facilities.

Gray says he disagrees with Ray Hawk, University vice president of administration and finance, who recently said the problems encountered by those who drive cars and can't find a parking spot "are just as real" as the difficulties faced by bicycle riders.

"Thirty cyclists were treated in nine days for injuries, not counting those that were not serious enough to report," Gray says. "How many accidents will it take before something is done?"

"They're (the administration) just putting off a solution and at the same time making the problem worse — at least from the cyclists' point of view," Gray says.

"We shouldn't be encouraging people to bring cars to the University."

He says the decision to use the funds to build a parking structure instead of improving campus cycling conditions is only a matter of convenience for drivers, "but it's a matter of human safety for cyclists."

"Bicycles should definitely be a priority before cars."

The University Planning Department has completed a comprehensive bike plan to solve bicycle chaos on campus, but the administration has been slow to allocate funds to implement the plan.

Bike group outlines goals

By NANCYANN LOFGREN
Of the Emerald

Only six people showed up for the first meeting of the "U of O for Better Bikes" group Wednesday to set policy and strategy for eliminating the University's current bike chaos.

But those who came weren't discouraged, and the group set its goals and mapped a plan of action. It seeks to get a campus bike plan implemented and involve more students in the issue.

The University has \$250,000 in surplus parking revenues, according to Ray Hawk, vice president of administration and finance, and has decided to earmark most of the money for auto parking improvements.

That allocation alarms the group.

"The University is setting the trend for how the University will

be going in the future," said ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett, who participated in the discussion.

The group will try to convince the University that the bike plan is an idea that deserves substantial funding.

"We want to motivate people to set priorities and to get a bike plan implemented," Bassett said.

The group also plans to investigate non-University revenue sources, such as fund-raising projects and parking fees and registrar for bicycles, Bassett said.

The group plans a panel discussion next Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. Invited speakers include Hawk, Don Chalmers, a Democratic state representative contender, and University professor Carl Hosticka, also a contender for the Legislature, and a representative of the Eugene bike committee.

Nov. 14 was tentatively set as a University Bike Day for building students' bike awareness.

David Rowe, a campus planner, gave the group some background on the bike situation. Until 1977 the University could not use its surplus parking money for anything but cars, Rowe said, but recent changes of wording in the law have made bicycles eligible for the funds.

The University approved the planning department's bike plan, which was completed this summer, but Rowe said "the implementation portion (of the plan) was not included in the approval."

The bike plan calls for bike paths that tie-in with the city's bike routes, covered bike parking, travel zones designated for bicycles, a bike thoroughfare, special dismount zones, and areas restricted from bicycle use.

OSL

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child care funding, Title IX compliance by the State System of Higher Education and student access to faculty evaluations.

The lobby's efforts to get child care funding in the 1979 Legislature failed, but Watrus says the OSL should have an easier fight in the next legislative session. The lobby is trying to put financial aid funds for student child care into the original budgets of the State Scholarship Commission and the Children's Services Division.

This summer Watrus compiled a report on the efforts of the state system toward compliance of Title IX. Watrus says

the study shows the SSHE has made "little attempt to comply with Title IX."

"There hasn't been enough of an attempt to bring women's athletics on parity with men's."

"They (state system administrators) try to pass the buck by saying the Legislature hasn't given them any funds. My response to that is, 'bullshit.' That's not an realistic excuse when you look at the state system budget."

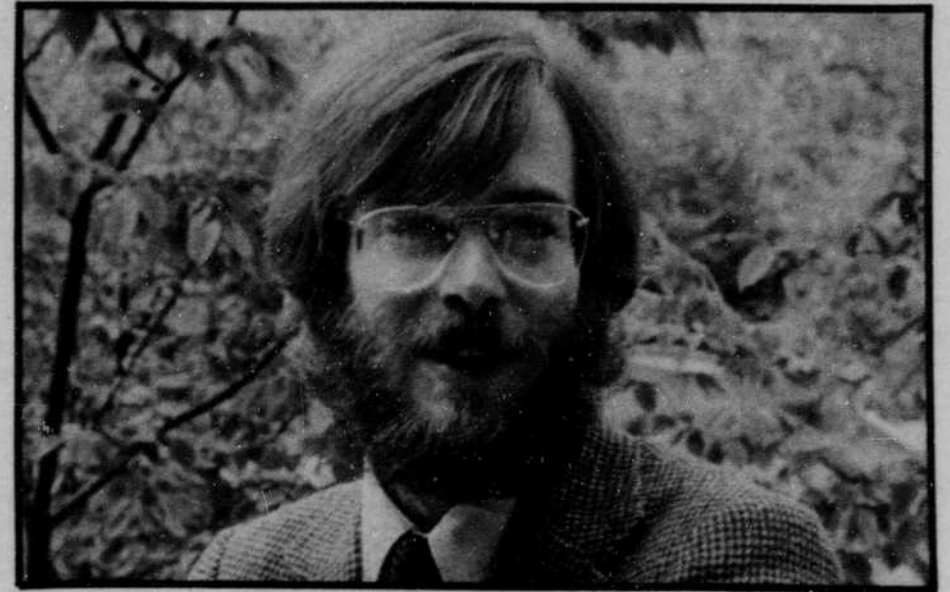
Watrus says there are "a lot of strange and unexplained appropriations in the men's budget," including funds for a "sky rider tour" and a "training

table banquet."

Watrus says he is also interested in working for student access to faculty evaluations. Watrus worked as an OSL lobbyist on HB 2831, a bill that mandated the release — but not publication — of evaluation information.

"After spending a lot of effort on that bill and watching it bomb in the final days of the session, I feel that the issue should definitely be pursued," he says.

But until the 1981 Legislature begins, the OSL is helping student organizations on individual state system campuses fight for evaluation release.



Bob Watrus

Photo by Keith Allen

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