

Politics slow answer to campus bike chaos

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

Politics, not plans or techniques, are preventing action on a solution to campus traffic chaos, said Carl Hosticka in a panel discussion on bicycles Wednesday.

Hosticka, a University professor and candidate for state representative, spoke to an audience of about 30 at a meeting sponsored by the U of O for Better Bikes organization.

The University must decide whether it is going to encourage bicycle use by pumping money from the parking surplus fund into a bike plan, or to encourage car use by using that surplus for car parking improvements, Hosticka said.

"There is no natural law that says people should drive cars, and no natural law that says the University should encourage that use," he said.

Hosticka cited a state energy department policy on energy conservation that states non-motorized vehicles should be favored when use of motor and non-motor vehicles are in conflict.

"The University should move toward compliance with the general social trend and the state directive" by using funds to implement an effective bike plan, Hosticka said.

"The time for encouraging cars is over," said Don Chalmers, director of the Office of Student Advocacy and a candidate for state representative. "The time to encourage bikes has come."

Ray Hawk, University vice president for administration and finance, said the University administration agrees something needs to be done about the chaotic traffic situation, but added that the University isn't sure how to proceed.

The University currently has \$250,000 in parking surplus funds and is willing to contribute part of those funds to implement a bike plan.

But Hawk said he isn't sure how much the University will spend on the plan, adding that the funds must also be used to help alleviate the car parking problem.

Chalmers presented a bike

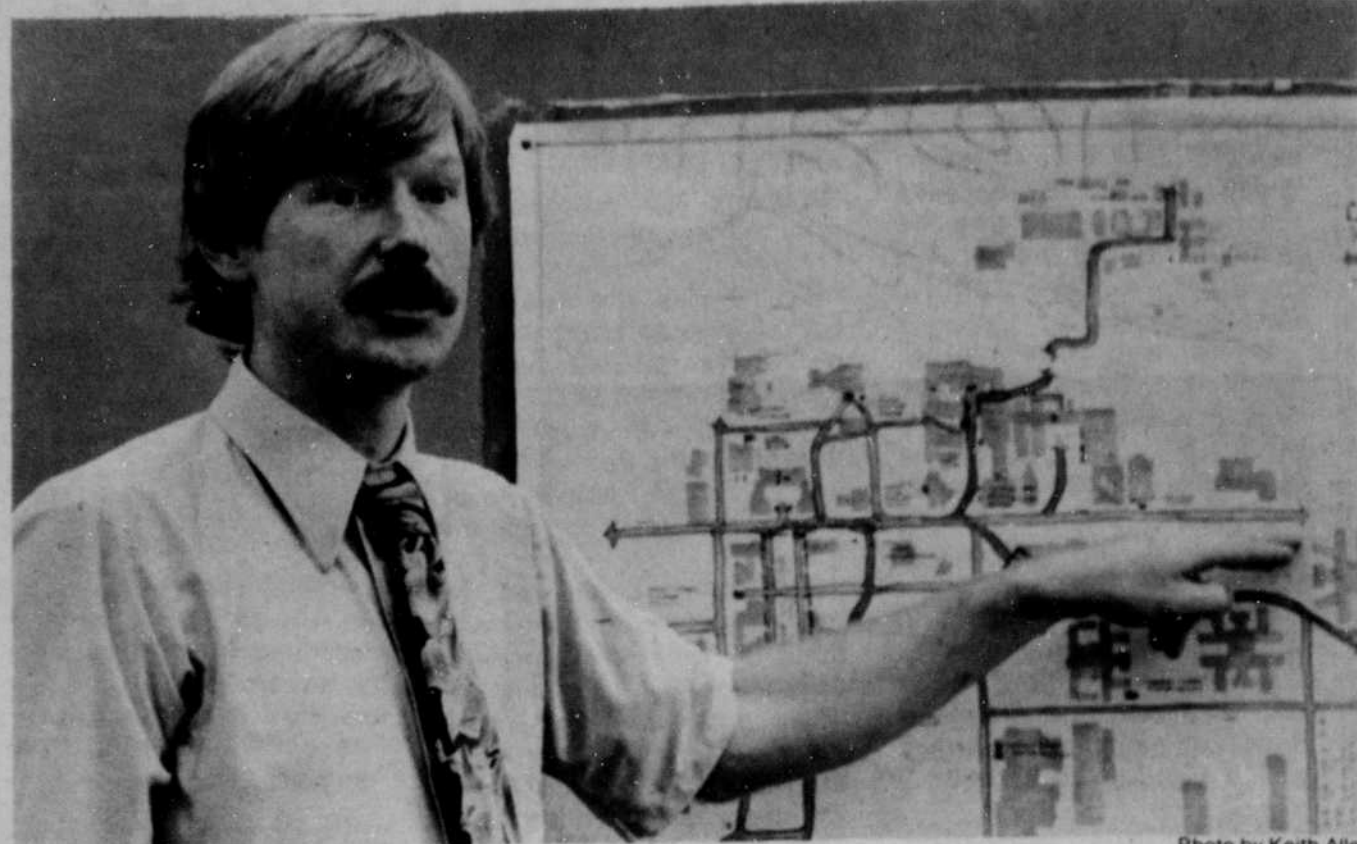


Photo by Keith Allen

Don Chalmers, candidate for state representative, presented a bike plan for the University campus at a meeting sponsored by the U of O for Better Bikes organization Wednesday.

plan that tackles basic problems of storage, routes and pedestrian traffic. The plan isn't as extensive as one prepared last year by the University's bike planning committee, he said.

The Office of Student Advocacy's plan will help traffic flow for pedestrians and bikes,

Chalmers said. "I think campus traffic can be flowing instead of bouncing into each other."

And the University is buying 1,200 bike racks this year to help alleviate parking problems, said Hawk, adding that the University wants to "take one step at a time" on a bike plan.

The U of O for Better Bikes group plans to hold weekly forums on bicycle problems to drum up campus interest and support for a bike plan. The group will have an organizational meeting Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the EMU, room to be posted.

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Film challenges chemical use

By MIKE RUST
Of the Emerald

A new documentary film about herbicides challenges government and industry officials to accept responsibility for the effect that the chemicals have on private citizens.

"The Burden of Proof," by Eugene filmmaker Robert Lundahl, premiered Tuesday evening in the EMU before a crowd of about 150 people. More people viewed the film Wednesday during two showings that preceded a panel discussion of herbicide spraying.

Lundahl, who graduated from the University with a fine arts

Sea claims freshman

A University student was tentatively identified as one of two Eugene men whose bodies recently were recovered on beaches near Florence.

Lane County Sheriff's officials reported they believe William Edward Pullen, a 22-year-old freshman staying at Spiller Dorm, and Mark Warren Coles, 29, of Eugene, were washed off the rocks near Devil's Elbow State Park on Oct. 28.

degree after attending Lewis and Clark College and the University of Southern California, says the film presents people and situations to which viewers can easily relate.

"The point is to distribute information about these people in terms that can be understood," he says. "It's more effective than watching scientists in offices talk about these issues in a more incandescent way. It's a good way to get people involved."

The film includes farmers, housewives, children and forest workers in areas affected by spraying as well as footage of spraying that took place in the Umpqua Valley on May 6.

Among the people interviewed in the film are those whose lives were directly affected by the spraying.

Scottsburg residents Vernon and Eve De Rock tell how their nine-year-old granddaughter had to have an ovary removed when a cyst "the size of a grapefruit" developed on it. Cysts also appeared in the heifers they owned.

Mutations appeared among the De Rock's sheep and cows; most of the animals died several days after birth.

Later the regional head of the

Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle told them that 2,4,5-T was so safe that he "would use it himself."

Eve De Rock, who attended the Tuesday night screening, said chemicals containing 2,4,5-T were still being sprayed in the Scottsburg area last summer.

"They have Agent Orange left over from Vietnam," she says. "How would they dump it, rather than spray it on us."

Also appearing in the film is Irene Durbin of Five Rivers, who suffered two miscarriages after spraying began in her area. Her youngest son, born after the miscarriages, was born with a collapsed lung and membrane disease.

A researcher from Colorado State University later discovered 2,4,5-T in water samples taken from local wells.

Two doctors interviewed in the film said the Forest Service does not possess the expertise to guard against herbicide misuse, while the EPA has been unresponsive to safety concerns.

Lundahl says he hopes the 17-minute film can be distributed to schools and libraries around the country.

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