



# City looks to tag West University parking

By Michele Matassa  
Of the Emerald

It's a typical morning. You wake up late, break every traffic rule on your way to campus, frantically circle the streets just west of the University to find a parking place near your class, which started 15 minutes ago. In your frustration, you play "chicken" with crowds of bikers and pedestrians.

Those days are over, unless you're willing to pay \$17.50 a month for parking privileges.

Late next week, "barring complications," the city will begin limiting on-street parking in the West University Neighborhood to two hours for drivers without a special permit, says Jarvia Shu, Eugene's assistant parking administrator.

Students, hospital outpatients and employees in the area who wish to keep parking in the area will have to purchase a permit for \$17.50 a month or \$1.50 a day. Residents may obtain free permits from the parking administration office or at the West University Neighborhood office.

The Eugene City Council will hear public testimony about the plan Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 777 Pearl St.

The chambers might end up resembling a battlefield during the hearing, because the project, which has been in the planning stage since November, is stirring up controversy among Sacred Heart Hospital officials and some area business people.

And as students find out what's planned, they're becoming involved in the controversy.

Opposition to the plan may be surprising, especially for Shu, who said Tuesday morning that she has letters of support from representatives of the University, Sacred Heart Hospital, the Small Business Association and the University Community Liaison Committee.

Paul Reed, a Sacred Heart representative, says Shu's claims are misleading.

All of the groups Shu lists supported an original \$293,000 federal grant to explore the area's parking problem. But for some of the groups, the support stops there.

In a second conversation, on Tuesday afternoon, Shu refused to comment on the letters of support after she was informed of remarks from Reed and others.

"She's been asked to stop announcing that we're in support of that parking plan," Reed says.

Reed says the hospital supported parking refinement in the area bound by 13th and 18th avenues and High and Ferry streets. But the affected area has been expanded to Hilyard Street on the east and Franklin Boulevard on the north.

Reed says the hospital did not oppose the plan until June, "when we discovered the scope (of the project)." Because the project includes areas adjacent to the hospital, it will adversely impact employees and outpatients, Reed says.

Another "supporter" of the plan, the SBA, switched its stance.

"The plan is not going to be considered ideal by the SBA" because it limits shoppers and employees, says Phil Kimmel, an SBA representative.

The plan would increase parking for residents "at the risk of completely turning people off of this area as a commercial area," Kimmel says.



Emerald photo

More people who park in the West University area may be receiving parking tickets next week after a new regulation goes into effect limiting parking on the street to two hours without a permit.

"We were very much in support of looking at the parking problem but I'm not sure that the plan released by the city is the best plan for all of the inhabitants of this area," Kimmel says.

Shu says she doesn't see the plan as a huge inconvenience to anybody.

Shoppers should not take longer than two hours in most cases, and all-day parkers can work around the problem.

"We strongly encourage them to find alternate transportation modes," Shu says. She suggests carpooling and utilizing off-street parking.

West University Neighborhood representative Harold Lannom agrees.

"I don't think it's idealistic to expect (students and employees) to find other places to park," Lannom says.

"If you worked downtown you would be faced with the same problem. There's no free lunch there, either," he says.

"I think it's unrealistic for people to assume that the purpose of the streets is for car storage. It's for the movement of vehicles," Lannom says.

He says there are many alternatives to on-street parking and that people don't utilize parking lots like they should.

"It's a great waste to build a huge parking structure and then not fill it," Lannom says.

University planner David Rowe admits that campus parking lots aren't used as much as they should.

Rowe says the "Bean lot," across from the Bean dormitory complex on 15th Avenue is never full but he admits that the lot is "not where we really need it."

Because parking around campus is a definite problem, Rowe feels the plan deserves a try.

"There's really a serious problem in that area. I'm not sure this is going to solve it but it's worthy of a try," he says.

If anything, the plan will provide "stimulation for us to do a better job in administering the parking we do have," he says.

The University may look into using Autzen Stadium for additional parking, Rowe says.

Another possible impact of the plan is an increase in the number of students who buy student parking permits, which sell for \$18 a year or \$7.50 a term and provide access to all student parking lots on campus, he says.

Because of the heavy impact the parking plan will have on students, the University affairs department and the student advocacy office are teaming up to fight it.

"Judging by the calls we've gotten, people are very angry and want to do something," says Barbara McCarthy, assistant coordinator for University affairs.

"We'd like to organize students on campus to protest this. It looks like they pushed this through this summer when no students were here," McCarthy says.

Student representatives plan to attend a WUN meeting tonight at 7:30 and the City Council public hearing Monday.

## Sales tax referral... is it legal?

By Brooks Dareff  
Of the Emerald

Now that the Oregon Legislature has concurred on a property tax relief package — featuring a 4 percent sales tax — the eyes of Oregon and the burden of further approval now shift to school boards, city councils and county commissioners.

And one local official — Lane County Commissioner Peter DeFazio — doesn't appreciate the attention, but doesn't think the Legislature's decision to bypass a direct referral of the package to the voters "will survive a legal battle."

The property tax relief package which passed the legislature on Tuesday night — the 21st and final day of the special session — includes an unprecedented local ratification measure requiring a majority, in each category, of the state's 603 cities, counties and school districts before it could be held up to the voters in a general election.

The constitutionality of the local ratification is questionable on several counts, says John Reuling, special counsel to Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer.

The constitution provides for immediate referral of statutory measures to the voters, but not for referrals of constitutional measures, nor of any measures

through an intermediary body.

Also at issue is whether city and county authorities have veto power over state authorities.

The Attorney General's office is declining to offer an opinion on the constitutionality of the package, at least until the courts make a ruling, Reuling says. But as yet, no one is taking the package to court.

The local ratification provision is the brainchild of Senate Pres. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene, an outspoken critic of both a sales tax, and of referring a sales tax to the voters. Fadeley's justification for local ratification, DeFazio says, is to give a voice to those bodies that spend the tax money and to provide "a statewide platform to heighten the level of debate."

But the legislature's inclusion of a local ratification clause is basically a concession to Fadeley's will, says Jody Miller, intergovernmental relations director for the city of Eugene.

Bob Baugh, secretary treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO, did not hold much credence to the suggestion that Fadeley may have anticipated the constitutional question and therefore conceived the local ratification provision as but another method of heading off referral of a sales tax to the voters. The legislature simply prefers to defer responsibility for a sales tax referral to the local bodies, Baugh says.

## Constitution court hears OSPIRG funding case

By Jim Moore  
Of the Emerald

The ASUO Constitution Court heard testimony from the principles in the Burr vs. OSPIRG case Wednesday and met in closed session for an hour to reach a decision. Court Chair Alan Contreras announced the ruling would be released next week.

Each spokesperson, Rich Burr who filed the complaint and Daniel Malarkey of OSPIRG, stated his case before an interested crowd in EMU Room 110. Both were granted 20 minutes to state their cases and five minutes of rebuttal at the conclusion of testimony.

One of Burr's complaints centered on whether students have the right to commit funds further in the future than one year, such as the constitutional amendment voted by students last spring allows.

In that vote, which passed with 72 percent of the vote, students voted to fund OSPIRG on a two-year basis at the rate of \$1 per student per term in incidental fees. At the end of two years OSPIRG is required to go before the student body for another funding vote.

But Burr said that vote violates the ASUO Constitution

Continued on Page 7