

opinion

Area parking plan will gouge students

These days it seems everybody has their hands out with itching palms. Now the city of Eugene has its hands cupped and palms itching demanding an exorbitant amount of money from students.

Why are their palms itching? Because a large number of students drive to the University.

What's worse, the accomplice in this act of extortion is the gun-toting Eugene police department.

It's the West University Neighborhood's new parking plan that has the Emerald using such strong symbolism and crying "extortion." We vehemently oppose this proposed parking plan.

If there isn't a hitch the city will start limiting on-street parking to two hours in certain areas of the West University Neighborhood. The proposed parking area is bound on the south by 18th Avenue, the north by Franklin Boulevard, the west by Hilyard Street, on the east by Ferry Street and a portion of Oak Street. In order to park longer than two hours within this area drivers are required to purchase a special permit. If drivers don't the Eugene police will be slipping a parking ticket under the windshield wiper.

The permits cost \$17.50 a month or \$1.50 a day. What this means to students is that parking in the West University Neighborhood will cost more than \$150 per academic year.

Proponents of the parking plan say it will alleviate the automobile congestion in the area, promote pedestrian safety and increase parking for residents.

The proponents are wrong. The proposed parking plan seems destined to create more parking confusion and headaches for the residents of the West University neighborhood.

What about visitors to area residents? Will they be required to buy a day-only parking permit? What about week-end guests?

There are too many questions for residents and students about who will be exempt and who will be required to buy a permit. It's bound to cause all sorts of confusion. All this points up that this proposed parking plan is poorly conceived.

The attitude of proponents of the plan is also suspect. West University Neighborhood representative Harold Lannom has an especially cavalier attitude. He says he doesn't "think it's idealistic to expect (students and employees of the area) to find other places to park. If you worked downtown you would be faced with the same problem. There's no free lunch there, either."

The arrogance of Lannom's "free lunch" comment is indicative of those who want this proposed parking plan implemented... regardless of students or area employees.

The Eugene City Council will be hearing testimony from the public concerning the proposed parking plan Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers. The Emerald urges students to voice their opposition to the parking plan at the hearing Monday. If you don't, you will pay. It's as simple as that.

Students won't be alone in opposing the proposed parking plan. The University affairs department and the student advocacy office have joined in the opposition.

The city's office of parking administration acted more with greed than adequate knowledge of students' and residents' needs in the West University Neighborhood. They repeatedly claim to be seeking to ease the parking problem but underneath it all they seem more intent on generating revenues and figured students were ripe for gouging.

They picked their shots well. Students are an easy target as they are captive consumers. Students aren't year-round residents. They don't own property in the West University Neighborhood. And students are notoriously uninformed of the city's administrative activities.

Probably what lead the West University Neighborhood Association and the city's parking administration to formulate this extortional parking plan was that students rarely initiate and carry through with an organized opposition. They must have felt they could act with impunity.

The Emerald strongly opposes the West University Neighborhood parking plan and strongly opposes the attitude of its perpetrators. Students and residents of the neighborhood who disagree with the plan need to voice their opposition to the City Council in the hearings Monday.



letters

Confused

Michael Cross, in his letter, seems to be a bit confused by the facts concerning the peace groups in Western Europe and in this country. Perhaps he spends too much time listening to the RCYB. Or perhaps as a political science major he is incapable of viewing any situation other than politically.

These peace activists are not drawn exclusively, or even largely from the ranks of the communists, "radicals," or "liberals" (whatever these last two terms mean.) They come from all walks of life including "moderates" and "conservatives," and even those apolitical souls who have simply become fed up with the kill or be killed approach to international relations and world affairs.

The real issue concerning peace groups here and in Europe is not political, but humanistic. The vast majority of these people have no desire to live under a tyrannical government of any sort, be it Soviet, U.S., or any of a thousand other possibilities; they do, however, desire to live, rather than die as bystanders in someone else's nuclear power play. At least this much may be said for the adage "Where there is life, there is hope": alive, one might work for change within even the most tyrannical system; when one is dead politics become meaningless.

Furthermore, the idea of deploying nuclear weapons as a deterrent to nuclear war is as assinine as that of putting more cars on the roads as a deterrent to traffic deaths. When one side builds "deterrents," the other side feels behooved to build more "deterrents"; it will not end until both sides have a Doomsday "deterrent," and what will we do for deterrence then? If Cross is of draft age and truly believes in this government's idea of deterrence he should immediately quit

school and enlist in the Armed "Services," putting his money where his mouth is. When enough persons of his persuasion do this, the rest of us may be freed from the threat of the draft to get on with the business of living.

It is interesting that those who believe in force and intimidation as the only viable means of handling international affairs find it so convenient to label as "radical" anyone trying to keep Europe from becoming a radioactive graveyard. Interesting and unfortunate. But the fact that most of the peace activists are not radicals, but simply justifiably worried about their continued existence is obviously confusing Cross and others like him.

Hiawatha
graduate, music and philosophy

Omission

I was happy to see the Emerald's extensive coverage of the Convocation ceremonies on Monday, Oct. 3; however, I think the omission of Prof. Edward Coleman's name from the group photo that included Pres. Paul Olum, stuck out as odd as a person wearing snowshoes during the rainy season here in Eugene. Reading "clockwise," you skipped Coleman's name and mentioned the ASUO president's name. If a photo is worth a thousand words, then Coleman was clearly a communicative part of that group's interaction and his name was worthy of being mentioned. Not only was the omission blatantly insensitive, but bad reporting as well.

I am sure Coleman could care less whether or not his name appeared in print, but I hope the oversight is not an indication of the kind of reporting your staff intends to show certain groups on this campus.

Johnnie Parks-Terwillegar

Spelling

How do you spell audacious? P-A-C-K-W-O-O-D. This is especially true in light of Packwood's remarks against Sec. James Watt which, among other things, included labeling Watt "immoral."

Packwood certainly has no record which could propel him towards sainthood. After all, is a man who fights to insure that 1.5 million American children still in the womb can have their lives ended, in a position to condemn Watt for immorality?

Packwood's halo certainly could use some repairing before he goes on any more crusades against others in Washington D.C.

Joseph Hegarty
graduate, computer science

Moonie taboo

I think we help the "Moonies" by our cultural taboo against meaningful religious discussion. If we want people to have critical skills about religion, let us pioneer a cultural mechanism to develop them. In the Middle East, men crowd into espresso shops to argue nose to nose about religion and politics. Americans pretend that religion is a non-public issue, and we ignore our personal hunger for a reference point bigger than ourselves. So when a "Moonie" slips past our cultural barriers, that hunger causes ordinarily bright college students to lunge for the dangerous stupidity of the Unification Church. Maranatha preachers are different in that they bash into barriers rather than slip past them. They are more frustrating, but safer.

Jim Moon
linguistics

Returned

After playing tennis recently, I walked away from the courts leaving my racket. My reaction, upon discovering its loss, was "It's gone." But then I realized that reaction may have been prompted by my having recently lived in California.

It was turned in. Thanks, dear "Returner," for reminding me of why I returned to Oregon — and I'm sure glad to have my racket back.

California certainly excels in climate but Oregon exceeds in its social climate. I'll take the latter.

Donna Wilson
graduate, health education

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your Turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the university community. "Your Turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

Letters to the editor and "Your Turn" columns should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

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