

opinion

New parking plan looking a little better

A draft of modifications to the West University Neighborhood parking plan was issued this week and it represents substantial and constructive changes.

The memorandum to Michael Gleason, city manager, from Eugene's traffic engineering staff contains elements that make the proposed parking plan more feasible to University students and area employers.

According to the memorandum, the purpose of the parking plan is to reduce traffic and parking congestion in the West University area. We have always agreed that there is a problem with parking in the area — and that some type of solution is imperative.

However, we have staunchly opposed the parking plan as it was originally presented. The planners spent years devising the parking plan and during that time overlooked meeting with interested groups, such as area employees and University students.

It seemed at the time that parking plan advocates were more intent on pleasing West University residents than with incorporating the needs of the area groups. A large turnout of less-than-pleased groups appealing implementation of the parking plan at an Oct. 10 City Council meeting brought the plan to a screeching halt. As well it should — in the original form the parking plan would have created more problems than solutions.

The City Council postponed its decision on the appeal and had city staff meet with the groups the planners overlooked. They have been meeting with representatives of University students, Sacred Heart Hospital employees and employees of the Bureau of Land Management.

To the credit of parking plan advocates, they took the suggestions from the groups and incorporated most into a draft of the parking program.

They realized that patients and families of patients at Sacred Heart Hospital need long-term parking and that the cost of parking is already too high; that Lane Transit District buses do not provide adequate service to the area; that the cost of parking permits are too high for students; that the boundaries of the parking program impact high density housing parking; that purchasing a parking permit does not guarantee a parking space and that the plan may just shift the parking problem out of the West University to another area.

The changes they made show some understanding of the unique circumstances and character of the area.

To address the parking concerns of University fraternities and sororities, they removed the area north of 11th Avenue and promised only minor changes to the area between Hilyard and Alder streets, and 15th and 18th avenues.

To satisfy the concerns of residents, they included only spaces adjacent to low density dwelling units between Hilyard and Alder streets, and 15th and 17th avenues.

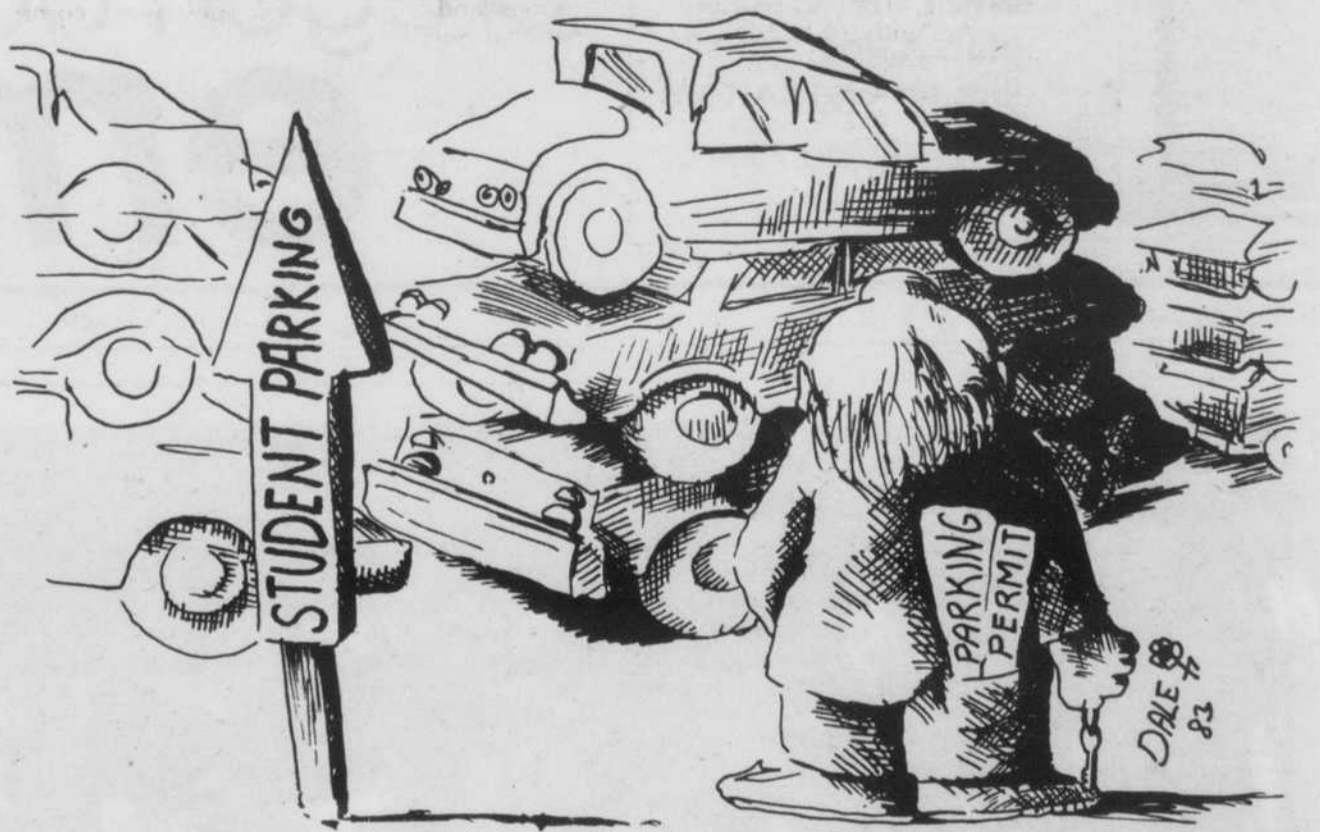
As a result of the parking plan the University has formed a task force to look at the possibility of redistributing the University's off-street parking. At present, the University's Bean parking lot is, according to the memorandum, "50 percent under-utilized."

There are a few elements in the new parking plan that seem more fanciful than practical. The possibility of the University setting up a shuttle bus from the Bean parking lot to the west side of campus and a shuttle from Autzen Stadium really doesn't appear feasible nor necessary. The expense alone of such a shuttle system should eliminate it from consideration.

Buying a parking permit in the West University Neighborhood still doesn't guarantee a parking place. It remains a gamble. But the odds are significantly better. According to the memorandum, "based on the... findings sheet, it is projected that supply of on- and off-street parking should adequately meet the demand by commuter vehicles that currently park... in the area."

With these modifications in hand the City Council will meet on Nov. 16 and accept or deny the appeal. If they deny the appeal the parking plan will be implemented.

We congratulate the city staff for the way they modified the parking plan. And in this form, we think the West University parking plan could be the long sought-after short-term solution to parking problems in the area.



letters

Blunted point

David Nott, in his letter of Oct. 31 protesting protest marchers, has a point he wants to get across. Unfortunately, his letter does not convey it. This is because his argument lacks two fundamentals: logical structure and supporting evidence.

Nott feels that protest rallies are objectionable — objectionable enough to call the participants "morons" — because they aren't taken seriously and the participants don't write letters to their lawmakers or to newspapers.

To address the first point if Nott would glance at the campaign platforms of almost any of the eight declared candidates for the democratic presidential nomination, he would see that these prominent politicians do indeed take the pleas of protest marchers very seriously.

And on the second point, Nott has no basis for — or at least provides his reader — no evidence supporting — his assumption that protest marchers are inherently non-letterwriters. In fact, it is probable that people concerned enough to march are concerned enough to write to their lawmakers.

The next time Nott produces an argument, I suggest he select a foundation firmer than sand.

Molly Taylor
junior, English

Attention

It has come to my attention that the ASUO has received some criticism for the ASUO/ASLCC anti-draft poster used to publicize the rally that happened on Oct. 14.

I designed this poster, as I do all the posters that come out of the student government offices here at Lane. I want to point out that this poster does not necessarily

reflect the opinions of either ASUO or ASLCC as a whole.

It is the artist's prerogative to choose graphics that visually communicate the message she or he is trying to convey when designing a poster. The graphics used for this particular poster effectively illustrate my personal opinion of our military selective service system.

I have received both positive and negative criticism for my choice of graphics on this poster both from within and outside of our offices here at Lane. I do not apologize for my personal opinion, but do want to clear up any confusion.

Cathy Benjamin
ASLCC communication director

Behooved

It is a continual source of wonder that some persons feel behooved to classify as "Radical" or "Communist" anyone who works for peace or believes in compromise.

On the other hand, I am beginning to draw the inference that those who support the inevitability of war as the only solution to international problems are by and large self-proclaimed conservatives. Such conservatives gleefully point out each instance in which a supposedly "Radical" group fails to raise public outcry over atrocities ostensibly committed in the name of Communism. At the risk of pointing out the obvious, it is a rare occasion indeed when we see conservatives speaking out against atrocities committed in the name of democracy.

All this, however, is beside the main issue, as I wish at least some such "Conservatives" could bring themselves to see. The primary concern of the vast majority of peace activists, in Eugene and elsewhere, is with peace, not politics. Pointing out warlike acts on the part of the U.S. does not imply a tacit acceptance of similar acts by other countries; activists in this country who engage in such pointing do so because they have a chance to change this system directly, whereas they can affect other countries only indirectly. Americans can march on the Capitol and the White House; they cannot march on the Kremlin. Progress towards peace must begin somewhere, and those of us who are not in the position of being foreign ambassadors would do well to begin it at home, where we can have the greatest effect.

Those who consider all peace activists to be Soviet agents would

also do well to note that many such activists in Europe have roundly condemned both Soviet and U.S. preparations for war. Considering the fact that the Europeans have their asses quite literally "on the line," it is difficult to imagine a more egalitarian position.

Hiawatha
graduate, music

Football, sex...

Clark Kerr, former president of the University of California, is alleged to have said that presidents must be sure that their universities provide three things: football for the alumni, sex for the students and parking for the faculty.

On the first of these, the University's record is spotty. The second is none of my business. However, the faculty (and staff) parking situation is bad and threatens to get worse. Lots on the west side of campus fill earlier and earlier; reserved space signs sprout like weeds; cars without valid stickers infest our spaces, seemingly without effective penalties.

The proposed West University Neighborhood parking restrictions are a response to the residents' real problems, but the plan will only make matters worse here. Drivers will pay for the dubious privilege of hunting spaces in the lots rather than pay to hunt them in the streets.

Short of building a parking garage across from PLC, I don't have an answer. I do know that pipe dreams of parking people at Autzen Stadium are no help. Nor is it useful for ASUO spokespeople to state that faculty and staff have it easy with reserved spaces next to their offices. I'd hope that we can hear constructive suggestions.

Daniel Pope
asst. professor, history

Unfunny

The intended humor in the All Pac-10 Name Team (Sports Shorts, Nov. 2) instead revealed a level of insensitivity and unconscious prejudice that I hoped had disappeared many years ago. A nickname like Boomer may be humorous, but I fail to see anything humorous about names such as Lupe Sanchez, Drew Smetana or Angelo Dilulo. What is uncommon from one person's narrow experience is not a proper focus for derision.

Robert Bowman
professor, accounting

oregon daily
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