

Courts replace parking lot

By Julie Freeman
Of the Emerald

Tennis replaced tires last week on the Alder Street tennis courts, which served as a parking lot for students, faculty and staff during spring term.

The \$30,000 conversion of the courts, located on Alder Street between 16th and 17th avenues, to a 132-space parking lot in March was met with protest from a group of students who said that neither they nor any of the faculty were represented by the Parking Administration Committee that recommended the change.

The committee, formed by Dan Williams, vice president for administration, hoped the lot would provide temporary relief from the University's ongoing parking problem, which had worsened since the West University parking plan forced drivers to move off the streets and find other areas around campus to park.

"We received a number of calls and letters from people saying that they found parking much more convenient," Williams said. "My sense is that it did take pressure off that area."

During the summer, however, the student population drops, and more people walk or ride their bikes to campus, Williams added.

Harold Babcock, director of the University Physical Plant, said the cars caused no damage to the courts during spring term. Therefore, besides putting



Photo by James Marks
Tennis matches replaced parked cars last week when the Alder Street courts were converted to their original use for summer term.

up the tennis poles and nets once again, the conversion process will only entail cleaning up any oil that was left on the surface of the lot and closing up the drive-through areas.

"The playing courts will be in the same shape that they were before we made them into a parking lot," Babcock said.

Whether the courts will become a permanent dual-use facility has not yet been deter-

mined. Williams said no formal evaluations have been made concerning the success of the one-term parking lot, and no other solutions to the problem have been discussed.

Although Williams said he does not think students were left out of the original decision, he hopes to include them in the final one, which is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of fall term.



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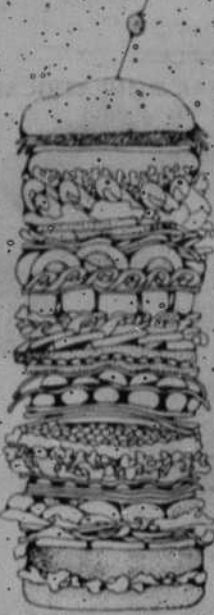
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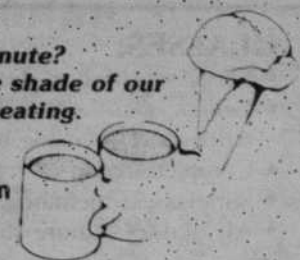
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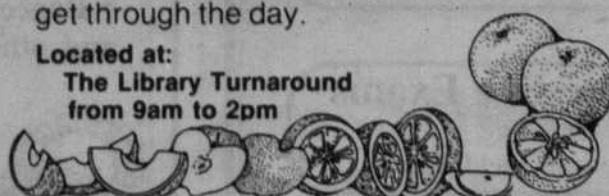
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