

Tennis courts serve dual role

Campus parking still an issue

By Mary Lichtenwalner
Of the Emerald

Wet weather may discourage tennis players from playing outside, but the ASUO is still concerned with the status of the Alder Street courts — now used for both parking and tennis.

A compromise was reached summer term between the ASUO and the Parking Administration Committee over an issue raised last year about the conversion of the Alder Street courts, located between 16th and 17th avenues, into a parking lot.

The \$30,000 conversion was made despite students' protests, and was converted back to tennis courts for the summer. But with the fall came more students, and more parking spaces needed. The committee decided that the courts were

needed for cars.

ASUO President Lynn Pinckney said a solution was "supposedly made" for the situation, to divide the courts in half — one half for parking and the other half for tennis.

Vice President of Administration Dan Williams, who formed the parking committee, said the ASUO was concerned about students' needs for the courts, yet recognized that the University has a real demand for the parking. "We kind of struck a compromise," he said.

Currently, students can play tennis on two of the six courts. Those two have been "cleaned up" after last winter's parking, but that's not enough, Pinckney said.

Pinckney said the ASUO wants to remedy the situation

by balancing the distribution of parking area to tennis courts. She said the ASUO wants to raise money to resurface one of the courts now used for parking. But that's a long-term goal, she said.

Williams said the University is aware that a solution is needed for the problem.

"What we really need is a permanent parking structure," Williams said. He said he does not know if the current juggling of parking lot and tennis court will be permanent. A decision to continue the current arrangement or to locate a new parking structure will be made before the end of the school year, he added.

"We're trying to identify places on campus here and there for additional parking," he said.



Photo by Karen Stallwood

The controversy surrounding the Alder Street tennis courts illustrates the University's continuing problem with parking. Students can use two of the six courts for tennis, but the rest are reserved for parking.

Balanced budget amendment still threatens GSL and other student loan programs

By Gary Jiménez
Of the Emerald

After a week of wrangling in Congress, the Guaranteed Student Loan program still faces possible elimination in the next week.

The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, faced with the pressure of a final decision about the proposed balanced budget amendment, are still unable to agree on how to treat a large number of spending programs, including the GSL.

A final version of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill must be approved by both houses of Congress by November 15 or the government will be shut down. The amendment is currently attached to a funding bill that keeps the government functioning.

Pressure is also mounting outside the capital, as an intense lobbying effort gets underway by educational and banking groups that would be affected by the GSL provisions in the bill.

Jeff Lee, chair of the Oregon State Scholarship Commission, recently wrote a letter to Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., a supporter of the bill, stating the effects of the Senate-passed version of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill would be "disastrous" for students and institutions in Oregon.

Both First Interstate Bank of Oregon and the U.S. National Bank of Oregon, the two

largest lenders in the state, have said their participation in the program "would be seriously jeopardized" by the Senate-approved version of the bill.

In addition, Jean Mandic, manager of the U.S. National Bank of Oregon student loan division, said the bill would be "devastating" to the GSL program in Oregon. She has also sent letters to Packwood and Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., explaining her position.

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill split Oregon's Senate delegation when Packwood voted for the bill and Hatfield voted against it.

Packwood "is one of its major supporters," said an aide in his Washington, D.C., office. "Mr. Lee is incorrect in his assessment of the bill," she added.

But "to say Bob Packwood is opposed to student loans is not true," she said.

Thus far, the Senate has refused to remove the uncertainty that lenders say would scare them out of the program, Mandic said.

The House version of the bill would still result in some cuts in the GSL program, according to a spokesman for the House budget office.

However, the House draft would put strict ceilings on the amount of money that could be cut from the GSL program, he added.

The Senate version leaves open the amount of money that could be cut from the program, the spokesman said.

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