

Partial solutions probable for lack of parking spaces

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

A partial solution to the University's parking dilemma is expected to clear a red-tape hurdle at the Oregon State System of Higher Education's board meeting Friday.

The state Legislative Emergency Board must agree to increase the limit on OSSHE's funds for land purchases before the University can buy a parking lot and residence hall from Northwest Christian College.

At its monthly meeting Oct. 10 at Eastern Oregon State College, the OSSHE Board is expected to instruct its staff to ask for a \$750,000 increase in the limit on expenditures for the purchase of land in the State System, said Bill Neland, OSSHE vice-chancellor for facilities.

The board approved purchase of the NCC property on 12th Avenue, between Alder and Kincaid streets, at its meeting Sept. 12.

But the issue of the State System's land expenditure limit was overlooked when the NCC purchase was discussed and approved at that meeting, Neland said.

After the purchase was approved, the State System staff got together and totaled all the land

acquisition expenditures from the last two years, he said.

The Legislature, in its regular session, establishes a limit on the amount of money that OSSHE can spend on land acquisitions. That limit has been set at \$500,000, which has been adequate in the past, Neland said.

But when the OSSHE staff totaled the expenditures from this biennium, a \$400,000 purchase at Portland State University and \$500,000 for the University's purchase from NCC combined to exceed the limit.

An increase in the land purchase limit should not be a problem because of the University's sincere need for the space, and because money for the purchase will come from University housing and parking fees rather than the state budget, Neland said.

"I think it'll just zip right through," he said. If the board agrees, the OSSHE staff will meet with the Emergency Board Nov. 6-7 and ask for the \$1.25 million limitation.

"That will cover the U of O's purchase and provide a bit of a cushion for the rest of the biennium," Neland said.

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Northwest. It's also an appropriate time to take pride in our nation, he said.

CAUSA supporters have been collecting signatures for four to five weeks in the Eugene area, Yamazaki said. The documents have been distributed throughout the state and have been accepted with general support but have yet to be tallied, Byers said.

The results probably will be presented to the state Legislature, city councils or chambers of commerce in order to cultivate the "restoration of faith in the Constitution," Byers said. The collected signatures also may be used selectively to contact and inform people of upcoming CAUSA seminars or to send out material updating the group's activities, he said, but, "No one will be bugged. That is not our intent."

The reason many CAUSA members are reluctant to talk about their organization is because many also belong to the Unification Church, and the media and others chastize its leader, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Byers said.

"Some of the (Unification Church) people I have been affiliated with have been some of the best Christians I have ever met," he said. "I don't care who they are if they are supportive of our country and can accept it."

Moon founded the Unification Church in 1954 in Korea.

Known for its great wealth, large real-estate holdings, business ventures, high-pressure conversion tactics and strict control of members, the church has been a prominent U.S. institution since the mid-1970's. It is estimated to have more than a million members worldwide and advocates a sort of fundamentalist Christianity.

CAUSA is a religiously oriented organization, backed by concerned citizens of all denominations, Byers said. There are ministers and retired military personnel among others in the organization, he said.

Organizations of this nature, dedicated to anti-communism in the world, have been around for a long time, said Ben Johnson, University sociology professor. What makes this group unique is that its initial sponsor, the Rev. Moon and his Unification Church, is not American, he said.

Because it's a loose-knit organization, and there are no rosters or dues, it is difficult to gauge the number of CAUSA members, Byers said. CAUSA is a worldwide movement, he added.

The group acts as a coalition with other groups that are both politically and sociologically inspired, Johnson said.

CAUSA members all have different motivations for joining, Yamazaki said. Most citizens

are from the Philippines, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and other nations whose citizens have experienced communism, he said.

"For them, America is hope in their heart... They really care about America and the nation, even though they are not citizens yet," he said.

CAUSA teaches the fallacies and dangers of communism and promotes pro-American and pro-Constitution sentiments, Yamazaki said.

October 3, 1986 ADVERTISEMENT

An Open Letter to UO Students about your ASUO Insurance

Last week, ODE ran an important story about the ASUO insurance scandal. While its details were basically correct, you, the students who pay for student government, should know the facts in greater depth.

In April, UO Students for Equity in Insurance was formed to attack the slow-pay, short-pay, and no-pay tactics of Lone Star Life Insurance and ASUO's "what, me worry?" attitude in supervising this program. Our investigation found the following:

1. Some students waiting over six months for Lone Star's payment of medical bills.
2. Many claims paid at rates under 80% of the billed charges.
3. Some students flatly rejected by Lone Star on claims later found valid.
4. Lone Star's not paying 1.5% monthly interest on claims over 15 days old although it contracted with ASUO to do so (so we could pay medical finance charges or to reimburse us for lost savings interest paid by us out-of-pocket).
5. ASUO knew about these problems as early as January, 1986, met with Lone Star officials about them, but inexplicably allowed, without objection, the insurance company to continue its rip-off tactics.
6. ASUO's Insurance Coordinator, untrained and inexperienced in insurance matters, received a free "vacation" to Lone Star's Texas headquarters, but the reasons for this trip are still a mystery.
7. An audit of the ASUO insurance program was requested earlier this year by us and President Nelson promised to provide it by June 30, but now he won't release it because it's a secret.
8. ASUO and Student Projects, Inc. still refuse to discuss the specifics of all this, want us to forget it, and ignore the fact that aggrieved students have not had their rights vindicated against Lone Star.

ASUO officials made several statements in the recent ODE story that bear our close review. For example, Insurance Coordinator Chase said that ASUO had no duty to tell students about the interest clause in Lone Star's contract because its wording is "ambiguous." This is odd, because ASUO itself drafted and negotiated this clause into Lone Star's contract. If true, Shirley's statement proves that ASUO officials had no idea what they agreed to on our behalf when they signed the contract and now have publicly admitted it.

Next, ASUO's President said that Willy Bills, a UO student, has no right to review the SPI audit because it's "not a public record." Despite the fact SPI operated on the UO campus (taxpayer supported), has EMU offices (a public facility), and is ASUO-affiliated (student funded), we have no right to see the accounting of its business? What exactly are you trying to hide, President Nelson?

ASUO subsequently tried to discredit UO Students for Equity in Insurance, stating that our actual membership is numerically small. This patently evades the fact that our consumer "watchdog" organization is recognized by the State Insurance Commission and the local news media.

While Mr. Nelson has offered, through the ASUO Office of Student Advocacy to meet "privately" with Willy Bills about the insurance scandal, he told ODE only that he refuses to meet with him publicly in front of reporters. Again the inevitable question is: What has our ASUO President got to hide?

The ASUO President's incredible inability to see "mismanagement" in the insurance program means we have the wrong person leading student government. One need only look at Ms. Chase's admission of an "ambiguity" in the ASUO-negotiated Lone Star contract, fourteen student insurance complaints in one week last term, and ASUO's inactivity following their meetings with Lone Star in early 1986, to ascertain that gross mismanagement has occurred.

Students, don't be misled by vague, ambiguous statements from ASUO officials. From its active cover-up of last year's insurance scandal to its promotion of massive increases in student insurance costs this year, ASUO has repeatedly shown its incapacity to properly run the student insurance plan.

For further information on how to assert your rights under last year's or this year's ASUO insurance programs, please contact:

UO Students for Equity in Insurance
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