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.

CAUSA

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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.