

New position to focus on gay issues

□ Administrator will work to create a better environment for gay, lesbian and bisexual students

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Associate Editor

The University became one of only a few American colleges this year to have an administrator devoted to raising awareness about gay, lesbian and bisexual concerns.

Jackie Balzer began her new position as the coordinator of educational and support services this fall. She said her job is to help create a more hospitable environment for gay, lesbian and bisexual students.

Balzer said she wasn't hired because of Ballot Measure 9, but she does expect to deal with the measure's effects

on students, even if it fails.

"Currently, because of the political climate, part of my job is helping students and faculty in dealing with stress," she said. "We've discussed what will happen if there's a 'yes' vote. My guess is there are going to be a lot of wounded people wandering around."

Balzer said she knows of only about 10 universities that have positions similar to hers. Her job is to serve as a liaison between gay students and administration. She also can provide information and referrals on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues.

A big part of Balzer's position is education, she said. She said she hopes to increase sensitivity to gay issues on campus. For example, she plans to have homophobia workshops in the dorms and other student housing.

"Often people say the wrong thing," Balzer said. "But

Turn to **BALZER**, Page 9



Photo by Dylan Coulter

New administrator Jackie Balzer is dedicated to working with the concerns of gays, lesbians and bisexuals on campus this year.

Parkulator ends meter woes

□ Device allows up to 11 hours of metered parking without the hassle of coins

By Sarah Clark
Emerald Reporter

Parking at University meters may never again require coins, thanks to a device on sale at the Office of Public Safety.

The calculator-like device, called a Parkulator, provides a 120-hour "bank" of metered parking for \$57.

People who park in two- or five-hour metered spots can set their Parkulators on the dash, turn them on and return up to 11 hours later. Meanwhile, the Parkulator counts down the time left in its bank. After 11 hours, the device automatically shuts off, assuming its owner has forgotten to do so. After the 120 hours are used up, the owner must buy a new device.

The convenience of the device should attract buyers, said Rand Stamm, University parking program coordinator. It eliminates the need for coins and frees people from worrying about how much time is left on the meter, he said.

"If you want to plug it in all day, you can," Stamm said.

OPS began selling Parkulators in June, but so far only 14 people have bought them. Stamm blamed people's lack of knowledge about the device and their unwillingness to try something new.

"By and large, the users seem happy," he said. "One person even bought three."

However, the devices are not fool-proof. Once or twice, meter readers failed to notice the Parkulators and gave drivers parking tickets, Stamm said, adding that OPS can verify a person has a device and fix the problem.

Also, Parkulators depend on their owners to remember to turn them on and off. A person who parks for only one-half hour but forgets to turn off the Parkulator will wind up 11 hours — or



Photo by Michael Shindler

Placed on a dash, the Parkulator can end many problems associated with parking on campus.

\$5.23 — poorer.

Devices like the Parkulator have been a success in the east, Stamm said. OPS learned of them when Duncan Industries, which manufactures University parking meters, sent out a flyer describing the device.

The \$57 fee pays for the \$14.95 Parkulator, plus 120 hours of parking, Stamm said. Without the device, 120 hours of parking usually costs \$60.

"If everyone used the Parkulator, we would make less money on the meters, but the benefit from people using it outweighs that," Stamm said. "We're not in this business for profit."

"It's still cheaper to buy a permit, but the lots are farther away and a lot of people prefer meters. For them, I think this is a really good idea."

Duncan Industries is working to make the Parkulators recyclable, Stamm said. Right now, the devices' microchips keep people from tampering with them but also hinder their recyclability.

Busted

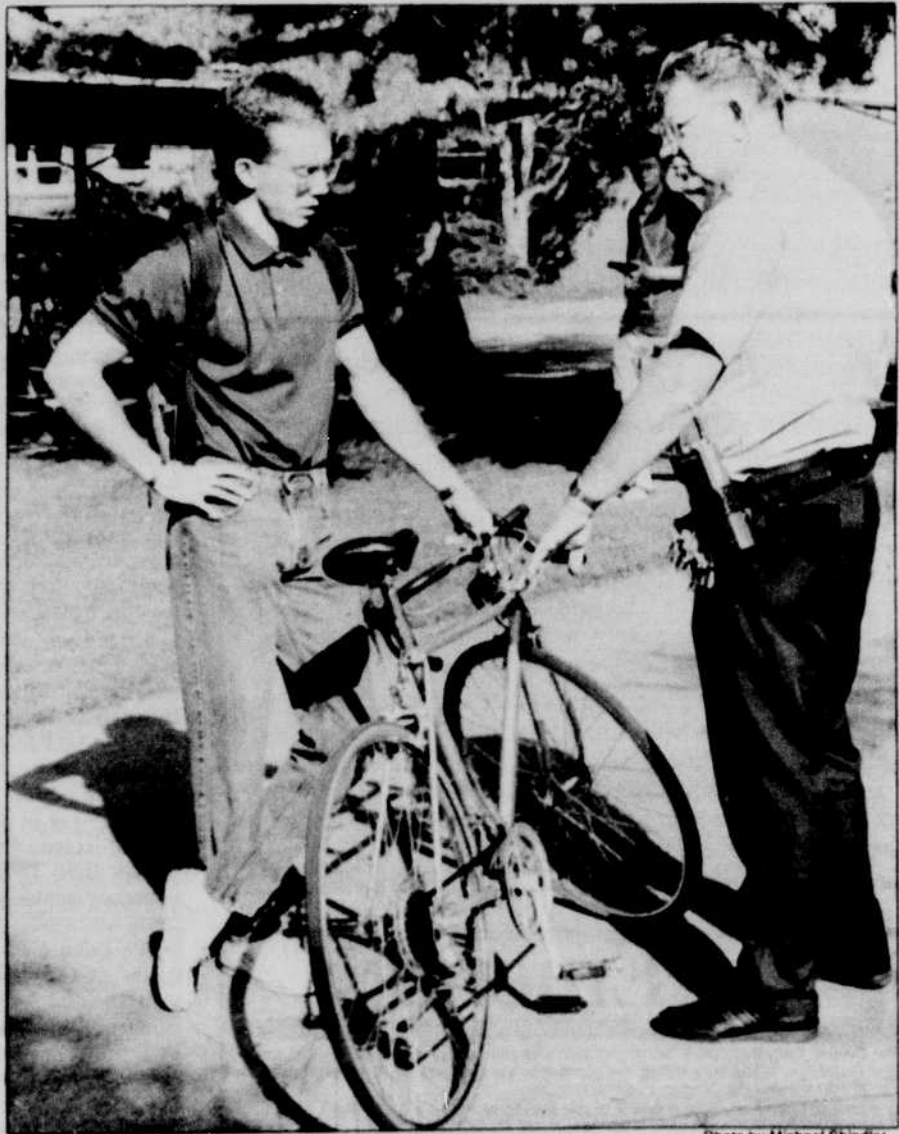


Photo by Michael Shindler

Officer Goldsmith of OPS writes Bill Jennings a \$10 ticket for riding his bike on the sidewalk near Bean Complex. Sidewalks are monitored Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and it is illegal to use bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades or rollerskates on the sidewalks at these times.

WEATHER

The Eugene-Springfield area will experience highs in the upper 70s today, lows about 40, and fair tonight. Thursday will bring mostly sunny skies with highs again in the upper 70s.

Today in History

Ten years ago the British musical *Cats*, featuring the popular song "Memory," opened on Broadway.

BUG BITES

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Jay Leno has promised to eat bugs. The co-presidents of Iowa State University's Entomology Club are traveling to California to meet Leno, host of *The Tonight Show*, and feed him insect goodies tonight in front of a national audience.

Traveling with students Julie Stephens and Kathy Gee will be 100 hissing cockroaches and all the ingredients for maggot crispies and chocolate-covered crickets. Leno has promised to taste the delicacies.

The encounter is to be taped tonight.

The junior entomology majors then have to rush back to Ames for a midterm exam on Thursday.

SPORTS

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — Lou Piniella said Tuesday he will not return as manager of the Cincinnati Reds next season. Piniella said he rejected an extension of this three-year contract because it was time for a change.

"I've got nothing bad to say about anything, the city, the fans, the organization, the owner," Piniella said.

"It was a good three years, it was a good experience. I made some friends. I enjoyed the town. I enjoyed the players I managed ... and I learned a hell of a lot."

Piniella, who had been evasive about whether he wanted to return to the Reds, said he met with owner Marge Schott for several hours Monday to discuss his future.