

## Head-in parking rule unnecessary, costly

The rising tide of collective disgust with the parking situation on campus threatens to inundate the narrow confines of the overflowing parking lots and spill into the streets and alleys of the University consciousness.

Far from plugging the hole in the dike, as did the little Dutch boy of legend, parking attendants and meter readers on this campus are chopping at the opening and threatening the very integrity of parking as an institution, a tradition and a way of life.

They must be stopped.

Melodrama aside, a new policy initiated by the Office of Public Safety this term has only worsened a situation that was already getting out of hand. The newest requirement? Head-in parking in all University lots.

There may be legitimate safety concerns behind the recent decision, which took effect, without much fanfare, before the beginning of the fall term. OPS officials cite the dangers of pulling through one space and ending up in another, with the front of the car facing out. They suggest that another car might try to move into that same space at that same time from the other side, thereby resulting in a front-end collision and all sorts of dangerous mayhem.

This has undoubtedly happened before, but one wonders just how often, and whether the frequency of such accidents is enough to counter the convincing arguments that parking head-out is safer. After all, visibility is always better when a driver is able to move forward, rather than have to twist around to look over his or her shoulder. Common sense would seem to indicate that the less backing up that has to be done, the better.

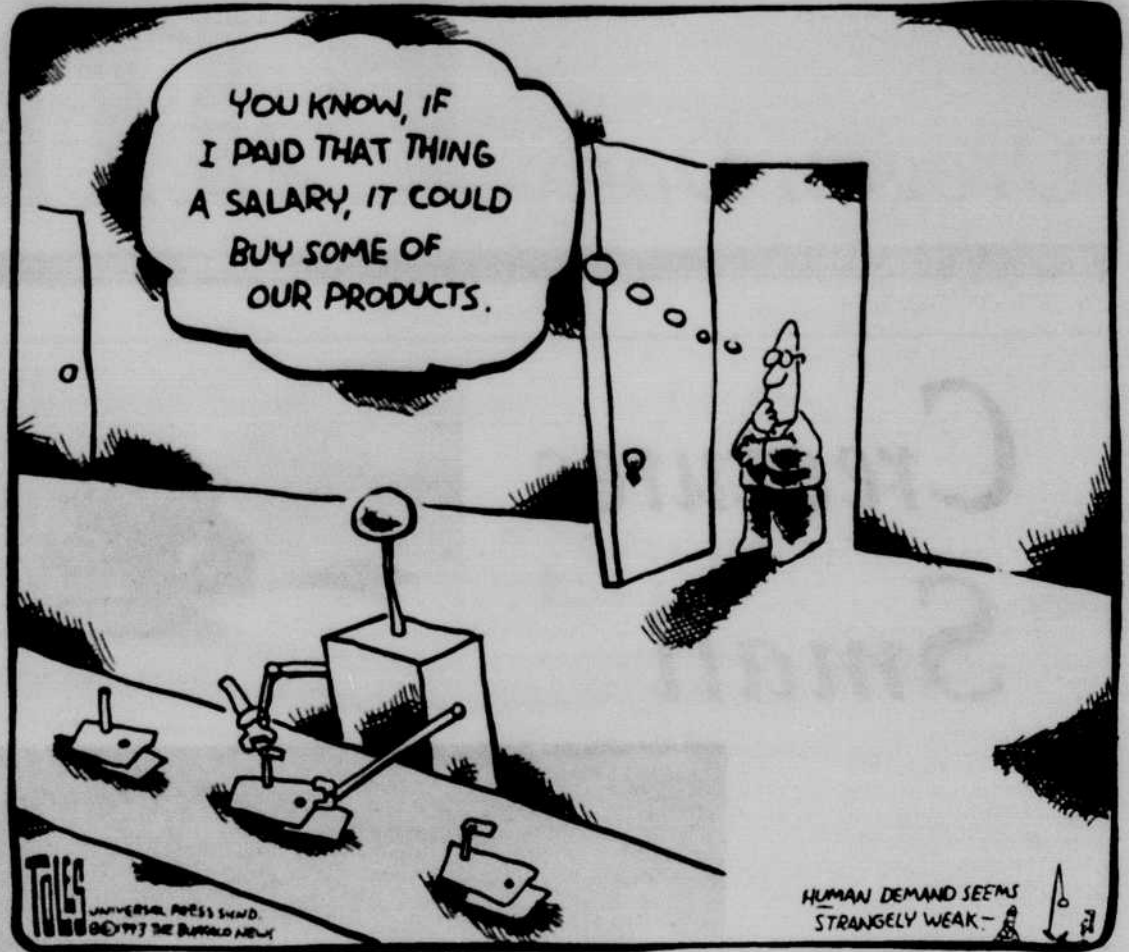
Because the superiority of head-in parking is still in doubt, then, how can OPS can justify a \$20 "improper parking" fine for parking head-out?

"Improper parking" is one of several auto-related infractions listed in the University's *Parking and Transportation Information* pamphlet, which is issued to all parking permit owners at the time of purchase. Other parking violations that are punishable by a \$20 ticket include parking in driveways, yellow zones, reserved spaces, sidewalks, and, unbelievably, on "landscape areas." How can simply choosing to park backward, which may or may not be more dangerous, be on a par with parking on the lawn somewhere?

The real reason behind the head-in rule, and the reason it's so strictly (and mercilessly) enforced, is because OPS officers don't want to take the time to walk around a car and check to see if it has a permit attached. Plain and simple.

Sixty dollars is a lot to pay for a parking permit, especially when it doesn't even guarantee you a space (even the most inconvenient lots are usually full by 11 a.m.). It doesn't seem unreasonable to expect a little leniency for those people who have made that investment.

If the rule *must* be enforced, for reasons of efficiency, then let the punishment fit the crime. If that happens, then maybe OPS can stem the tide of parking antagonism, before it floods the campus. If not, maybe drivers had better learn to swim. Or, worse yet: ride the bus.



## LETTERS

### Right is wrong

Throughout the 1980's and into the 1990's, the religious right has been working non-stop in the name of Christian purity to restrict our rights. Those of us offended by this tend to associate this attack with Christianity. The religious right has driven many good and caring people away from Christianity with its messages of hate and intolerance.

Letters like those from Matt Fox and Leta Hamilton (*ODE*, Oct. 14) show that there are good, tolerant and even liberal Christians.

It is the duty of all true Christians to oppose the agenda of all members of the religious right, so that Christianity does not become synonymous with the hypocrisy, intolerance and the loss of our rights. It is the duty of those opposing the religious right to remember that we are not opposing Christianity, but the pseudo-Christian religious right's attempt to control our society.

Aaron Curtis  
Mathematics

### Induce vomiting

When I pick up the *Emerald*, it reads like a copy of the *Oregon Commentator* without a sense of humor. Your advocacy of the administration's policies is discreditable.

I just finished reading your editorial concerning the Don Monson affair, having taken several breaks to throw up over its contents and question your judgment.

In the article you state, "When he was finally removed from his coaching position (and subsequently reassigned in the athletic department), it shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone who follows basketball." Please name one major college basketball program that has ever reassigned a coach who wanted to stay in basketball?

Reassignment would absolute-

ly kill a coaching career. If the administration had planned to fire Monson (or reassign him to his duties), they should not have signed a three-year contract.

Contract law obviously is not the administration's strong suit. This was Monson's mistake.

No one is defending Monson's coaching record at Oregon. The administration had the right to fire him, but Monson also had the right to just compensation.

I must also point out that having a winning record at Oregon isn't extremely important. Football coach Rich Brooks is 81-101-4 in football.

I have a suggestion. If the University wins its appeal, let's work on reassigning Myles Brand, Dan Williams and Rich Brooks. I hear the University Physical Plant custodial staff needs help.

Jerry Carson  
History

### Psychiatric bias

My letter to the *Emerald* (Oct. 11) concerning psychiatry and religion led to some misunderstandings. I'm sorry for not being more clear. To respond to Matt Fox (*ODE*, Oct. 14): My personal spiritual belief is paganism, and because of the oppression pagans have endured, I strive for tolerance of all faiths, no matter how bizarre.

I do object to those who force religious beliefs onto others, such as the Oregon Citizens Alliance. Increasingly, letter writers to the *Emerald* quote their Bible as the foundation for similar agendas. They thus make ridiculous ideas — such as the arrogance that Christianity is the only "true" religion — fair game for inspection.

People are allowed extreme altered states, emotional distress and even so-called "madness" as long as they uphold the dominant world view. If Jung Sook Jang — the University grad student who died at Lane County

Psychiatric Hospital — had knelt in prayer in church on Sunday, no harm would have resulted. However, she was captured, tied down, force-drugged and killed.

The *Oregonian* (Oct. 13) reported that three psychiatric inmates died in Dammasch State Hospital in the past six weeks. Eight died there in the past 22 months. Several died under circumstances similar to Sook's: forced drugs and restraints.

I'm glad Fox agrees such atrocities are crimes. The OCA, on the other hand, has said there's another group with "special rights" they hope to target: people with psychiatric labels.

True Christians must condemn the OCA, or be complicit.  
David Oaks  
Eugene

### Rude behavior

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, I was visiting the University from the state of Washington, in regard to a business matter concerning my daughter who is a student in Eugene. I passed by an open forum with the local Muslim Student Association and stopped out of curiosity to listen.

I was appalled at the undisciplined and rude confrontations made by people in the audience as others were speaking. I have no idea what the issues were, as my presence was brief. It just seemed so out of the ordinary that in an academic setting with a generous number of interested participants present that a small number of people, not particularly youthful ones from their appearance, could so boldly and disruptively remove all possibilities for a solution because of basic rude and inappropriate manners.

I applaud those students who tried to restore order to an otherwise serious and interested group of individuals.

Stephanie R. Colheny  
Seattle

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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