

## Parking-place scramble gets worse with closure

■ **OUR OPINION:** The University needs more parking alternatives

Did the University Street closure make it harder than usual to find a place to park this morning?

Late to class because of it? Spring break is definitely over. Welcome back.

Student and faculty drivers may have gripped the steering wheel a little harder and experienced a stiffer touch of the white-knuckle syndrome this morning because, thanks to a five-month \$1.7 million roof-job for McArthur Court, the 120 parking spaces along University Street are closed.

The loss of all these spaces — despite the opening of a handful of replacements near Agate Hall — is merely a new twist in what has become an ongoing torture for students and faculty who drive or park their cars on and around campus.

It is no secret that the Office of Public Safety sells parking permits for more spaces than actually exist in campus lots. This high demand and low supply of parking places turns the permit sticker into more of a license to hunt for a place to park than anything else.

The result is that, for many cars and their drivers, it is always open-season on any allowable space between two yellow lines, with late arrivals having to scramble for those wonderful city meters on the University's curbs, or frantically search for one of those incredibly inconvenient and unrealistic two-hour curb spaces (again, city enforced) surrounding the campus.

To help make better use of the limited number of park-

ing places available, the University and OPS might want to consider any number or combination of the following ideas:

- Open up the faculty-only parking lots to students.
- Charge an overnight fee to people who park in University lots overnight, encouraging dorm residents to leave underutilized cars at home with Mom and Dad.
- Come up with practical guidelines and rules that will persuade or force students who live on or near campus to leave their cars at their place of residence.
- Persuade students (with free cookies and milk, or other attractive benefits) to actually use that cute little LTD sticker that enables them to ride city buses for free.

• Work with OSPIRG to have University parking spots protected as an endangered species.

These are only a few of the many solutions that could begin to solve some of the University's parking problems.

The University had no choice but to close off University Street and the 120 parking spaces that run along the street in front of McArthur Court, for the safety of the campus community and for easier access during the roofing project.

The roof apparently wasn't in danger of collapsing, but University officials decided for the future and went ahead with the plan.

Unfortunately, the University's parking system also needs a major overhaul.

While the school is keenly aware of commuter nightmares over parking availability, solutions other than just raising parking permit prices need to be found.



## Communication helps combat STDs

Unprotected sex without consequences has never been part of the human experience.

In addition to unwanted pregnancy, the "traditional" sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis and gonorrhea have long posed threats to health and well-being. But in recent decades the STD epidemic has become more complex. HIV/AIDS has emerged as a devastating STD for which there is no cure. We have learned much about two other lifelong infections, genital herpes and human papillomavirus (HPV), now considered to be the most widely prevalent STDs. And chlamydia, an often "silent" or symptomless infection, has become the most rapidly spreading STD, with especially severe consequences for women and their reproductive health. We now know that STDs are a major cause of infertility.

Perhaps the most compelling aspect of the STD epidemic is its impact on young people. Of the 12 million new STD infections in the United States each year, two-thirds occur in people under 25 and one-fourth occur in teenagers. Many young people are acquiring STDs — often without symptoms, and thus undetected — that will have an impact on the rest of their lives.

Despite the pervasiveness of these infections, it is difficult for people — especially young peo-

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Peggy Clarke

ple — to accept that they are at risk. Every day, the American Social Health Association receives thousands of calls to its three national hotlines from people of all ages and backgrounds who share a disbelief that their behavior places them at risk for STDs. Our hotline counselors explain that anyone who has unprotected sex can get an STD, since even a trusted sex partner can have an STD from a previous relationship without being aware of the infection.

Most importantly, we encourage partners to discuss their concerns about sexual health and to practice safe sex as an expression of mutual respect and caring.

It is vitally important that people talk about the risk of STDs with those who are important to their sexual health — partners, family members and health care providers. Only by breaking down the barriers to open communication about STDs can we stop these infections and their harmful consequences to individuals, families and communities.

Peggy Clarke is president of the American Social Health Association.

### LETTERS

#### Disgusting mess

The University should be ashamed of denying attendees of the Land, Air and Water Conference the right to expect clean restrooms on campus.

The LAW International Conference convened here in March again, and as in years before, the problem of restroom cleanup has not been solved.

The conference is a busy weekend for the University's law school building, with hundreds of visitors using the facility. Many of these visitors went to use the few restrooms only to find inexcusable messes.

Why is there no advance planning done?

The University can't be so broke that it can't have some cleanup done. It's disgusting!

What must the visitors think?

Hilde K. Cherry  
Eugene

#### '90s propaganda

I was thoroughly disturbed after I read Alexandra Berwick's letter to the editor (*ODE*, March 18). The Multicultural Center office coordinator was attempting to sell the "March on San Francisco" that the MCC is sponsoring. One paragraph in particular disturbed me: "This march will address the continued social injustice shown by the RIGHT WING MOVEMENT in America — a movement that preserves the WHITE-MALE dominated INSTITUTION of power and keeps the MASSES OF OPPRESSED down."

Our beloved MCC, which receives a surprisingly large sum of money from the Progressive-Party dominated ASUO, is now spreading some of the worst propaganda I have seen in this decade. Apparently, according to the MCC, there is a White-Male Institution whose sole purpose of existence is to oppress those who are not members.

And, of course, it's all the fault of the Right-Wing Republicans.

I don't know about the masses of oppressed University students, but I happen to believe in equality and the human race. I don't judge people on what they are or where they come from, but rather on what they do with their life. The MCC would have us believe our ancestors' origins should determine how we should be treated. As long as your ancestors didn't come from Europe, you should be revered. Otherwise, you are an evil oppressor of humanity whose only purpose in life is to make the world a miserable place for all those who do not share that common bond.

Perhaps this article would have been appropriate two decades ago, but for those of us who live in the '90s, it was wholly inaccurate.

Trent M. Donelson  
Visual Design

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