

THIS WEEK
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OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

SOUND OFF
 How has the University parking situation affected you — or has it? E-mail us at ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

Parking: Added stress we don't need

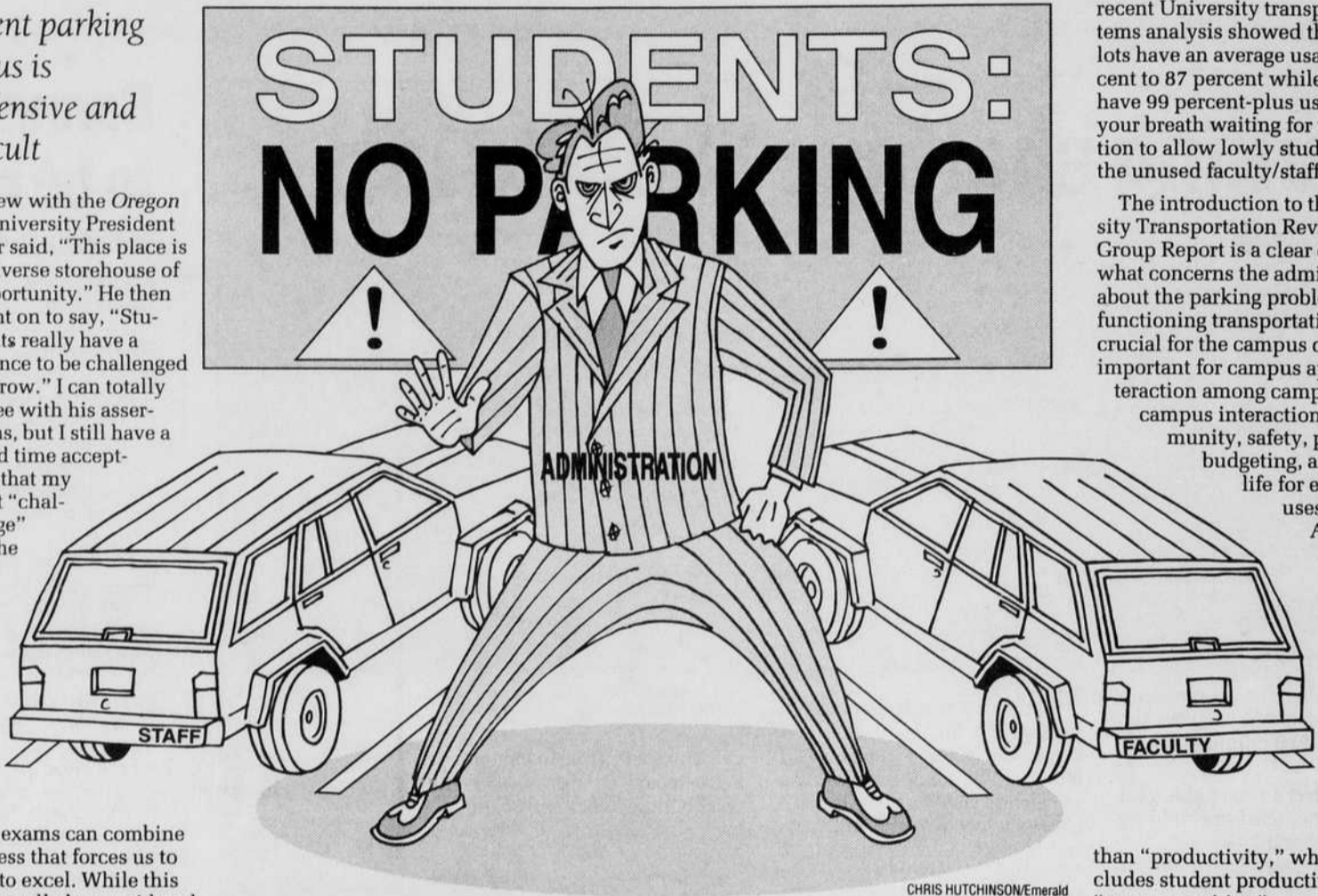
Finding a student parking space on campus is demeaning, offensive and extremely difficult

In a recent interview with the *Oregon Daily Emerald*, University President Dave Frohnmayer said, "This place is a very rich and diverse storehouse of opportunity." He then went on to say, "Students really have a chance to be challenged to grow." I can totally agree with his assertions, but I still have a hard time accepting that my first "challenge" of the

day, every day, is the stressful pursuit of a place to park.

Stress is an inherent, perhaps even necessary part of student life. A desire to fully understand course material, meet assignment deadlines and succeed on exams can combine to create a level of stress that forces us to grow, to achieve and to excel. While this type of stress could actually be considered a positive force, stress that comes from trying to cope with irrational situations, especially situations that emphasize social inferiority, is definitely negative. The current on-campus parking situation is both irrational and, to students, socially demeaning.

It is that last aspect, socially demeaning, that makes this situation not only intolerable, but also inexcusably offensive. Park-



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

ing allocation on this campus is a microcosmic demonstration of one of the worst practices in our society. It demonstrates that those who have power will use it to improve their own circumstances at the expense of the less powerful. President Frohnmayer doesn't have a parking problem; he has a reserved space. So do the other senior administration and faculty members along with many of their staff.

Other faculty and staff don't have reserved spaces, but virtually all of the choice lots are reserved exclusively for them and they also have the option of parking in any of the other lots as well.

This leaves students quite visibly at the bottom of the parking pecking order, fighting for the few remaining spaces in the most isolated lots or else forced to use the increasingly expensive parking meters. A

recent University transportation systems analysis showed that faculty/staff lots have an average usage of 83 percent to 87 percent while student lots have 99 percent-plus usage. Don't hold your breath waiting for the administration to allow lowly students to park in the unused faculty/staff spaces.

The introduction to the latest University Transportation Review Working Group Report is a clear example of what concerns the administration most about the parking problem. "A well-functioning transportation system is crucial for the campus community. It is important for campus appearance, interaction among campus entities, campus interaction with the community, safety, productivity, budgeting, and quality of life for everyone who uses the campus."

Appearance, campus entities (read: administration, faculty and staff) and the community (local businesses) are considered more important than "productivity," which I hope includes student productivity along with "campus entities."

I applaud the efforts being made to find workable solutions to the parking problems, but if the solutions continue to treat students as third-class citizens, the phrase "campus community" will continue to have a very hollow ring to it.

Larry Haft is a columnist for Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

LETTERS

Candidate has vision

This letter is to discuss the Oregon U.S. Senate race. I want to focus on issues critical to the health of our state, nation and world to draw attention to the candidate who can best deal with these issues.

Rapid population growth here and abroad and improperly managed immigration policy at home may be at the heart of every critical problem we face as a nation. To be sure, we must solve a multitude of problems that exist on our city streets, in our schools and within society. But central to all of these issues and countless others is the simple fact that both locally and globally we are doing a poor job of managing population growth. This has allowed for a disastrous human encroachment on every natural resource we cherish.

Brent Thompson, the Reform Party U.S. Senate candidate, possesses the vision, energy, objectivity and experience to best deal with the issue of better managing population

growth and immigration policy. I have known Brent for over 40 years, and I know he will aggressively focus state and national attention on the subject of a truly sustainable population that is now so desperately needed.

Phil Lighty '68
 Hillsborough, CA

Taco Time local too

The University of Oregon is a shining example of the diversity, talent and spirit that make up not only Eugene, but the great Pacific Northwest. That is why I had to respond to your recent front page article by Patty Wentz on new food service in the EMU (Sept. 23). The article says: "The research showed people prefer local, regional food over national chains. Rita's Burritos over Taco Time for example." Whoa, people! Not only is Taco Time International, Inc. a Eugene, Or.-based company, but it has its roots firmly planted here — especially at the University.

Ron Fraedick, who founded the very first Taco Time restau-

rant at 13th Avenue and High Street in 1960, is a University business school graduate and it was University students who initially rallied around Taco Time to make it the success it is today. That is one of the main reasons why the EMU put in Taco Time in the first place. In addition, Ron has chosen to keep the corporate offices in Eugene because he believes in the community and still resides here. Also, a good number of Taco Time corporate employees — now and through the years — graduated from the University, including the president, Howard Ollis, who proudly earned his law degree here.

Even though there are now over 400 Taco Time restaurants around the world, they still are big contributors to local events, clubs, and charitable organizations. By the way, the vast majority of Taco Time restaurants are in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah. Taco Time also has one of the best varieties available for any Mexican restaurant. If students want a

different taste or even healthier items, talk to the folks in charge at the EMU, and Taco Time can provide a broader variety, as they're already known for their healthy fare and quality.

The local Taco Time restaurants contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars per month into the local community through wages and business relationships. Also, contributions of individual employees include aiding organizations from Goodwill Industries, to the Very Little Theatre, to the Eugene Celebration Committee. If Taco Time is not a local, regional chain, then I don't know what is.

Rob Catalano
 Eugene

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes your opinions on this and other issues. You may submit a letter no longer than 250 words to the Emerald offices at Suite 300 in the EMU or send us your thoughts via e-mail at ode@oregon.uoregon.edu

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Newsroom: (541) 346-5511

Display Advertising: (541) 346-3712

Business Office: (541) 346-5512

Classified Advertising: (541) 346-4343