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Parking: More spaces available on east side

Continued from Page 1
spaces to be used by a wide variety of people from the community that need access to the area," she said.

Kronholm also said the meter enforcement officers don't work on commission; they are on a monthly salary.

Ida Sanders, an OPS parking enforcement officer, said she isn't relentless when issuing tickets. Sanders also said it is at the officer's discretion to decide whether the ticket should be issued.

Last year a committee was formed by the University to produce a parking study to make recommendations regarding usage of the parking lots and spaces.

Some of the recommendations were to decrease overnight permits by 250 cars, capping the total at 400 cars. Temporary parking permits are also now \$2 per day.

"The UO, including staff, students and faculty, has the population concentration of a dense city," said Stamm. "We have to address it in a similar and self-supporting manner."

One other recommendation from the study was to initiate the use of "boots." Boots are devices that fit on a vehicle's wheel and make it impossible for the car to move without inflicting damage.

The boots are installed by the city when a car has outstanding parking tickets in excess of \$30.

According to Kronholm, the city has a "boot list," which is updated every day and can be accessed via the hand-held ticket writers the officers carry. The officers will find out that the car is on the boot list during the ticketing process, but sometimes they will cruise the streets and check every license-plate number.

In order to get the boot removed, the owner must pay all outstanding fines plus a \$40 fee for failing to pay on time.

Kronholm said on any given day, parking enforcement officers boot 20 to 30 cars in Eugene and a

high portion of those issued are in the University area.

Stamm said OPS first tries to contact people who avoid paying their citations. If it is unsuccessful, the citation is forwarded to the collections office at Oregon Hall. If Oregon Hall fails, the citation is then forwarded to a private collection agency, which can even trace people who are not affiliated with the University.

Despite attempts at new approaches, however, students and staff are still finding it hard to park.

"It's always a problem," said student Michelle Joye. "There's never a place to park."

Joye said she usually gets two or three tickets a week and has been booted three times. "I'm bad at feeding the meter," she said. "Preferably, I would like to see more permit parking."

Joye said she purchased permits for two years but found it wasn't worth it this year because she could never find a place anyway. Stamm said from Oct. 1, 1997 to Sept. 30, 1998, 6,500 permits were sold for 3,200 spaces, including the University meter spaces.

"Some folks only come to school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays," said Stamm, explaining the discrepancy between numbers. "It's hard to make a correlation. It's a totally different animal."

Sanders also said she didn't think it was a concern because she routinely sees empty spaces during the day — those that are not in desirable places. She said parking lots that don't see as much traffic are located on East 17th and Moss streets on the east side of campus.

Sanders said she appreciates it when people check to make sure they are parked correctly or use alternate modes of transportation. "Some students asked me before spring break if they could get stars for parking properly," she said. "I told them I'd give them stars; it's positive reinforcement."

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