

**Oregon Daily Emerald**  
 Editor in chief: Laura Cadiz  
 Editorial Editors: Bret Jacobson, Laura Lucas

# Perspectives

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511  
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union  
 P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403  
 E-mail: ode@oregon.uoregon.edu  
 On-line edition: www.dailyemerald.com

## CRIME SCENE

Several crimes on campus parking lots beg the question:  
 Should more be done to prevent theft and damage?

**T**here are a lot of relatively minor crimes that occur around campus, and it's understandable that not all of them can be solved. But when a pattern of vehicle vandalism pops up in University parking lots, there are simple remedies that should be put in place to slow this type of activity.

There have been multiple counts of Criminal Mischief and a case of theft around campus parking lots lately, according to the Emerald's Crime Watch for offenses reported from Nov. 7 through Nov. 14.

Ultimately, the blame lies with those who commit the deeds, but accountability must also rest with those who are charged with stopping these acts. And that means examining ways to have Office of Public Safety work more effectively in theft and damage prevention. It would seem that the best way to achieve this goal would be to increase human and electronic surveillance of the parking lots.

Because of the fees students pay for parking on campus lots, OPS is already expected to keep some amount of watch over vehicles. A day-parking permit for fall term is \$77 and overnight parking is \$80 per term. That's quite a sum for most college students learning to live on a budget. And in return for that significant investment, there should be some further attempt to recognize and curb trends in vandalism.

While OPS does an adequate job of catching some offenders while on its routine patrols, it is obvious more needs to be done. There are security cameras that are intermittently placed in the parking lot but do not run 24 hours a day. And besides the occasional OPS van passing by, presumed by most students as more in-

terested in collecting fines than in catching wrongdoers, there isn't anyone looking out for the unattended property.

But there are simple ways to help the problem. Full-time cameras would be one method of curbing vandalism as they are able to log and review any suspicious traffic activity and act as a warning in the minds of would-be vandals. Either keeping an OPS officer constantly in troubled lots or starting a patrol of students to

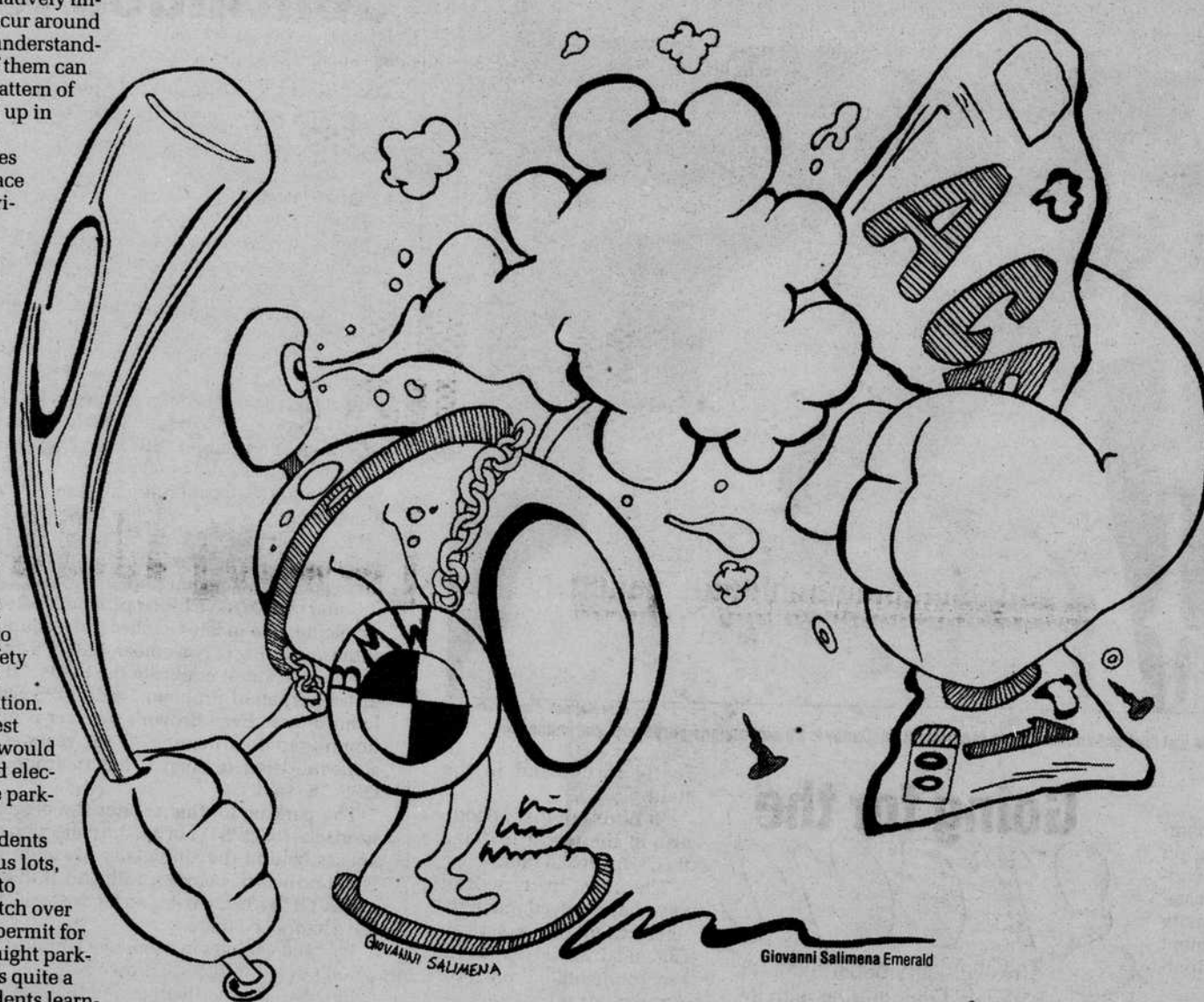
monitor activity would provide a more personal touch to the security process and insure common sense in decision making.

There are other alternatives that could be suggested but appear far less practical. One such method of slowing crime would be to erect a fence with gated entry to prevent anyone not paying for service to enter. That would be impractical, however, since the most troubled lot, 34E, is also the area used for the Mu-

seum of Natural History and the occasional visitor just seeking time with loved ones.

The best answers are relatively simple and easy to put in place. There should be security cameras all day long and a full-time OPS officer or special rotation of students patrolling the parking lots to deter vandals.

*This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.*



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

### Letters to the editor

#### Senate, PFC working through problems

Jamila Singleton (ODE, Nov. 15) posed the question "Is the Student Senate doing its job?" Singleton states that ASUO programs received barely a 48-hour notice about their budget due date. The Programs Finance Committee has been working diligently to notify programs of budget deadlines. Several e-mails have been sent to all programs, as well as a mandatory meeting held in October to provide programs with the necessary budgetary information. PFC-members have been doing an excellent job, working hard to compensate for positions that were open on PFC during the first two months of the term. Their efforts are commendable, and students are fortunate to have such hard-working, dedicated and critical-thinking students

allocating incidental fee dollars. Singleton also indicated that internal conflicts in the senate are preventing the body from doing one of its jobs of allocating surplus money to programs that submit special requests. Despite internal conflicts, the senate has been considering each request critically. Each senator has his or her own views on how surplus money should be allocated, and these views provide a forum for debate and discussion. The goal of the Student Senate is not to intimidate programs but to consider each request carefully and allocate funds responsibly. It is easy to criticize the senate, as rarely do the student advocacy roles or accomplishments of senators receive publicity. I have to say, despite our flaws, were doing a darn good job.

Jennifer Greenough  
 ADCF student senator

#### Dollars distributed unequally

I think it's great that the University is allocating funds for renovations; I find it upsetting, however, that the majority of the funds are going to be used in the improvement of Autzen Stadium and Gilbert Hall. A theme that has been reiterated in the majority of my classes is that most of the world's major problems (i.e. poverty, hunger, war and environmental degradation) are rooted in the inequitable distribution of wealth and resources. The University is, in a sense, a microcosm of global systems. There are many other programs and buildings at the University that are in greater need of and more deserving of funds than Autzen Stadium and Gilbert Hall.

Elise Raymond  
 environmental studies and geography

### THUMBS



#### To giving something back

Microsoft founder Bill Gates's charitable foundation will give \$750 million dollars over the next five years to a project for improving children's immunization in underdeveloped countries.

#### To remembering your roots

An Indiana couple who invested wisely throughout the years bequeathed \$23 million in their will to their hometown. The amount is more than the assessed value of every house, school, street and business, and the town's entire budget. Now that's a windfall.



#### To deluding ourselves

The United Nations says that AIDS has killed more people — 2.6 million — in 1999 than in any other year since the epidemic began. While in America, we seem to have lulled ourselves into thinking we've almost conquered AIDS, the virus is blazing out of control worldwide.

#### To bugging out

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that many universities across the nation may not be ready for the Y2K bug, and President Clinton says institutions of higher education are the least prepared for the year 2000. Oops.