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Perspectives

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Residents and businesses surrounding Autzen Stadium are rightfully concerned over proposed expansion plans, especially in light of the fact that the University is seeking to increase seating capacity at the venue without offering more on-site parking spaces for those extra 12,100 fans.

But administration officials and city planners have worked diligently to ease those worries and we applaud their efforts — with a few caveats.

The University's goal is to lighten the parking space requirement via an amendment to Eugene's Land Use Code — Section 9.586 for the purists, which requires one parking space for every 4.4 seats in the stadium. Even with a current 50 percent reduction allowance in place, the University would have to find a way to provide 1,375 extra spots on-site, and with expansion costs already estimated at \$80 million, the less money spent, the better.

However, as anyone who lives or owns a business within a mile radius of Autzen knows, congestion is already a nightmare in the area on game days. Mobile quacker-backers spill over from the stadium site and park in just about any empty space they can find, creating headaches for property owners and residents in the area.

To tackle the issue without throwing extra cash into a parking structure or some other unsightly alternative, University architects and a private traffic consultant firm in Portland have designed a Transportation Demand Management Plan. The strategy received its first official OK Monday when the Eugene Planning Commission voted

Points to ponder prior to praising parking plan

unanimously to accept it as sound and ready for consideration by the City Council.

The 74-page document is geared toward highlighting several travel alternatives for fans making their way to Autzen, including a focus on making pedestrian access safer along Centennial Boulevard, creating more convenient bicycle access for those inclined to arrive on two wheels instead of four and encouraging more people to use public transit. In fact, the plan aims to increase that usage from approximately 6,000 spectator bus trips per game to 11,200 spectator trips.

All is good with the plan to this point.

The problems — those pesky caveats referred to earlier — arise in exactly how to accommodate the increased transit patrons. In its TDM Plan, the University has done what seems like an adequate job of providing for the extra service. There are proposals to expand by anywhere from 34 to 39 the number of buses in operation to shuttle fans from off-site park-and-ride facilities.

The University would also develop an effective signage plan on major approach routes to Autzen, so that out-of-town fans could be directed to those lots. There was also discussion at Monday's commission meeting suggesting that those bus rides be made free to fans.

However, once in the Autzen area, the plans take a controversial turn.

Three options focused on bus staging areas — places where the buses would discharge fans before the games and pick them up post-game — are offered in the TDM Plan. Two of the choices are on University property, either along Leo Harris Parkway or in a lot just northwest of Autzen.

The third alternative — and the one that both University officials and city planners prefer — would be situated on city property currently leased by the Willamette Science and Technology Center.

Two potential wrongs are attached to this third plan and we all know about the "two wrongs" cliché.

Firstly, WISTEC has for the past several years been generating revenue by selling season parking spaces to football fans; under this option that money may evaporate and WISTEC will suffer.

Secondly, the bus staging area as designed could affect East Alton Baker Park, a habitat for native vegetation and wildlife. The park is situated close enough to the bus area such that diesel fumes from idling buses and general noise pollution might impact the environment and disturb park-goers. (Yes, people do engage in other activities not related to football on game days.)

University and WISTEC officials both say that they would like to negotiate a fair deal in regards to the parking lot issue. City Manager Jim Johnson has met with both the University and WISTEC to help hammer

out a deal, although the two principal parties have yet to sit down and discuss matters.

We have not seen nor heard any information to the contrary, so we expect the University to be fair and just in its meetings with WISTEC. The Autzen Stadium expansion plans already suffered one major public relations disaster when Nike CEO and President Phil Knight withdrew his financial pledge to the project; we don't need another negative situation to occur.

We also strongly recommend that the University reach out more to members of the East Alton Baker Park Citizen Planning Committee, the organization in charge of park maintenance. At Monday's meeting, at least one committee representative said he thought school officials could do more in fully understanding the issues surrounding Alton Baker Park.

In general, there is not much opposition to the city granting the University's request for a parking code amendment, which goes before a public hearing on Sept. 25. And as far as bulky, official documents go, the TDM Plan is easy to follow and heads in a direction that the community-at-large should embrace: less dependence on automobiles in getting fans from Point A, home, to Point B, Autzen Stadium, to cheer on the Ducks.

Along the way, however, University officials should make certain to stop, look and listen to all those involved in the party planning.

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

Similar to Monica, President Clinton sucks at politics

President Clinton can be a lot of things to a lot of people, but he always was and will continue to be his own worst enemy.

After being impeached and besmirching a presidency that otherwise would have been recognized by history as one of great prosperity, Clinton will again harm his legacy by preventing Vice

President Al Gore from being elected this November by continually inject-

ing himself into the campaign.

Clinton's most recent intrusion into the presidential campaign came through a mocking of Texas Gov. George W. Bush's run for the presidency. Clinton mocked the affable nature of the governor and the younger Bush's ties to his father, who incidentally has grown in stature in the minds of Americans since being voted out in 1992.

But Clinton's efforts to help his colleague will only end up damaging the legacy the president has been said to hold so precious. It is clear that Americans don't want to change direction, but they are tired of having a negative, attack-oriented leader who reminds them that we no longer have any integrity in the White House. And by attaching Bush to his father, a

now-popular past president, Clinton is only drawing a clearer distinction between his administration and the governor.

So every time Clinton pops up with his antics, it seems Bush's poll numbers rise. It makes sense. What doesn't make sense is why Clinton keeps trying.

There is another reason for Clinton to keep quiet.

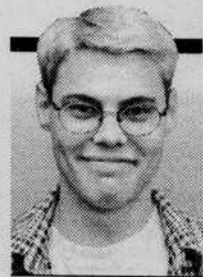
There is a long tradition of Americans thinking of their vice presidents as yes-men and men not suited toward leadership. This is obviously a direct result of the demands of the position — to be an attack dog, a party whip and a yes-man to the president. But when it is time for the veep to convince Americans he can be their leader, it takes time and an un-

derstanding boss who will get out of the way and let the vice president demonstrate his abilities and ideas.

But when Clinton keeps acting as the attack dog, as he is this week while Gore vacations in North Carolina, he reminds voters that he is still in charge and Gore is still number two.

None of this is new, however. Clinton always is a slash-and-burn politician and will always be his own worst enemy. This time he will hurt his legacy by ensuring Gore won't be elected.

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Bret Jacobson

Editorial excerpts from around the United States and the world

July 29, The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch, on Fourth Amendment protections:

In the United States, the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution protects the homes, effects and persons of citizens from unreasonable searches.

That applies in Ohio, too, unless you want to buy more than four kegs of beer.

Under a new rule promulgated by the Ohio Liquor Control Commission, anybody who wants to buy five or more kegs of beer, for a wedding reception, company picnic, block party or the like, must agree to surrender his or her Fourth Amendment protection.

As a condition of purchase, these keg buyers must sign a form giving state officials and police carte blanche to crash the party to see whether anybody is doing anything illegal, no warrant and no probable cause required.

The new rule is well-intended but ill-conceived. No Ohioan should have to give

up a basic constitutional right in order to throw a party or drink a beer.

State officials would do well to rethink this one.

Aug. 1, Los Angeles Times, on Napster and the Internet:

From the days of player pianos to radio and now the Internet, copyright holders — those artists and others who produce creative works — have looked on new technology as a natural enemy. They have confronted the source of unauthorized copying and tried to litigate or legislate it out of existence.

The recording industry's lawsuit against Napster, the San Mateo (Calif.)-based online music swap meet ... will not erase the technology that Napster has made so popular. As is always the case, copyright owners and the new technology will have to learn to live with one another, and that's where their energies should be directed.

The Internet does, indeed, pose a threat

to the recording giants and their iron grip on the distribution of recorded music in various forms. Freely available MP3 compression technology has made downloading music easy and fast, and ... putting Napster out of business will not end the peer-to-peer music swaps that the company pioneered. Already, half a dozen or more other Internet ... (sites) offer similar services. ...

Clearly, the recording industry, rather than mount a legal assault on the new medium, should look for ways to team up with it, while preserving artists' rewards. ... A new world is opening for sound and picture distribution that cannot be stopped by litigation.

Aug. 2, The Nation, Bangkok, Thailand, on American foreign policy toward Southeast Asia:

With the Republican National Convention in full swing, one issue that is not featuring all that much is foreign affairs. Dur-

ing a teleconference held yesterday at the U.S. Embassy (in Bangkok), Stephen J. Hadley, foreign policy adviser for the George W. Bush campaign, spoke from Philadelphia. He did not shed any light at all on the overall directions of Bush's policies towards most of Asia ...

The next U.S. president has to pay more attention to Southeast Asia, the region where the U.S. has been able to safely maintain a military presence since World War II. Throughout the Clinton administration, Washington has failed to come to grips with the changing political landscape in this area, which has resulted in a growing groundswell of anti-American sentiment ... If Southeast Asia continues to be ignored or taken for granted, the next American leader may find a different ideology flowering in the region, one into which it will not easily fit or be able to influence.

Associated Press

THE WEEK IN THUMBS



To the Post Office

for finally realizing the magnitude of online transactions such as e-mail. The U.S. Postal Service is testing a variety of e-services for Americans, including assigning everyone an e-mail address based on their address and allowing customers to pay bills online through the USPS web site.



To police overtime ruses

Portland police who worked Central Precinct drug missions were coached by sergeants on how to be discreet claiming overtime yet finishing work early. An investigation by Internal Affairs found problems, including officers who did not show up to work were listed and paid as having worked, and leaving after roll call.