

ARENA PARKING MAY FOUL NEIGHBORHOOD

If the Eugene City Code were applied to the UO's proposed new basketball arena as it's applied to other development, the university would be required to build up to 2,778 new parking spaces. But UO officials haven't announced plans for any big new parking garages to meet city code requirements designed to protect neighborhoods from choking with cars.

"There's provisions for zero parking," City Councilor Alan Zelenka complained at a Jan. 14 meeting. Zelenka said the Fairmont neighborhood in his ward has grown increasingly concerned with the parking impact of the arena. "Without parking they are turning our neighborhoods into giant parking garages, which is inappropriate."

City code requires arenas to include one parking space for every 4.5 seats. The UO has said the arena will have 12,500 seats. The UO could address the parking dilemma in a number of ways, but all appear problematic.

- The UO could ask the city council to waive parking requirements for the new arena as it has successfully done in the past with Autzen Stadium. But unlike the stadium, the arena will sit adjacent to a neighborhood of single family homes with one of the most politically active neighborhood associations in the city. Also unlike the stadium, the UO has said it plans to use the arena almost every weekend for concerts and other events.

- The UO could argue that arena-goers will walk, bike or bus to the centrally located site adjacent to campus and the EmX line. The location will reduce driving, but the UO has also advertised the facility as attracting many attendees driving from Portland and throughout the state. Only about 1,900 of the seats at basketball games will go to students.

- The UO could use the old Romania car dealership on Franklin Boulevard for parking. But the lot may not satisfy code requirements because it is not adjacent. The lot also does not appear large enough to accommodate all the demand without a parking garage. Building a large surface parking lot would also appear to conflict with city plans and regulations for the "pedestrian and transit-friendly" development of the Walnut Station node.

- The UO may be able to use a provision in the Eugene code allowing a 50 percent reduction in parking requirements for development in designated nodal areas designed to be walking and bus friendly. But even with the requirement slashed in half, the UO would still have to build about 1,400 new spaces.

- The UO could build big new parking garages for the arena. But such garages can cost about \$40,000 per space to build. A 2,800-car garage could cost roughly \$112 million. A 1,400-car garage could cost about \$56 million. Accommodating so many cars would also increase neighborhood traffic, pollution and global warming. A concrete garage could blight the area with a huge ugly structure.

- The UO could implement a highly aggressive "Transportation Demand Management" plan. Such a plan could involve subsidized shuttle buses from Portland, Autzen stadium and satellite parking lots. But to get people to actually use the buses, the city and UO may have to implement a system of parking permit stickers for neighborhood residents combined with aggressive parking enforcement on event nights. Creating, maintaining and enforcing such an ongoing system would be costly. The UO may balk at ticketing athletic donors.

Councilor Zelenka said he hopes the UO will be "working with" the city and neighborhood in the future to address the arena parking problem. — Alan Pittman

NOBEL PROJECT GETS BOOST

The city of Eugene's Nobel Peace Laureate Project has gained momentum from two sources. The project planned for Alton Baker Park has lined up early commitments of \$35,000 from donors, and a member of the Nobel family has been named honorary co-chair of the project.

Project chairman John Attig of Eugene recently announced the participation in the project by Claes Nobel, an Oregonian whose international efforts in behalf of humanitarian activities have expanded the image of the Nobel Prizes established by his family.

Attig also reports that the project has gained commitments of \$5,000 each for seven of the American laureates to be recognized at the project site.

"Our project committee has been working quietly but effectively for realization of the country's first public monument honoring the 23 American Peace laureates," says Attig. "Active support of Claes Nobel will have a major effect on gaining project assistance nationwide and globally."

The seven laureates for whom gifts already have assured personal sites in the park include Linus Pauling, Al Gore, Jody Williams, Theodore Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, Martin Luther King Jr. and Jane Addams.

The first \$5,000 commitment was made by retired UO professor Roland Bartel for Jane Addams. Bartel has done extensive research and writing on five women who were major peace activists in World War I, one of whom was Addams.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs



IMMIGRATION AND DIVERSITY EVENTS ON CAMPUS

The UO is hosting two conferences on immigration and human rights in Latin America in late January in a continuing effort to promote and spread awareness about diversity on campus and in Eugene.

"There are many lessons to be learned from the history of conflict in Latin America," said UO professor Lynn Stephen. The events are being organized and promoted by the Latin American Studies department and in affiliation with the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics.

The first, "Immigration and Citizenship," a one-day symposium on the policies and politics of immigration, will include prominent speakers advocating for a greater awareness and openness towards better immigration policies and for citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Community activists will discuss the politics of immigration policy and how it affects Eugene.

Among the speakers will be local human

rights activist Guadalupe Quinn and professor Garrett Epps of the UO School of Law. The event will also include guest speakers from universities from around the nation as well as Secretary-Treasurer Larry Kleinman of Oregon's Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN). The speakers will discuss the reworking of current border and immigration laws, immigration policy and politics, and the event will conclude with a book signing.

The second conference, "Violence and Reconciliation in Latin America: Human Rights, Memory and Democracy," is a three-day conference focusing on the societies of Latin America and how they are dealing with the human rights violations of their recent past. It will also address how they will build democratic societies in the affected regions. "The conference is important now because there are many lessons to be learned from the history of conflict in Latin America and the way it continues to play out today," said Stephen. Local speakers include UO professors Gabriela Martinez, Pedro Garcia-Caro and Stephen.

Speakers from as far away as New York and Texas will discuss topics ranging from the political direction in which Latin America is heading, to gender, violence and human rights in Latin America, and literature and testimonies from political prisoners.

"Immigration and Citizenship" will be held from 9 am to 4 pm Jan. 25 in 175 Knight Law Center at 15th and Agate. "Violence and Reconciliation in Latin America" will be held from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, in the EMU on campus. Both events are free and open to the public. Go to www.uoregon.edu/~morse for more information. — Mark Arellano

ENERGY ROUND-UP RETURNS

Lane County's Energy Round-up will join forces with Focus the Nation Jan. 31 for a