

Editorial

Academics losing ground to parking lots

At a time when every penny in NU's teaching and research programs is being scrutinized for possible elimination, the NU Board of Regents has approved a \$2.2 million parking project on the UNO campus.

By a 6-2 vote, the regents approved the purchase of a home from Anderson Excavating and Wrecking Co. for the appraisal price of \$175,000 Saturday.

The lot, located 150 feet west of UNO's campus, is the first of 12 lots the university plans to buy. After buying the lots, the buildings on them will be torn down and the land will be used for parking lots and an access road.

Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan included a long, detailed list of budget cut recommendations and "reallocations" for UNL. UNO faces similar cuts.

Increased parking should be at the bottom of any priority list when there is a threat to educational programs.

As desperate as the parking situation may be, both on the UNO and UNL campuses, spending money on parking lots can't have any positive effect on the school, other than increasing parking space. Last semester, several programs and dozens of instructors were cut from UNO. This semester the budget cuts are threatening to eliminate many NU research and teaching programs and positions.

One has to wonder how many programs that \$2.2 million would fund over the same period that it will be spent. There is the chance that the Omaha City Council will not approve the plan. Who knows where the money would go if that happened.

Roger Holthaus, an Omaha attorney representing the Citizens' Action Association, argued at Saturday's meeting that the plan to expand UNO's parking by 1,200 spaces would be beyond the campus' needs.

He also said the plan was premature "in need and design." The new lot would cause sewer problems from increased drainage, he said.

If there is any doubt that UNO doesn't absolutely have to have those parking spaces, that \$2.2 million should go to saving programs and positions.

There is doubt.

UNO has struggled along for many years without the spaces, and I'm sure they could continue. Parking is a hassle, a nuisance, a royal pain at times, yes. But somehow, we always find space to park.

Besides, if the lot is built, and programs and teachers continue to be eliminated, there will be less students and teachers; perhaps not enough to fill a brand new lot.

— Chris Welsch



U.S. Salvadoran policy inconsistent

Newsweek is puzzled these days about what it views as conflicting signals the Reagan administration is giving out on El Salvador. In the Dec. 12 issue, Newsweek writers pointed out the irony of trying to

discourage right-wing death squads at the same time that human rights certification requirements for continued El Salvadoran military aid were allowed to lapse.

Four such certifications have been made since 1981 — each of which was very dubious — but not even this administration felt it could write up a convincing pack of lies next January. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said (perhaps ironically) that "such requirements distort our efforts to improve human rights, democracy and recovery in El Salvador." As further evidence of the administration's concern about human rights in El Salvador, State Department officials have noted that 30 percent of \$64 million in military aid to El Salvador this year will be withheld until the killers of four American nuns are convicted. Five Salvadoran national guardsmen have been brought to trial for it, but the delays have been interminable and probably deliberate.

Some State Department officials said Reagan's objections to certification stemmed from his opposition to congressional restraints on his foreign policy authority, according to The Associated Press.

However, the recent pattern of Congressional "intrusion" into foreign policy is legitimate and essential to true democratic involvement.

"Congress cannot be dealt out of foreign policy decision making," Dodd has said.

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Eric Peterson

discourage right-wing death squads at the same time that human rights certification requirements for continued El Salvadoran military aid were allowed to lapse.

But the reasons for this strangely divided policy are surely clear. The Reagan administration wants to have the appearance of being against random and political killing while not having to do anything because of this supposed opposition.

By not signing an El Salvador bill before Congress adjourned, Reagan pocket vetoed an extension of Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd's rule that further military aid to the El Salvadoran government be tied to certifications made every six months that the government is making "concerted efforts" to improve human rights in that country.

Campus Quotes

Which of the following three choices do you think would be the best solution to the Commonwealth problem?
1. Deposit maintenance plan. 2. State funding plan. 3. Liquidation plan.



Jon Wilson
senior
College of Arts and Sciences
"If they do liquidate, they're going to come up short, way short. No. 1 appears to be the best solution, if you could find a buyer who would be willing to do that."



Mohammad Tarkian
graduate student
mechanical engineering
"Government should help with grants. It's the state's fault. The people trusted the bank. I think the state should help... No. 2 is the best."



Jane Raglin
senior
business
"I would say liquidation. Actually, what I would like to see is for (S.E.) Copleto sell everything he owns and give it to the poor — the new poor, that is, the ones who had money in the bank."



Angle Gunia
senior
business
"I would say the liquidation because you don't think they're going to find a buyer. That's a lot of money and I don't think they will be able to find a buyer who's going to stick his neck out."



Jean Ann Laessle
sophomore
business
"Probably liquidate. Yeah, get it over with. I think it will complicate things more if they find a buyer."

Staff photos by Joel Sartore