



Photo by Josh Marquis
Eugene police officer Bob Quick dives into the millrace in search of evidence in a bike theft case.

Bike recovery leads to series of arrests

A University student approached Eugene Police officer Rick Allison one day early in March and told him that he thought he had located his bicycle, which had been stolen some time previously. In the investigation that followed over 100 burglaries and thefts were cleared, involving at least 50 bike thefts, many of them students'.

By JOSH MARQUIS
Of the Emerald

Allison is one of the two Eugene police officers on contract to the campus district on the day shift. He followed up the report given him by the student who said he'd found his bike and discovered that the student's claim was valid, though the bike had altered serial numbers and various equipment was changed around.

At this point Officer Allison felt that there might be more than just a simple bike rip-off involved, so he continued the investigation. He discovered that a local bike shop had innocently purchased some 20 stolen bicycles, all of them with altered serial numbers, repainted and different equipment; but still the same bikes.

Allison traced the individuals who had sold the stolen bikes to the shop and subsequently took four juveniles into custody (in the state of Oregon, persons under 18 (juveniles) are not arrested, they

are taken into custody, or TIC). Because of the seemingly professional nature of the job and

the subsequent recovery of elaborate tools, such as stamp sets and bolt cutters, Allison decided to pursue the investigation and further interviewed the persons he had taken into custody. This led to a total of 15 juveniles taken into custody and three adults arrested (two of them on grand jury indictments). The charges ranged from theft to burglary to narcotics.

Among the evidence seized were television sets, chain saws and sound amplifying equipment, stolen both from private residences and stores. The property recovered by Allison personally, including some 25 bicycles, was valued at approximately \$7000.

As Allison's investigation grew, he said he "realized that I couldn't possibly handle this all myself," so he contacted other divisions of the police department and even managed to clear some cases of the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

Allison likened the investigation at this point "to a tree," where one lead leads to another which leads to another. Detectives from several different agencies are now following leads and conducting investigations that really began in the first week in March when a University student reported his bike stolen.

Student trial cancelled

A student conduct trial scheduled Friday for University student James Craig Robinson, charged with criminal mischief on April 26, was cancelled at least temporarily, according to Student Conduct Coordinator Donald McCarty.

Charges have been filed against Robinson by the Lane County District Attorney's office.

Robinson allegedly threw a paint can through the window of Carson Hall and painted anti-war slogans in the campus area. Maximum penalty for Criminal Mischief III is 90 days in jail and \$250 fine.

McCarty decided to cancel the trial at least for the time being after consulting the Lane County D.A., the counsel for the defense, and University President Robert Clark's legal advisor, David Frohn-mayer.

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