

# Pedal pushers need to register bikes

By ERIC JONES  
Of the Emerald

Riding a bicycle can be serious business.

All bikes ridden and parked on campus must be registered with Campus Security. The fee for registering a bike is \$2, but bikes registered within the past five years don't have to be re-registered.

Information on bicycle registration and parking is available at the Public Safety Office in Straub Hall.

The City of Eugene doesn't register bikes anymore, but does enforce laws that apply to bicycles in the city. Sgt. Don

Ellingson, a member of the COP team, says bicyclists are expected to obey Oregon traffic rules. Attention is directed to accident-causing violations, but enforcement is up to the discretion of the officers on patrol.

No "crackdown" is planned by the Eugene Police Department this fall, but citations are issued to cyclists 14 years and older who disobey the law, says Ellingson, who rates bikes a "nine" on a traffic-problem scale of one to 10.

"Bikes are more of a problem in Eugene than in other communities," he says, "so the police pay more attention to bike traffic."

The City of Eugene Municipal Court processes more than 10 complaints against cyclists each day. Violations (and typical fines) include riding the wrong way on a one-way street (\$29), failing to obey a traffic signal (\$29), riding a bicycle on the mall (\$10) and driving without lights: inadequate equipment (\$20).

Another serious problem is the possibility of theft.

One afternoon this summer, University journalism major Cindy Dawson found out the hard way that bicycle thieves stop at nothing if they want to steal a bike.

Dawson cabled her 10-speed Univega to a bike rack outside Allen Hall. When she returned a half hour later, the bike and cable were gone, probably into a van or truck operated by professional bike thieves.

Dawson's story is not unusual.

Campus Security received reports of 367 bikes stolen last year. In Eugene, the losses are even more staggering: 1,733 bikes worth an estimated \$260,000 were reported stolen in the city in 1980, up 8 percent in one year; 254 bikes were stolen last year in the West University Neighborhood, up 41 percent in two years; and bicycle theft was up significantly in most other Eugene and Springfield neighborhoods.



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

In Eugene, bicyclists are treated as vehicles by the police department. They are subject to the same rules of the road and can be ticketed and fined for traffic infractions.

In addition to registration programs at the University and in Springfield, Project ID, operated by the Eugene Police Department, helps deter thieves and return bikes to their rightful owners.

A driver's license or student ID number is stamped into the frame of a bike, and the bike is entered into a nationwide property-recovery system. The stamping is free and takes only a few minutes.

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