

emerald



Photos by Bob Baker

Bike 'thieves' go unchallenged

By Ann Portal
And Harry Esteve
Of the Emerald

A number of students watched as a locked bicycle was stolen in front of the EMU last week in the middle of a week-day afternoon. The man who stole the bike simply picked it up and carried it across campus. No one tried to stop him.

The theft was just one of five separate incidents last week in which University students stood by while bikes were stolen at four campus locations. Thieves carrying two-foot-long bolt cutters walked across campus in the middle of the day. A student rode away on an unlocked bike leaned against the University Bookstore.

No one called the police.

The "thefts" actually were part of a University journalism class field experiment. Six journalism students in Prof. Galen Rarick's "Precision Journalism" class wanted to explore just how easy it is to steal a bike on campus.

The students, who stole their own bikes, were surprised and worried by the results. In five attempts, the bike thieves carried, rode away on or walked away with their target every time. None of the "thieves" was approached or questioned by passersby.

The students were shocked, but Sgt. Rick Allison of the Eugene Police Department wasn't.

"I would have made a bet that nobody would have called," Allison said when told of the experiment's results. The journalism students had notified both Campus Security and the Eugene Police Department of the experiment before it began, afraid that they might be stopped or assaulted.

But according to Allison, no one called campus security, the Eugene police or the state police.

Security officers on campus have been frustrated by students who ignore

or who won't report suspicious or criminal activity, Allison said.

"Until the student body — at least a majority — gets involved, we're never going to be able to show a decrease in crime on campus," he said.

To give students a good opportunity to see the crimes, all five took place May 20 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The journalism students avoided leaving the bikes in covered or sheltered areas, where they thought the bikes might be too protected and easy to steal.

The first theft, at the beginning of the 9:20 a.m. class change, took place at the 13th Street bike racks. Class members Harry Esteve and Marian Green walked up to a bike that earlier had been locked to the rack. Bolt cutters protruded from Green's pack. She removed the cutters and handed them to Esteve, who clipped the lock.

According to a third journalism student who observed the theft from across the street, "A student in a red flannel shirt walked up to claim his bike and paused as he saw Marian and Harry fingering the lock. He continued to watch as they cut the lock, which cracked loudly but didn't draw the attention of any other students."

During the noon hour, a student



A recent journalism class experiment showed just how easy it is to steal bikes at the University campus. None of the bystanders called the police, no one questioned the 'thieves.'

parked his bike near the front entrance of the EMU building and secured it by locking a cable around the front wheel and the frame. Shortly afterward Greg Kerber picked the bike up and walked away with it without incident.

At 2 p.m., the lock was clipped on a bike locked to a tree near the EMU bike racks. The class member rode away while students watched.

Kerber said he noticed students sitting at tables on the Fishbowl patio and contacted one of the organizations the next day to see if anyone remembered witnessing a bike theft.

One student did remember seeing the lock being cut, but told Kerber he felt bad that he didn't have time to report it, Kerber said.

The final theft, in front of Carson Hall, happened at 5 p.m. Feeling more assured by this time, Esteve walked across campus swinging the bolt cutters. He clipped the lock for a final time and rode away, still swinging the cut-

ters.

The number of campus area bike thefts average two per day, but during spring and summer the average increases to about five per day.

Allison said he suspects many of the thieves are members of the campus community. Thefts increase in the spring because students want to take bikes home to sell or use during the summer, he said.

Allison said Campus Security is "totally willing" to work with students at any time — day or night — to take reports of thefts. Anonymous reports are fine, he says, and students shouldn't worry about causing any inconvenience.

"Don't be concerned about bothering us, because that's our job," Allison said.

Allison urged students who witness anything that could be a theft or other crime to call the public safety office at 686-5444.

Atiyeh, leaders plan budget compromise

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Vic Atiyeh and the leaders of the House and Senate agreed Thursday on a way to rebalance the state's budget.

After spending most of the day in meetings, Atiyeh and legislative leaders emerged from the governor's office and announced a compromise plan to make up for an estimated \$100.8 million shortfall in state revenue over the next 12 months.

Earlier, the Executive Department estimated a \$107.8 million deficit would be created by the revenue shortfall, but that

figure counted on an approximately \$7 million ending balance on June 30, 1983.

Atiyeh said he would call a special session, but he said he wouldn't pinpoint the date until legislative leaders get a commitment from their fellow lawmakers to support the compromise plan.

The governor said if a consensus is achieved, he'll call the special session between June 14 and June 21.

The legislative leaders agreed to support the package, but only if it is taken as a whole. It calls for:

- Making \$30 million worth of cuts in

state agency budgets.

- Reducing state support for public schools by \$13 million.

- Lowering property tax relief by about \$30 million.

- Delaying the changeover to new income tax withholding tables. That should provide \$34 million in revenue before the budget year ends June 30, 1983.

Senate President Fred Heard, D-Klamath Falls, and House Speaker Hardy Myers, D-Portland, said they would urge Democrats to accept the package as a

fair compromise.

House Minority Leader Paul Hanneman, R-Cloverdale, was less enthusiastic about the plan, but said he'd do his best to persuade the 27 members of his caucus to accept the compromise.

Atiyeh said he planned to get back together early next week with Heard, Myers, Hanneman and Sen. Tony Meeker, R-Amity, the assistant Senate minority leader.

Under the compromise budget plan, the amount available to aid homeowners would drop from \$171.2 million to \$141.2