

Bike laws ensure stolen bikes return

By David Steinmetz
Of the Emerald

John parked his much loved \$600 bicycle by a door of the Erb Memorial Union intending to go inside for "just a few minutes."

He didn't lock it. After all, it would only be a few minutes.

When he returned his bicycle was gone.

According to Campus Security all John needed to do to prevent the theft was to lock it. They recommend a thick, plastic-coated chain or cable with a good lock.

To increase the effectiveness of the lock it should be strung through both wheels, the frame and secured to a bike rack.

The campus bike regulations — which state that all bicycles on campus must be registered with Campus Security — are designed to prevent theft and aid in returning lost or stolen bicycles.

John, finding his bicycle missing, should immediately notify Campus Security by calling 686-5444, or stop by the Straub Hall office, 1319 E. 15th.

If John's bicycle wasn't registered with Campus Security it might have been impounded. Impounding is the last resort for Campus Security. In an effort to ensure that all bicycles on campus are registered Campus Security issues citations similar to parking tickets. After two citations security impounds the bicycle.

Citations are also issued when a bicycle blocks pedestrian walkways and traffic lanes — also when it is left in front of exits.

To get a bicycle back after it's been impounded requires payment of a \$2 fine as well as the mandatory registration of the bicycle which also costs \$2.

In accordance with the campus bike plan implemented last year the amounts charged for registration and fines are currently being reexamined for effectiveness. There is a possibility Campus Security may suspend the charges this year.

All the bicycles impounded by Campus Security are held for several weeks. After several weeks, if the owner does not come to reclaim the bicycle, it is moved to a warehouse.

After 90 days, if the bicycle still remains unclaimed, it will be sold at auction.

The procedure is quite different for stolen bicycles. Campus Security writes up a report of the theft. The report is given to the Eugene police. Both law enforcement agencies then look for the stolen bicycle.

John, the fictitious hard-luck bicyclist, can relax a little if the stolen bike was registered with Campus Security.

Once Campus Security or the Eugene police locates the stolen bicycle he will be called to claim it.

Campus Security advises students with unregistered bicycles to check periodically with their office to see if the bicycle has been found.

With an unregistered bicycle a student ID is not enough proof of ownership to claim the bicycle. A receipt of purchase or registration with a hometown police station, something with the bicycle's serial number, is required by Campus Security.

Bicycles can be registered at the Campus Security Office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To make bicycle registration even more convenient for students Campus Security will have a table set up in EMU during fall term registration. Campus Security recommends the registration tag be fixed on the bicycle frame under the seat, facing forward. A campus bike permit is good for five years. The length of validation is another thing being reconsidering in the campus bike plan.

Not only do bikes need to be registered and locked up, but Campus Security is concerned where students leave their locked bicycles.

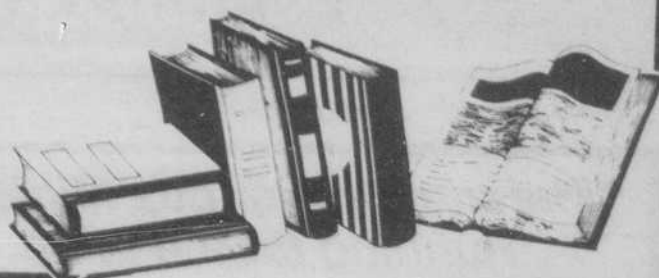
The most important consideration is the bike's potential for blocking pedestrian, car, or other bike traffic.

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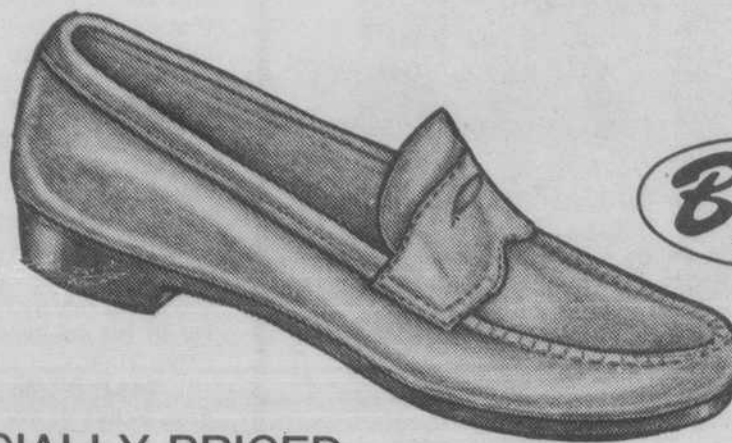
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