

Motor scooter owners to learn techniques in crash-avoidance

By Michael Rivers

Of the Emerald

Moped and motor scooter owners have a special opportunity to learn crash-avoidance skills in a one-day advanced scooter training course taught at Lane Community College next Sunday.

A \$10 registration fee is charged for the course, which is organized by Del Freeman, a long-time driver's education instructor. Freeman and several other instructors will teach students such skills as making quick lane changes and correct braking procedures.

A 1979 California study of more than 900 motorcycle accidents showed that riders panicked and failed to use their brakes 35 percent of the time, Freeman said.

The course consists of three and a half hours of classroom instruction and about four hours of practical experience on the range.

Motor scooter and motorcycle courses usually begin in April, Freeman said. He said, however, that he was contracted by the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission to teach the first course earlier this year, with a primary emphasis on motor scooter skills because of the large number of accidents on campus. The course is aimed specifically at University students, he said.

In addition to the advanced training course offered once a



Photo by Michael Wilhelm

Avoiding fender-benders and dangerous accidents is what motor scooter riders will be taught in a workshop next Sunday.

month, there are courses offered for beginners. Freeman said that a student enrolling in a beginner's course starts learning at ground zero. It's a 15-hour course, taught over a period of four days, he said, with the time almost evenly divided between classroom and range sessions. The beginning course has a registration fee of \$20.

Instruction is very individualized, with one instructor for every six students, Freeman said. There are 12 students per class in the beginning courses and 18 students in each advanced course. Beginning students are provided with a machine, helmet, textbook and instruction, while advanced students must provide their own machines.

Freeman said that a Greek house or a dorm can arrange for private classes for a minimum of 10 people by calling 345-5806.

Fees for advanced and beginning courses ordinarily cost about \$65 and \$120, respectively, Freeman said. But the state picks up most of the tab, he said. As riders renew their licenses over the years, the state will be reimbursed in part by license fees, Freeman said.

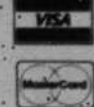
Students who wish to take one of the courses must preregister by calling the adult education department of the LCC Downtown Center at 726-2252.

One advanced and one beginning course will be taught each month beginning in April.



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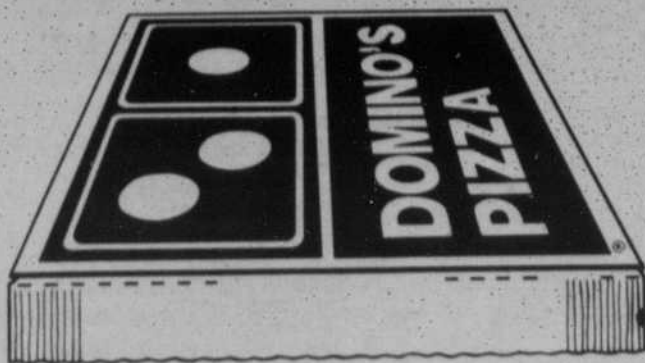
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