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Scooter

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he explained, adding most scooters can be locked by turning the wheel, but the owners may seldom use this method. "In fact I don't think they do it much at all."

The owner of Honda of Eugene said the Honda scooter comes with a lock and it is very effective — if it's locked. "To get it, you physically have to pick up one end or the other and carry it away," he said.

Hansen pointed out, however, that if a professional thief wants to steal a scooter, he will, even if it is locked. "It's like a lock on a front door of a house. It only keeps honest people out," he explained.

The best way to prevent scooter theft is to park in a secure facility, to lock the scooter up whenever it's left alone and to avoid leaving the keys in it, Hansen said. "Make it as inconvenient for a crook to take it as you possibly can," he said.

Using additional locks also is wise. "If you use other locks, don't use the cable kind. The 'cryptanite' locks are good, although they have their weaknesses," he said.

Eugene Police Det. Del Peer said the problem with scooters is that they are small and can be easily handled. "People should chain them up. It's more a crime of opportunity," he said.

Peer said that auto theft in Eugene increased 34 percent in the past year. But because of budget reductions over the past three years, the number of police investigations of vehicle theft have decreased.

"The search for stolen cars is very difficult. We've been forced to set priorities on things and we have to be reluctant to spend resources on things that wouldn't produce results," Hansen said.

Hansen said that not many vehicles are found immediately after they are reported as stolen. Police officers usually discover stolen vehicles while investigating other situations.

When a stolen vehicle is reported to the police, the vehicle's identification number is logged into a national computer network system. "All motor vehicles are required by federal law to have a manufacturer's number on them and all states use this when registering motor vehicles in the state," Hansen explained.

"So if a vehicle is in Nevada, for instance, and a police officer is suspicious, he could check the number, if the report is filed," Hansen said. He stressed the importance of filing a report so that an attempt to locate the vehicle is possible.

If a student's scooter is stolen, the Eugene police or campus security officials should be immediately notified. A report can be filed over the phone, but the owner must personally sign it to certify the vehicle was stolen.

The penalty for unauthorized use of a stolen vehicle is a Class C felony in Oregon with a maximum possible prison term of five years, a $1000 to $2000 fine, or any combination of both.

"It's a significant theft. If they were convicted for stealing a motor vehicle, that would be a felony conviction on record and that would bar them from all kinds of employment," Hansen said.

One of the reasons it may appear easy to steal a scooter is because thieves don't consider the penalties, Hansen said. The number of actual scooter thefts in Eugene is uncertain because the police department's computer system that maintains such records doesn't differentiate between types of vehicles.

Hansen said he believes individuals steal the majority of scooters, but there could be some loose-knit groups in the community who are stripping and selling parts from stolen scooters.

He said there isn't much money to be made by stripping body parts. "The business of stripping cars can be more lucrative. If a car is 'parted out,' that can offer big money. I don't think that same thing goes on with mopeds. They're seen as toys. People damage them and try to repair them or they forget it," he explained.

'Make it as inconvenient for a crook to take it as you possibly can'
— Sgt. Richard Hansen

Peer doesn't think scooters are being stripped for parts. "The parts are not that valuable and not that many people are looking for them or rebuilding (scooters). The value of those little cycles is almost small enough that they are nonrecyclable," he said.

Peer said that when a scooter is stolen, it's usually taken for a joy ride and later dumped.

Hansen suspects that students are not stealing the majority of scooters. "I think it's people off campus who come here. As a materially equipped population here, there is opportunity for it," he said.

There are a lot of vehicles and bikes on campus that attract thieves, Hansen explained. "The question is, 'Will a moped disappear if it's unlocked with the key in it?' My suspicion is that it will," he said.

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Testing

Continued from Page 1

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Office of Student Advocacy also have applauded the attorney general's opinion.

"I hope the University realizes graciously that they made a mistake and need to make it right," Oregon ACLU Associate Director Dave Fidanque said.

"I would urge the University to suspend any testing until its attorneys thoroughly read the attorney general's message," he said.

"Students who objected (to testing) have been vindicated and should be proud. I'm delighted the attorney general made the opinion," student advocate Lucille Kaplan said.

In Monday's press release, Frohnmayer said the emerging law on search and seizure appears to cast very substantial doubt on the ability of a public university to engage in intensive drug testing without more concrete evidence or suspicion of actual drug use.

Frohnmayer also outlined what the University could do to test student-athletes based on reasonable suspicion.

The University must limit its testing to health or performance-affecting drugs.

It must use an accurate test that determines the presence of prohibited drugs in a student-athlete's system at a meaningful time and significantly lowers the intrusiveness of its proposed testing procedure, he said.

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