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#### BICYCLES Continued from Page 1

Overbay of Second Nature Bicycles, 446 East 13th Avenue.

Second Nature "donates" the marking service to customers who buy bikes, but charges a \$3 fee to people who bring in their own bikes.

Overbay said at first he felt the program was redundant, because each bike comes with its own individual serial number. He decided to support the program when the police explained that a person's driver's license number is in a computer system, making it easier to trace ownership of a stolen bicycle.

Two out of three campus area

bike shops are participating, but no numbers are available indicating how many people have used the program, Schneider said.

"We are trying to keep the red tape to a minimum," he said. "The businesses are already doing enough, we don't want them to have to fill out a bunch of paperwork."

Even without actual numbers. Overbay said the program seems to be catching on.

"Quite a few folks have heard about the program and called up to find out about it." he said.

Most Second Nature customers opt for the free service for their new bikes, although Overbay said a few don't want the marking because it flaws

the paint job.

Schneider said an adequately marked bike carries a higher risk for thieves, because it can be easily traced, and has a reduced pawn value.

In addition, abandoned bikes can be returned to their owners, rather than going to auction. Last year, 163 bikes were recovered and returned to their owners by the Department of Public Safety, but 276 went to auction because inadequate markings prevented the owners from being found.

"The marking program is an important step in that it gives some of the control back to the citizenry, instead of leaving it in the hands of the police," Schneider said.

"Avoiding theft requires not only a good locking system, but also fore thought, including where you lock your bike and how it is marked." Overbay said.

Suzie Hunter, of the Office of Public Safety, said that many stolen bikes were reportedly locked with high-quality locks, such as U-shaped locks, but were either broken through by brute force, or stolen because the bike was only locked to itself.

Retailers participating in the program include BiMart, Brother Jonathan's, Collins, Paul's Bicycle Shop, Cycle Bi, Hutch's Bicycle Store, Dinty's Trading Post, Fred Meyer, Co-Motion Cycles, Pedal Power and Second Nature.



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