

Bike rule changes aimed at clearing up confusion

People who ride their bicycles on campus, take note: as of June 1, an amendment to the campus bicycle rules went into effect.

The Traffic Petitions Officer had determined that the rule's language was not specific enough to stand up under scrutiny when cited bicycle riders appealed the citations.

The amendment will clarify the rule's language and intent, making it difficult for people to successfully appeal a citation. The amendment includes the following:

- Bicyclist are only permitted to use marked bike lanes and routes while classes are in session: Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., during each academic

term. Sidewalks may not be used during this time unless designated as bike routes by signs or other markings.

- Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and disabled people, and must give an audible warning when approaching a pedestrian from behind.

- All bicycles must be equipped with brakes good enough to skid on clean, dry pavement.

- From 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise, all moving bicycles, or bike riders, on University property must be equipped with a white light operating and visible 500 feet ahead and a red reflector visible 600 feet to the rear.

- In cases of bicycle collisions involving

pedestrians, other bicycles, or other vehicles, the people involved must give aid and call the Office of Public Safety for help. Involved parties must also remain at the accident site until released by an OPS officer, and must file a written accident report if the collision results in injury.

- Bicyclists who fail to obey signs instructing them to dismount and walk are subject to fines. For the purposes of this rule, dismount and walk means that the bike rider must completely get off the bicycle and walk alongside the bicycle.

The amendment is temporary, remaining in effect until Nov. 27. In October, consideration will begin on whether the amendment should become permanent.

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Two weeks ago the clinic asked a district judge in an ongoing case to ban logging on BLM lands until the agency complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In these and similar cases, the clinic has conspicuously opposed industry and has made enemies among conservatives in the legislature. As Measure 5 squeezes out another round of cuts, the clinic's reputation makes it and the law school vulnerable to political attacks.

The clinic may also be vulnerable to cuts from within the school. Law school Dean Dave Frohnmayer singled out the clinic as the most expensive clinic by far within the school, drawing criticism from students about his calculations.

Opponents of the law school usually cite economic reasons to close it. They argue that the state already has two law schools (Willamette University and Lewis and Clark College, both private schools) and doesn't need to bankroll another.

However, another agenda emerges in the details.

Though the ostensible reason State Sen. Mae Yih (R-Albany) and Rep. Rod Johnson (R-Roseburg) co-sponsored a bill last year to close the law school was to save money, the political hostility toward the clinic was obvious.

Yih said a budget note at-

tached to the bill asked that the clinic adopt a more balanced viewpoint regarding the cases it accepted. The note was removed for procedural reasons, and the bill died in committee without a hearing.

When the House considered a Senate appropriations bill for higher education last June, Johnson attached a budget note to the bill and made a floor speech criticizing the clinic. Four members of the House joined Johnson in his futile attempt to kill the bill.

Those who voted against the appropriations bill represented timber communities like Medford, Riddle, Lebanon and Roseburg. Their constituents complained that the clinic only represents environmentalists and doesn't act in the state's best interest.

Merrilee Peay, coordinator for the Yellow Ribbon Coalition, said her group is opposed to "about 90 percent" of what the clinic does.

The Yellow Ribbon Coalition represents about 5,000 people in Lane County. It belongs to the Oregon Lands Coalition, which represents 81,000 members ranging from miners, loggers and ranchers to sheep herders and off-road vehicle enthusiasts.

"I believe that environmental law can be balanced," Peay said. "(The clinic's) idea now is to totally shut down industry."

These complaints are old hat to the law school. In 1988, Maurice Holland, then dean of



Dave Frohnmayer

the law school, put together an independent committee to examine the criticisms of the clinic. The committee's report concluded the criticisms had no basis, assuring University officials the clinic operated well within acceptable boundaries.

The clinic's two attorneys, professors John Bonine and Michael Axline, admit 10 students each semester to work with 10 more advanced students on actual cases. The clinic operates as a law firm with two senior partners and many associates. Bonine and Axline accept cases based on their potential educational value.

Every March, a student group loosely associated with the environmental law program, Land Air and Water, organizes the Public Interest Environmental

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SPORTS

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state's property-tax limiting Measure 5.

Without the spending cuts, the state's \$6.3 million athletics deficit is expected to soar to \$19.8 million in the next three years.

Even under the new program, the deficit could reach \$10 million without new state funds and tuition dollars by 1994-95.

Byrne said it's still too early to predict where the cuts are going to come. He and his staff are meeting with the University administration next week to discuss specific reductions and expectations.

"Once we know what the rules are, we're pretty good at playing the game," he said.

Byrne did say they will probably be forced to reduce scholarships for football, men's basketball, track, golf and tennis over the next three years.

The department cannot cut any more sports and still remain in the Pacific-10 conference.

Byrne and his department are no strangers to reductions. In the 1980s, the department was forced to cut six sports and lay off a number of coaching staff.

"We've taken huge cuts in the program before," Byrne said. "It's just going to be a little harder."

The Special Task Force on Athletic Funding, an ad hoc group formed to explore options of funding state intercollegiate sports, designed the spending controls.

Plans call for a \$1 surcharge on football and basketball tickets. Schools will pay only interest on the deficit and postpone payments on principle.

Task force chairman Herb Aschkenasy said the proposal will only buy more time for the athletic department and the University to explore other options of funding sports and taking care of the deficit.

Aschkenasy said the plan won't necessarily solve the problems athletics programs are facing.

"No problem is ever solved permanently," Aschkenasy said. "This solves the problem for a short time, then they'll need something else."

Board of Higher Education President George Richardson said adopting the recommendations was the appropriate thing to do, given the financial situation of academics.

Richardson said the board and the task force studied the issue and evaluated all the circumstances, and he considered the task force's recommendations to be acceptable. The board unanimously voted to adopt the proposals.

"I'm cautiously optimistic about the entire package of recommendations we've accepted," Richardson said. "Our effort is to try to reach these goals now."

Under the new program, the Oregon schools hope to raise \$1 million a year from major corporations, \$450,000 from foundations, \$300,000 from the ticket surtax and \$50,000 from the Oregon Lottery's Sports Action game.

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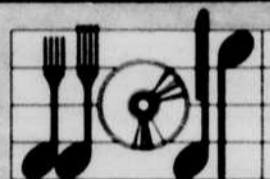
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