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# Bike thefts rise 20 percent from '91 to '92

By Scott Simonson  
 For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Bicycle thefts reported in Eugene increased by more than 20 percent in 1992, and bike thefts reported on campus also increased last year, according to city and University statistics.

Sources from the Eugene Department of Public Safety and the University's Office of Public Safety said the number of high-priced bicycles reported stolen also increased last year, but improperly locked or unlocked bikes remain much more popular targets for thieves.

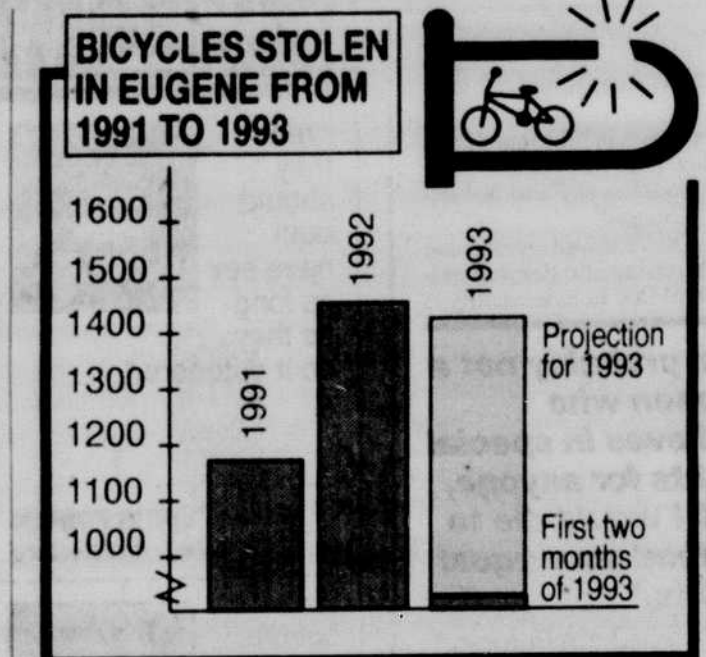
In Eugene in 1992, 1,456 bicycles with an estimated sale value of \$538,611 were reported stolen, a 23 percent increase more than 1991, when 1,182 bicycles with an estimated sale value of \$432,938 were reported stolen, according to statistics from the Department of Public Safety.

According to OPS statistics, 167 bicycles were reported stolen on campus during the 1991-92 school year, a 12 percent increase more than 1990-91 when 148 bikes were reported stolen. In 1989-90, 109 thefts were reported on campus.

Sgt. Bob Wilson, who is in charge of the Eugene police's property crimes detail, said reported bicycle thefts have decreased during the first two months of 1993, but bad weather and a short period of time make it difficult to say whether the decrease will continue.

"Bicycle theft seems to go in cycles," Wilson said. "I remember a few years ago, things were just horrendous, then they dropped off."

Both Wilson and Robert Guse, criminal prevention officer for OPS, said they have seen an



increase in the number of high-priced bikes being stolen.

OPS classifies bike thefts in one of three categories, according to the value of the stolen bicycle, Guse said. Theft I, the most expensive category, consists of stolen bicycles valued at more than \$500.

"We're seeing a lot more Theft ones," he said.

More people riding more expensive bikes may be one explanation for the increase in reported thefts of high-priced bicycles. "It used to be that a \$300 mountain bike was a major sale. Now, a person buying a mountain bike in the \$400 to \$600 range is pretty normal," said Demetri "Mac" Macriganis, owner of Pedal Power Bicycles.

Todd Cudek, who works at Collins Cycle Shop, agrees.

"I'm a University student, and

**'In this town, if you don't lock it, it's history. They'll steal anything that's not locked correctly.'**

— Demetri Macriganis, Pedal Power Bicycles

I'm really amazed at the number of people riding nice bikes around campus, even \$700 or \$800 bikes," Cudek said. "The whole market has expanded, but especially the higher end of the market."

However, Guse said the cause of most bicycle thefts has nothing to do with how expensive a bike is.

Guse said 80 percent of the bicycles stolen from campus "either weren't locked or were

locked to themselves. When you lock a bike to its front tire, it's really hard to protect it."

Macriganis agreed. "In this town, if you don't lock it, it's history," he said. Thieves "could care less if it's \$190 bike. They'll steal anything that's not locked correctly."

Guse said the increased number of reported thefts at the University is probably linked to more students riding bicycles to campus. More bicycles on campus seems to lead to more carelessly locked or unlocked bikes that are easily stolen, he said.

"The best precaution is to get a cheaper bike. There's no reason to bring a car-priced bike to campus," Guse said. "Every day I could go out and find a \$50 garage-sale special."

Guse urged bicyclists to think about parking their bicycles the way they would think about parking a car. This means paying attention to locking the vehicle properly and not parking it in a dark or unpopulated area, he said.

Guse also said students should register their bicycles with OPS. Thieves are more likely to steal a bicycle without registration tags, because OPS cannot trace unregistered bikes back to the owner.

"Numbers of bikes we recover varies a lot," Guse said. "When we're consistent at stopping people for riding on sidewalks, we get a lot returned," by checking registration tag numbers of the bicycles stopped.

"We recover a lot of bicycles that don't ever get returned to the owner because people don't report the theft or record the serial number of the bike," Wilson said. "For heaven's sake, report your bike if it's stolen."

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**THEFTS**  
 Continued from Page 1

a dozen reports on thefts from student vehicles. In most of the cases, stereos and speakers have been taken.

Tim Birr, Eugene police department spokesman, said car thefts are on the rise all over Eugene. He said 212 vehicle thefts have been reported in Eugene this March, as compared to 173 in March 1992. In the first three months of 1993, 538 thefts from vehicles have been reported, up from 444 in the first three months of 1992, a 21 percent increase.

"Theft from vehicles is the highest-reported crime in Eugene," Birr said. "In most cases consumer-electronics products are taken."

**ET ALS**

MEETINGS

**Incidental Fee Committee** will have budget hearings today in the EMU Board Room at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 346-3749.

**Alpha Phi Omega** will have a service meeting from 9 to 10 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 346-9794.

**Women in Transition** will meet for a "Women who Run with Wolves" study group today at noon in EMU Century Room E. For more information, call 346-4099.

MISCELLANEOUS

**LaVerne Krause Gallery** will have an exhibit featuring work in visual design this week. A reception will be from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 346-3610.

**Career Planning and Placement Services** will have office orientations describing services today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. The following companies are available for bidding: Olde Discount Stockbrokers, Northwestern Mutual Life/Baird Securities and Lady Footlocker. For more information, call 346-3235.

*Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.*

*Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run on a space-available basis.*

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