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...think about it!

HOUSING GUIDE

Students save money living off-campus but face transportation problem

With the rising costs of on-campus living, students have resorted to finding cheaper living quarters farther from campus. Unfortunately for these students, transportation to campus can sometimes become a problem.

There are alternatives that can help these commuters get to campus: bicycling, carpooling and the LTD bus system.

"I would recommend bicycling, walking or taking the bus," said Diane Bishop, bicycle/alternative modes coordinator for the City of Eugene.

Bishop does not encourage students to drive because parking is limited and traffic is getting worse. "People don't consider walking or biking because they don't have information," said Bishop.

Packets that contain information and maps on LTD, commuting, carpooling, bicycling, walking will be mailed to Eugene residents in early fall. These commuter packets are available at the Public Works Transportation Office at 858 Pearl St.

For commuters who are unfamiliar with the vicinity, bike routes and commuter routes can be found on a comprehensive map called *The Eugene/Springfield Streets, Bikes, and Points of Interest*. This map costs \$4.50 and is available at the University Bookstore and the Public Works Transportation Office.

Students who feel more comfortable riding a bus can find LTD route information, system maps and a Rider's Digest at the LTD Customer Service Station at 104 Willamette St.

Those who insist on driving to campus need to be sure they have the permit necessary for the area they park in. Parking is available on and off campus.

Students who park off-campus can purchase a permit from the Permit and Information Center on 244 E. Broadway. Parking permits designated for commuters cost \$17.50 a month. Residential street parking, for those with an insufficient number of parking stalls, cost \$15 a year. Students can call the center for more information at 687-5086.

Students who park on-campus can purchase their parking stickers from the Office of Public Safety. Cars without a parking sticker will receive a citation, which could cost up to \$20. Parking stickers last the entire academic year and expire before the new school year begins.

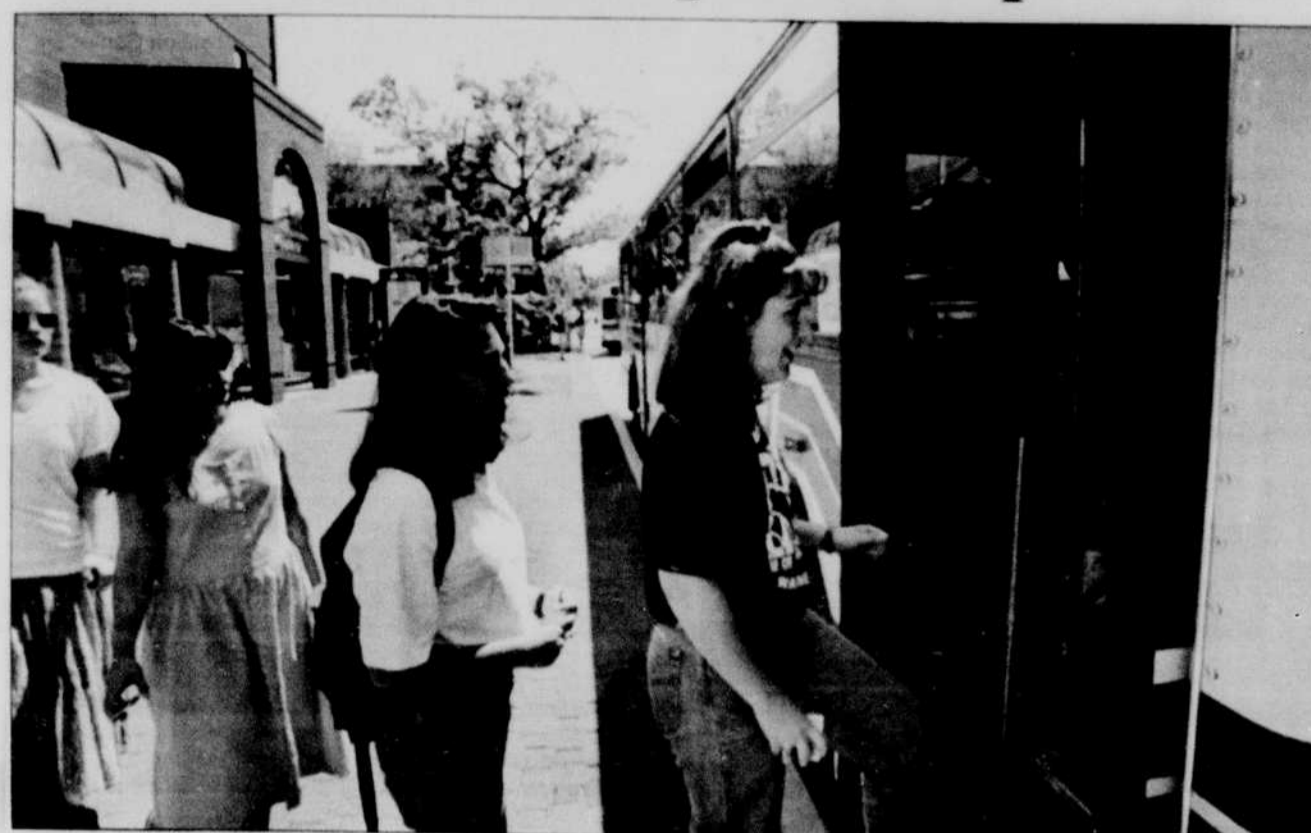
Sticker costs are prorated. A sticker purchased during fall term costs \$60; during winter term it costs \$45; during spring term it costs \$30; and during summer term it is \$20. Prices are expected to increase in the fall.

Only a few zones are available for students to park in. Those with University parking stickers are also allowed to park at city regulated meters on Agate Street and 18th Avenue without depositing coins for the whole day.

Bikers also need to be sure they have a registration sticker placed beneath their seats. Bicycles can be registered at the Office of Public Safety, the City of Eugene does not register bicycles.

Be sure to note the necessary information available before registering: bicycle serial number, bicycle make, color, frame size and approximate value of the bicycle. Registration stickers are free. Bicycles seen on campus without permits will receive a citation.

— By Donovan Dela Cruz



Freshmen Rebecca Feldmand (left) and Melissa Marsh wait for the bus to take them home after a day at school. Using the LTD bus system is one method of transportation off-campus students can choose to use to commute to class.

Tenants' right to privacy can be ensured by establishing a few simple guidelines

Remember the stupid rule in high school that allowed teachers to search your locker without your permission? It's the same kind of thing.

Anyone who rents an apartment rents with the knowledge that the landlord has a key to the place. When your lease starts to run out, the landlord wants to show the apartment to his or her next prospective renters.

This isn't a problem as long as both landlord and tenant have some guidelines that respect the tenant's right to privacy.

- If there isn't a 24-hour policy already, ask that one be implemented. When your landlord wants to show the apartment, he or she must agree to call at least 24 hours ahead of time and to either talk to you personally or leave a message.

- If you don't want anyone inside your apartment unless you are present, make sure your landlord understands that.

One Saturday morning, my bathroom light fixture fell out of the wall and was dangling by some wires. I called my landlord's emergency repair number and was told not to worry about it if it wasn't on fire or anything, and to call on Monday.

When I called Monday, I set up a time for the electrician to come on Tuesday. When asked, I specifically said I did not want him to use my landlord's key to come in. I wanted to be there when he was in my apartment.

The electrician did not show up between 2 and 4 p.m., which was the agreed-upon time. I left at 4:15, and when I got home at 5:30, the light fixture was fixed. Apparently, the electrician thought this was an

emergency and decided to let himself into my apartment anyway.

This situation was a matter of miscommunication. Make sure you are perfectly clear when you tell your landlord that you want to be present to let electricians or other repairmen in.

- When you do set up a time for other people to see your apartment or for repairs, make sure both you and the landlord have the right time. If there is a misunderstanding, it can be embarrassing for everyone involved.

My landlord called to let me know she was going to show my apartment on Friday at 4:30 p.m. — so she says. I thought she said Thursday. I was gone all day Thursday. Friday I was home all afternoon. I was not expecting visitors, and due to unusual circumstances, I would not have asked my mother to come in if she had appeared on my doorstep.

When my landlord knocked, I refused to let her in, explaining that I thought the appointment had been for Thursday. Fortunately for me she was understanding, and we made another appointment the following week. Unfortunately for my landlord, the woman interested in looking at my apartment was no longer interested by then.

- When you rent, make sure your lease has something in writing about others entering your apartment. At least once during your time there, other people are going to be letting themselves into your place, and some landlords will assume you are comfortable with this. If you aren't, it's OK to be uptight. You have the right to be uptight about your privacy.

— Stephanie Sisson



Legal Services is a legal consulting firm funded by the ASUO which can help tenants with their rights. The office is located on the third floor of the EMU.

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