

OPS plans to increase bike, board enforcement

Marcelene Edwards
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Office of Public Safety plans to increase enforcement of bicycle and skateboarding regulation this term, said Rand Stamm, parking program coordinator for OPS.

This new enforcement comes as a preventative measure for students. Pedestrians get hurt when bicycles, skateboarders and in-line skaters don't pay attention and don't obey the laws, Stamm said.

Bicyclists on campus have to ride on designated bike paths or on streets because they are considered vehicles and must abide by the rules of the road, he said.

"Any ticket a person could get in a car, they could get on a bicycle," Stamm said.

Citations issued by the University include illegal parking, blocking a sidewalk and unregistered bicycles — all \$10 fines. Failing to yield to pedestrians is a \$15 fine, and storing a bicycle in a building is a \$5 fine.

Bicycles are required to be registered with OPS. Students do not have to bring their bikes to the office to register, but do need to know the frame size, serial number, color, make and model.

For the first few weeks of the term fines for unregistered bikes will be waived if the bicycle is registered within 10 days of a ticket.

"We would like to get the bikes registered because thieves have a heyday if they aren't," Stamm said.

Other citations from the Eugene police include running stop signs and failing to yield to a pedestrian. These fines are much higher than University fines, he said.

OSPIRG's budget is up for debate in Student Senate

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

Programs funded by student incidental fees have been put under scrutiny by University students weary of paying for services which they feel do not benefit them.

In a public forum held by the Student Senate last term, several students voiced concern about the high cost of higher education.

"I question any groups that lobby, like OSPIRG or USSA, and I question any group that deals with race, religion or sexual orientation," said Skye Pixton, a self-described "poor college student."

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) has been one of the most outspoken groups lobbying for increased student programs, which would result in increased incidental fees. It is also one of the most criticized student groups.

OSPIRG is a student organization which takes a stand on issues of general public interest such as environmental preservation, consumer protection and helping the homeless.

Students last spring approved a ballot measure to fund OSPIRG at \$137,775, or 2.6 percent of the incidental fee. Every other year OSPIRG's budget appears on the ballot for a student vote. This year it will be reviewed by the Student Senate.

OSPIRG's budget will soon be brought before the finance committee for approval. The finance committee makes recommendations about the budgets which must then be approved by the full senate.

The committee has announced that it will grant few budget increases in attempts to halt the growth of the incidental fee. This complies with the Student Senate's zero-percent "benchmark" for funding growth.

Student Senator and Finance Committee member Sarah Keech said she felt that OSPIRG did not deserve all of the funding that the group currently receives.

"OSPIRG is my big issue for the year," Keech said. "They're funded too much for

what they do on campus."

OSPIRG is not asking for an increase in funds for the 95-96 school year.

Matt Rabin, lead campus organizer for OSPIRG, said the student PIRG at the University is misunderstood.

"In a University community you're not going to agree with everything that happens," Rabin said. "Just because you don't derive a benefit doesn't mean the community shouldn't benefit."

"If students are concerned the best they can do is get involved," he said.

The purpose of OSPIRG is to articulate student's concerns to the state, according to the organization's goal statement.

Money from student fees, the student PIRG's only funding, is combined with the funds from the three other OSPIRG student chapters in Oregon.

The University of Oregon is the most fiscally significant chapter, contributing \$135,000 to the collective pool of student funds. Portland State University contributes \$63,300. Lane Community College contributes \$54,000 and Lewis and Clark contributes \$10,000.

According to Rabin, money from the four chapters is pooled together to produce a more efficient program. Most of the money is spent on hiring a staff which can work full time to benefit each of the four chapters, he said.

OSPIRG's student chapters are affiliated with a state PIRG in Portland. The state organization takes the suggestions of students and then lobbies the Oregon Legislature, explained Rabin.

"Ultimately, the students have control over the state PIRG issues even though they don't fund it," Rabin said.

"The student PIRG according to tax status can spend a portion of its money lobbying, but I would say we don't really spend any of it," Rabin said.

According to an Attorney General's opinion written in 1985 by current University

President Dave Frohnmayer, student incidental fees can be used to lobby the Oregon Legislative Assembly only if the activity will benefit the "collective interests" of the student body.

OSPIRG does not fall under these guidelines and therefore can not spend incidental fees on lobbying. Student programs such as the Oregon Student Lobby, which lobbies for issues such as funding for higher education, can spend incidental fees on its lobbying efforts.

"If you want to affect public policy in this state, lobbying is not the way to do it," explained Rabin. The Oregon Legislature meets only every other year.

To maintain tax status OSPIRG must use a large amount of money for educational activities, Rabin said.

OSPIRG achieves this by creating environmental education programs in elementary and middle schools, working on elevating the University so it is in compliance with state recycling policies and devoting time to other such activities.

OSPIRG's latest project is a petition that they will send to United States Congress for the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, which is at the end of April this year.

Along with the petition, OSPIRG is writing 25 steps that Congress can take to protect the environment.

Rabin said that he encourages students who don't agree with OSPIRG to get involved and offer their suggestions.

If students are upset "they should vote or run for office," said Student Senator and Finance Committee member Joey Lyons.

Students pay \$119 in incidental fees each term this year, making the total amount of incidental fees collected for 94-95 \$5,357,054.

Nearly 90 ASUO programs constitute 28.9 percent of the incidental fees. EMU programs, such as child care, and the Athletic Department receive the rest.

LEGISLATION

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There are also suits challenging the measure on contractual issues.

According to Bently Gilbert, spokesman for the Salem-based Oregon Public Employees Union, the 6 percent pension contribution by the state that is revoked by Measure 8 falls under an implied contract with all employees.

"That precedent is legally binding," Gilbert said.

Another legal challenge questions the application of the 6 percent roll-over for workers who have accumulated unused sick leave. This challenge questions whether or not the roll-over, which basically allows for more pension, can be used if a worker

retires after Jan. 1, 1995.

According to Gilbert, the passage of Measure 8 does not necessarily conclude its legality.

"There are limits to the extent that a majority of people can violate the law or amend the Constitution," Gilbert said. "They can't violate other constitutional precedents."

The main proponent of Measure 8, Oregon Taxpayers United, feels the measure will hold up in court, according to membership director, Kevin Curry.

"If they were going to be able to easily beat Measure 8 in court, why would they have outspent us 14 to 1," Curry said.

Curry emphasized that Measure 8 does not affect current contracts, only future ones.

AWARENESS

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about the victim selection process — and what characteristics attackers look for when choosing victims.

"People walking purposely, with their heads up checking out their surroundings," Archer said, are less likely to be victims.

"The victim," he said, "walks drawn in, hunkered down. You've got to get rid of that attitude, that part of your personality."

"The most dangerous place in the city of Eugene is the University campus," Archer said.

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