

Registration could help recover stolen bicycles

Joe Harwood
Oregon Daily Emerald

Bicycle thieves look to the campus area as a ripe hunting ground to ply their trade. Easy pickings and a nearly unlimited selection of high-priced mountain bikes make the campus a target tough to reject.

And it seems that every time an "indestructible" lock hits the streets, thieves find a way to compromise the new technology. Sure, students take precautions like parking a bike in a well-traveled and lighted area, but theft continues.

One way to protect a bicycle is to register it with the Office of Public Safety. Since locks pose little deterrent to thieves, having the model, color and serial number of a bike on file with OPS will substantially increase the chances of recovery should theft occur.

"I would say that roughly 80 percent of stolen bikes recovered on campus are returned to

the owners," said Carey Drayton, director of OPS. "In large part, that recovery rate is due to bike registration by students."

Students can register their bicycles for free with OPS during regular business hours.

Determining ownership of stolen bicycles is a recurring problem. Students wanting to claim a recovered bicycle often cannot prove ownership with a sales receipt or serial number, Drayton said. By registering the bike, all pertinent information is recorded by OPS.

Of the approximate 110-120 bicycles currently in possession of OPS, Drayton said 70 are unregistered and will probably never be returned to the owner.

"If an individual gets his bike stolen and comes here to claim it after we recover it without the proper documentation, he'll never get it back," he said. "If the bike is registered, there is no hassle because we can verify ownership."



A worthless tire and a U-lock is all that remains on a bike rack located in front of the EMU. The University campus is the hot spot for bike thefts because of its selection and quantity. NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Senate to fund new Designated Driver Shuttle program

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Student Senate granted three special requests and denied one at Monday night's meeting, giving funding to the new Designated Driver Shuttle program and rejecting the United States Student Association's request for money to send delegates to a national conference.

The senate voted to help fund the shuttle program for spring term through a special request of \$3,835.

The shuttle is designed to "reduce drunk driving and protect students from the dangers of walking through a growing urban

environment while under the influence," said Bill Washburn, assistant to the ASUO vice president, who is working on the project.

The shuttle, driven by members of the Greek system who will be paid for their services, will operate much like a Saferide, said Washburn.

The program appealed to the senate for funds because the University administration does not want funding to come from drinking establishments, Washburn said.

The shuttle will make its first run the second week of spring term. If it is successful, Washburn will again appeal to next year's senate for funding for fall and

winter terms. If the program is still a success, it may be put on the 1996-97 ballot to be voted on by the student body, he said.

Not as fortunate was USSA, which is preparing seven University student delegates to attend a national conference dealing in financial aid issues in Washington D.C., March 16-20. USSA members did not receive any of the \$5,194 they requested.

Several members of the senate pointed out that funding for USSA was voted down by students on last year's ballot.

"I think that the whole idea of bringing up a request which was already voted down undermines the student's power to

vote," said student senator Chris

Douglas Knecht, ASUO recruitment and retention coordinator, who is also one of the delegates, said that the group will continue to fundraise.

"If you want to be active and there's no funding to be active, it's frustrating," said USSA delegate Kevin Easton, who is also the ASUO community affairs coordinator.

Other requests Monday night - \$400 to send University Ad Club team members to a competition, and \$1,000 transferred from the University's Family Center budget used to pay members of the Returning Students Association directly into the RSA budget - were granted.

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