

Office of Public Safety offers free outdoor bike registration

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporter

It's a good time for students to register their bikes with the University Office of Public Safety.

According to OPS, 170 bikes were reported stolen during 1994. The number of bike thefts reported in 1995 has already surpassed last year's figure — to date there have been 184 bikes stolen from campus.

"Based upon what's happening now, I'd say this is a peak period for thefts," said Thomas Hicks, associate director of OPS.

He recommends students register their bikes as a safeguard.

Outdoor bike registration will take place throughout campus until next week. To register a bike, OPS needs the bike's serial number, brand, model and owner's name to issue a sticker for the frame. If there is no serial number, OPS can provide a metal stamped number free of charge.

Once a bicycle has been registered with OPS, the serial number will be kept on file forever, Hicks said.

With the surge of students

returning to school, bike thieves have an easier time going unnoticed. "It makes it a lot easier for the criminals," he said.

"Thieves are getting in more quickly," Hicks said.

According to University Public Safety Officer Robert Guse, about one-tenth of the stolen registered bicycles were eventually returned. When a stolen bike is recovered by officers, the registration sticker is used to track down the original owner. Without this number, OPS may not be able to trace the bike back to its

owner.

"There is almost zero chance of getting an unregistered bike back to its owner," Laura Rogers, OPS Records Clerk, said.

Registration is free. An unregistered bike can receive a \$10 ticket from OPS.

Hicks said common sense is the best precaution. Bikes should be not be locked in an obscure, hidden area. "Our officers mainly look at the major parking areas," he said.

The majority of bike thefts occur because of improper lock-

ing or a lack of locking. Hicks said the lock should always pass through the frame and, if possible, both wheels. OPS will conduct demonstrations throughout the week that will show this process.

If at all possible, Hicks said, bikes should be stored inside. Many of the residence halls provide indoor bicycle storage or parking areas.

OPS offers a brochure for campus cyclists titled "Bicycling and the University of Oregon." It is available at the OPS office.

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CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 28 edition of ODE, the summary paragraph below the headline "Frohnmayr praises UO's fund-raising campaign" incorrectly stated the Oregon Campaign has raised \$50 million for research. In reality, money for research and grants is not raised by the Oregon Campaign.

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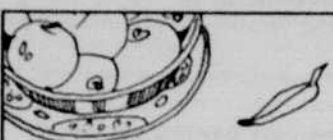
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