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CAMPUS SAFETY

OPS offers tips to prevent bike theft

*Public safety officers
recommend against
using bike U-Locks*

By Michael Hines
Student Activities Reporter

An off-duty Office of Public Safety student patroller became suspicious of a man eyeing some bikes Monday.

When the patroller approached the man and asked what he was doing, the man jumped on a bike and rode off with a bike tire in his hand.

OPS did not catch the suspicious man, but the situation indicates the need for bike safety on campus.

Many students are uneducated about bike safety and thieves prey on the uninformed, OPS officer Bob Guse said.

For instance, many people simply lock their tires to a rack, but the tires may be quick-release. This allows the thief to take the entire bike except for the single tire still safely locked to the rack.

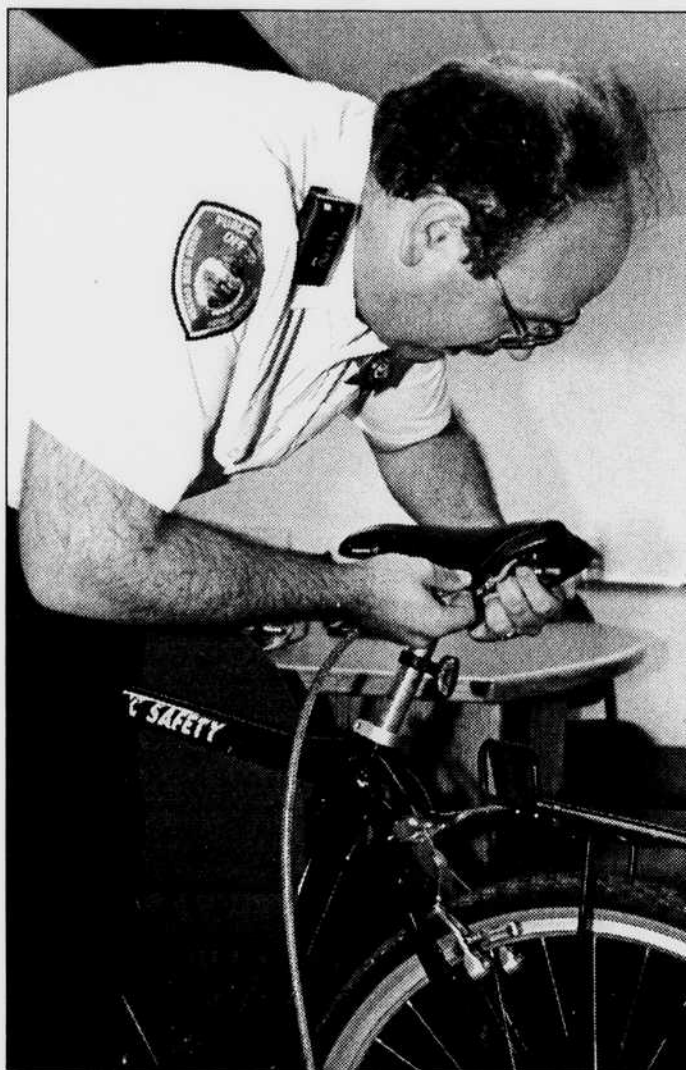
Thieves have many other ways of taking bikes, including picking locks and breaking them, Guse said. OPS has specific recommendations for keeping bikes safe.

First, the office recommends students use a combination of locks. The main lock, Guse said, is the Bike Club Jr. Ultra, which is made by the same company that makes the Club for automobiles. The Ultra is carried at the University Bookstore and is currently on sale for \$35.

In conjunction with the Ultra, OPS recommends a cable to secure both tires and the seat.

This recommendation is a change: OPS used to recommend U-Locks.

"The reason we do not suggest U-Locks is that it is your responsibility to fill the space," Guse said.



Officer Robert Guse demonstrates the most effective way to secure a bicycle utilizing both a cable and a U-lock.

U-Locks don't adjust, leaving space a thief could use to jack open the lock. A thief needs only two inches of space to fit in a jack and force the lock open, Guse said. The U-Lock also has a weak locking device and can be wrenched or struck off.

If students do use the U-

Locks, OPS recommends a device called Bad Bones, which costs about \$10. It helps fill the space and strengthens the lock.

Many companies guarantee their locks will work. Blue Heron Bicycles owner Susan Kelley recommends a \$30 Kryptonite U-Lock and said the com-

To reduce the risk of bike theft:

- Record the serial number of your bike.
- Always lock your bike to a fixed object.
- Leave your bike in a well lit area.
- Don't leave your bike outside over night.
- Report bike thefts to the police as soon as possible.
- Register your bike with OPS if you're a University student.

SOURCE: Eugene Department of Public Safety.

pany is helpful to its customers. Kelley said the company even sent people to Eugene to study bike thefts.

"I don't think you can ever trust your bike to one single lock," Kelley said.

Since Sept. 15, the University has had eight reported bike thefts. During the 1996 calendar year, OPS had 188 reported bike thefts, which was down from 302 the year before.

Several factors caused the decline in campus bike theft, Guse said. Eugene police have made several key arrests, and student patrols are watching out for thieves.

"The student patrol has been given the task of observing bike racks," Guse said.

OPS also is willing to send representatives to residence halls, greek houses and co-ops to educate students on how to keep their bikes safe.

Guse said one thing that never fails to surprise him is when he sees a \$2,000 bike improperly locked to a rack.

Imagine what a thief feels.

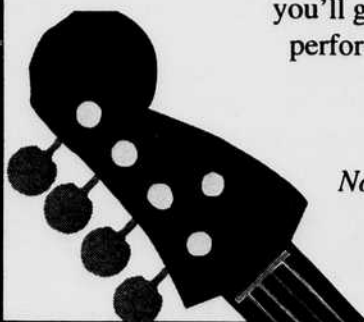
Mark Alan

A free performance this Friday night.

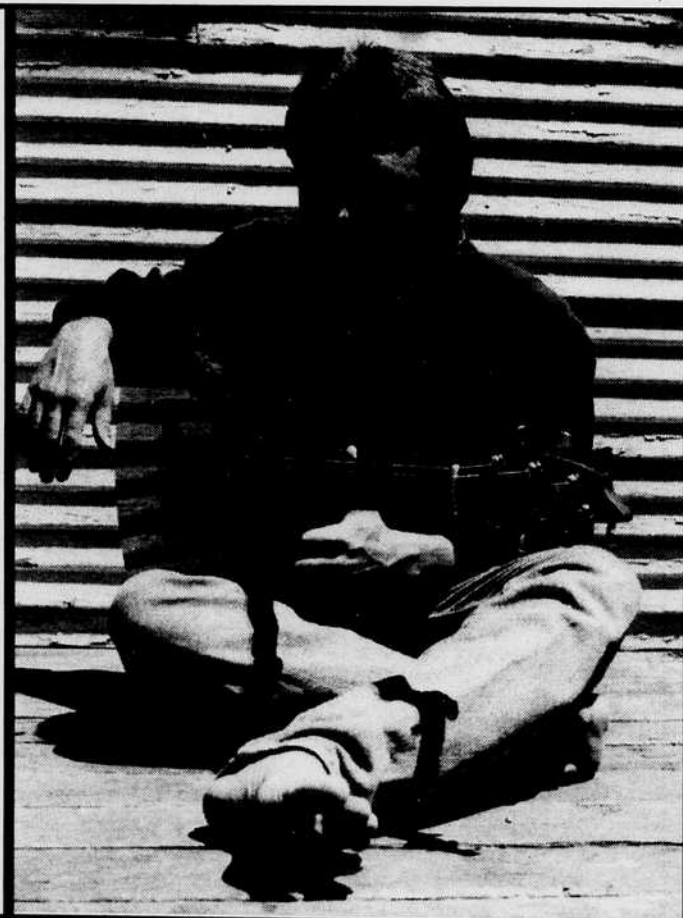
Acoustic guitarist and recording artist Mark Alan entertains you with his soothing, poetic style in a FREE performance this Friday, October 3.

**9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Collier House
(on the corner of 13th and University).**

It's the kickoff for a new program called First Fridays at the Collier House that offers alternatives to Friday night boozing. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome. And to celebrate our kickoff, you'll get free dessert at Mark's performance. Plus you can purchase coffee and juice drinks.



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