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Kraig W. Jacobson, M.D. • Robert Frost Jones, M.D.

Bikes: Niles to lead campus tours

Continued from Page 1A

But this is only the tip of the iceberg for Niles.

He said bicycle security is also a problem on campus.

"We need to do more in the area of security," he said. "There is a problem of vandalism on campus."

One facility already in place to curb bicycle vandalism is the bicycle cage under the Onyx Bridge. Niles said students can use the gaited cage, which was completed a few months ago, for \$20 per year.

An additional facility Niles said he hopes will materialize is a biking resource center. Niles said he is hoping to house such a facility with a proposed campus environmental resource center. He said he would like to see a building with students and staff who know how to work on bikes.

"I think it's a couple of years away, but it's something I would like to pilot," he said.

But improving bicycle parking, security and maintenance is not all Niles said he has in store for the University in the coming years.

Niles hopes to persuade students as well as University staff and employees to use bikes more in their everyday lives.

One method would be to create fleets of bikes for departmental use. Under this plan, Niles said each department would have an assigned number of bikes that students and faculty could use. The bikes would be free and the users would have to lock and return the bikes after use. He also noted that the bikes could also be available for prospective students who visit the campus and community.

Niles said he already plans to lead multiple bike tours for new students during the week before fall classes.



EMERALD

The Tandem Taxi service bicycles students around campus.

Although Niles said he does not have a set plan of how to fund the bikes for such a program, he said one option would use abandoned bikes the University has collected.

The Office of Public Safety is also getting in on Niles' plan to promote bike use on campus.

He said that OPS currently uses two bicycles rather than squad cars to patrol the campus. In addition to bicycle patrolling, Niles said he is also attempting to have parking enforcement use bikes in their daily routines.

But Niles said student input is the most important spoke in the process of making biking im-

provements a reality. "I'm really encouraging people to let me know their concerns about biking," he said.

One way Niles said he will attempt to solicit more student input is through a Web page for the University's biking program. Through the Web site, Niles hopes to start a mentor program where students who do not normally use bikes could work with an experienced biker.

If you are interested in learning more about biking at the University or have any suggestions for new biking programs, call Niles at 346-0947 or e-mail him at bikes@oregon.uoregon.edu.

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