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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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Keep it under LOCK and CHAIN

■ Despite education and other precautions, experts say the reality is it's hard to deter a determined bike thief

By Darren Freeman
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The last time freshman Diana Erskine saw her bike, it was securely locked to a rack outside Caswell Hall where she lives.

The next day, Erskine walked past the rack on her way to class and discovered that her bike was missing.

"Everything was gone," she said. Even the U-shaped bike lock, which was looped around the bike's frame, its front tire and the rack, was gone.

Erskine was a victim of a campus crime the Department of Public Safety has been unable to curb: Each year for the past decade, about 180 bicycles are stolen from campus.

That figure has remained high — never dipping below 100 and peaking at 302 thefts in 1995 — and has become a significant financial drain, considering that bike prices regularly reach triple digits. Erskine said her Specialized mountain bike had a retail value of \$800.

The bike theft rate at the University is the highest in the state. For every 1,000 University students, about nine bikes are stolen each year.

At Oregon State University, about six bikes per 1,000 students are swiped each year, and at other state campuses, that figure is significantly lower.

DPS maintains bike theft prevention programs similar to those used on other state campuses, but more than half of the bikes swiped from Oregon's public universities in the past three years were taken from the University.

The unfortunate reality is that education campaigns, registration stickers and standard bike locks are often no match for determined thieves equipped with bolt cutters and hydraulic-powered lock busters, said Joey Ngan, director of Southern



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Some bikes suffer from ignominious fates. This sad specimen, robbed of its former glory, can be found languishing near the Knight Library.

Oregon University's public safety office in Ashland.

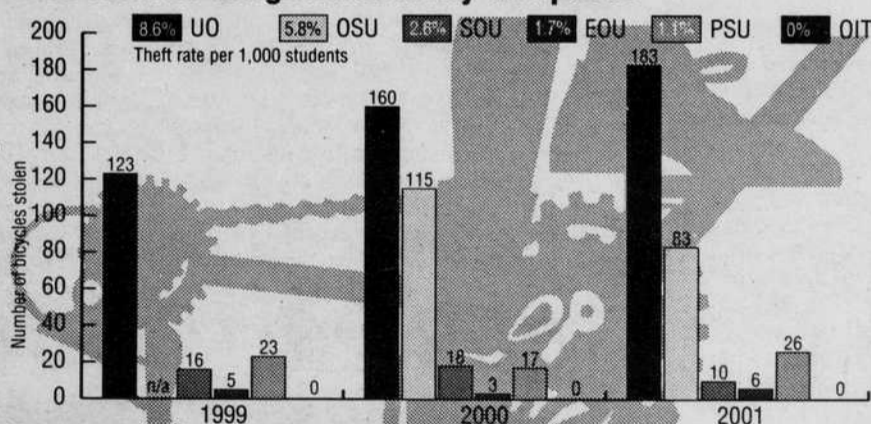
"It doesn't matter whether you lock it up or not. It doesn't matter whether you use a U-lock or chains or whether you have nice bikes or not," he said.

Ashland has seen significantly fewer bike thefts than the University, with an average 15 bikes stolen in each of the past three years. The difference, Ngan said, is that more people bike over the flat terrain of Eugene than through the hills of Ashland.

The University is a more attractive target simply because there are more bikes for thieves to choose from, he said.

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Bike theft on Oregon university campuses



SOURCES: University public safety offices, Oregon University System
 Oregon State University was unable to retrieve 1999 records by press time
 Data from Western Oregon University was unavailable by press time

Scott Abts Emerald

Tips for stopping bike theft:

- Never leave a bike unlocked and unattended, if even for a few minutes.
- Lock the bike's frame, as well as its tires, to a bike rack. If only a tire is locked, thieves will detach the rest of the bike from the tire.
- Always use bike racks, which are more secure than chains, posts and trees.
- Remove items, such as bags and seats, or lock them to the bike.
- Do not leave room in the lock for a prying tool.
- Lock bike in a well-lighted, well-traveled area.
- If a bike does not have a serial number on the bottom of the frame, DPS will stamp a driver's license number onto the bike.
- Register a bike with the Department of Public Safety.

SOURCE: DPS

Speaker pushes for contraception coverage

■ Lawyer Roberta Riley says insurance companies are discriminating against women by not covering birth control

Caron Alarab
 for the Emerald

The refusal of some companies to pay for women's contraception has created a gaping hole in employee insurance coverage for women nationwide, said discrimination lawyer Roberta Riley, who spoke to almost 30 students, faculty members and senior citizens about non-legislative ways to achieve contraceptive coverage at 4:30

p.m. Monday in 180 PLC.

Invited by Students for Choice and Planned Parenthood and accompanied by two other guest speakers, Riley shared in providing a wealth of information to the audience, including a brief history of contraception and the future of employee insurance coverage.

Riley, 41, general counsel for Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, won a Ms. Magazine Woman of the Year Award for her accomplishments on behalf of women last November. She currently leads Planned Parenthood's Fair Access to Contraception project, which aims to persuade every health plan in the nation

to cover the prescription contraceptives women need to prevent unintended pregnancy.

"Roberta is a hero to me," said fellow speaker and Planned Parenthood Public Affairs Director Kitty Piercy.

Senior anthropology major Kate Phillips is co-director of SFC, which organized the lecture and its preparatory workshop Monday and has been "off and on" since its establishment in 2000. Phillips said SFC works very closely with Piercy, the first person to suggest bringing Riley to campus.

"Here at the University, students have it easy when it comes to insur-

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Gubernatorial candidate to speak on campus



KULONGOSKI

Gubernatorial candidate Ted Kulongoski will visit the University today to stump for the May 21 primary. Kulongoski will be at the EMU Amphitheater from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. In the event of rain, Kulongoski will speak in the EMU Ben Linder Room, according to his campaign office. Supporters are also invited to bowl with the candidate later that evening at Timber Bowl bowling alley in Springfield.

Kulongoski is running against fellow Democrats Bev Stein, Jim Hill, William Peter Allen and Caleb Burns in Oregon's primary. The winner will face the Republican nominee in the Nov. 5 general election.

— Brook Reinhard