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Friday, October 10, 2003

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 105, Issue 31

Bike theft epidemic spreads in Eugene

Local community members and students are concerned by an increase in bike thefts and pickable U-Bolt locks

By Ali Shaughnessy
Senior News Reporter

Bike theft has been plaguing the city of Eugene for as long as Eugene Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist Tod Schneider can remember. And with no end to the epidemic in sight, both bikers and bike shop owners are getting frustrated.

Bike thieves are becoming more adept at picking U-Bolt locks in Eugene; specifically, models that are more than a couple of years old.

University junior Sara Green used to pride herself on always using a U-Bolt. When her bike was stolen, she chided herself for it, thinking she had forgotten to lock it properly. Now, she said, she realizes that if someone is determined to steal her bike, there isn't much she can do to stop them.

"It's disturbing, knowing (bike thieves) can pick the U-Bolts," she said. "I always thought they were impenetrable."

Schneider acknowledged that there is never a guarantee for an unbreakable lock.

"It's true that they can be overcome," he said.

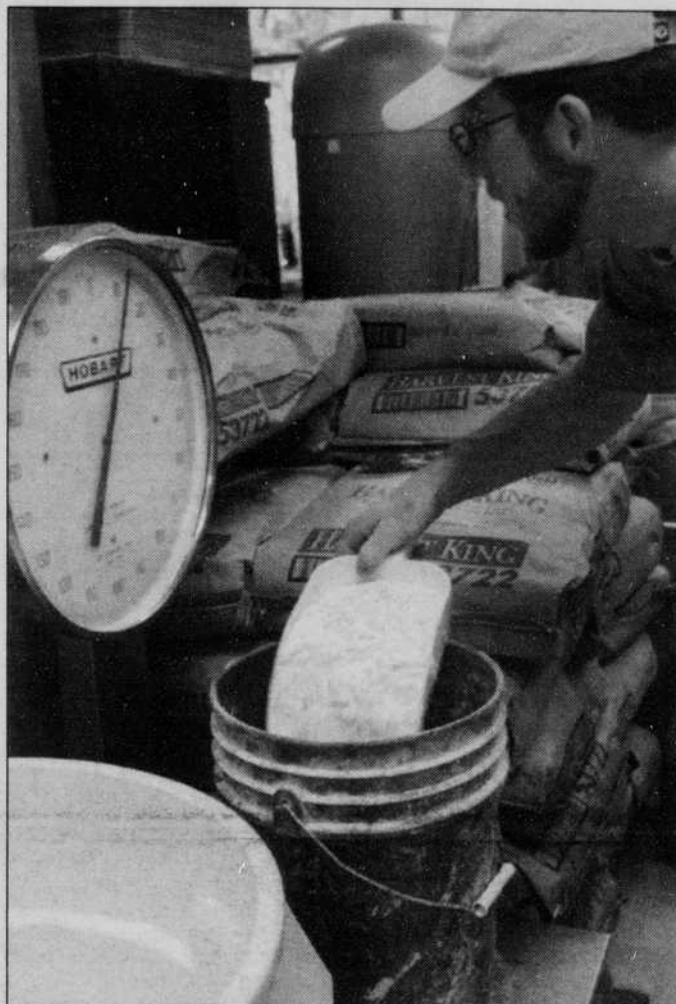
Donna Tocci, public relations manager for Kryptonite, a popular manufacturer of U-Bolt, was quick to point out that the ability to pick a U-Bolt is nothing new. Tocci said that's one reason Kryptonite puts out new locks every one to three years.

"None of our locks are the same as three years ago," she said. "We have locks now that are not pickable."

According to Tom Hicks, interim director of the Department of Public Safety, bike thieves will try to create a universal U-Bolt key so they can remove a lock using a car jack. Typically, he said, the thief will take the lock with him or her for practice purposes.

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TRICKS OF THE TRADE



At Eugene's Metropolis Bakery, artisan baker Shane Tracey measures the ingredients for bread that will be baked on stone rather than in a typical pan.

Danielle Hickey
Senior
Photographer

The joy of baking

Local bakeries strive to incorporate flavor, art and history into their products

By Natasha Chilingirian
Pulse Reporter

There's nothing like the aroma of freshly baked bread filling the kitchen. Luckily, professional bread bakers can go to work and experience this aroma daily.

But before the scent reaches their noses, they carefully prepare each loaf with techniques exclusive to their bakeries.

Jill Katz — owner of Humble Bagel

Bakery, located at 2435 Hilyard St. — said she knew bread baking was her calling the first time she sunk her hands into a lump of dough.

"The first time I baked bread, I thought, 'Whoa! This is what I was meant to do!'" she said. "It was really that cosmic. It was really strange."

There is no one right way to bake a loaf of bread. Different bakeries have different styles, allowing each loaf that comes out of the oven to be unique. At Humble Bagel Bakery, Katz said the secret lies in kneading the dough and letting it rest a

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Fraternities recruit fewer new brothers

Fraternity recruitment falls short of last year but current members are hopeful that more students will join in the coming weeks

By Jared Paben
News Reporter

Recruitment week has finished and the dust has settled, but a picture of this year's fraternity community is not yet clear.

In the first week of recruitment, 138 men were pledged into fraternities, a number that may initially appear dismal when stacked up against last year's 180 fall term pledges.

However, fraternity recruitment will continue throughout the remaining weeks of fall term, allowing more time to pledge, said James George, vice president for leadership development for the Interfraternity Council.

"For the numbers right now, we really can't say whether they're down or not," he said. "Men's recruitment is kind of an ongoing process."

George said during recruitment week, which lasted from Oct. 3 through Oct. 8, 20 to 30 people who received bids to join a fraternity have not yet chosen one. This year, the Interfraternity Council modified the recruitment week schedule to give incoming students more time to make a decision to join.

"It's a big decision to make," said Tim Rinaker, a recruitment chair for the Sigma Chi fraternity. "In one week or ten days it's tough for them to make a decision."

He added that his fraternity did "really well" this year. They pledged 21 men, and had only three undecided bids. Usually they get anywhere from 20 to 25 total pledges.

"We really didn't have to compromise our standards at all to find those guys," he said.

Ryan Birge, who is in charge of initiation for the Kappa Sigma fraternity, agreed that a lot of potential members are holding out before pledging. His fraternity had 13 pledges, but 20 people are sitting on their bids.

Birge added that there doesn't seem to be a lot of enthusiasm this year, largely due to the University's alcohol ban. Last year — the first year of the ban — was even worse, he said.

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Coming Out Day celebrates visibility, caps weeklong celebration

The national event is intended to create support and marks the 16th anniversary of a 500,000-strong march in Washington, D.C.

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

When people ask why there are events like National Coming Out Day for the lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender community but no similar events for the heterosexual community, Chicora Martin replies that every day is an event for heterosexuals.

"I remind them every day is a straight parade ... a straight coming out day," said Martin, director of the University's LGBT Educational and Support Services Program.

While National Coming Out Day is officially on Saturday, the LGBT community is celebrating it today with a rally and guest

speakers in the EMU Amphitheater from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Martin said the day is important for LGBT members and their supporters.

"It's about visibility and about solidarity," she said.

The day marks the Oct. 11, 1987, march in Washington, D.C., when 500,000 people gathered in support of gay and lesbian equality. It was the second demonstration of

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Douglas Hopper (right) and Toby Ensign (left) enjoy a game of pool at The Break following a meeting for National Coming Out Week.

Danielle Hickey
Senior Photographer

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