

Spring spawns bike thieves, too

By Virginia Broady

With spring in the air and finals week approaching, many students probably have the urge to start their wheels spinning—bicycle wheels, that is.

While bicycling is growing in popularity, it seems that bicycle theft may be following suit.

Bicycle thefts constitute the largest number of larcenies less than \$250, according to Lincoln Police Dept. (LPD) Captain Ron Glansbury.

Last year 1,096 bicycles, at an estimated total value of \$86,725, were reported stolen to LPD. Of these, 534 were recovered while 56 crimes were solved.

A total of 58 bicycles were reported stolen to Campus Police in 1975, said Officer Joe Wehner, in charge of the Special Services Division. This year, 11 bicycles have been stolen on campus, he said.

Wehner said licensing bicycles makes it easier to identify them if they are stolen. Bicycle owners should keep bicycle serial numbers in their possession and engrave their social security numbers on the bike for easier identification, he added.

Wehner said bicycles should be parked in a well-lighted area and should be chained and locked to a bike rack with a steel chain at least three-eighths of an inch thick. He also said the chain should be long enough to include both wheels and the frame without touching the ground.

A 50-cent bicycle license is mandatory for Lincoln bike owners and can be obtained at any fire station.

To license a bike, a bill of sales and a back reflector are needed, said firefighter Ron Trouba. Firemen check for proper wheel chains and make sure the bike is in good operating condition. Licenses must be renewed yearly, Trouba said.

Although there are several bicycle routes in Lincoln, bicyclers must obey the same laws as car drivers, Flansbury said. Bicyclers also must ride single file and cannot ride on congested sidewalks.

Students bike for blind

The 13 Innocents Society members will bike 60 miles Sunday in an attempt to raise \$2,000 for the Nebraska Society for the Prevention of Blindness (NSPB), said Keith Johnson, Bikeathon Chairman and a senior agronomy major from York.

The Bikeathon, which is sponsored by Innocents, senior honor society, will begin at 7 a.m. at the Nebraska Union. The Innocents will be the only bikers, and will end their journey at the Omaha's Westroads shopping center sometime between 1 and 3 p.m., Johnson said.

Lincoln Mayor Helen Boosalis will see the bikers off, he added.

Innocents have been soliciting donations (contributions or pledges) from persons they know and through radio programs and service organizations, he said.

The Innocents chose to donate to NSPB because NSPB receives all its financing through contributions, Johnson said.

NSPB was organized in Nebraska in 1973 and is subsidized by the National Organization of the Society to Prevent Blindness, said Judy Olsen, secretary to the NSPB executive director. Last year, NSPB raised \$28,000, of which \$3,000 was from a walkathon.



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