

Don't let thieves peddle your bike

By LINDA NORMAN

The rapid increase in enrollment at Texas A&M University has brought a growing number of bikes on campus.

Estimated 11,000 bikes will be on campus daily this fall, said University Police Chief O. L. Luther. Of these, 3,146 bicycles had been registered with the university police as of today, but registration is still slow.

All bicycles operated or parked on campus at any time must be registered with the university police, according to the 1977-1978 Bicycle Traffic and Parking Regulations. Registration fee is \$1.50 for the first year, and a \$2 fine is given to those found parked on campus without a registration sticker.

College Station does not have a registration department, but Dick Gullede, College Station police detective, said that bikes registered with the police department. This is especially true for off-campus students, dorm students may also register bikes with the city, he said.

More bikes are stolen right before school starts and at the first of school at any other time in the school year, he said. College Station has 10 reports of stolen bikes since the start of the fall semester. The university police have had 12 reports since the first of August.

A low percentage of the bikes that are reported stolen to the city police are recovered, Gullede said. Sixty per cent of the time no serial number has been recorded for a stolen bike, leaving police with only a general description to go on. Gullede said that bikes are usually sold out of the city and sold in quantity to the few recoveries of bikes by city police, approximately

50 per cent of the bikes reported stolen to the university police are returned to their owners, said Chief Luther. Nine out of 10 recovered are registered with the university police, where a permit and serial number are recorded. Most are found abandoned on campus, he said.

The north dorm area of the campus is where most bicycles are reported stolen, with the Commons as the second place, said Luther. Areas where there are apartment complexes report more stolen bikes in College Station than other residential areas in the city, Gullede said.

"Bring your bike inside overnight, because otherwise it's going to get stolen," Gullede warned.

Both Luther and Gullede stressed the importance of locking bicycles in a rack with a heavy case-hardened chain and lock while in class. A stolen bicycle needs to be reported immediately to have a good chance of recovery, they said.

"Per cent wise, it looks like it won't be quite as bad this year," said Lt. Jim Beamer of the College Station Police. From January 1976 to July 1976 70 bicycles were reported stolen, and in the same time period for 1977 only 37 were reported.

Graduate students to meet

The Graduate Student Council will hold its first meeting Monday and begin discussing projects for the year.

The meeting will be in room 216 of the MSC.

Health insurance for graduate students employed on campus, such as graduate assistants, is one project the council will look into this year, Graduate Student Council President Bill Griffin said.



Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

With an expected 11,000 bikes on campus this fall, theft can be expected. But by registering

bicycles and keeping them chained, the chances of theft can be reduced.

The university police also have hopes for less cases of stolen bicycles, Sgt. J. D. Gossett said. Patrolmen are cracking down on the problem, and more people than ever before are registering their bikes, Gossett said.

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