Annual UCSD found and unclaimed property auction to be held

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It would appear that students at the University of California, San Diego aren't quite as forgetful as they used to be. The number of bicycles, calculators and books to be offered in the annual auction of found and unclaimed property is down by about one half over last year.

According to Ralph W. Roblee, manager of the UCSD Office of Equipment Management which handles the annual event for the campus, there are only 18 bikes, plus a few bike parts, compared to the 60 bikes that were offered last year.

"It's getting harder to find a parking place on campus," Roblee said. "There are more bicycles on campus this year but it seems that the students are taking better care of their transportation."

The majority of the bicycles are 10 or 12 speed but one, a blue Peugeot, is listed as speed "unknown."

The annual UCSD found and unclaimed property auction is scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, at the H & M Goodies Auction Company, 130 East 8th Street in National City. All items to be auctioned will be available for inspection beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the 24th at the auction company.

There are only 23 calculators on this year's lost and found list compared to 43 that Roblee listed last year. Most, he said, are of the hand-held variety used by students in class or laboratory. In addition, there are only 13 boxes of books compared to 39 boxes listed last year.

"That's not bad for a campus with over 14,000 students," Roblee said. "Either the students aren't being as forgetful or they're not reading as much," he said.

According to Roblee, many of the items to be auctioned were left behind and "found" by campus personnel after the students left the campus for the summer. He said the university is required to hold any found item for three months before disposing of it but most items are kept on hand for nearly a year before they are auctioned.

Roblee said the auction will include the usual number of watches found on the campus - this year there are 33, and the usual assortment of furniture, clothes and office items that have been lost or left behind. In addition, an assortment of "miscellaneous" items are also listed. Among the miscellaneous items this year are a fireplace grate, 13 umbrellas, bongo drums, a gold panning pan, a wooden flute, lacrosse gloves, and a wedding dress.

Roblee noted that there is one item new to the auction list that may indicate how students work these days. "This year for the first time we have a number of floppy disks on the list," he said.

Roblee listed them on the miscellaneous category after the bongo drums and before the styrofoam cooler.

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