

Bike paths are added on Campus

Alumni who walked between classes in undergrad days did their best to dodge the cyclists, while the bike-riders did their utmost to avoid the pedestrians. Both groups will be interested to know that something new has been added.

More than one mile of paved pathways, 18 inches in width, were installed during the summer on an experimental basis and were welcomed by the approximately 2,500 fall term students who ride bicycles on campus. Some 18,500 who walk were equally pleased.

The paths parallel some of the more heavily travelled walkways. Main installations now include those connecting Brody Hall and Kellogg Center with the heart of Campus; the Union with the Library and the Union with Women's Intramural. The last passes

Dr. Hannah's home and the Music building.

Traffic will be one way on the paths which are reserved exclusively for cyclists. Pedestrians are to keep to the regular walkways. In those cases, however, where a bicycle path (actually, they are paved with blacktop) crosses a walkway, pedestrians will have the right of way. There will be no likelihood of confusing the walkways with paths, since the latter will be stenciled with "bicycles only" markers. A strip of turf separates them.

"The idea of paths for bike-riders originated with the students at a Round Table session," says Professor Harold W. Lautner, State's architect and head of urban planning, who is in direct charge of the bike path project.

"The suggestion by the students was

an entirely sound one, but no funds were available. After considerable delay, the University is now able to install these paths on a limited trial basis.

"If they prove as beneficial as everyone now predicts (and we see no reason why they shouldn't,) the plan will be enlarged. Next additions probably will be on either shore of the Red Cedar and in adjoining areas."

A number of other University officials are particularly interested in the plan. Among them are Robert Trojanek, assistant planner in campus site planning; Capt. Earle B. Roberts of public safety and Richard O. Bernitt, head of the University's protective services.

Roberts and Bernitt are vitally concerned in the traffic angle and the fact that the paths will permit many cycling students to get to classes without riding on city streets.

"The paths will make possible much greater movement of bike traffic and will permit students to stay on campus to a much greater degree than heretofore," says Bernitt. "Everyone will benefit - pedestrians and riders alike."

"We are confident the students will welcome the program," says Roberts. "We encourage them to use the paths, which have been installed for their exclusive use. We do not anticipate any problems and are confident they will prove as beneficial at State as they have elsewhere - particularly at the University of Illinois."

"Laying out the paths was an intriguing assignment," says Trojanek. "We were required at times to go around trees and shrubs to avoid defacing the Campus in any way. As a result, the length of the various bike routes was greater than we had at first anticipated."

"On one occasion we encountered heavy shrubbery that had long needed removing. The path gave a logical reason for its removal, so, out it came. Not only are students able to get around campus much more easily, but appearance of the University's grounds is in no way damaged."



IN ORDER to publish these pictures in your October *MSU Magazine*, we had to take them in mid-September, during one of the few times when classes are not in session.

Consequently, the campus is entirely devoid of students and presents a truly unusual appearance.

In fact, in order to get people, we "borrowed" Betty Burke and Ritchie Davis, both of the public safety office. Ritchie is an officer of the department and Betty is a typist. Her husband, Bernard, is an education major.

In the upper photo Betty pedals across the band practice field.

The bike path carrying traffic in the opposite direction is at right. Women's gymnasium is in the background. Below, Betty and Ritchie are seen at an intersection of a bike path and a walkway.

In such cases pedestrians have the right of way. The Union is in the background.

At the left, Betty wheels toward Jenison Fieldhouse from Kellogg Center. As she crossed the bridge over the Red Cedar she walked her bike, which is required in all cases where cycle paths and pedestrian walkways occupy the same area.

