Student riders choose to bike instead of hike

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Senior Writer

Junior Steven Gourley chained his bicycle to a light pole just outside Williams Hall at about 10:45 Tuesday morning, leaving him just five minutes to spare before his 10:50 class.

Riding his bike gets Gourley to campus in just two minutes, much faster than driving his car from the Circle Apartments because he does not have to search for a parking space. He needs five minutes for the uphill ride.

Gourley is one of the growing number of students who choose to ride their bikes to campus rather than drive.

One day this week numerous bicycles adorned lamp posts, tree trunks and bike racks near academic buildings, from the back of Roy H. Park Hall to the upper entrance to the Center for Health Sciences. But several of the academic buildings, particularly Textor Hall, have environmental rather than economic.

The Ithaca College Environmental Society's Blue Bike program recently began offering students a cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to cars. But despite the new program, most of the bicycles on campus continue to be privately owned.

Mark Darling, recycling and resource program coordinator, said the Blue Bike program currently has about four bikes and a half dozen students. The program offers students unlimited use of the blue bikes for a $5 lock deposit.

Darling said he would not be surprised to see more bikes on campus due to an increase in the cost of parking permits for continuing students and the rising prices of gasoline.

In an effort to help reduce air pollution, junior Anthony Santoriello has joined the corps of bikers, often riding 2 1/2 miles each way from his apartment downtown.

"More than anything, I want to save the