



Neighbors unite

Mary Saddler's heart skipped a beat every time she heard the leaves rustle or saw a shadow move. She removed the whistle from around her neck and held it in her hand just in case.

Be alert, the neighbors had told her, and be aware of what is going on around you.

She started to cross the street but stopped when she saw the figure strolling down the sidewalk.

He crossed the street and was upon her before she could decide what to do, asking directions.

Always keep your distance, the neighbors had warned. Fingering her whistle, she started to speak. He moved in closer and touched her.

The whistle automatically went to her mouth and she blew.

The neighbors came from every direction. There were at least ten to fifteen of them all blowing their whistles and rushing toward the sound of the alarm that had alerted them.

The project: Operation Whistlestop.

The situation is hypothetical, but West University Neighbors would like to make it a reality.

The neighbors are determined to battle their area's above-average burglary rate and to reduce rape, robbery and assault in the neighborhood.

The neighbors called on Sacred Heart Hospital, Campus Security, the city of Eugene and other neighbors to help them.

At a crime prevention meeting last week, Jerry Allenbaugh of Sacred Heart, had these suggestions:

- **Operation Whistlestop** — Encourage everyone in the neighborhood to carry whistles. At the sound of a whistle, one first calls the police and then runs toward the alarm blowing the whistle.

Allenbaugh related a Chicago neighborhood incident where 30 to 40 whistlers prevented a potential attacker from claiming a victim.

- **Neighborhood Watch** — A cooperative effort by all neighbors to keep a watchful eye on each other's houses and property and to report any suspicious activity.

- **Operation Identification** — To discourage burglars, belongings should be marked and a sticker placed on the door or in the

window to indicate that possessions have been marked.

- **Neighborhood Cop Program** — People should work with police officers patrolling the area.

In a high transiency neighborhood such as the West University district, a neighborhood watch program may seem impossible.

However, for the past five months, a blockwatch program has been working in Westside, another high transiency neighborhood.

Ann Cummins, director of the program, invites people who are neighbors to meet for coffee or dinner. She encourages them to get acquainted and to exchange telephone numbers. She reported a 50 percent turnout rate for the seven blocks she has worked on so far.

"Everyone is concerned about crime and everyone is concerned about the strangers out there," she said.

"We live in areas where there are a lot of lifestyles and we are suspicious of people who do not live like us," said Cummins.

Eugene City Council member Scott Lieuallen also attended the meeting, and said it is better to approach the crime problem from within the community rather than working with police department programs.

He said he has spoken with police regularly and that they are willing to change their priorities to work with community programs.

Donald Brooks, night supervisor for Campus Security, told the small gathering of neighbors that lighting was the most important deterrent to crime.

Among his other suggestions for the neighbors:

- Cable down property such as stereos and television sets to non-removable or heavy objects.
- Stay out of reach of people if they want to talk to you.
- Always be alert, be smart, and be thinking.

The Campus Security emergency phone system can be found in five different locations on campus: near Beall Hall, between the library and PLC, between the law school and the Computer Center, east of Lawrence Hall and on 13th Avenue and University Street.

Coping with crime

Workshop stresses action

By JENNIFER GREENLEAF
Of the Emerald

More than 300 Eugene women may have already been raped this year, if Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates are correct.

The FBI estimates that only 15 percent of rapes are actually reported, and with a total of 43 rapes cited in Eugene between January and August, the number of women attacked may be much higher. Marcia Morgan of the Associated



Unit offers securities

Almost every area in Eugene is victimized by crime equally, says Jim Wolfe, a member of the crime prevention unit at the Eugene Police Department.

Wolfe admits, however, that the West University area has a higher-than-average burglary rate.

The crime prevention unit has a number of services it can provide to the community including a securities survey program.

Taking costs into consideration, a police officer will assess the security of a home and then make a recommendation for security improvement.

Wolfe advocates a Neighborhood Watch program for preventing crime, saying neighborhood residents should get to know each other and guard each other's property.

He admits that it's hard to develop neighborhood cohesion in a high transiency area such as West University. Wolfe says the only answer is to "size up your neighbors and keep the doors and windows locked. Make your house look occupied when you are not there."

"Interior lighting should be used all the time," he adds.

For a donation, members of the Castle Watch organization and the Lions Club will watch your house or apartment if you are away, Wolfe says. The Eugene police will not.

Police will work with neighborhoods to start programs such as Neighborhood Watch.

On Nov. 16, Jim Wolfe will be speaking about crime prevention to West University Neighbors at the neighborhood center, 1458 Ferry St.

Lane Interagency Rape Team (ALIRT) estimates the present reported total to be over 55.

The West University Neighborhood has had six rapes and five attempted rapes reported this year. A large population of students, who are often rape victims, live within the neighborhood's boundaries, as do many sorority residents.

Women who live in the West University Neighborhood are frightened.

"Women don't even want to go out at night," says Evelyn Wilder, a CSPA intern who works at the neighborhood's center. "There's a real feeling of isolation when the night time comes."

"It cripples your life to have to plan things around the darkness," says neighborhood resident Suzanne Anderson. "I'm afraid to go to Safeway, three blocks from my house."

Wilder believes that the incidence of rape can be reduced by education and neighborhood action. She has organized a workshop to raise awareness about the rape problem among the neighborhood's residents.

"We'll be talking about what we can do as a neighborhood to protect ourselves from rape," says Wilder. She would like to see "safe houses" set up in the area. People would be screened before being allowed to place an insignia in their window identifying the building as a refuge.

"There are already several natural 'safe houses' in the neighborhood that aren't being used," says Wilder. "Sacred Heart Hospital, the 7-Eleven stores and Whitebird are open all night."

She plans to let residents know about these and other 'safe houses' via the neighborhood's newsletter when they are organized. She would also like to institute a blockwatch program so neighbors can watch out for each other.

The Whiteaker Neighborhood has managed to reduce rapes on the bikepaths by using citizen patrols, and their success has encouraged the West University Neighbors to organize themselves against rape.

The rape prevention workshop is open to the community and will be held 7:30 p.m. Thursday at 1458 Ferry St. The workshop will feature speakers from three local agencies that deal with rape.

Susan Schuster of the Rape Crisis Network will offer ideas on organizing the neighborhood; talk about rape counseling; and discuss the emotional aftermath of rape.

Gloria Timmons from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Eugene police and Marcia Morgan of ALIRT will discuss basic prevention and prosecution procedures.

More information about the workshop is available from the West University Neighborhood Center at 687-5366.

Crime stats

Reported crime incidents in the West University Neighborhood from January 1 through October 1:

Rape	6
Sexual Abuse	3
Public indecency	22
Robbery	10
Armed robbery	3
Vandalism	107
Assault	37
Burglary	173
Theft outside of home	280
Theft from auto	110
Theft of bicycles	126
Shoplifting	105
Vehicle theft and unauthorized use	40

Statistics provided to West University Neighbors by Jim Wolfe of the Eugene Police Department.

