

'Project Be Safe' an effort to curb crime

By Diane Winocur
Of the Emerald

Dorm residents and campus police have combined forces to curb the University's crime rate.

Elected representatives from each residence hall will help bring safety information to campus residents through "Project Be Safe," which is patterned after the neighborhood watch groups, says Sgt. Rick Allison of the Eugene Police Department.

Allison says there is reason for concern. Although the University community saw a seven-percent drop in crime, the national on-campus average grew 150 percent.

Campus security officials also say the average University student, over a four-

year stay at the University, will be the victim of a crime at least once.

"We have the same crimes that other places have," says Allison, calling the residence hall community a "city within a city."

Already this year campus officers have responded to break-ins, thefts and a knife fight.

Community awareness and improved communication between students and the public safety office can help solve the crime problem, Allison says.

A dorm crime often goes unreported because residents hesitate to take responsibility, he says. The project's representatives may ease this situation, Allison says.

The representatives will be responsible for notifying fellow dorm residents of

the campus crime situation and for making their halls safe.

The representative are to host crime prevention talks and provide up-to-date information on campus crime trends, such as locations of recurring crimes and composite sketches of suspected criminals.

Project representatives are to report security problems — such as malfunctioning locks — provide free identification engraving of residents' possessions and submit a weekly safety report to the housing department.

Securing property is the representatives' main concern, not to spy on students' activities, Allison says.

"They are not agents of the police. They will provide security in the form of information. They are not there to act, to

become involved or to inform on other students. We won't even accept that kind of information," he says.

Allison says he patterned the project after the highly successful West University Neighbors' neighborhood watch program, which has reduced crime in that area. Housing Director Dan Williams and the Residence Hall Governance Council endorsed the program for this year.

Only 17 of the 50 residence hall sections have submitted forms to Allison so far. But he expects more responses before the group's Oct. 25 training session at 6:30 p.m. in the Bean West Conference Room.

"If represented floors have less crime because of this, you can bet the rest will jump on the bandwagon," Allison says.

Ken Kesey to present workshop

Oregon author Ken Kesey will conduct a fiction writing workshop and read from some of his works today on campus.

The workshop begins at 2:30 p.m. in Room 302, Gerlinger Hall, and the reading starts at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

The free events are sponsored by the University's Creative Writing Program.

Kesey wrote "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Sometimes a Great Notion" and numerous other works.

Culture shock, adjustments: lecture topic

Adjusting to a new culture and making the transition easier are the topics of a seminar today at 4 p.m. in the EMU Forum room.

"It is essentially a program about the cultural adjustment program for new foreign students," says Peter Briggs, associate director of the international services office. "Students cope with the adjustment problem if they know to deal with it."

Briggs says everything in the foreign student's life from the academics of the University to the width of the roads requires some adjustment.

"Students can take on certain aspects of culture shock — watching TV, drinking too much — without even realizing it," he says.

Lecture, panel on U.S. role in South Africa

Congolese National Liberation Front member Serge Mukendi will speak on "South Africa and U.S. Involvement" Wednesday in the EMU Forum Room. The talk will be followed by a panel discussion.

Ronnie Herndon, chairman for the Portland Black United Front; Chinosole, a Lane Community College professor who lived in Angola for about 8 years and is a former United Nations staff writer; and representative of the People for Southern African Freedom will be on the panel, according to a Black Student Union member.

The event begins at 7 p.m. and is sponsored by the BSU and the Foreign Student Union.

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