

# Policing improves neighborhood



PORTLAND (AP) — Four years ago, syringes littered Savilla Tabor's housing project. A constant stream of cars flowed through the neighborhood, their drivers looking for drugs. Police donned riot gear before responding to calls for help.

"Iris Court was a hell hole," police Officer Dave Grady recalls. Today, the low-income housing project on the city's north side is a model of calm. Trim lawns, beds of mums and marigolds, park benches and playground equipment dot the 45-unit complex.

"It's just an entirely different place," said Tabor, a retired nurse near 80. "Now, I feel safe."

Residents say the credit goes to the Portland Police Bureau's community policing program, similar to what President Bill Clinton and Congress hope will spread nationwide with the help of thousands of extra officers.

The Senate authorized \$8.9 billion to put 100,000 community police officers on the streets over five years. The House authorized \$3.45 billion for 50,000 more police over six years. The differences in the legislation should be reconciled early next year.

Under the Portland program, officers work city-wide with residents to reduce crime and steer children away from drugs and gangs. They work with schools, social service agencies, neighborhood associations and volunteers. Officers get out of their patrol cars and walk beats.

Before community policing came to Iris Court, the housing project had 208 crimes from 1989-90, including a total of 98 drug violations, assaults and gang crimes.

"We just lived in fear," Tabor said. After community policing took over, total crimes dropped to just 94 for 1991. Then in 1992, the tally fell to 74. Overall, there were 8,084 crimes against people in Portland in 1989 and 8,390 in 1992.

Change at the project started in late 1990, when

police barricaded one end of the main street bordering Iris Court to block drive-through traffic. With the help of residents and volunteers, they tore out all the shrubs and bushes where attackers might hide. They evicted residents who dealt drugs. They built playgrounds for children.

And Grady was assigned to walk the area, conspicuously in uniform.

On a recent late fall day, residents of Iris Court waved from their doorways as Grady walked through the one-story brick complex. Tabor emerged from her apartment to give the officer a hug, a smile and a promise that she's going to bake him more cookies real soon.

Community policing, however, is not without its critics.

Larry Hoover, criminal justice professor at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, said the approach is too close to community control by authorities.

"Taken to its logical conclusion, community policing puts the police in the role of community managers," Hoover said. "It leads to ignoring the central mission of the police, which is crime control."

"You've got officers taking kids to the zoo instead of tracking down violent parole absconders," he said.

But Jane Rosevear disagrees. As project coordinator for the Mycap Portsmouth Leadership Club at Portsmouth Middle School in Portland, Rosevear knows firsthand that community policing can keep children out of trouble.

"If somebody wouldn't have stepped into my life, I wouldn't be here," she said.

Portland got a head start on its community policing program because a proliferation of neighborhood associations already existed. The associations were set up in the 1970s as part of a model cities program. Today, they work with police officers.

"It has to be community and police working together," said J.W. Friday, a community liaison between police and Iris Court residents.



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# Panel hopes to remove lobbyists

OLYMPIA (AP) — Lobbyists may be for lobbyists, but a marbled lobby between the House and Senate should be cleared of lobbyists' telephones, furniture, message desk and copy machine, a special commission on ethics says.

Others retorted Tuesday that lobbyists are important consultants to lawmakers trying to make laws and are easy to find in their third-floor headquarters, called "Ulcer Gulch."

The spacious corridor — provided free to the lobbyists' association, "The Third House" — sometimes resembles a cocktail party when jammed with jabbering lobbyists.

It's a good place to be when the House and Senate are meeting behind the big wood doors at each end.

"This is really a symbolic issue," said Mary Kay Becker, a member of the state Commission on Ethics and Government. The panel, formed by the 1993 Legislature and Gov. Mike Lowry, is forging an entire package of proposals to improve ethics and public trust in politics. It hopes to finish next week.

"This is symbolic of the domination of the process by paid lobbyists and organized special

interests," she said. Clearing the lobbyists' paraphernalia from the lobby "would really send a good message that the Legislature is the people's Legislature," Becker added. The former Bellingham lawmaker, a Democrat, said the idea is just a preliminary recommendation to the Legislature.

The state Senate rejected a similar idea in the late 1980s, when it was suggested by House Clerk Alan Thompson. He applauded the ethics panel, saying the presence of a lobbying headquarters in the corridor is "inappropriate."

"Some people see them there and have the feeling it isn't a seemly use of the Capitol Rotunda. I mean, time has marched on from the days when they worked out of coat pockets," said Thompson, who retires next month.

Lobbyists now have cellular phones and beepers and don't need all the impedimenta in the hallway.

But lobbyists and others argue that their presence in the north lobby benefits everybody.

Debbie Gjerde, manager of the Third House, said the facility is used by lobbyists representing such disparate groups as

women's rights advocates and power companies.

"They're not all Boeings and big business," she said.

"I don't care where you put the (headquarters) — downstairs, in Tacoma — it is not going to prevent anyone from gathering in the public access of the building, and we're certainly going to gather where we can talk to legislators," Gjerde said.

Gjerde also challenged the assumption that lobbyists have more access to lawmakers than the average citizen does.

"I've heard some of our members say they feel like they're getting crowded out by the general public," she said. "I've seen regular citizens pull their legislators out of the chambers by sending in a note just like lobbyists do. Citizens are being more sophisticated all the time."

Sen. Sid Snyder, D-Long Beach, sees the proposal as well meaning but ultimately silly.

"We have to talk to lobbyists. Sometimes they have information we need," he said.

And lobbyists represent ordinary citizens, Snyder said. "If you're a member of a labor union, a consumer, a poor person or any whatever," you've got a lobbyist somewhere in that crowd.

**CORRECTION**

A commentary published in the Nov. 23 *Emerald* incorrectly stated the *Emerald's* corporate mission. The statement should have read that the "sole and exclusive purpose of this nonprofit corporation is to provide education and training for University of Oregon students in all aspects of newspaper operation through production of an independent student newspaper."

**ET ALS**

**MEETINGS**

**Overeaters Anonymous** will conduct a gratitude meeting today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the parlor of Koionia Center. Newcomers are welcome. Feel free to bring lunch.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Outdoor Program** will show a video on Columbia Gorge windsurfing titled "Screaming Waters" today at 12:30 p.m. in Room 37, EMU basement (behind the video arcade). For more information, call 346-4365.

**Student government** will have a grievance table today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the EMU lobby. For more information, call 346-3160.

**Career Planning and Placement Service** announces that the U.S. Marine Corps will have a table today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EMU.

**Alpha Lambda Delta** has applications available for a \$3,000 graduate fellowship for members in Room 364 Oregon Hall. The applications should be returned to Roger Morris by Dec. 7.

**Eugene Peaceworks** will have a peaceful demonstration against the selling and giving of war toys this Thanksgiving weekend at Toys R Us across from Valley River Center. Protesters can unite at noon on Nov. 26 and 27 with ideas. For more information, call Thom at 343-8548.

*Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.*

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