

Concerns: E. 13th Ave. has easy reputation

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Heart employees coming in to say how much better the area is."

"I'm glad it's there," Lee said. "The tide here has really turned."

"I think overall there's been a cut-down on crime," said Jamie Seed, a junior majoring in psychology. "I remember in my freshman year, there was a knife in the 7-11 parking lot. I feel a lot safer now. The [police] presence is really felt."

"The problem was so acute and so pervasive that dealing with it from downtown just didn't get it," Mason said. "Wherever we have a chronic, ongoing problem that just won't go away, a station is go-

ing to pop up."

Before the station opened, the 7-11 parking lot on E. 13th Avenue was the meeting place for 35 to 50 gang members each weekend, Mason said. The violence and theft associated with the gangs are now gone, she said.

Many of the remaining problems in the area are a result of the West University neighborhood's national reputation as an easy place to buy drugs.

"The most pervasive problem here is drug dealing," she said. "With that come other problems like aggressive panhandling and loitering."

Mason says many of the people

"Wherever we have a chronic, ongoing problem that just won't go away, a station is going to pop up."

—Bev Mason
police officer

causing problems on E. 13th Avenue came from states as far away as South Dakota and Pennsylvania. When she asks them why they came here, they often say they heard from friends or on the Internet that the E. 13th Avenue

area is a good place to get drugs and hang around without being bothered by police.

"This area is being touted as the second Haight-Ashbury," Mason said.

The Haight-Ashbury area in San Francisco had a reputation for being a drug-tolerant neighborhood where it is easy to buy and sell marijuana and hallucinogens.

Those problems are not gone yet, but are down by more than 50 percent, Mason said.

"I want way more than that," she said. "I want it at zero. It is better, but we're not there yet."

U.S. Senate candidates raise issue of religion

■ **CONFLICT:** Distribution of a television transcript that details Bruggere's religious beliefs upsets him

By Charles E. Beggs
The Associated Press

SALEM — The two major U.S. Senate candidates sparred on Tuesday over the politically ticklish issue of religion as Tom Bruggere's camp accused Gordon Smith of attacking Bruggere's faith.

The conflict involved distribution by Smith's campaign of a transcript of a television show broadcast by Portland station KATU on religion and the candi-

dates.

Bruggere, a Democrat, said on the show he considered himself "a retired Catholic," and a reporter said the candidate "seldom goes to church any more."

Bruggere said he "walked out of" the Roman Catholic Church because a priest told parishioners they had to vote against a ballot measure.

Bruggere's spokeswoman Lauren Moughon said Catholic schools throughout Portland's archdiocese received the transcript and that it prompted concerned calls from parents.

The campaign tactic "crosses the line," she said. "If there's a shred of decency left at the Smith

campaign, Gordon will apologize."

Smith campaign spokesman John Easton said the transcript was sent to about 25 religious leaders mainly because it contained favorable references to Smith, who's the Republican contender and a Mormon.

"We felt it was a positive reflection on Gordon Smith and wanted religious leaders to know about it," Easton said. "We send news stories out all the time, positive stories on Gordon Smith. Gordon is not anti-Catholic."

Easton said the Smith campaign sent the transcript by fax only to the leaders and was not responsible for sending any to

schools.

Easton also said the Bruggere camp's protests are hypocritical in that three Democratic state legislators last week sent a letter to pastors urging them to support Bruggere and that religious conservatives with a divisive agenda will be out in force for Smith.

"We're not claiming outrage over here because of that," Easton said.

Bruggere canceled plans to appear at a candidates forum in Corvallis Tuesday night so he could formulate a further response to the religion issue, Moughon said.



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CORRECTION

The front page of Monday's paper included a photo caption incorrectly identifying a child participating in the Traditional Craft event as Johnathon Lund. The person is actually Alyssa Brahm. The Oregon Daily Emerald regrets this error.



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