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West University

Continued from Page 1

Mike Mansfield, University of Colorado school and community representative, said the Boulder City Council created a commercial redevelopment program to improve the look and state of "The Hill" in 1997 that renovated sidewalks and improved lighting along the streets.

After a student riot in 1997, the campus and community worked together to improve police and student relations.

"We're trying to get students to voice what problems they have with police," Mansfield said.

Part of that effort created a police review board and a monthly community forum called "Community Speakout."

Mansfield said the review board hasn't had to take any action yet, but the monthly meetings with the community have helped ease tensions between students and police.

"In the wake of the riots, students really didn't feel like police were treating them fairly," he said.

Now police arrive at parties joined by a student representative and a get-to-the-beer mentality.

"[The policy is] going after the keg instead of going after the revelers," Mansfield said.

Crime, student tension and con-

frontations with police are all down in Boulder, Mansfield said.

In Columbus, Ohio, the problem area is not three or four city blocks, but 300 city blocks.

Steve Sterrett, Columbus Police Department community relations director, said the campus neighborhood is a diverse place.

"It's a mixture of neighborhoods," he said. "There are old neighborhoods built around the turn of the century. There are low-income neighborhoods. There are minority neighborhoods. There are middle-class neighborhoods."

Abundant graffiti, now gone, was a factor in the area's decline because it attracted criminal elements, Sterrett said.

Police have begun increased patrols in the campus neighborhood during winter breaks to curb burglaries. And while crime is not dropping, Sterrett said he is optimistic about the future because the crime rate did not increase.

"There's a sense that the neighborhood is safer," Sterrett said.

At the University of California at Berkeley, substandard housing and loud parties get cleaned out by the Specialized Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART).

In 1996, the City of Berkeley contacted Oakland Police Sgt. Tom Hogenmiller to ask advice on

anti-crime strategies. SMART was created soon after based on Oakland policing techniques.

Hogenmiller said SMART uses neighbors to sue property owners over "quality of life issues."

Quality of life is infringed upon, according to a Berkeley city law, when neighbors have to put up with excessive noise, traffic, crowds or public drunkenness. SMART uses the law to drive out problem tenants and force owners of substandard property to repair their apartments and houses.

There is no SMART equivalent in Eugene. Neither is there a "Community Speakout" for students and police to work out problems between them.

But the city has taken some steps similar to what other colleges have done. It built a public safety station in the West University Neighborhood in 1996. The city also passed a law that year banning dogs and skateboards on 13th Avenue.

After studying campuses, Lee said he is now focusing more on Eugene than other campus communities because college campuses differ from place to place. He said every community has its own problems arising from different economic conditions, local geography and local cultures.

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