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Death on the Cruise

Similar, Unsolved Homicides End Seven Lives Linked to East Central Drugs, Prostitution

By Mike Gallagher

JOURNAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

PROSTITUTES OUT ON THE "CRUISE" still talk about the dead girls.

Their rambling stories sometimes are laced with fantasy, their memories clouded by drugs. On the East Central strip where instant gratification is the lifestyle, even the names of the victims sometimes become confused.

But the fear lingers when the prostitutes talk about young women running from the men in the white Cadillac, of "gorilla" pimps and of motel doors being broken down in the night.

The fear is based in reality. Six women and one man whose lives touched the subculture of prostitution and drugs along the Cruise were slain between August 1984 and March 1988.

All the cases are unsolved and several of the investigations still considered active. Although police have been reluctant to say the killings are

linked, there are some common threads:

- All the victims were killed by hand: beaten, strangled, stabbed or suffocated.
- In six of the cases the victims were killed somewhere other than where their bodies were dumped. Detectives in those cases still don't know where the victims were killed.

- All the victims were prostitutes or were involved with East Central pimps. All the victims apparently were in trouble with pimps they knew.

- The pimps in a number of cases were involved with two groups of drug dealers, one commonly referred to as the "Memphis Group" and the other a group of Cuban cocaine dealers. These two groups often did business together.

- In several of the cases a white Cadillac was involved.

- Police found virtually no physical evidence such as fingerprints in any of the investigations. In some cases, police believe the physical evidence was destroyed to thwart their in-

vestigations.

The Cruise is the stretch along East Central where prostitutes ply their trade. It can extend from Carlisle to Tramway in the summer. It shrinks when cold weather sets in.

Veteran officers said they couldn't recall a homicide in which the victim was a prostitute or involved in prostitution on East Central before 1984, when the killings began.

The first body turned up Aug. 10, 1984. Danessa Howard, 21, a young woman from a conservative Baptist home in Mobile, Ala., was found strangled in the laundry room of a small apartment complex near East Central.

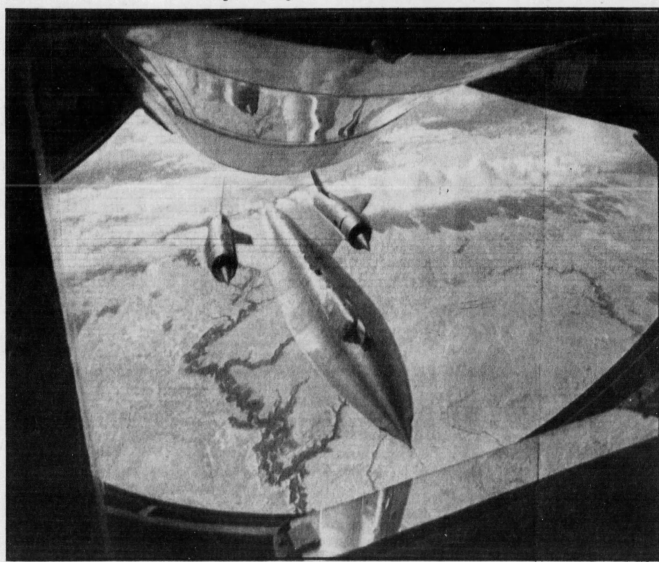
Eight months later, Jennifer Lynn Shirm, 22, who as a teen-ager testified in court against the man who molested her, was found beaten to death about 100 feet away from where Howard's body was found.

MORE: SEE DEATH ON PAGE A8



The Cruise is the part of Central where prostitutes ply their trade. It can run from Carlisle to Tramway in the summer.

Bye Bye Blackbirds



An SR-71 flies over Nevada Friday before landing at Beale Air Force Base, Calif. This jet, being refueled

from a KC-135 stratotanker, and other Blackbirds were retired during a special ceremony.

World's Fastest Planes Grounded

By Patrick J. Sloyan

NEWSDAY

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The Cold War ended last week for a band of Air Force pilots who have outraced the Kremlin's best defenses while flying missions aboard the SR-71 Blackbird at four times the speed of sound.

A combination of shrinking Pentagon budgets and improved spy satellite technology has turned the Blackbird, the world's fastest plane, into a museum piece and caused grumbling within the U.S. intelligence community.

"Operations have ended," said an Air Force spokesman at Beale, the headquarters for reconnaissance planes of the Strategic Air Command. The Air Force refuses to say how many SR-71s there are, but some of the planes will be turned over to NASA, some mothballed and nine will be sent to the National Air and Space Museum in Washington and other museums around the nation.

"I don't know if this is the right place to start cutting our capability," said former

Budget Problems, Improved Satellites Shoot Down Spy Jet

CIA Director Richard Helms. "A reasonable question is: What replaces the Blackbird?"

Helms was just one of former and current senior intelligence officials who have relished the photographs brought back by the Lockheed strategic reconnaissance jet that has survived more than 1,000 attacks while speeding at the edge of space.

The plane first flew in 1962, a successor to the CIA's U2, a civilian-manned jet, one of which was shot down by the Soviets in 1960 while pilot Francis Gary Powers was flying between Pakistan and Norway.

That U2 incident wrecked a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

It also led to new ground rules about

such overflights that restricted the Blackbird to the edge of Soviet borders.

But where the U2 was a slow, subsonic glider, the SR-71 ripped along at Mach 4 — if necessary — and at an altitude in excess of 100,000 feet. Along with its electronic defenses, the Blackbird was a flying insult.

"The SR-71 flies too high and too fast," Soviet Lt. Viktor Belenko told American intelligence after defecting in 1976. Belenko, who flew the Soviet's hottest interceptor, the Mach 2.8 MiG 25 Foxbat, said his missiles were useless above 88,000 feet and were unable to maneuver quickly enough if fired head-on at the SR-71.

"The Russians are trying all the time," said Maj. Randy Shelhorse of Fort Worth, Texas. "We can see their (interceptor) contrails as they come at us. . . . But they just can't touch us."

Shelhorse has ridden in the back seat of the Blackbird with Maj. Mac McKendree of Hialeah, Fla., for four years on mis-

MORE: SEE WORLD'S ON PAGE A5

Lottery Fans Spin Legislative Wheel

After 7 Years, Senator Banks on Win

By John Yaeger

OF THE JOURNAL'S CAPITOL BUREAU

SANTA FE — Supporters of a state lottery are before the Legislature once again, hoping, like so many who play the game in other states, that this time they'll win.

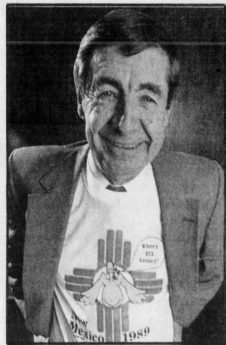
A lottery proposal has been a loser in New Mexico for each of the past seven years. But supporters will only have to win once because it is unlikely a lottery would be repealed once it's in place.

Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia have lotteries, a multibillion-dollar business that supporters say is a popular way for a state to make money, but that opponents say is an irresponsible tax on the poor. No state has dropped its lottery since New Hampshire started the first one in 1964, said a Duke University professor who co-authored a book on the games of chance.

The previous lottery plans in New Mexico have died a variety of ways. Some never made it out of House or Senate committees. Gov. Garrey Carruthers vetoed one, which tied the winning numbers to horse races, and the House killed last year's bill.

But supporters are undeterred. And Carruthers, despite his 1987 veto for technical reasons, says he isn't opposed to a lottery as long as certain conditions are met.

About half the money bet on lotteries in other states generally goes back to the players. Fifteen percent to 20 percent typically is used for operating expenses, and the rest — the profit — is spent on



Sen. James Caudell, sporting his lottery-promoting T-shirt, says "They love it better than horses."

programs ranging from schools to environmental protection to industrial development.

New Mexico's profit, under Senate Bill 91 sponsored by Sen. James Caudell, R-Albuquerque, would be split between human services programs and economic

MORE: SEE OTHER ON PAGE A3

Revenue-Raising Plans Create Taxing Dilemma

By Jackie Jadrnak

OF THE JOURNAL'S CAPITOL BUREAU

SANTA FE — Asking politicians to raise taxes in an election year is a little like sickening a bound dog on a skunk.

The immediate show might be entertaining, but the odor is likely to linger a lot longer than anyone wants.

No New Mexico lawmakers have been warily circling each other for the first two weeks of the legislative session, trying to avoid the stigma of being big spenders sticking taxpayers with higher bills.

So far, they've been waiting for Gov. Garrey Carruthers to reveal his proposal, something likely to happen Monday.

Speculation on his package has touched on a quarter-cent gross receipts tax in-

ANALYSIS

crease, even though Carruthers had said he would focus on many small pieces instead of one large tax hike. The current state gross receipts tax is 4.75 percent, with local add-ons.

"A quarter-cent is as reasonable as anything," said Rep. Don Silva, R-Albuquerque. "But there will be a list of demands to go with it."

Also mentioned frequently are closing off tax exemptions and increasing several small taxes.

Many are convinced Carruthers' package will include a strong endorsement of local-

MORE: SEE REVENUE-RAISING ON PAGE A3

Actor Tells Teens To Stand and Deliver

By Glen Rosales

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The teen-agers laughed at actor Edward James Olmos' antics, but the film and TV star also brought a serious message to Albuquerque Saturday.

"I am not more talented than you," Olmos told more than 100 teen-agers Saturday at the Youth Diagnostic and Development Center, which treats and counsels teens referred by the court system.

Olmos grew up in tough East Los



Olmos

Striving to talk to the teens on their level, Olmos peppered his talk with Spanish slang. He got their attention by

whistling, doing little foot shuffles and even playing air guitar during his stand-up routine.

"He insisted the youths call him Eddie, and told the audience to stop him at any time to ask questions.

"Where's Tubbs?" shouted Ronnie Rucker, 17, of Rio Rancho, asking about Olmos' "Miami Vice" co-star Philip Michael Thomas.

"He's probably lounging around somewhere in Miami," Olmos said with a grin.

Olmos, 42, came to Albuquerque to promote the importance of education at the request of the Albuquerque Hispano

Chamber of Commerce, which celebrated its 15th anniversary Saturday night at the Convention Center.

Olmos, along with salsa singer Ruben Blades, spoke at the banquet beneath a ballroom ceiling strung with lights.

And keynote speaker, U.S. Interior

MORE: SEE ACTOR ON PAGE A4

Olmos joins musician Rubén Blades on stage

G2

■ SUNDAY

Good Morning

Blackbirds have been cut from the defense budget pie.

Super Sunday

Broncos battle 49ers in the Super Bowl. Preview. E1.

Weather

Sunny. Warmer. Highs 50s. Lows in mid-20s. C8.

ARTS G1-8 DIMENSION B1-4 NEW MEXICO C1-4

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CROSSWORD F2 HOROSCOPE F2 TV F5

DEATHS C8 MOVIES G3-5 WEATHER C8

Death on the Cruise

Similar, Unsolved Homicides End Seven Lives Linked to East Central Drugs, Prostitution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The killings apparently ended in March 1988 with the death of Lisa Ann Fortin, 24. A friend of Shirm's with an equally troubled past, Fortin was found naked, stuffed into a garbage bag in the Southeast Heights. Cause of death: suffocation.

The other victims were Kathleen Bindel, 23, found beaten to death in Tijeras Canyon; Fern Stricklin, 28, found stabbed to death near East Central; Tyra Perry, 16, found stabbed to death a few miles from where Howard and Shirm were found; and Augustine Gurule, 23, a transvestite who was found beaten to death in the Southeast Heights less than a mile from where his friend Lisa Fortin's body was discovered a month later.

Five of the cases were investigated by the Albuquerque Police Department. Two, Perry's and Bindel's, were handled by Bernalillo County Sheriff's officers.

Police, frustrated by the lack of physical evidence and the unreliability of prostitutes who knew the victims, say the similarities and connections are too broad to be helpful in solving the cases.

"I think all these cases come out of a subculture that is small enough that these connections would turn up, but at the same time it may not be helpful in solving any of the individual cases," said Lt. Patrick Dunworth, head of APD's violent crime unit.

But former homicide investigators told the Journal that in 1987 the unit reviewed several of the cases and found a pattern of "pimps killing young women."

"The obstacles to solving the cases was not that we didn't find a pattern," said one retired investigator. "We had the circumstantial evidence to 'quote' solve the cases, but not the forensic (fingerprints, weapons, etc.) evidence to prove the cases."

Police worked hard to come up with forensic evidence, even using the latest laser technology to try and find fingerprints. It didn't help.

In 1988 at least one case, Fortin's, was submitted for review to national and regional experts on serial killers.

Capt. Dan Houston of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department said the thread connecting the two cases investigated by his detectives was the involvement of pimps in the lives of Perry and Bindel.

But sheriff's detectives are now following other theories in both cases.

"If we had all the answers the cases would be in court," Houston said.

APD detectives have shelved several of their cases, which Dunworth said will be periodically reviewed by new detectives to get a new perspective on old information.

On a new set of eyes, "I suspect something we haven't seen," Dunworth said.

When Danessa Howard arrived in Albuquerque in August 1984, she came to a city where the criminal subculture on East Central was changing for the worse.

"Little pink pills, sold on the street for \$35 to \$50 each, had made the Cruise a much tougher place."

The prostitutes called the pills "ludes" — a nickname that at first confused police. When someone referred to "ludes" in the 1970s they were talking about the depressant drug Quaalude, which sold for \$5 a tablet.

In 1984, "ludes" meant Preludin. Preludin meant big money for pimps who had prostitutes to get the prescriptions for the little diet pills.

UNSOLVED HOMICIDES

The fear lingers on the Cruise. Stories about young women running from the white Cadillac, of "gorilla pimps" and motel room doors broken down in the night. The fear is based on reality and seven people killed between August 1984 and March 1988.



Danessa Howard:
Hometown: Mobile, Ala.
Age: 21
Body found: Aug. 10, 1984
Cause of Death: Strangulation

Howard left Mobile four months before her body was found in the laundry room of a small apartment complex on Monte Largo NE. Before leaving Mobile, she worked as a hairdresser following her graduation from high school. She was arrested for prostitution in Denver, two months before her death. Police believe she was murdered by a pimp.



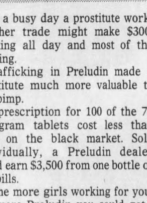
Jennifer Lynn Shirm:
Hometown: Albuquerque
Age: 22
Body found: May 29, 1985
Cause of Death: Beating

Shirm was raised in Albuquerque, where in the 1970s she was a key figure in a widely publicized child sex abuse case against former Bernalillo County Sheriff's Capt. Frank Turkal. Shirm was arrested for prostitution in 1963. A Bernalillo County grand jury charged Gene Autry "Clint" Hill with Shirm's murder, but the charge was dismissed within a month by prosecutors citing lack of evidence.



Kathleen Theresa Bindel:
Hometown: Carlsbad
Age: 23
Body found: Jan. 4, 1986
Cause of Death: Beating

Bindel lived in Albuquerque only a few months. Whether she was a prostitute was a matter for heated discussions between Bernalillo County Sheriff's detectives. A search of records found no conviction for prostitution, but detectives say she was seen in the company of a known pimp and several prostitutes during the weeks preceding her death. The homicide investigation targeted the pimp and prostitutes Bindel had befriended.



Lisa Ann Fortin:
Hometown: Albuquerque
Age: 24
Body found: March 19, 1988
Cause of Death: Suffocation

Fortin was 15 weeks pregnant at the time of her death. Fortin had spent most of her teen-age years on the street and was using crack at the time of her killing. She had been arrested in Las Vegas, Nev., for prostitution in 1987. Her naked body was found on the 600 block of Virginia SE, stuffed in a plastic garbage bag. An autopsy showed she had suffocated when duct tape was placed over her nose and mouth. Unable to pinpoint suspects, detectives have submitted the case for review by national and regional experts on serial killers.



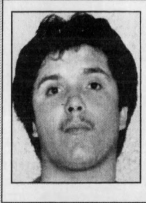
Fern Stricklin:
Hometown: Albuquerque
Age: 28
Body found Sept. 29, 1986
Cause of Death: Stabbing

Stricklin was the oldest of the victims. Stricklin had no convictions for prostitution, but on the night of her death she was seen in the company of several prostitutes. Earlier in the evening, she was seen with several men at a cocktail lounge off East Central. At least one of the men was an ex-convict. Her body was found on the 100 block of Grandview SE. Her throat was cut and the contents of her purse strewn about her body.



Tyra Perry:
Hometown: Albuquerque
Age: 16
Body found: Jan. 2, 1988
Cause of Death: Stabbing

The youngest of the victims, Perry was five months pregnant and at the time of her death was attending New Futures High School, a school for pregnant teen-agers. She was living with her grandparents in Albuquerque when she was last seen leaving for a date on Dec. 28, 1987. Perry's body was found near La Cueva campground, and identified several days later. An autopsy showed Perry had suffered two stab wounds to the back.



Augustine "Alexis" Gurule:
Hometown: Albuquerque
Age: 23
Body found: Feb. 4, 1988
Cause of Death: Beating

The only male victim, Gurule was well-known to police as a transvestite prostitute on Albuquerque's East Central. Gurule was found beaten to death at the corner of Louisiana and Kathryn SE. Detectives assigned to the case would not discuss details of the investigation. But people who knew Gurule say that he was last seen getting into a blue car with four men about a block off East Central.



Jennifer Lynn Shirm:
Hometown: Albuquerque
Age: 22
Body found: May 29, 1985
Cause of Death: Beating

Shirm was raised in Albuquerque, where in the 1970s she was a key figure in a widely publicized child sex abuse case against former Bernalillo County Sheriff's Capt. Frank Turkal. Shirm was arrested for prostitution in 1963. A Bernalillo County grand jury charged Gene Autry "Clint" Hill with Shirm's murder, but the charge was dismissed within a month by prosecutors citing lack of evidence.

On a busy day a prostitute working her trade might make \$300, working all day and most of the evening.

Trafficking in Preludin made a prostitute much more valuable to her pimp.

A prescription for 100 of the 75 milligram tablets cost less than \$100 on the black market. Sold individually, a Preludin dealer could earn \$3,000 from one bottle of the pills.

"The more girls working for you, the more Preludin you could get," one former pimp said in a prison interview. "The money was so big a lot of 'gorilla' pimps came to town. They'd do anything to get a girl and keep her. They'd keep her even if it meant burying her."

In 1984, for a variety of reasons, Albuquerque became a national hub for pimps trying to become Preludin dealers. Most of the Preludin traffic was controlled by what several local pimps called "The Memphis Group."

Last year the vice squad came to Albuquerque via Colorado Springs she didn't know how much money she was

worth to the two pimps she was traveling with.

Johnie Mae Hall, an experienced prostitute who can't share with Howard and the pimps, told police Howard was a "baby" when it came to knowing the streets. Howard was a "turn out," a girl so new to the street her pimp had to watch her constantly for protection and to make sure she didn't run away.

Howard had only been a prostitute for four months. She left Mobile on Good Friday 1984 with the man who later admitted to being her pimp. Her family described her as a good girl who was bored and tired of living at home. A few weeks before she left, she lost her job as a hairdresser when the shop where she worked closed.

Running away from her pimp was on Howard's mind when she came to Albuquerque. She was tired and homesick.

She told Hall the day before she was killed that she wanted to go home. A few days earlier she had called her parents and told them she would be coming home.

On Aug. 9, Howard and Hall were

working the street. Howard told Hall she was going home in the next few days. Hall went back to her motel room to wash some clothes and told one of the pimps that Howard was talking about leaving. She also told the pimp that Howard had been seen with a man from Mobile.

When Howard didn't return to the motel that evening, Hall wanted to call police, but the pimps wouldn't let her.

"They said to leave it alone, now," she said. "And they wouldn't even look for her."

Hall said she had been afraid for herself and for Howard because of "the kind of stuff we were going through" with the pimps.

"They had beat me. He choked her in Bakersfield and she had jumped out of the car running and begging him, telling him please quit beating her that she was tired," Hall told police.

The next morning residents of a small apartment complex on Monte Largo NE found Howard's body on top of a dryer in the laundry room. Police believe she was strangled

with an electrical cord and her body dumped there during the night.

The two pimps were obvious suspects, but detectives couldn't break their alibi. They said they had been together at their motel most of the night.

Detectives also were stymied by the lack of physical evidence. There were no fingerprints, footprints, hairs or other physical clues that might identify the killer.

While many of the prostitutes recognized a photograph of Howard, none had seen anyone physically confront or threaten the young woman they knew as "Slim."

Detectives couldn't find where she had been killed or the weapon. In hindsight, detectives acknowledge this too became part of the pattern.

It was May 1985 and Jennifer Lynn Shirm was worried. Her friends and sisters say she had a lot to be worried about.

She was working the Cruise and living in a motel with her new boyfriend, an ex-convict deeply in-

olved in a prison check forgery scheme. Her ex-boyfriend was a methamphetamine dealer from whom she had stolen a stash of drugs a month earlier.

She had just switched her drug of choice from speed to heroin and it was making her sick in the mornings.

Two pimps, one of whom had come to Albuquerque with Howard, wanted her to work for them. The pimps had been following her for weeks, sometimes in a white Cadillac. They chased her down the street several times, other prostitutes said.

Shirm told her sister they had broken into her motel room several times.

Shirm was an "outlaw," a prostitute who works without a pimp. That left her without protection from the crude recruiting efforts of the pimps who chased her.

Her body was found May 29, 1985, dumped in a parking lot outside a small apartment complex about 100 feet away from the laundry room where Howard's body had been found eight months earlier.

Detectives began investigating her former boyfriends. Unraveling Shirm's life was not easy.

One boyfriend with a history of beating her was in jail when she was killed. Another claimed to have been at a drug party with several friends that evening.

More than a month later, detectives got a break in the case. For the first and only time they found someone who claimed to be an eyewitness to Shirm's death.

Bonita Ruth Godin told detectives that Shirm had been killed by two men who wanted to "teach her a lesson." Godin said they drove her and Shirm to a field near the Albuquerque International Airport, where Shirm was beaten to death with a stick.

Godin's description of the beating matched the results of Shirm's autopsy so closely that detectives believed her.

But Godin then told police that she and Shirm were cousins and filled in details of a relationship between her and Shirm that detectives later learned were not true.

In a second statement, Godin admitted she had lied to detectives about her relationship with Shirm, but she also identified a photograph of one of the men she claimed had beaten Shirm as a pimp identified in the Howard case.

"The man was indicted, but prosecutors didn't charge him."

Vice Squad Head Says Level of Violence Rising

By Mike Gallagher

JOURNAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

Police Sgt. Ruben Davalos sat in a booth of an East Central restaurant one evening last November discussing prostitutes, violence, drugs and police work.

Two booths away, a group of teenage boys and girls, too young for the bar scene, discussed cocaine — who had it and where they might get it.

Drugs were the least of Davalos' concerns that evening. In his pocket he had a photograph of a man and a girl. The word on the street was the girl was dead.

"I'm going to have to see if the prostitute can identify the guy in the picture," Davalos said. If the girl was found dead and the prostitutes were cooperative, Davalos could give homicide detectives a head start in the investigation.

The girl was found a few days later alive, badly beaten by a "trick." She didn't press charges.

The same evening Davalos talked about his role as supervisor of the Albuquerque Police Department's three-detective vice unit, a transvestite prostitute was shot in the back by a trick. The transvestite couldn't identify the gunman.

"I would say the level of violence has increased since I was first in vice as a

detective in 1982," Davalos said. "The prostitutes resist more when they're arrested. We have crack now instead of alcohol or heroin. It seems like they're more agitated on and off crack than on depressants."

On a winter night there may be as few as 20 female prostitutes working the Cruise. In the summer their number increases to more than 100.

There are more prostitutes who only work at certain truck stops, escort services and lotion parlors.

Last year the vice squad averaged 45 prostitution arrests a month. It is a constant parade of changing faces, with a hardcore group of a dozen.

When Davalos returned to the vice squad in January 1989, he was getting a job he didn't especially want. His friends in the department say he took the job at the urging of supervisors he respects.

Davalos returned to the vice squad to find the streets had changed for the worse.

In the mid-1970s, a new sergeant was appointed to head the vice squad. Paul Williams, now a captain, brought to the unit a philosophy that the prostitutes were the hub of criminal activity.

Prostitution is a misdemeanor. But many of the people who associated with the

prostitutes — pimps, drug dealers, boyfriend — were involved in felony crimes.

While prostitutes were an eyesore on East Central, according to Williams' theory, they were not the major crime problem. If police focused on the felony activity that surrounded prostitution, APD could effectively limit the crime problem associated with prostitutes.

Williams and his successors, Lt. Patrick Dunworth, Lt. Joe Polisar and Capt. Scott Harris, carried out the philosophy with what each believes was success.

Along with arresting prostitutes, the vice squad made cases for narcotics, forgery, auto theft, gambling and organized crime.

In the early 1980s, the squad put together a federal White Slavery case against a notorious pimp.

"For six months every pimp in the Southwest avoided Albuquerque," said one detective involved in that investigation said.

In the mid-80s the department began to concentrate on prostitutes themselves, responding to citizen complaints and an increase in the number of prostitutes.

Former vice detectives refer to the program as "street sweeps." Prostitutes were arrested for minor offenses and released from jail in a few hours. The criminal activity that surrounded them was largely

ignored.

One veteran law enforcement official said the street sweeps sent the wrong message out along the routes traveled by prostitutes in the Southwest.

"The message was that whores in Albuquerque were being released on their own recognizance," the official said. "It wasn't the message police meant to send, but that was what went out."

At the same time, police pressure on the pimps/drug dealers and others in the prostitutes' sphere of criminal activity was eased.

"No one can say that change led to prostitutes getting killed," a former vice detective said. "But the police pressure certainly wasn't on the more dangerous people."

Davalos said he is trying to reinstate the philosophy that the prostitute is simply a hub of criminal activity.

"It's hard to do with three detectives," Davalos said. "Ten years ago we had four detectives."

In addition to prostitution on East Central, the vice squad beat includes escort services, liquor violations, massage parlors and gambling.

"Three detectives working vice in this town is like trying to shoot down a B-52 with a pea shooter," said former vice squad boss Polisar. "They just can't do it."

MORE: See DEATH on PAGE A9