

## THE SCENE: CENTER IS WEST DAYTON FIXTURE

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The Roosevelt building has undergone major changes since it was built in 1923. The Roosevelt Center a neighborhood anchor for more than six decades. When it was built in 1923, Roosevelt High School was the largest high school east of the Mississippi River. The four-story building at 2013 W. Third St. contains more than 400 rooms, covers almost two city blocks and was built to accommodate up to 2,500 students. But by the early 1970s, Dayton public school officials decided they no longer needed Roosevelt as a high school, and, in 1975, the Roosevelt "Teddies" were no more. The school district put adult education and other programs in the renamed Roosevelt Community Education Center, and Central State University West set up shop inside. In 1980-81, Roosevelt underwent a \$1 million renovation, and the center was being referred to as a potential catalyst for neighborhood renewal - a community recreation and cultural center. Soon after a December 1981 open house, the Dayton Police Department moved its Third District headquarters from its location in the 1200 block of West Second Street into the newly renovated building. Lt. John Krug, then the district's commander, was enthusiastic about the move: "This will about double our floor space," he said. The neighborhood rebirth failed to materialize to the extent city officials had hoped. The police district headquarters shifted over to a part of the Roosevelt complex on the southwest side of the main building. Today, about 265 employees work in the main Roosevelt Center building, which houses school administrative offices and city offices as well as CSU West. About 185 of the workers are Dayton Public Schools employees. DAILY NEWS Copyright, 1996, Cox Ohio Publishing. All rights reserved.

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