

Student edit take!

by Craig Eckert

NOTE: BLUEPRINT editor Craig Eckert recently spent an evening with the Roseville police.



Somehow the small unassuming Roseville Village Hall seems much larger and more assuming inside the police station.

Officers, deputies, and hired help seem extremely busy at their respective positions. Patrolmen are coming and going preparing for the change of watch which will come within the hour, it is now 3:00.

A tall graying man approaches and introduces himself as the lieutenant on the watch. The lieutenant in turn introduces a young patrolman who is waiting for the 4:00 to 12:00 watch.

The patrolman walks out the back door and heads down a small flight of steps to a waiting squad car. It's an emergency vehicle which is designed to give immediate aid to accident victims, and the officer points out it is not designed as an ambulance except in extreme cases.

The patrol car seems to be a paradox on wheels because right underneath the stretcher and medical kits, there are two riot batons about 3-4 feet long, and a case of MACE, and in the front of the car is a shotgun which looms as ominous as its reputation. However, the patrolman points out that the Roseville Police have never used the weapons which arm the car.

From the way the officer talked, the weapons were secondary in importance to the uses that the car has in highway, and traffic emergency service.

It was quite obvious that policeman was proud of the car which he calls his own for eight hours of the day.

The lieutenant again appears and says that if there are any questions, he'd be happy to answer them. He leads the way to a small cubical.

The room is only about six feet by ten feet, and is noticeably worse for the wear.

The lieutenant explained that some time back a girl has been brought in for shop lifting. "She was only about 85 pounds, a cute little thing, but when we got her in the station she began kicking and screaming, and swearing something awful.

"Well, we were going to take her to Woodview, until we could find some relatives. Apparently she was living with some colored guy in Minneapolis.

"When she found out we were going to take her there, she really began making a fuss and she wouldn't let anyone even touch her. And we couldn't put handcuffs on her because she fought so much that she'd cut up her wrists, and then they'd wonder what we'd done to her.

MCLU LAWYER SPEAKS

Juvenile rights reviewed

Young people are denied their rights every day. Some who are denied their rights are lucky enough to be defended by the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union.

Fred Hollender is a volunteer lawyer for the MCLU, which is an organization to "defend the Bill of Rights for everyone."

Hollender explained what happens when a juvenile is arrested.

The policeman must first tell you your "Miranda" rights. These include the right to remain silent, the right to be represented by a lawyer at all times, and the right to a phone call. If the individual cannot afford a lawyer, the state must provide one. No arrested person need submit to any questioning until a lawyer has been provided.

The law process "depends on the type of crime," explained Hollender, "whether it is a misdemeanor or a felony. After

a juvenile is arrested there is a presentence investigation."

Then the police authorities "use their discretion to decide what is best for the child."

If the parents do not want the child back it may be in the "best interest" for him to be put in a detention home, an institution or live with a relative.

A young person who is arrested "can press charges against the policeman if he feels he has been treated unfairly." They can do this in two ways. "One way is to bring the complaint to the attention of the police review board. Another way is to use the common law; make an arrest for assault, libel, or slander."

Hollender said there have been cases brought up where juveniles were arrested for shouting obscenities and for making hand signs at policemen. He cited one example.

"The Municipal Court found that those

words were not obscene when used to this policeman."

"Personally I don't think it's a good idea to do that sort of thing anyway."

If police have reasonable cause to believe there are any hard drugs at all involved in an incident they can take suspected persons to a detention home.

"This will insure that you are not dangerous to yourself, are not dangerous to others, and will return for a hearing. "However," Hollender said, "the police probably can't take you out of your home unless they are arresting you."

Hollender commented about police harassment of young lovers. Those who park along dark roads for a few minutes

may in fact be committing the crime of "disturbing the peace."

"They have the right to tell you to move on. The disturbing the peace is a vague law. They use it for a lot of different purposes."

Steven Jones and the Cops

by Karen Jarvis

Steven Jones is an average high school student from a middle class home. He has a "nice" home, a television set, and a Police record.

Steve was arrested for times in two years and sent to boys Totem Town for six months. During this time his attitude toward policemen was molded into hatred and disrespect.

"I never have liked pigs and I never will like them," he grinned-taking his hand out of his blackleather jacket. "I'll never do anything to help them. Like buying tickets to the policeman's ball. I can't forgive them for what they have done to me in the past."

Steve's first experience with the police was in Sept., 1968.

"I was suspended from school for smoking. I split and stole a car. I went to Wisconsin and broke into 11 cabins. I did \$1000 worth of damage. I was also arrested for drunken driving. I was sentenced to 6 months probation."

His parents turned him into the Roseville Police, who "tricked me into talking."

"Dope was added to my record also aiding and abetting a runaway."

"The police gave me the run around s _ _ . They didn't tell me my rights. They asked me if I was going to go drinking again. I HATED them."

The second time Steve was arrested, he got picked up by "good" cops.

"They told us to take off our belts and put our hands up against the car. They told us we had one phone call. I can't remember the rest. They took us to the Podunck Police Station and kept us there for 19 hours."

"These were good cops. They didn't hassle us about anything. They didn't beat us up. They didn't give any s _ _ about the way we were dressed or our hair."

Whenever a cop picks me up I don't give a s _ _ what they ask. I just answer the way I want to."

"The third time I was arrested I was considered an escaped convict from Totem Town. The cops asked me questions and I told the biggest lies."

The Mpls. Police arrested Steve Jones again when he escaped from Totem Town. Steve was "bumming around" with his friends on the West Bank.

"The cops rummaged through some tobacco we had. They asked a chick we were with what she was doing with a little hash pipe. I told them we smoked our tobacco on it. They grabbed the pipe and stomped on it. When they found the grass they asked me if they could take a blood sample. I said no. They would probably use a dirty needle."

This was Steve's last arrest. "Since I've gone straight the cops understand me better. The Roseville cops treat me like a different person."

Even though the police treat him better, Steve still feels a deep resentment toward them.

"They never allowed me to express my feelings. They always tried to punctuate what I said."

Steve is angry at them for "hassling" his friends.

"They killed one friend of mine," he said sadly looking up. "H was sitting in a stolen car. The car was stopped. The cop said he slipped and accidentally shot him in the head. He had no right to shoot him."