

Curfew roadblock breaks up teenage violators



CALLING to set up a roadblock is Sergeant James Rogers.



SERGEANT Rogers is giving last minute instructions to waiting police.



WAITING to leave for the roadblock are four of the seven motorcycle police.



CARS are checked for teenagers violating curfew and possessing alcohol.



OFFICERS quickly move teenage violators into waiting paddy-wagons.



SERGEANT Rogers gets ready to lead the convoy of cars back to the precinct.

Toys, furniture needed for senior class sale

Toys, jackets, jewelry, and old purses are just a few of the things needed by the senior class for their rummage sale to be held December 9 at the Rummage Center, 25 W Front avenue, from 9-3 p.m.

"We really need all the help available to make the sale a tremendous success," commented Helen Wall, senior class secretary.

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by Marlene Feves and Debbie Rovech

"It shall be unlawful for any child under the age of 18 years, to be in, remain in, or upon any street, alley, park, or other public place between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 AM the following morning, unless accompanied by a competent adult." This is the basic curfew law for high school students who indulge in late-night week-end activities.

At 12:01 AM the evening of November 10, a curfew roadblock was held at the intersection of SW Broadway and Main and we were in it!

It all began when we entered the police station at about 11:45 PM to find Sgt. James L. Rogers, who is in charge of "The First Night Detail in Cycles" briefing 7 volunteer policemen for the road-block which we were to attend. We listened, as Sgt. Rogers explained the reason for the roadblock, to halt teenage dragging and loitering in the downtown area, which merchants and theatre owners had been objecting to.

Ready for action, confusion, and the police brutality we had read about, as well as rioting by objecting teens, we followed a caravan of 7 motorcycles and 2 paddy-wagons, that successfully swooped down on a group of unsuspecting night-loving teenagers.

When we arrived, we were shocked to see how quickly and skillfully the officers took their places as roads were blocked and traffic backed up. We watched the procession moving like clock-work while trapped cars were checked for teenagers violating curfew, possessing alcohol or adults with expired driver's licenses. We laughed at one young man with a \$7,000 car, caught without a license.

Those cars in which the driver himself was a curfew violator, were guided to a convoy behind the paddy-wagon. Those teens riding with an 18-21 year old driver were taken out of the cars and placed in paddy-wagons. A near-by hippie bystander who had been thoroughly observing the entire roadblock commented, "This is America?"

What's it coming to?"

At about 12:30 AM the car-checking policemen climbed on their cycles and again with precision and skill escorted the convoy back to the precinct station, while we followed close behind.

We watched the kids being separated, searched, and filling out identification cards. Those with first offenses who were now initiating a record had smiles of amusement on their faces. The ones who had gone this route before didn't appear so happy because a second curfew offense means a weekend in a juvenile detention home awaiting Monday morning in court.

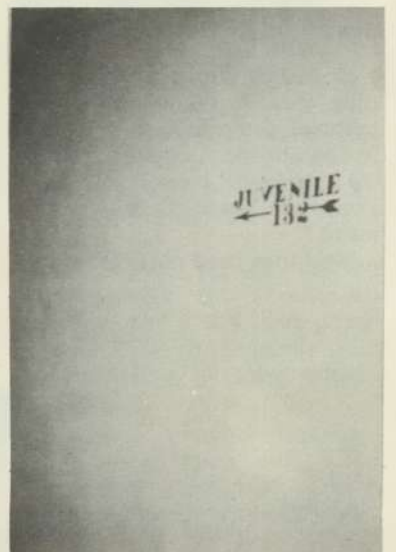
By 1:00 AM it was all over with! We counted 14 girls and 11 boys caught for violating curfew. Sergeant Rogers, the chief organizer for roadblocks, stated that "anywhere from 20-100 kids are usually picked up," and added that "they very seldom give us any trouble. Two of the boys were also charged with possessing alcohol. Tired parents were complainingly picking up the victims of a "first curfew violation" and taking them home.

Despite what teenagers think, curfews are made to benefit, not to punish. Curfews, like all laws, were made for a reason. Dragging and loitering on dark streets could easily erupt into trouble. The records made from curfew violations are often checked by colleges and employers, so could easily hurt your future.

We shall never forget the roadblock we saw or the extreme organization and courtesy of the police officers toward the curfew violators. It is up to all teenagers to be aware of the curfew laws and consequences of breaking them.

Mrs. Susan Dickensheet, a policewoman who questions the curfew-violating girls told us, "The violators are asked how old they are, and if they know the curfew time. If they say no, it's too bad!" Teenagers must also keep in mind that police officers are only enforcing the laws; they do not make them.

It was all fun while it lasted, but we certainly are glad we were on the outside looking in and not the inside looking out!



AS THE TEENAGERS arrive at the station, they see the sign "Juvenile 132."

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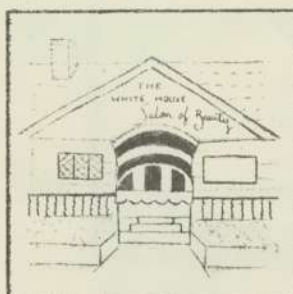
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