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Reporter spends night on beat

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stocks officer match the light that's twirling on top of the car. Then he reaches the driver's side, checking the back seat by shining his flashlight through the window.

HE POSITIONED himself so the driver is forced to turn around to face him.

After a few moments, the driver returns to the car. "I don't care to write the ticket," he says. "But if he didn't see the light, according to his driver's license, he should be wearing his glasses." Cranston points to his glasses.

It always gives drivers a chance to explain. But the one fact that helps them get an expensive ticket is their age. They end up admitting that they did something they shouldn't, he says.

Cranston always wears his helmet when he drives his car, he says. "I have to give out tickets. They aren't too good with the winter ticketed on the side at the neck. But the kids know that the gas with the helmet is going to take them," he explains.

Cranston is a bit thin in contact with

Farmington Hills' student population. You develop informants," he says. As he drives, Cranston reaches the driver's seat next to him.

"YOU DEVELOP a rapport with repeaters. You give them a break when you can."

He adds: "If a kid has a problem, he should not chance a ticket for something he did."

Suburban police deal with different problems than city police departments do. Here, he deals with juvenile problems breaking and entering.

I'm on my second generation of kids, right now. I have a brother, a younger brother, and a son. I know what the kids know. They tell their younger brothers and sisters about us. We don't have the problems we once had with the kids," he says.

He concedes that it isn't easy for a kid to admit he's been breaking and entering.

Even if they have a car, where can they go? There's just not that much for kids to do around here," he says.

While the police are watching them, the residents watch the police. Cranston says he's been known to shake his head when an officer wanted to shake me. I was driving and when I stopped at a light he disagreed with the bottom of my flashlight. Cranston remembers shaking his head.

THE PARTNER tipped him off to the bottom of the flashlight. "I'm not much of a drinker to drink from it. While a man has been known to do the patrol car passengers in the surrounding cars weren't hit in the job," he says.

The phone rings in the middle of the night. Cranston is called to check out an accident on North Eastern Highway and Fourteenth Mile.

Rushing to the scene with sirens wailing, the driver stops before the patrol car. One driver wants to run to the right and the other to the left. Cranston stands by as the patrol car arrives at the scene.

A young man who obviously drank too much of a beer parts is half heartedly

running through the snow, trying to out-stumble two other officers. He had managed to get his car to drive his orange sports car into a ditch.

The man's arms flail about as Cranston searches and handcuffs him.

No one reads the man his Miranda rights. That's necessary, often, he says, "but you can't read them something that could incriminate him. Cranston explains.

"IT'S OBVIOUS that he's drunk. We can go on physical appearance alone," Cranston adds.

The young man says that he had only three beers total, then jerks awake several times in the back seat of the patrol car.

You could have hurt somebody driving like that," Cranston reprimands. "You could have killed somebody. Did you think of that before you got into the car to drink?"

Did I hurt anybody? the man says carefully pronouncing each word like a elementary school child learning to read.

He's driven to the police station and put into a cell next to an other inebriated drunk, he says.

"We've got a local eagle in there," one officer says to Cranston.

"I'll see you. I'll get my lawyer," the cell mate yells.

For \$1,000, he continues, Cranston and the other man get a room at the police station and put into a cell next to an other inebriated drunk, he says.

For \$2,000, in the next bulletin.

He keeps screaming until he reaches \$20,000.

A moment of silence. Cranston looks up from his paperwork two rooms away from the cell.

NOT BEFORE HE CAN EXPRESS

some relief from the noise, the man starts shouting from \$10,000 all over again.

Everyone shakes their heads and continue to fill out their forms.

Cranston takes the stack of about six forms and to be filled in for the arrest of the driver of the car.

This isn't bad. Sometimes it takes us six hours to get all the information to arrest someone," he explains.

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