

2004 ANNUAL REPORT



LA CROSSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Chief of Police

Chief of Police

Edward N. Kondracki



Assistant Chief

Thomas Jacobs

Executive Secretary

Kathryn Gillen



Department of Police



EDWARD N. KONDRACKI, CHIEF
LA CROSSE WI 54601-3396

Honorable Mayor John Medinger
Members of the Common Council and
Police and Fire Commission
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

Gentlemen and Ladies:

The year 2004 City of La Crosse Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. This report consists of a statistical comparison of the activities of the La Crosse Police Department for the year 2004 as compared to the preceding years. The crime picture for the year 2004 continued a downward trend with major crime dropping eleven percent (11%) with 1947 major crimes reported in 2004 as compared to 2203 such crimes reported in 2003. This years drop in major crime has resulted in La Crosse's crime rate being among the nations lowest.

The various departments and bureaus of the La Crosse Police Department were successful in advancing the department toward the achievement of our 2004 annual goals and objectives. In May of 1998 we were the first municipal law enforcement agency to be accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group. Accreditation certifies our agency's compliance to a body of standards deemed essential to the protection of the life, health, and the safety and rights of the citizens we serve. I am proud to announce that after five years the City of La Crosse Police Department was the first municipal police agency to achieve re-accreditation in the spring of 2004. The past year has presented many challenges and opportunities for the men and women who police the streets of our community. Members of the department conducted themselves in an extremely professional manner while handling an unprecedented number of visits by individuals seeking political office. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all the men and women, sworn and civilian, who helped make 2004 a successful year in the history of policing our community. I am convinced that by working together, we can continue to combat crime and keep the City of La Crosse a safe place in which to live and work. To that end, I will remain open to suggestions, constructive criticism, and input from our community in order that the La Crosse Police Department might best meet the needs and expectations of the community it serves.

Sincerely,

Edward N. Kondracki
Chief of Police

Administrative Services

Assistant Chief

Thomas Jacobs

Administrative Lieutenant

Gerard Kabat

Training Lieutenant

Daniel Marcou

Records Division Sergeant

Patrick Hogan

Court Liaison / Traffic Investigator

Randy Rank

Property Section CSE

Kristine Starkey

Lisa Putz

Civilian Service Employees (CSE)

Diane Skifton

Teng Thao

Kong Lor

Robert Bott

Lacey Alton

Kong Xiong

Michael Nagy

Craig Jeranek

Frank Racich

Steve Butterfield

Records Division Civilian Employees

Jayne Abraham

Joanne Ruegg

Ann Wilford

Anne Heilman

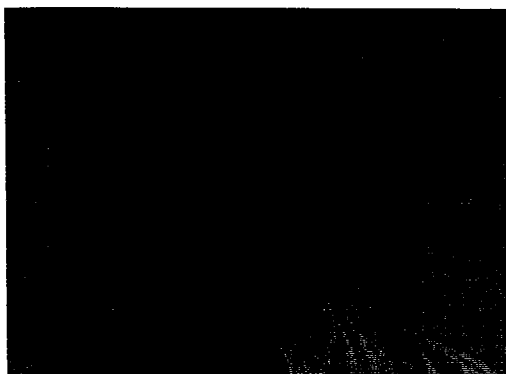
Kristi Sneath

Parking Utility Civilian Employees

Antoinette Gelbeck

Karen Novak

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



Thomas Jacobs, Bureau Director
Assistant Chief

The Administrative Services Bureau includes the separate division of Training, Property and Evidence, Records and Inquiry, Communications, Court Services, Civilian Services, Parking Utility and Research. The Bureau is responsible for the accounting, payroll, purchasing, planning, budgeting, reporting, communications and most other tasks that involve personnel or monies. All the hiring, research and analysis, appropriations, grants, inventories and funding concerns fall within this Bureau's responsibilities.

Over the course of 2004, thousands of hours of training were provided to the department. Along with training provided from outside the department, this number includes Field Training completed by Lt. Marcou and the Field Training Officers along with numerous other training opportunities. In addition to the traditional law enforcement training the department has continued its training across the country in many areas including homeland security training by the Federal Government. The Bureau also started up a UW-La Crosse parking program in which university students are trained and used to issue parking tickets in the university area.

The Records Division, charged with the responsibility of all our Department records, as well as communication hardware, continues to accurately detail the work of our department members. Our department continues a cooperative agreement with area law enforcement for the improvement of the current record management system.

The property division also continues to pursue excellence in the operation with fine tuning of the property area and the evidence that they handle. The improvements have met and continues to exceed the high standards of accreditation.

Members of this Bureau, along with members of other bureaus, have put in a lot of long hours preparing for re-accreditation, which was successfully achieved in the past year. The department also had to deal with the impact of numerous presidential campaign visits by many candidates. It was a challenging year for this Bureau in which challenges were met and many goals achieved.

Administration

LA CROSSE Tribune

Sunday, January 25, 2004

\$1.75

La Crosse owed \$700,000 in overdue parking tickets

Other Wisconsin cities use warrants, collection agencies to recoup money

By JOAN KENT
La Crosse Tribune

Nearly \$700,000 in overdue parking fines are owed to the city of La Crosse, where officials might consider stepping up collection efforts.

The biggest debtor owes about \$1,887 on one license plate, and the majority of the top 20 delinquents owe more than \$1,000. In all, there are 35,719 unpaid parking tickets dating back to 1998.

Using two full-time clerks and one part-timer, the city collected \$883,534 last year. But it appears other Wisconsin border towns with

colleges have instituted more methods to collect on past-due parking tickets.

Municipalities' best tool for collecting overdue fines is to suspend the debtors' license plates. Overdue tickets are reported to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, which then suspends the plates. If a law enforcement officer stops the driver, the officer will learn that the plates are expired and can cite the person for driving with suspended plates.

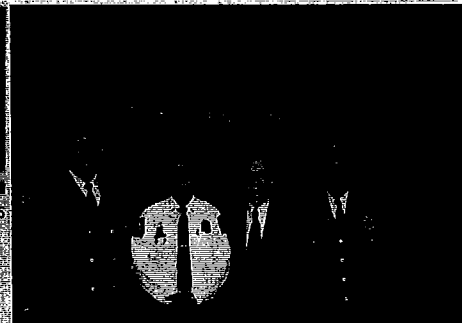
Drivers with overdue tickets also will run into problems when

See TICKETS, A-6



PETER FRASER/LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

Mike Nagy, a civil service employee with the La Crosse Police Department, holds a parking ticket near the Western Wisconsin Technical College campus in La Crosse. The city has thousands of unpaid parking tickets, and leaders are considering doubling fines upon the fifth ticket.



2004

Local police take 'Oath of Honor'

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character or my public trust.

POLICE 'OATH OF HONOR'

By LINDA McALPINE
La Crosse Tribune

In more than three decades in law enforcement, La Crosse Police Chief Ed Kondracki said he has never seen anything like it. Do a huge white poster, surrounding Kondracki's own, are the signatures of all 88 of the department's sworn officers. They have all voluntarily

taken the newly introduced Law Enforcement Oath of Honor.

The oath, which was administered Wednesday to the officers by Municipal Judge Dennis Marchant. "On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character or the public trust."

See OATH, B-2



PETER FRASER/LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

Items confiscated at Bush rally can be claimed Friday

Anyone who had to give up belongings during screening for resident Bush's appearance in La Crosse last week can claim them Friday at the La Crosse Police Department.

The Secret Service confiscated a number of items from people attending the rally in O'Connell Park last Friday, then

will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Friday for owners to claim their property, which includes suitcases, umbrellas, pocket knives, lawn chairs and strollers.

The owner will need to fill out and sign a claim form, available at the department's front



MIKE DANOV/LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

After 31 years with the La Crosse Police Department, Kathy Gillen, right, is retiring. "She is an example of the highest ethical values," says Chief Ed Kondracki, left, "and is an individual whose shoes will be difficult to fill."



LA CROSSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF
La Crosse Police Department to continue telling its history with new book

SIX CHIEFS LATER ...

DIVERSITY TRAINING



**LEADERSHIP IN
DIVERSITY:
MEETING THE
NEEDS OF A
DIVERSE
COMMUNITY**

Sponsored by:

*La Crosse
Police Department*

October 27, 2004



Alcohol task force

Alcohol task force to make recommendations

By JOAN KENT
La Crosse Tribune



Houllhan

A task force looking at alcohol issues in La Crosse might recommend that a professional evaluate possible improvements to the Riverside Park levee, such as fencing and lighting.

Insurance Co., the city's insurer, will have someone look at the park's infrastructure, City Attorney Pat Houllhan told the task force.

issues may have been the responsibility of someone else, he said. The task force had scheduled a closed session to discuss the claim of Dion's family against the city. The city denied the claim in September, and the family has six months in which to file a lawsuit.

Houllhan advised that a closed session could not be held.

In preparation for giving recommendations to the council, task force members each gave their top priorities. They included key registration, rail or fence and lighting at the levee, training for people who serve alcoholic beverages, limitations on

mittee to see that the recommendations are enacted.

The group hopes to give its recommendations to the council in February, said Petra Roter, task force co-chairperson.

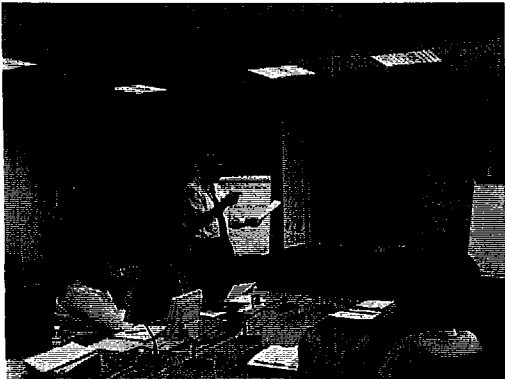
Based on a recent meeting with members of the Tavern League, Police Chief Ed Kondracki said they are cooper-

Alcohol task force hears other cities' ideas

By JOAN KENT
La Crosse Tribune

La Crosse is not alone in its concern about underage binge drinking, Police Department Lt. Bob Berndt told the city's task force on alcohol issues.

"Alcohol is the number one killer of our youth," said



Drinking this year? They'll be watching

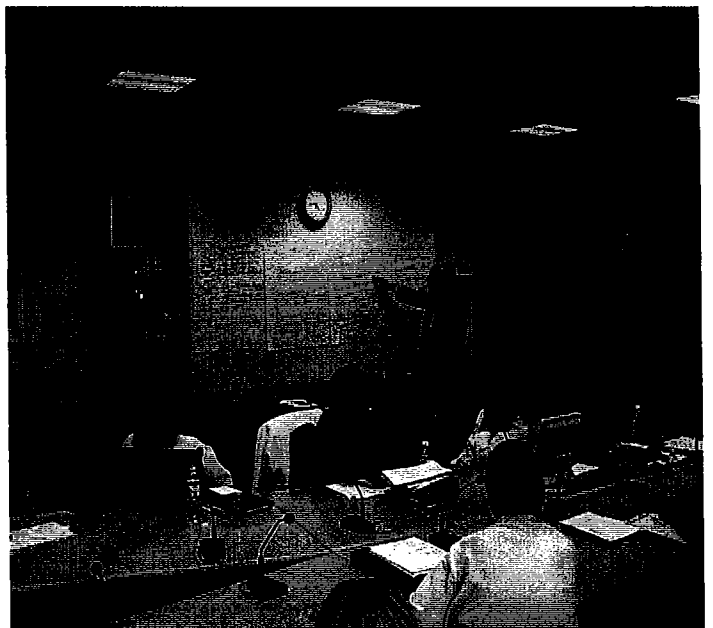
Police, tavern owners, Oktoberfest officials plan to be on alert for overindulgence



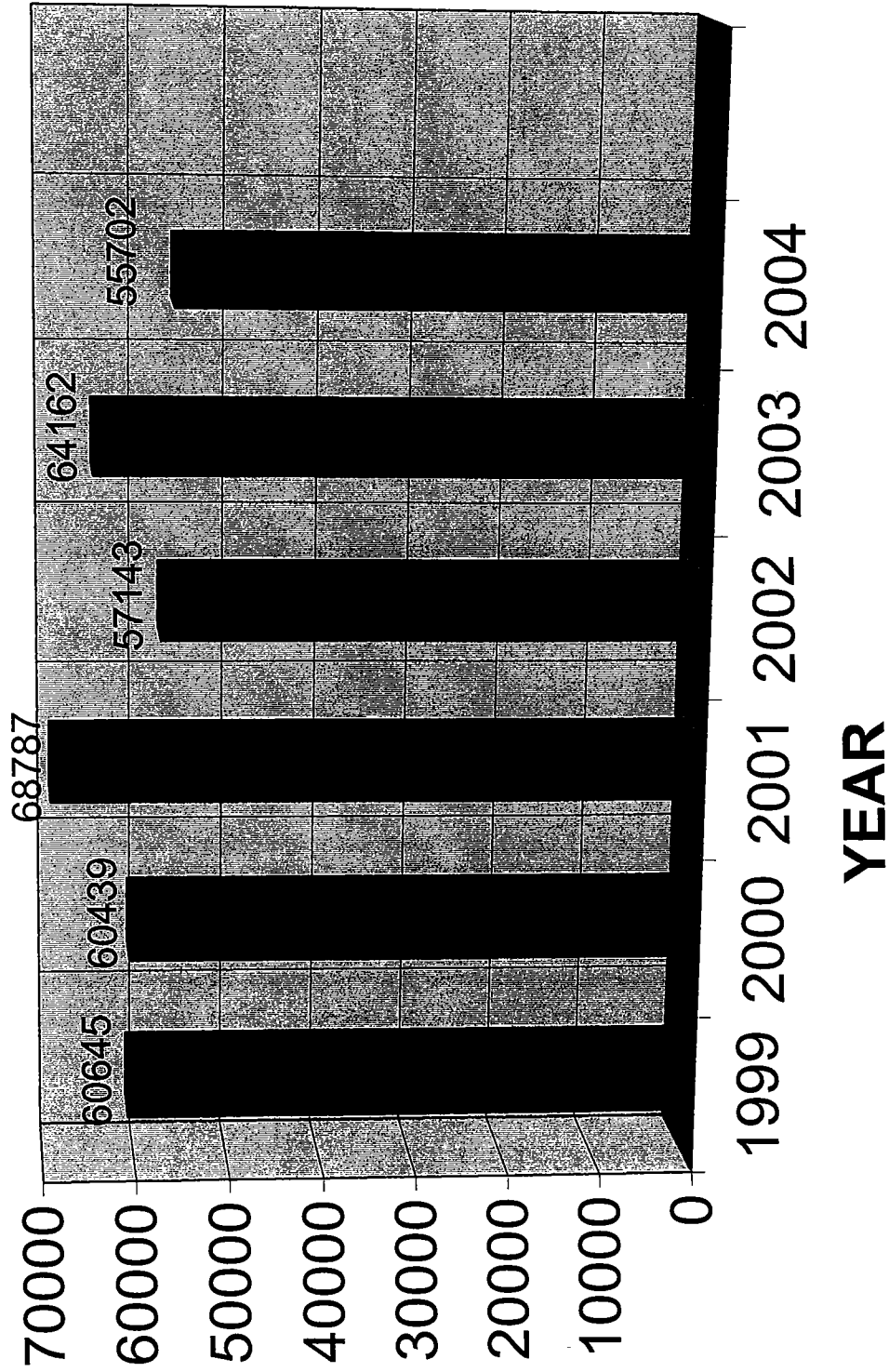
THURSDAY FILE PHOTO

We must continue to curb our self-destructive drinking

In 2004 the mayor appointed a task force of 15 community members, including Chief Kondracki, to look at community issues involving alcohol. The group was to examine community issues with alcohol and make recommendations to the mayor and city council. The group looked at 4 main areas; Excessive use of alcohol, Ordinances, Infrastructure and safety, and Community readiness.



PARKING TICKETS



Community Services

Bureau Director—Captain
Douglas Groth

Bureau Lieutenant
Robert Berndt

G.R.E.A.T. Lieutenant
Raj Ramnarace

D.A.R.E. Sergeant
Roger Barnes

Traffic Safety Officer
James Mc Dowell

Community Oriented Policing (COP) Officer
Scott Harmel

DARE / GREAT Officers

Gregory Walters
Kurt Weaver
Shawn Kudron

Averie Schott
Linnea Moren

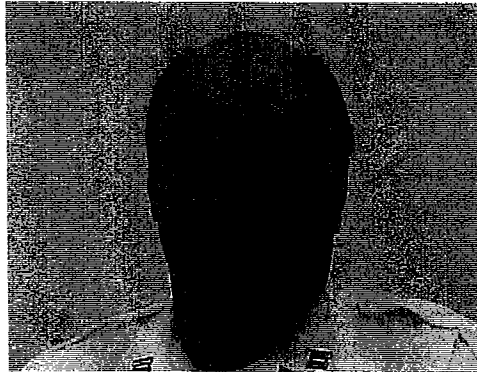
School Liaison Officers

Evan Stone
Michael Coady

Thomas Walsh

G.R.E.A.T. Civilian
Teri Serres

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU



Douglas Groth, Bureau Director
Captain

The Community Services Bureau is primarily responsible for Community Crime Prevention Education, News Media Relations, and School Safety Programming. They also provide Staff support to the Patrol and Investigation Bureaus and administer Federal and State Grants valued at over \$400,000 annually.

Some of the major programs which fall under the responsibility include the delivery of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Elementary and Middle School Curricula and the delivery of the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training) Curricula in our schools. Other major programming responsibilities include the Crime Stoppers Program, the NYSP/GREAT Summer Program, the Police Department Intern Program, Neighborhood Watch and Community Policing. They also administer the GREAT Midwest Regional Training Site which is responsible for training and certifying Police officers to deliver the GREAT Curriculum and to identify and certify GREAT officers in the Management of the GREAT Program nationwide by becoming certified National Training Team members.

The community deserves and demands a professional, responsive, open police department. In response to these reasonable demands, the driving force behind the Community Services Bureau is found in our departments Mission, Vision & Values statements. With Community Policing as the Corporate Philosophy, they strive to maintain and develop partnerships in the community to gain constant insight into new strategies to solve problems. They are committed to continue on a path that will enhance services throughout the department. This bureau has seen the retirement of three longtime members: Captain Douglas Groth, Sgt. Roger Barnes and Officer Greg Walters. As Captain Abraham takes over the bureau they will continue to serve the department and the community of La Crosse.

Community Services Community Services

2004

After 20 years, Crime Stoppers shows success in the numbers

By DAN SPRINGER
La Crosse Tribune

It takes more than a little magic to bring lawbreakers to justice.

La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers, which was formed 20 years ago, has cleared more than 1,700 cases, and 1,336 of the 1,411, 95,000 have been

the group has been able to see convictions in nearly 95 percent of the tips received, based on Crime Stoppers tips.

"With a conviction rate of more than 94 percent, we wondered if there was some magic going on in the courtroom," Groth said as he looked around in Judge Ramona Gonzalez's courtroom. "There's not a lot of

The tip line has led to a 94 percent success rate of criminals convicted based on information provided by the community.

helped solve 1,700 cases, Groth said. The conviction rate is just one of the impressive stats raked up by Crime Stoppers since May 1984.

In the past 20 years, Crime Stoppers tips have helped recover more than 487,000 worth of property and narcotics, and have paid out more than \$125,000 in

time that person calls in a tip. A letter is placed before the code number.

Groth said there are some people who have made so many reports to the tip line that Crime Stoppers has almost gone through the alphabet.

In 2003, the group issued 291 code numbers, about 40 to 50 more than an average year.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT NOT A WASHOUT



TO KEEP KIDS OFF DRUGS

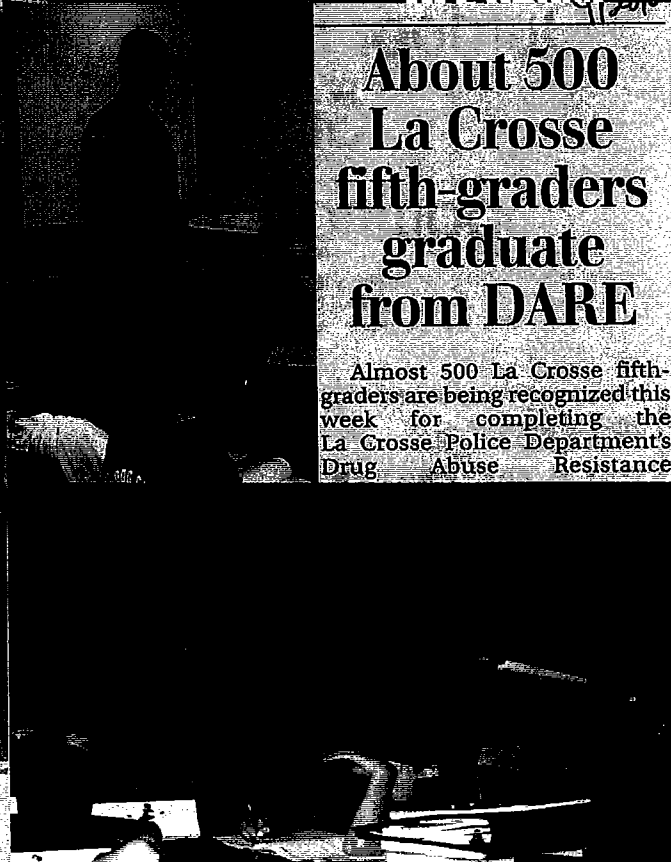


About 500 La Crosse fifth-graders graduate from DARE

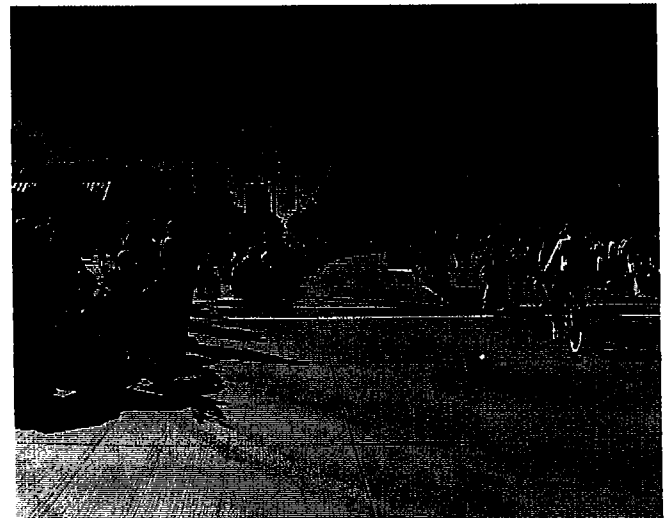
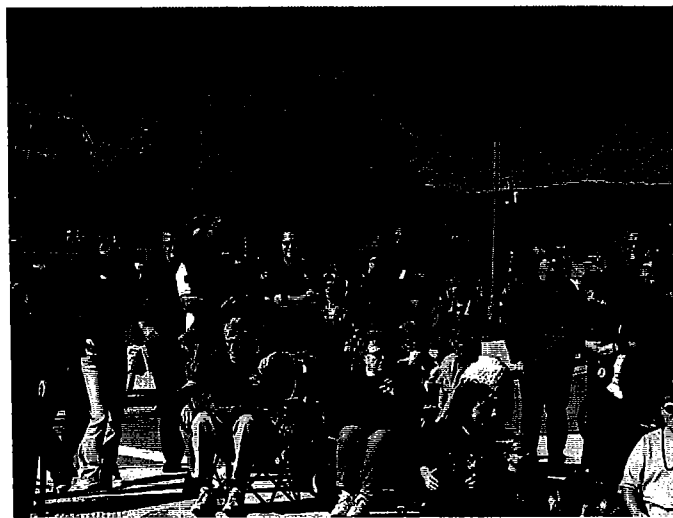
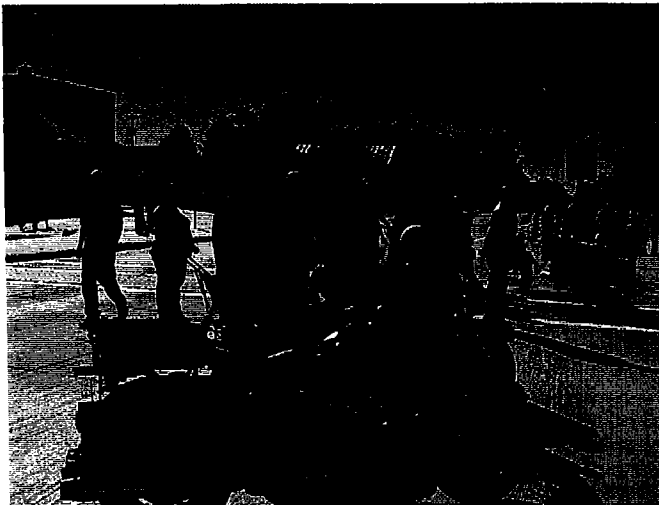
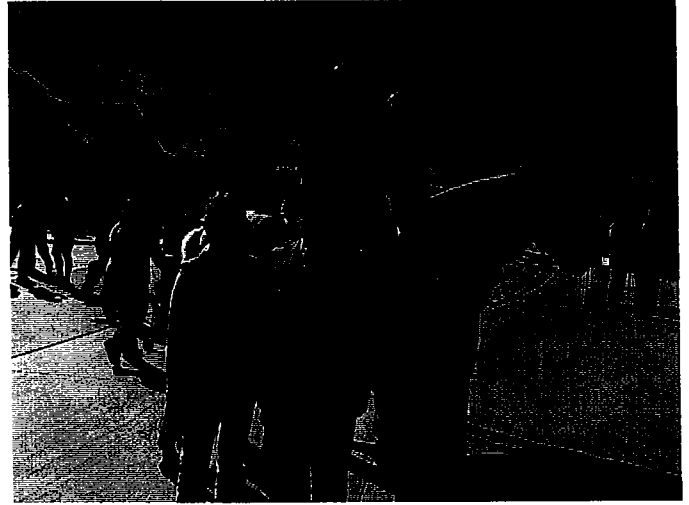
Almost 500 La Crosse fifth-graders are being recognized this week for completing the La Crosse Police Department's Drug Abuse Resistance

Thomas Reichelt helps her father, Len Reichelt, 84, walk through the water Tuesday evening to get to the Wood Park Shelter while the two were attending the National Night Out block party in La Crosse.

Downpour doesn't dampen Night Out



Be your best at the Fest 2004



Investigative Services

Bureau Director—Captain

Michael Brohmer

Bureau Lieutenant

Richard Mix

Juvenile Division Sergeant

David Schatzley

D.A.R.T. Sergeant

Sally Newman

Bureau Sergeant

Bradley Burke
Kathryn Larson

Cary Joholski
Patrick Marco

Bureau Investigators

Marion Byerson

Michael Blokhuis

Juvenile Division Investigators

Michael Rosenau

Jason Mahairis

School Liaison Officers

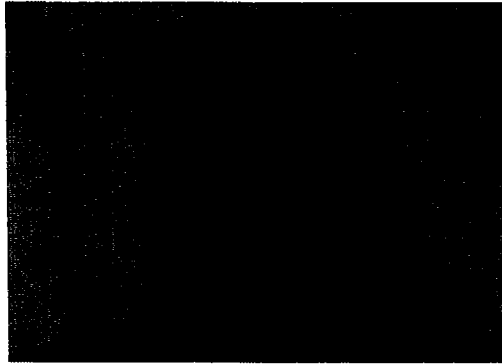
Jeffrey Graves

Rick Pfennig

Bureau Secretary

Linda Reuter

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



Michael Brohmer, Bureau Director
Captain

The Investigative Services Bureau is responsible for follow-up on all criminal cases initiated in the Field Services Bureau as well as those initiated by investigative staff. The Bureau is divided into three major divisions: general investigations, narcotics and juvenile crime and victimizations. The Juvenile Division has a sergeant, two investigators and two police liaison officers. The balance of the bureau personnel are assigned to general and narcotic investigations. All investigative sworn staff members are capable of performing specialized tasks, which allows considerable flexibility for follow-up to all types of criminal activity.

Personnel generally work two shifts providing expertise in assisting on major crime investigations as well as initiating investigations, developing sources of information, and providing the community with personnel specific to their needs.

The Investigative Staff is actively involved in community policing as personnel serve on a variety of state and local committees, which include: the Child Advocacy Center Planning Committee, La Crosse Area Health Initiative, Coulee Region Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, La Crosse Juvenile Fire Starters Program, La Crosse County Drug Court Task Force, Project Renew, Wisconsin Juvenile Officers Association State Board of Directors and the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators to name just a few. The investigative staff also provides a variety of educational and instructional training presentations at UW-La Crosse, area high schools and middle schools, local hospitals and neighborhood groups.

The Bureau is integrated in the school system with police liaison officers serving both public high schools. The Domestic Abuse Reduction Team (D.A.R.T.) also plays an important role in helping the bureau reduce the number of domestic related calls while bringing services to those in need.

The clearance rate for reportable Part I Crimes remains well above the national average. It is through the combined efforts and investigations between the Field Services Bureau and the Investigative Services Bureau that increases the efficiency and effectiveness.

Hometown

2004

Friday, April 9, 2004

Local and regional news

City's crime among nation's lowest

LOW CRIME RATES

A ranking of metropolitan areas with populations of 50,000 to 250,000. The cities are:

- 1) San Antonio, Tex.
- 2) San Antonio, Tex.
- 3) Wheeling, W. Va.
- 4) Philadelphia, Pa.
- 5) Waterloo, Wis.
- 6) Nashua, N.H.



9/15/04

Robbery suspects arrested

Teenagers linked to crime spree

By DAN SPRINGER
La Crosse Tribune

ROBBERY SUSPECTS' ARREST ENDS CRIME SPREE

From A-1

Two La Crosse high school students made brief appearances in La Crosse County Circuit Court on Tuesday.

They are due in court Thursday to face formal charges.

Brandon T. Hoffman, 17,



Hoffman



Shaw

"These young people apparently decided that crime was their life task. Unfortunately we were in the path of that decision. Hopefully though, it will make us stronger and keep us working together and looking out for each other."

RANDY EDDY SR., North Side businessman

Police search for suspect in North Side bank robbery

By LINDA McALPINE
La Crosse Tribune

A sandy-haired man, about 40 years old, walked into the First Federal Bank in Bridgeview Plaza Wednesday afternoon and told a teller he had a gun and wanted money.

La Crosse Police Chief Ed Kondracki said the robbery occurred about 3:30 p.m.

"The suspect is described as being a white male, approximately 40 years old, 5 feet 9 inches, of average build with sandy brown hair with some graying," Kondracki said.

Police are looking for 5-foot-9-inch white man, about 40, with sandy brown hair, and a dark blue Chevy Lumina.

might have escaped with has not been determined.

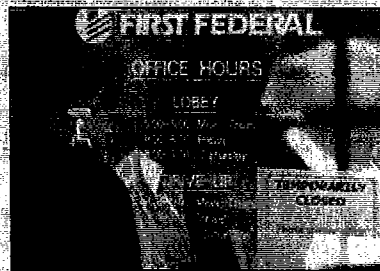
According to Kondracki, police also are looking for a dark blue Chevy Lumina that might have been involved with the robbery. Inside Bridgeview Plaza, an officer blocked the door into the bank which was closed and dark

could use the free-standing drive-through service just a block away.

"This will be a joint investigation, as the FBI has been called in because this is a federal reserve bank," Kondracki said.

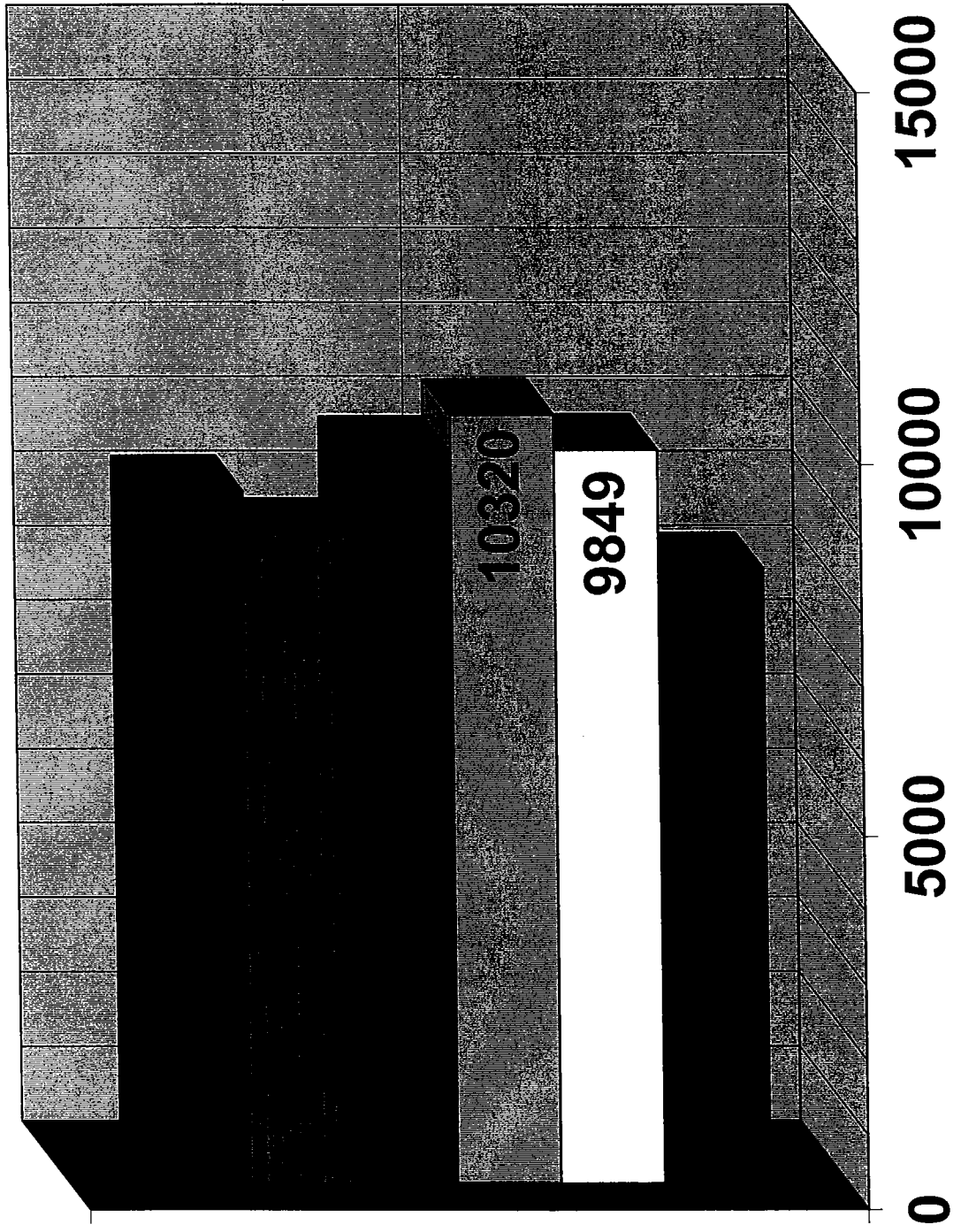
Kondracki urged anyone with information about the robbery to call the La Crosse Police Department at (608) 785-5962.

Callers can remain anonymous by calling the La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers at (608) 784-8477 or 1-800-947-3577. Callers can be eligible for rewards of up to \$1,000.



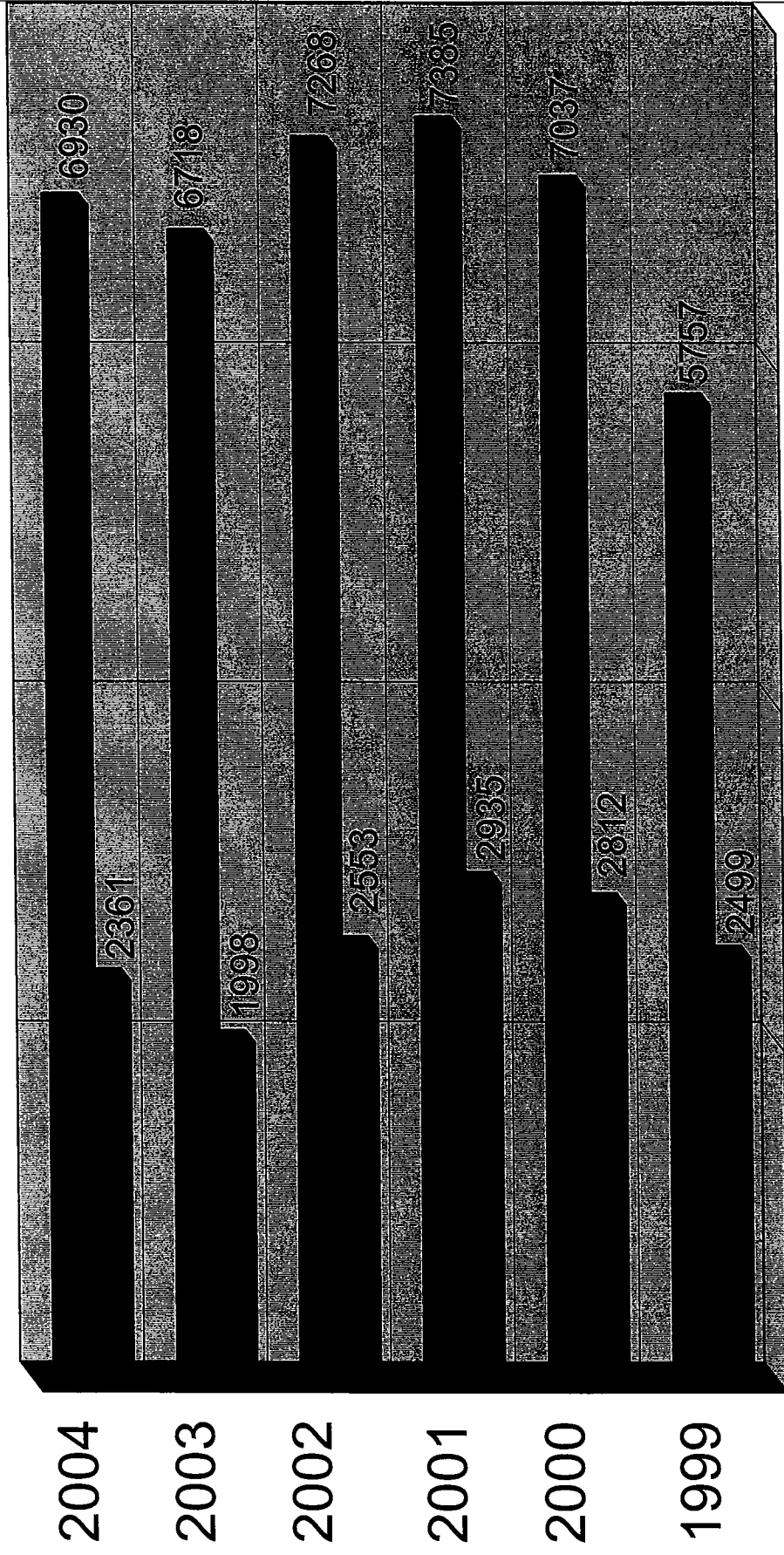
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TOTAL PART I & II ARRESTS



- 2004
- 2003
- 2002
- 2001
- 2000
- 1999

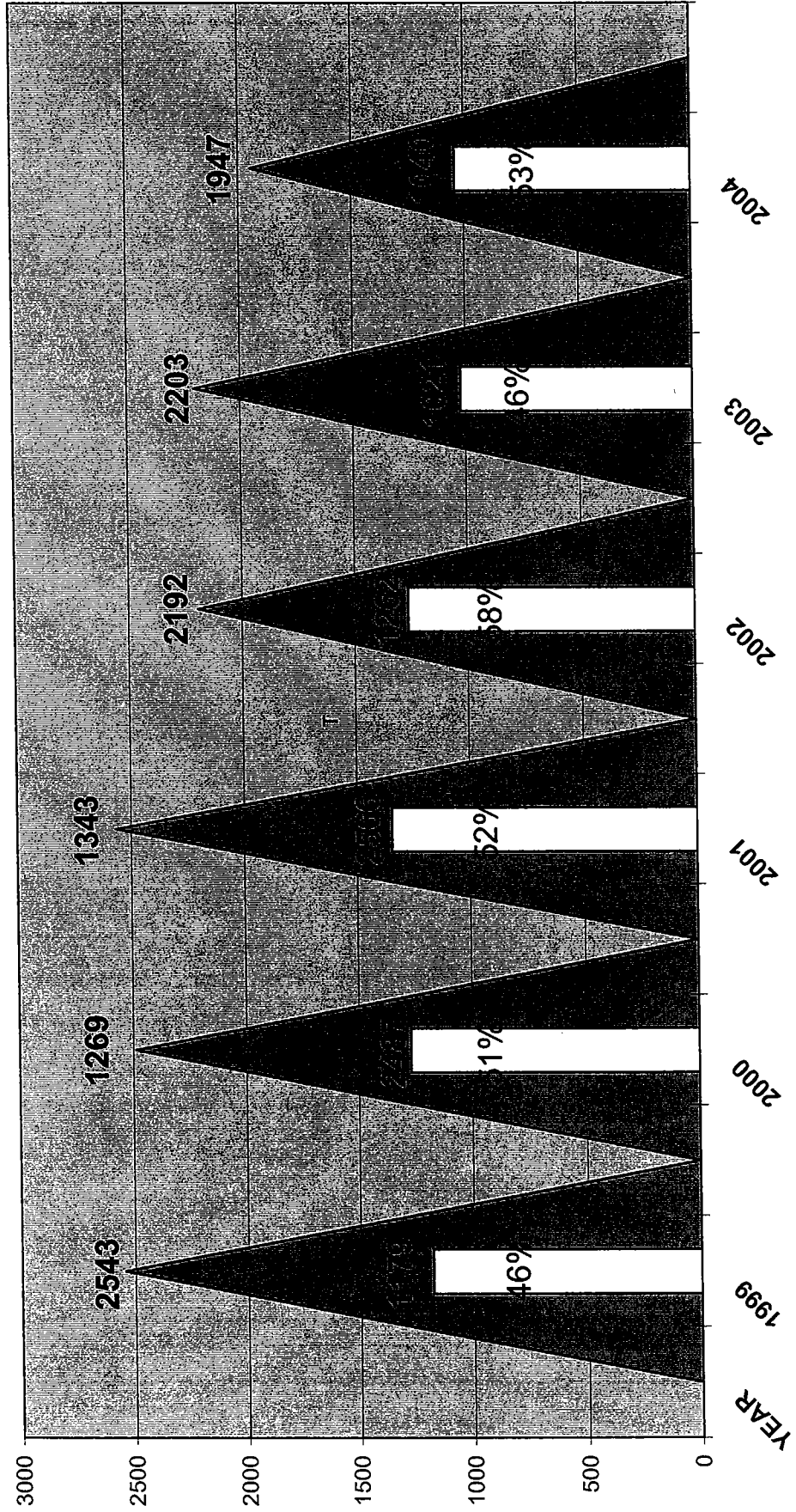
JUVENILE V. ADULT ARRESTS



■ JUVENILES ■ ADULTS

PART 1 CRIME & CLEARANCE

■ CRIME □ CLEARANCE



Field Services

Bureau Director—Captain

Gary Uting

Shift Lieutenants

Raymond Serres
Robert Abraham

Robert Lawrence

Shift Sergeants

Gregory Kloss
Ferdinand Roth
James Ballas
Jeffrey Smith
Joe Smith

John Ruegg
Troy Nedegaard
Jerome Korger
Jason Melby
Gary Hauser

Officers

Steven Holinka
Alan Baldwin
Steven Thornton
James Kirby

John Matuska
Brian Olson
Andrew Angst
Richard Rank

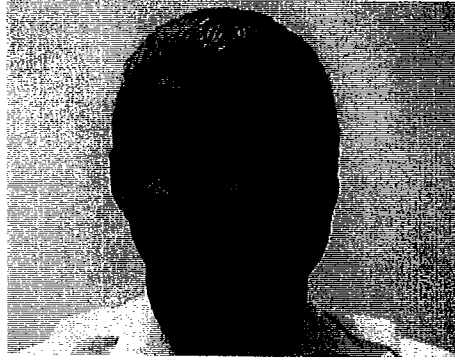
Gary Clements
Scott Delaney
Mark Rosenmeier
Robert Wiczorek

Heath Graves
Bradley Stoner
Failing Yang
Ronald Secord
Teri Roden
Grant Gyllander
Charles Frandsen
Ryan Stenslien
Tony Delap
Andy Rosenow
Ryan Prock

Gregory Fitzsimmons
Lisa Barrix
Alan Hagen
James Gegenfurtner
Eric Christianson
Jacob Jansky
Ryan Fitzgerald
Craig Oleson
Jon Wenger
Andrew Gavrilos
Tom Hansen

Alan Iverson
Corrie Korn
Kirk Flatten
Brian Thomson
Tony Leque
Bradley Wurtzel
Matthew Malott
Steven Pataska
Brian Deyo
Daniel Kloss

FIELD SERVICES BUREAU



Gary Uting, Bureau Director
Captain

The Field Services Bureau never Closes; We Protect and Serve 24 Hours a Day Every Day of the Year!

The bureau consists of three shifts; each commanded by a lieutenant and supervised by three sergeants, with support of a 4th shift of patrol officers assisting with peak calls for service during the evening and early morning hours. Services provided include community policing, traffic enforcement, accident investigation, criminal investigation, special event public safety, honor guard duties and handling service-oriented calls with the public.

The bureau provides command, control and most of the officers for emergency response situations, dignitary escort and protection, horse patrol, motorcycle patrol, bicycle patrol and foot patrol. Support is provided to and received from the police chaplain program, police reserve program and the police internship program. The key to our success is our ability to conduct immediate problem solving by team effort working directly with the community involved.

The Field Services Bureau personnel are among the best trained officers in the state of Wisconsin with many bureau officers providing training to other officers throughout the state. Many of the bureau officers have attended Federal Homeland Security Training and State Emergency Management Training.

The bureau had a busy year with numerous presidential campaign visits throughout the summer and fall. The officers continually demonstrate the highest degree of professionalism under difficult circumstances as they serve the community under the department's mission statement.

Field Services in the news



16 receive police department awards

By LINDA McALPINE
La Crosse Tribune

On March 23, 2004, Smith helped an officer who was being battered by a suspect who was being arrested. Smith physically assisted in restraining the suspect and getting him handcuffed.

River last December. The Chief's Superior Achievement awards, presented to officers and department members, were given to: Matt Jahr, Lt. Dan Mancou, Lt. Rob Abraham and officers Greg

9/23/04

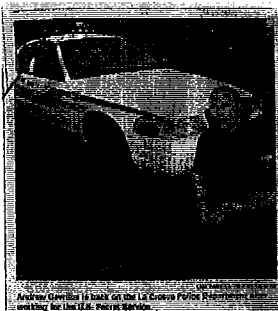
Police praised at public hearing

By DAN SPRINGER
La Crosse Tribune

If comments made during a public hearing Wednesday are any indication, the La Crosse community is by-and-large happy with its police department.

During the hearing held as part of the La Crosse Police Department's re-accreditation application with the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group, about a dozen people came forward to say mostly good things about the job the department is doing.

See POLICE B-2



A man of many secrets

Local officer enjoyed stint in U.S. Secret Service

By LINDA McALPINE
La Crosse Tribune

INSIDE

Andrew Gombas is back on the La Crosse Police Department's streets. He served in the U.S. Secret Service for two years, protecting President George W. Bush.

His previous assignment to the police department helped him to feel at ease in the job. "It was really rewarding to see, because I knew the police



Hundreds of protesters turn out to greet Bush

By LINDA McALPINE
La Crosse Tribune

Uncle Sam, the Statue of Liberty, an Arab sheik and a Hamas flag were among the hundreds of protesters who turned out to chant, shout and sing their displeasure with President Bush.

Beating drums, a forest of picket signs and people in costumes and T-shirts emblazoned with such slogans as "America Can't George Bush Cow!" greeted the president's bus as it rolled into Copeland Plaza.

Protestors filled the length of a city block. In some spots a half dozen people slept.

"This is what democracy looks like," was one of the cries taken up by the crowd.

Guy Wolf of Stoddard, Wis., one of the local organizers of the protest, said he was "concerned about democracy" when the protesters were confined to the far end of the park, with fenced tennis courts

See PROTEST A-2

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Drunken driving arrests rising

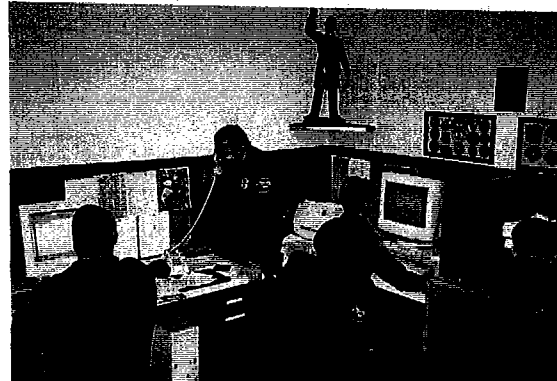
Police say vigilance, not lower blood alcohol limit, leads to increase in numbers

By DAN SPRINGER
La Crosse Tribune

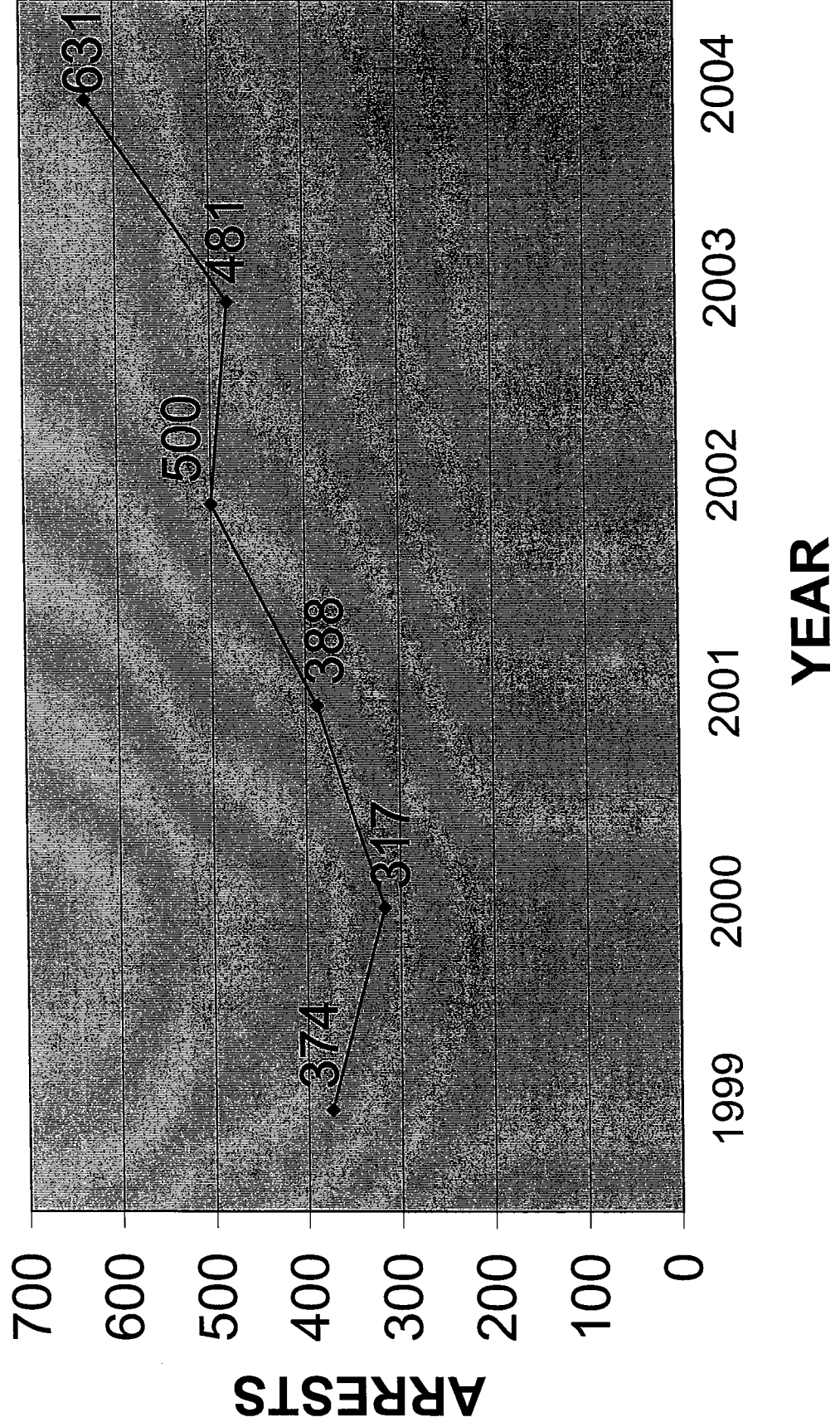
OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED ARRESTS

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Arrests	123	132	145	158	172

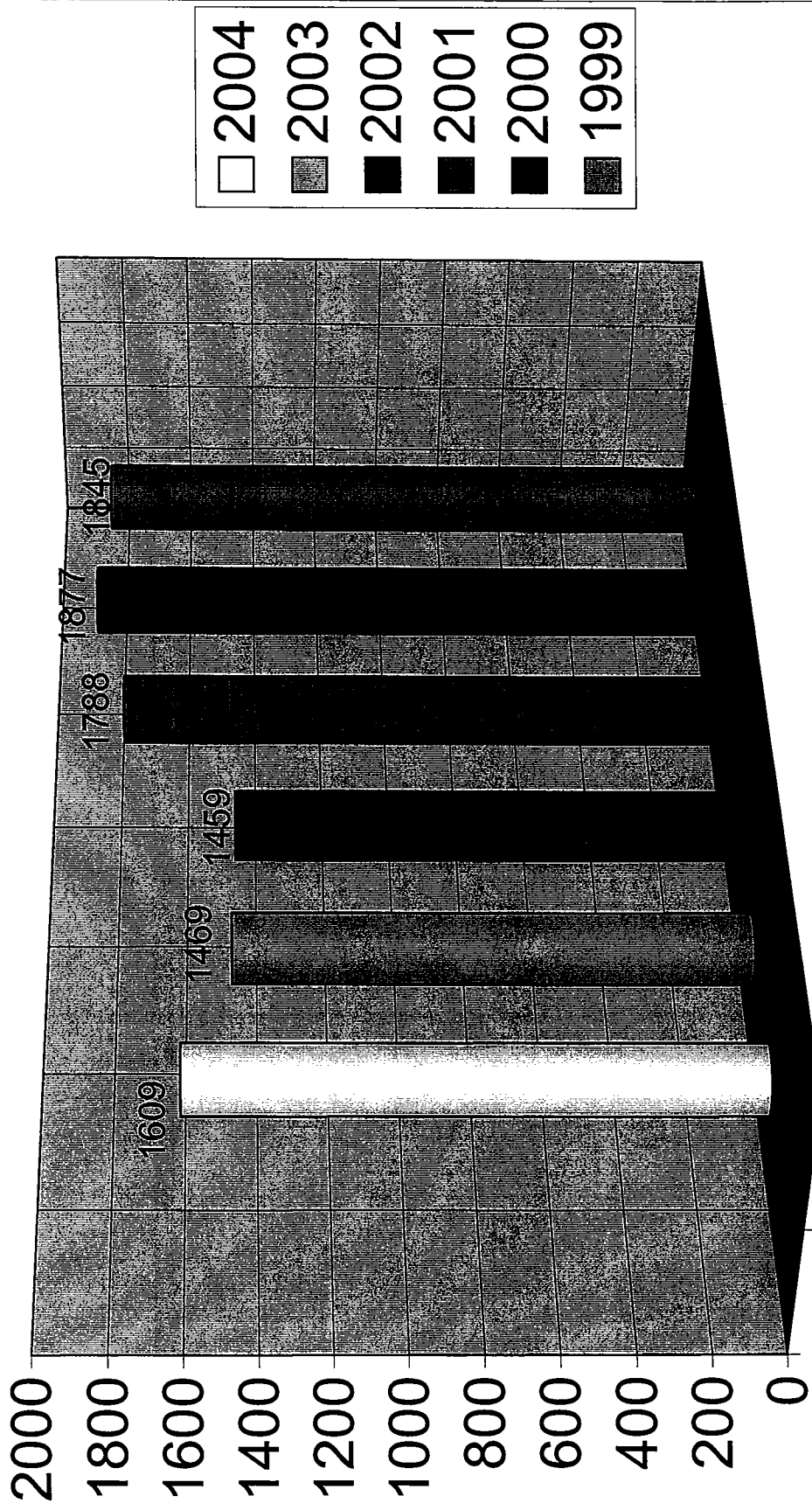
Other data and more news: [unreadable]



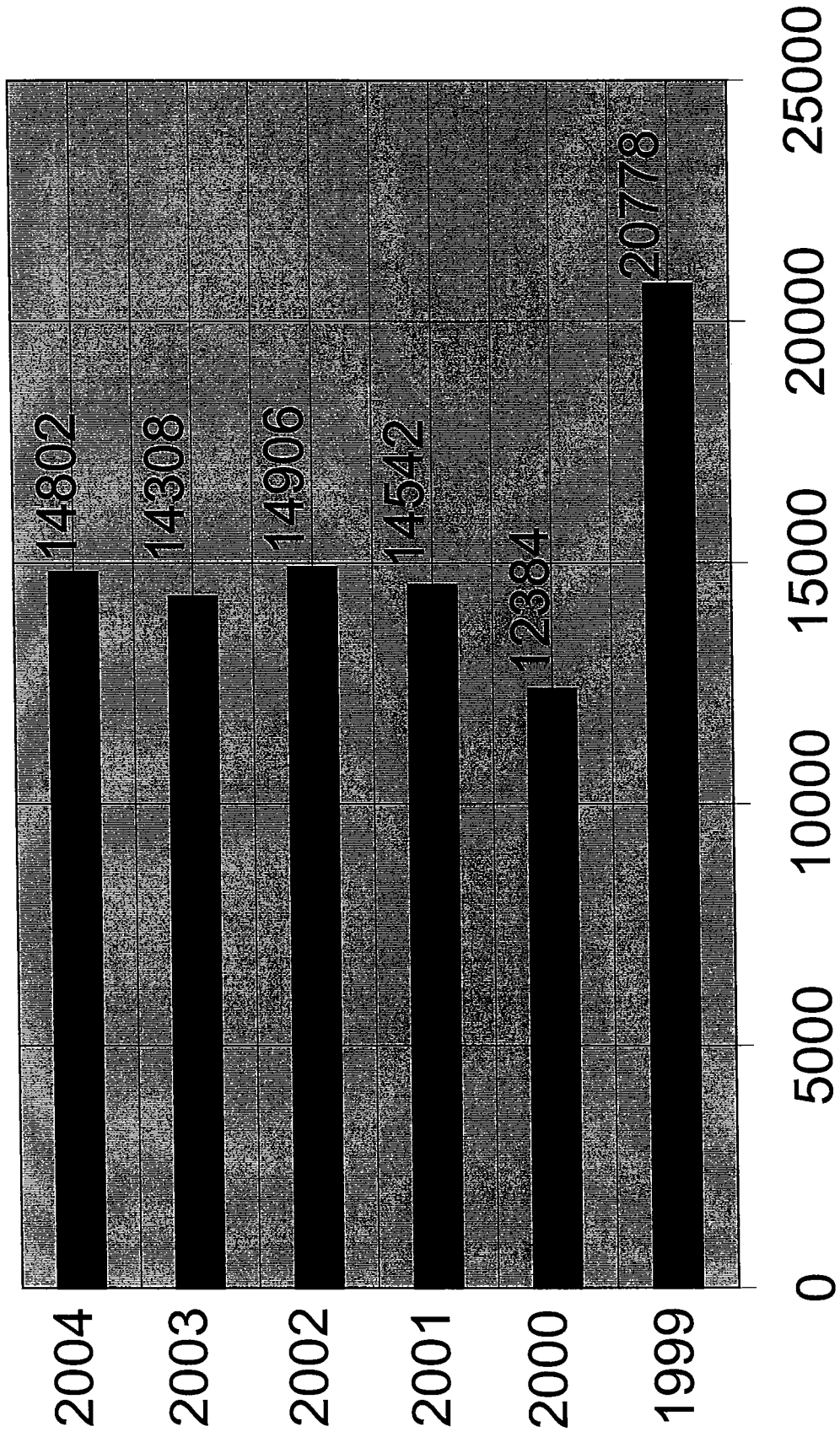
OWI ARRESTS



TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



WARNING TICKETS



**"LEADERSHIP IN
DIVERSITY: MEETING THE
NEEDS OF A DIVERSE
COMMUNITY"
WILL HELP YOUR
ORGANIZATION:**

- * Recognize lost opportunities as the result of intolerance toward diverse people;
- * Identify the behaviors associated with intolerance toward people;
- * Understand how attitudes, biases, and assumptions toward people impact the level of service provided;
- * Be better prepared to handle challenges when serving a diverse population;
- * And much more.

Who Should Attend?

**Law Enforcement
and**

Corrections Personnel

**October 27, 2004
8:00AM to 4:00PM**

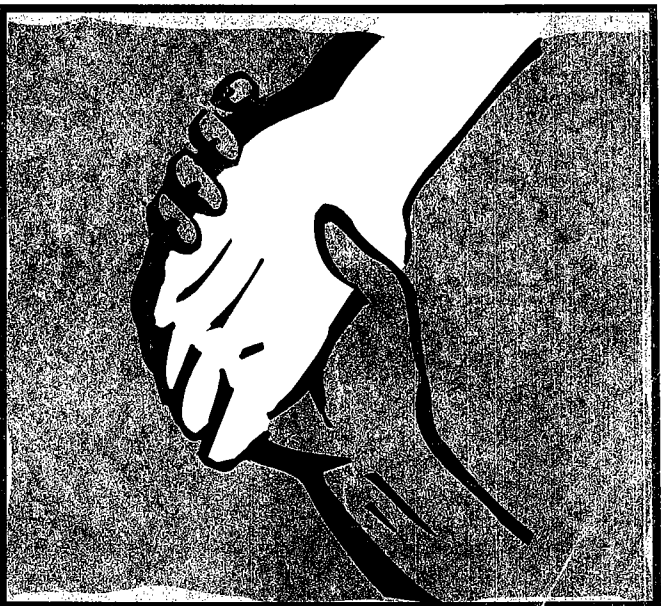
**La Crosse Community
Policing Center
713 St. James St.**

Attendance is limited.

To reserve a seat, contact:

**Lt. Dan Marcou
La Crosse Police Dept.**

789-7205



**LEADERSHIP IN
DIVERSITY:
MEETING THE
NEEDS OF A
DIVERSE
COMMUNITY**

Sponsored by:

**La Crosse
Police Department
October 27, 2004**

SPEAKERS:

FACILITATOR:

**SGT. PATRICK HOGAN,
La Crosse Police Department**

Sgt. Hogan is a graduate of Winona State University, majoring in Criminal Justice and Business Administration. He is also a recent graduate of the FBI National Academy located in Quantico, Virginia. He is a 16-year veteran of the City of La Crosse Police Department and is currently a third shift supervisor and diversity trainer for the department. Pat is a graduate of the 1998 Hmong Mutual Assistance Association's Cultural Competency Training Certificate Program. Pat has participated in numerous diversity programs and helped facilitate "The Cost of Intolerance" seminar, co-sponsored by the Greater La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce, the La Crosse Police Department, and the Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice.

* * * * *

**CHARLES L. ALPHIN SR.,
Captain (Retired) St. Louis, Missouri,
Police Department**

Mr. Alphin served as a police officer for over twenty-six years. In 1991, after his retirement and at the request of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, he and his wife moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked as a trainer at the Martin Luther King Center of Nonviolent Social Change Inc. In 1994, he was promoted to Director of Education and Training for the King Center.

He has been privileged to train both nationally and internationally in Kingian Nonviolence. He has trained law enforcement officers, "at risk" and "gang" youth, educators, elementary, secondary and college students, professors, community leaders, clergy, correctional officers, and has just completed training the entire Miami Police Department.

**"EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT: MEETING THE NEEDS
OF A DIVERSE COMMUNITY"**

Program Content:

- ⇒ An American History of Police Interaction with the Community.
- ⇒ Philosophy of Effective Policing in a Diverse World.
- ⇒ The 85% - 15% Rule.
- ⇒ "The Community We Serve" Defined.
- ⇒ Dealing With the Reality of Police Under the Microscope.

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**THAI VUE,
Executive Associate Director of
La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual
Assistance Association Inc.**

Mr. Vue, a local community leader and past member of the La Crosse School Board, has provided diversity training for local law enforcement. He will be discussing the new Hmong refugee settlement in the Coulee Region, their needs and expectations

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**OFFICER FALING YANG,
La Crosse Police Department**

Officer Yang studied at UW-La Crosse, helped establish the Another Way Gang Intervention Program, and is a 9-year veteran of the La Crosse Police Department. He will tell his story of how he and his family escaped the ravages of war in Southeast Asia and survived five years in a refugee camp before making their way to America. He will share the story of his family's struggle and their triumph.

* * * * *

Canine searches becoming routine

By ANASTASIA MERGER
La Crosse Tribune

All school districts in La Crosse County have canine searches in their high schools, and several districts have been doing them for more than five years.

This is the third year canine searches have been planned in the La Crosse School District.

Capt. Jeff Wolf of the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department heads the West Central Metropolitan Enforcement Group, which is in charge of the canine searches in La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe, Jackson and Trempealeau counties.

He said the group uses six dogs, which are owned by various sheriff and police departments. Wolf said six to 10 school canine searches are conducted each year, requested by the schools and organized through local law enforcement agencies.

Wolf said the group budgets about \$4,000 each year in federal funds to reimburse officer overtime due to the searches, and it has spent "just over that" to do searches in nine school districts during 2004. Another \$750 has been spent this year to recertify the dogs, he said.

Central High School Principal Tom Barth said the only feedback he has had since searches began in 2002 came last spring, when officers used the dogs to search student vehicles off-campus in the nearby Hardee's parking lot.



DICK RINKER/LA CROSSE TRIBUNE
Central High School liaison officer Rick Penning greets students as they walk to their classrooms. Liaison officers in La Crosse County schools help coordinate canine searches.

HOW DOGS RATE

A dog's sense of smell is estimated at between 10 to 100 times greater than a human's, according to the article "A Study of Police Canine Search Teams as Compared to Officer Search Teams," posted on the United States Police Canine Association's Web site.

In terms of drug detection, studies have shown that trained canines generally are 10 times better than any mechanical instrument, the Web site said.

Courts have recognized the fact that "false positives" occur, and dogs can be as low as 62 percent accurate, it said.

"We're fortunate," Wyatt said. "Kids are not bringing it to school — at least on these (search) days."

Although there was a complaint last year that a dog scratched and damaged a \$49 hubcap during a parking lot search, Wyatt said most students and parents appreciate the efforts because they don't want drugs in school.

"The parents are generally very positive, and so are the kids," he said. "Kids appreciate that the doors are locked and people are vigilant."

West Salem High School Principal Troy Gunderson said four canine searches have been done at his school, and although the door locks are

parking lot.

"We ask them to do the school," Barth said. "Where they go to after that is up to them."

Deputies Mike Johnson and Mike Ring of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department said they searched the parking lots of nearby businesses because some students learned about the search in advance and moved their cars off school property.

Officers don't need permission to do a search as long as the property is open to the public, Johnson said. An indication of a narcotics odor by the dog gives police a reason to search a vehicle, he added.

"The dog gives us the probable cause because he is specifically trained as a deputy to detect those odors," Johnson said. "Any property open to the public is fair game."

The local police department decides whether to issue a citation in each case. In addition to any school punishment, an illegal substance is confiscated. Students and teachers are required to stay in classrooms during a canine search, look down, Barth said. It takes 30 to 45 minutes to complete the locker search at Central.

Although there have been arrests made off-campus as a result of past searches, no drugs have been found in Central during canine searches, Barth said.

Logan High School Associate Principal Doug Leclair said the first search at his school uncovered marijuana in one locker and the police interrogation that followed resulted in the search of an off-campus vehicle, more drugs and ultimately, a vehicle seizure.

Two searches that took place last year at Logan found no drugs inside the building and marijuana seeds and alcohol

inside one vehicle, he said. Leclair said students adapt to the searches, and now are more likely to carry drugs with them instead of leaving the substances in a locker or car.

Holmen High School had its first canine search three years ago, and another is expected this year, said Principal Bernie Ferry.

No drugs were found during the search, and Ferry said he received "very positive" feedback from parents and students because they appreciated the district's proactive approach to drug prevention.

"I think they want the schools to be safe," Ferry said. **Ontaska High School** has had three canine searches since 1998, said associate principal Jeff Fleig. The first, in 1998, resulted in one arrest; a marijuana possession; the second, in 2000, resulted in two arrests, and the third search, in 2008, which was expanded to include vehicles, resulted in seven arrests.

Arrests were related to possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia, he said.

"It's just one of the extra steps you can take to make sure our schools are safer," Fleig said. "I'm not so sure the kids really like them."

Ontaska Superintendent John Burnett said parents initially were concerned dogs might scratch or attack students, but students are kept inside classrooms. Dogs search only vacant hallways and lockers, he said.

Bangor Superintendent John Wyatt said his district has done annual canine searches since at least 1995, and the only contraband ever discovered was a pipe found inside a borrowed vehicle.

although the dogs have hit on clothing, no drugs have been found. Gunderson said while some people like the searches because they feel better knowing there aren't drugs in school, others have said the searches are intimidating and make the building feel "more hostile."

La Crescent High School Principal Rick Wolter said canine searches have been held periodically in the eight years he has been principal, and dogs have hit on prescription drugs that belonged to parents, but never illegal substances.

"We've never really had any drugs," Wolter said. "I don't know what we'd do if we caught somebody, because we've never caught anybody."

The dogs also have hit on clothing and money that officials believe have been in contact with marijuana smoke, Wolter said. Last spring, a dog hit on the same lockers twice, and both contained dollar bills officials believe had been in contact with illegal drugs.

Wolter said he has not heard any negative feedback about the searches, and some people have commended the district for doing them. He said it can take about one hour to do the search, depending on the number of dogs available.

He said the last canine search cost his district \$78, although he has seen advertisements listing the price at \$300 to \$400. La Crescent is not included in the enforcement group that conducts searches in Wisconsin through federal grants.

can find \$78," Wolter said. "I keep one kid from bringing it to school. It's a good thing."

Arrestee: Mercer can be reached at (608) 791-8256 or smercer@laressetribune.com.

La Crosse police department earns re-accreditation

The La Crosse Police Department last week became the first department in the state to gain re-accreditation from the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Group Governing Board.

The WILEAG board voted unanimously on May 13 to re-accredit the local department, La Crosse Police Chief Ed Kondracki said Wednesday. Re-accreditation means the department has fully demonstrated its compliance to 233 standards established by the accreditation arm of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association.

Kondracki said the accreditation process provides a thorough review of the department's status and readiness and reinforces the department's ability to maintain high standards of professionalism. It also ensures that policies and procedures are documented in writing and defensible, and that officers are trained and functioning according to the department's policies and procedures.

Motorcycle Patrol



LA CROSSE POLICE DEPARTMENT