



Edward Rudin dies
The child psychiatrist worked quietly to reduce violence in society. ▶ Story, B5

Cops shift focus to street

Dip in violent crime will allow officers to work with youths

By M.S. Enkoi
BEE STAFF WRITER

As violent crime declines, the Sacramento Police Department will make an unprecedented shift to emphasizing prevention by unchaining detectives from desks, sending them out on the street

and focusing on "entry-level" crime like burglaries and robberies.

"We're going to go out in the field and look at root causes of crime," Sgt. Jim Jarosick said. "This hasn't been done before on this scale, but it's how investiga-

tors should do their job." Starting next month, the department will move 40 detectives from its major crimes unit and reassign them to family and youth services and to special investigations.

Their job titles won't change significantly—they will still investigate robberies and burglaries. But they will be using computer technology and other innova-

tions to monitor crime trends, and they will be patrolling neighborhoods more, Jarosick said.

Detectives also will be focusing on truancy, because property crimes are typically committed during the daytime.

Because property crimes and auto theft are generally crimes of the young, it's an opportunity to deter them early, he said.

"We want to stop them before

they get too old and too sophisticated," Jarosick said.

The remaining 26 detectives assigned to investigate murders and other violent crimes will not be involved in the changes.

A spokesman for the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training said the department is taking a bold, fresh step in reassigning resources.

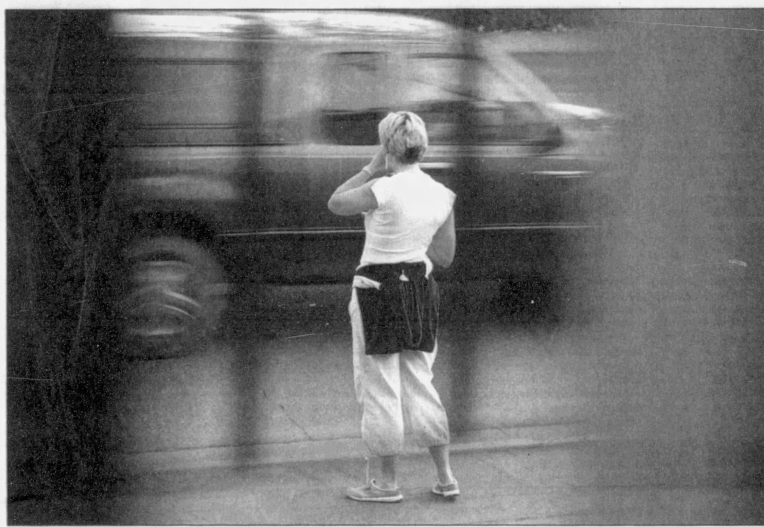
▶ **CRIME, page B4**

National crime
Frequency of property and violent crimes in the United States in 2000.



Source: U.S. Department of Justice
Sacramento Bee/Sheidan Carpenter

Missed signs of prostitution sting



A decoy poses as a prostitute last month along West Capitol Avenue, where police regularly conduct stings and arrest six to eight men from around the region despite the presence of signs—posted by the West Sacramento Police Department—warning that the operation is in progress.

In West Sac, johns are warned

By Steve Gibson
BEE STAFF WRITER

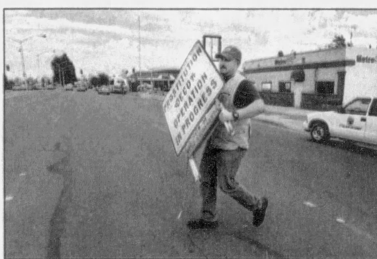
At least once a month, someone from the West Sacramento Police Department posts 3-by-3-foot warning signs along the town's busiest street.

"Prostitution Decoy Operation In Progress," the signs say in big red letters.

Surprisingly, the warning signs don't always work.

It has been a never-ending ritual on West Capitol Avenue, a wide boulevard that's lined with seedy motels—and which has a reputation for drug dealing and prostitution.

As the signs go up, police officers round up the regular street-walkers. As the prostitutes are



West Sacramento Police Officer Jason Winger carries one of the signs into place at the start of another prostitution sting. "I just don't think they see the signs," Sgt. Ray Bombardier says. "They're preoccupied."

told to move on, female police decoys take their places on West Capitol.

As if on cue, johns drive by and solicit the female officers who pose as prostitutes. Police say every sting operation results in the arrest of six to eight men on suspicion of soliciting prostitution.

"I just don't think they see the signs," said police Sgt. Ray Bombardier. "They're looking for the girls. They're preoccupied."

West Sacramento police have been running prostitution stings for years but recently added extra personnel as part of the city's efforts to rejuvenate the West Capitol Avenue corridor.

▶ **STING, page B4**

Placer eyes health care budget cuts

By Art Campos
BEE STAFF WRITER

Budget problems may lead the Placer County Board of Supervisors to cut some programs that provide health care for seniors and low-income residents and treatment for mentally ill criminal offenders.

Staff members also say cuts may have to be made in Health and Human Services jobs, a teen pregnancy prevention program and reimbursements to welfare recipients for transportation costs.

Raymond J. Merz, director of the county's Health and Human Services Department, raised the possibility of cuts during a status report to supervisors this week.

He said his department is identifying \$5.6 million in potential cuts because of declining state revenues, increased business costs and a growing demand for services.

▶ **PLACER, page B4**



Robert Weygandt

The Placer County supervisor said he's willing to "bite the bullet" with the cuts proposed by the Health and Human Services Department staff.

Isleton recall drive revs up

By Michael Kolber
BEE STAFF WRITER

The directors of a Delta fire district wouldn't be too upset if they were voted out of office. They just wish their opponents could wait until next year's election.

"If they want to take us out, that's fine," said Kirk West, a director who owns Ernie's Restaurant and Saloon in Isleton.

A recall effort—a curb on arrogant directors or an out-and-out power grab, depending on who's talking—is heightening hostility among elected officials in tiny Isleton, even as a reform-minded City Council tries to put the city's financial troubles behind it.

The Isleton Fire Protection District directors say they're less concerned about losing their positions than they are about how much it would cost the district to hold an election a year early.

▶ **ISLETON, page B2**



Pam Pratt

Isleton's mayor says she supports the fire district recall drive because she thinks the district and the tiny Delta city need to work together.

Full of spirit but sober in outlook, bar owner announces last call

The Idle Hour is awake. But, at 8:30 a.m. on a weekday, the place is dead. The taps are dry, the beer signs drone, the pool table is a vacant lawn. But one can easily imagine a commotion of ice cubes and gaiety.

Josephine Loverde sits below a window. She clacks her immaculate birthday manicure atop the scuffed Formica tabletop. Fresh daylight powders her face, a Budweiser sign provides a hint of rouge. Loverde turned 80 this week and, given the rigors of the business, she looks none the worse for the wear and tear.

She's still a lively woman who can pour an honest drink, give you a healthy piece of her mind and headline the dance floor on karaoke nights. Loverde loves to dance. Now, her keen, stone-sober olive eyes glazed by sentiment, she sips a pink cocktail of nostalgia, fortifying and bittersweet.

The Idle Hour is at 6816 Fruitridge Road, along a strip of small shops,

behind a taqueria, just across the street from St. Mary's Cemetery, whose mowed pasture has prompted many farewell toasts. It's a small place, just 24 stools wrapped around a J-shaped bar.

"It still jumps!" promises Loverde, the proprietor who opens up every morning, checks the cash, replenishes the stock, cleans the bathrooms, even puts in a couple of shifts. She mixes drinks, dispenses stiff advice, lends a sympathetic ear—but doesn't drink.

"I never did," she says. "I don't like the taste of liquor. But that's what killed my husband. He liked the taste. And he admitted that. But he was a great man. He never missed a day of work. He was a good father to our kids. And he treated me like a queen."



BOB SYLVA

Elwyn Loverde, son of a barman, died in January 1985 and is buried at St. Mary's. Josephine cares for his grave and tends his memory. Now, after 42 years in business, the Idle Hour is posted for sale and "last call" rings in her ears.

"I want to go," she says. "But it's hard to go. The bar business is a funny business. It gets in your blood. When my husband was dying, he told me I had to sell the place. But I couldn't do it. Now I go over there and bawl him out. Because he stuck me with it."

She was raised on Franklin Boulevard, between Ninth and 10th avenues. Her father was a boilermaker for Southern Pacific. "When I was a kid," she says, "we used to go to McClatchy Park and play. And every Saturday

of my life, we walked to Immaculate Conception Church for catechism. That was a must!"

She met her husband at a dance in Oak Park. His father, Tony Loverde, owned a tavern nearby called the 5th Avenue Club. She sighs. "Wonderful man," she says of her father-in-law. "He wouldn't hesitate to take a poke at someone if they deserved it. Smart man," she marvels. "You couldn't beat him on figures. He could open up in the morning, look in the till, look at the bottles, and tell you how much money should be there."

Tony, too, liked the taste. Elwyn and his brother, Allan, opened the Idle Hour in 1962, along a strip of property owned by nick Nick Loverde. "I don't know where that name came from," says Josephine of Idle Hour. "My husband wanted to call it the Antler Club. I said no way. I told him you can hang a deer's head in here if you want. But no Antler Club. Somehow we just called it the Idle Hour."

She laughs. The bar turns quiet. She looks out the window. A patrol car slowly crawls through the parking lot. "I don't have any problems here," she says, keeping an eye on the black and white. "Everybody knows me. Everybody knows I won't put up with anything."

Loverde—gruff, lovable, a head for figures—has a shot of old Tony in her. A son and a grandson help her with the business. But the Idle Hour won't tick for another generation. She wants to sell. She wants to travel. She wants to dance.

"The secret?" she says, when asked for some advice on life, health, longevity. "Hard work and no drink!" She laughs, chagrined. "I'm not a very good advertisement for the bar business, am I?"

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County's credit rating takes hit

BEE METRO STAFF
 Moody's Investors' Service, one of three national bond-rating agencies, downgraded Sacramento County's credit Friday.

The rating service took specific aim at the county's 2003 certificates of participation for a juvenile courthouse project issued in May, reducing the rating from A2 to A3, the last notch in the top tier.

Such ratings, which measure risk, are closely watched by investors and financial markets. A rating of Aaa is the highest and indicates the agency believes the se-

curities are the safest to own.

Geoff Davey, the county's chief financial officer, said the change will not affect county finances in the short term, though further downgrades of the certificates of participation, or leasing bonds, would harm the county's ability to secure financing for facilities.

Sacramento County faces a \$100 million budget shortfall for the coming fiscal year and has recently refinanced its pension and construction bond debt to alleviate its record budget crunch. County officials are recommend-

ing that \$15 million - mostly savings generating by the bond refinancing - be used to lessen the budget gap. Another \$5 million is being recommended for new programs.

In a memo to other county officials, Davey said the downgrading is beyond the county's control.

"All California counties are on credit watch/negative outlook, due to the economy and the state's intent to pass along a significant budgetary burden to local government," Davey wrote. "The only way we could have

avoided the downgrades is if we had maintained very high reserve balances."

Moody's Web site confirmed the downgrade. The credit-rating agency apparently frowned on the county's use of bond refinancing to chip away at its budget shortfall.

The county currently has no general obligation, or voter-approved, debt but Moody's downgraded the county's general obligation bond rating from AA3 to A1. Moody's rating of the county's pension bonds was A1. It is now A2.



"This is something detectives have been trying to do for a long time. They want to get out there from behind the desk."

David Topaz, president of the Sacramento Police Officers Association

Crime: Residents welcome changes

▶ CONTINUED FROM B1
 "It is dramatic," said Alan Deel, spokesman for the agency that sets training guidelines for law enforcement.

Because of budget limitations, some police agencies are forced to centralize their operations, which is the opposite of the trend to assign officers to specific neighborhoods, he said.

"It's terrific Sacramento is in a position where they can do this," Deel said.

Some people who feel beleaguered by thieves and burglars will roll out the welcome mat for any police presence, they said.

Dorothy Hill's Strawberry Manor neighborhood, sandwiched between Gardenland and Del Paso Heights in the northern part of the city, was so crime-infested a few years ago that a newly forming neighborhood association chose another name for image reasons. That is how she became chairwoman of the Terrace Manor Neighborhood Association.

Hill, 72, said she can still point out driving auto crimes, which a concentrated investigative effort could squelch.

"If they can see officers are going to stop them for little things, they won't get involved in anything bigger," she said.

In the newly built Natomas Crossing neighborhood near Arco Arena, residents are paying for their own private security patrols, said Scott Johnson, a board member of the homeowners association representing 450 homes.

Homeowners endure at least 15 break-ins or similar property crimes monthly, said Johnson - everything from "crowbarred" mailboxes to stolen cars.

Someone sliced his water hose off the spigot and carried it off, said Johnson, who must also listen to other residents' woes.

They would love some focused policing, he said.

"It's just been surprisingly good," said Johnson, who decided not to buy a front-porch bench after thieves boosted all his neighbors' benches.

The possibility of cutbacks at the Sacramento County Probation Department and a more communi-

ty-oriented policing style were the reasons behind the move to efficiently realign assignments, Jarosick said.

Because of county budget cutbacks, the probation unit is bracing to lose 124 of its 675 sworn officers as budget hearings begin next week.

The layoffs, if ordered by the county Board of Supervisors, will leave 13,000 adult offenders unsupervised, said Alan Seeb, a supervising probation officer.

For that reason, the Police Department will need to more closely watch those on probation, Jarosick said.

By using computers, investigators can instantly identify at a keystroke any clusters of similar crimes, something that previously would have taken weeks to recognize after flipping through papers, he said.

Computer programs can also identify and locate those on probation and their proximity to crimes.

"This is something detectives have been trying to do for a long time," said David Topaz, president of the Sacramento Police Officers Association. "They want to get out there from behind the desk. We're just trying to keep up with the times."

Detectives out in the field have a prime opportunity to gather intelligence, Topaz said.

Arresting a suspect for stealing car parts is more meaningful if investigators can pinpoint whom he is selling the parts to or where he stole them for, Topaz said.

The rate of violent crime has been decreasing nationwide since 1992, according

to U.S. Department of Justice figures, and has always represented a tiny portion of the overall crime rate.

According to Sacramento Police Department statistics, violent crime (murder, forcible rape and robbery) has decreased 23.3 percent in the past nine years.

The decline in murders has been so dramatic that homicide detectives in departments nationwide are revisiting old, unsolved cases and applying new technology to make arrests.

The link between youths and property crimes will become more significant in the next few years as the state's teenage population swells. A 1999 study conducted for the California Office of Traffic Safety predicted that by 2007, the state's population will be disproportionately teenagers, the children of baby boomers.

A concentrated effort to infiltrate the community and shut down criminal careers early always made sense, said Anita Barnes, executive director of La Familia Counseling Center Inc., a Sacramento multicultural nonprofit group serving youths at risk and families.

Too often, young criminals are emboldened because they don't get caught stealing or skipping school, Barnes said.

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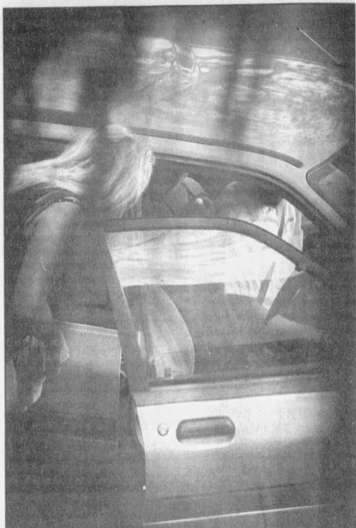
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A man negotiates from his car with a Police Department decoy on West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, along with other cities in the region, in looking into additional prostitution-abatement strategies.

Sting: Efforts push problem elsewhere

▶ CONTINUED FROM B1
 However, by disrupting the activity, West Sacramento officials worry, they may end up foisting the problem onto adjoining communities.

"Our goal is to rid West Sacramento of prostitution, and we're going to do it fairly rigorously," said City Manager Toby Ross. "But we do that with the understanding that it does have implications for other jurisdictions."

West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon called the problem "just one example of the kinds of social challenges that we face on a regional basis."

"People don't go looking for prostitution in their own neighborhoods," he said. "They want to be anonymous. We know the johns are coming from other places. That means the whole region has got to address the problem."

About two-thirds of johns arrested by West Sacramento police come from Sacramento, Davis, Antelope, North Highlands, Elk Grove, Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Rocklin, Marysville, Dixon, Auburn and Roseville.

"That's why we have to look at the challenge on a broader basis than just thinking we're going to absolutely solve it all by ourselves," Cabaldon said. "No one else has."

But prostitution is only part of the problem, explained West Sacramento Police Chief Gary Leonard. He notes the high rates of drug addiction among streetwalkers.

It's the crime associated with prostitution that he's trying to stamp out as well, Leonard said. "Prostitutes have money, so they're easy targets for robbery. If they victimize a prostitute, they've lost the money they're making."

Moreover, the chief said, "it's a public nuisance, a drain on our resources and it causes fear among people who work and live in the neighborhoods where this is occurring."

Arresting people is only one way of dealing with the issue, Cabaldon said.

"I'd like to see us get to the root causes that create the problem, perhaps a joint effort by law enforcement and our social services to try to help women trapped in that industry," Cabaldon said.

Leonard agreed. "We know that arrest isn't the only solution. The (prostitutes) we do arrest, we try and work with the courts and probation ... to get them in some type of counseling ... and get out of that lifestyle." Other cities have tried various approaches.

In Stockton, mug shots of johns are shown twice a day on cable Channel 37, the public access station there.

"We still have a problem, but I don't believe we've had any repeat offenders," said Doug Anderson, a Stockton police spokesman. "We were calling it 'John TV' until a guy named John got offended and complained. So we called it 'Vice TV.'"

In Sacramento, police seize the vehicles of johns and the City Attorney's Office sends a letter to the registered owner explaining what happened to the car.

"In most cases the car is returned to the owner," said Lauren Hammond, a member of the

Sacramento City Council whose district has been plagued by prostitution and drug dealing. "But first, they've got to pay towing and impound costs."

Hammond said neighborhood leaders are enthusiastic about the program, which started in 1999 and is known as "Beat Feet."

"As a matter of fact," Hammond said, neighborhood activists "want us to start putting the johns' names and faces on (cable TV's public access) Channel 14 and on billboards in the neighborhoods where they were caught."

In West Sacramento, Chief Leonard said his agency is looking at all options, including the possibility of vehicle seizures and publishing names.

West Sacramento's stings work like this: Once a john and a police decoy agree on a transaction, the decoy leads him to a nearby motel. There, police officers make the arrest, usually on a misdemeanor charge of soliciting. The john is later booked into the Yolo County Jail in Woodland.

For the john who's arrested, the evening can be expensive, noted Sgt. Bombardier. The defendant can be fined up to \$1,000, plus towing and storage costs for his vehicle.

Not only do johns come from around the region, so do the cops. Bombardier said the stings often are a team effort, with help from the Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Davis Police Department and Yolo County Sheriff's Department.

One of the reasons so many prostitutes operate in West Sacramento is its low-cost motels lining Capitol Avenue, Leonard said.

Sacramento County had success in crimping prostitution along Auburn Boulevard by shutting down its worst motels.

Bombardier said West Sacramento, however, was negatively affected by that action. "There's not very much cheap housing available over there, so they come here."

Area law enforcement, however, is now taking a regional approach to the problem. For example, Sacramento County recently notified nearby jurisdictions of plans to adopt new regulations aimed at curbing illegal massage parlors.

"The city of Sacramento adopted regulations that basically pushed the illegal massage business into the county, and now the county's ready to adopt regulations that'll push it somewhere else," said Ross, the West Sacramento city manager.

"So, we got a heads-up, and we're participating with them how best to deal with that. We're actually having a fairly stringent ordinance with respect to massage parlors, so we haven't had a problem."

Meanwhile, West Sacramento plans to keep using its 3-by-3 signs to deal with johns.

"It isn't our goal to arrest people and ruin their lives," Ross said. "Our goal is to get that activity out of town."

Crime numbers

Numbers of crimes in the city of Sacramento from 1994 to 2002:



Source: Sacramento Police Department

Placer: Move follows state's cuts in services

▶ CONTINUED FROM B1
 "No one likes service reductions such as these, but if we don't take action soon, we could find the budget gap growing by half a million dollars a month," Merz said.

Merz said that some of the cuts will be implemented but others will hinge on final revenue figures handed down by the state.

Earlier this year, Placer officials said they believed they might escape large budget cuts because the county had been in relatively good financial shape. But board chairman Rex Bloomfield said this week the county began targeting Health and Human Services cuts after learning the state planned major reductions in social services.

"Social services always get hit the hardest during tough times," he said. "Our job is to keep offering services at the highest possible level while trying to identify what we'll have to let go."

The 2003-2004 budget recommended for the Health and Human Services Department is \$118.7 million, \$5.6 million less than what it requested, and \$1.4 million less than what it received this fiscal year.

The county's overall budget for 2003-2004 will be unveiled at the supervisors' June 24 meeting.

The 2003-2004 budget is expected to close at about \$422 million.

County Executive Officer Jan Christoffersen said the staff is continuing to seek "more cost-effective and efficient ways of conducting business."

"When we must recommend service reductions, we'll do our best to protect vital services and minimize the impact on our residents and our work force," she said.

Christoffersen said many counties are experiencing problems because of the state budget.

Sacramento County faces \$85 million in reductions and is looking to make deep cuts in law enforcement and health and welfare services. About 700 positions remain unfunded, including jobs for 118 permanent employees who have received layoff notices and 134 temporary workers who are expected to be cut.

Placer County Supervisor Robert Wyvandt said he is willing to "bite the bullet" with the cuts proposed by Health and Human Services staff.

"I don't know if there's ever been a state budget situation such as the one we're going through."

- \$750,000 by reducing nonessential administrative positions, travel, transportation, training, facility improvements and long-range facility planning.
- \$500,000 by encouraging unpaid furloughs and voluntary contributions of full-time positions to part-time jobs.
- \$400,000 by closing the Mentally Ill Offender Program because state funding is being discontinued. The 15-bed facility at the DeWitt Center in Auburn helps former jail inmates who need mental health treatment and training for jobs and self-sufficiency. (Included in the savings are changes to county transitional programs in Auburn and Roseville - nine to 10 clients would be transferred from high-cost private programs to county treatment.)
- \$350,000 by closing the Medi-Cal Managed Care pilot program because state funding will be discontinued. The program connects about 7,000 Medi-Cal clients to area health providers.
- \$137,000 by eliminating the Preventive Health Care for Aging program, which includes health assessments, referrals, diabetes education and health fairs.
- \$128,000 by reducing teen pregnancy prevention programs.
- \$100,000 by decreasing the transportation reimbursement rate paid to CalWORKS clients.

- \$95,000 by cutting back on counseling for the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program.
- Isabel Bravo, a Roseville resident who serves on the county mental health board of directors, bemoaned the potential loss of services to the mentally ill.

"People who were let out of jail and were going to our treatment facilities will have no place to go," she said. "They will have no training, no services and no jobs."

"Unfortunately, when service programs are about to be lost because of budget cuts, the children, the senior citizens and the mentally ill often cannot have their concerns voiced."

In several months, Merz's staff hopes to identify another \$1 million of savings through cuts, shared services and increased efficiency.

Cuts could be made in medical services and public health nurse home visits and by transferring staff from the county's Kirby Hills Center in Roseville to another leased facility and contracting with another program.

The foster-care program, environmental health fees and contracts with cities for animal control services also will be reviewed.

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