

Director Kenneth Chant, Thursday April 6th 1995

INT: You said you were going to come up with some antidotes for me.

KC: you did hey, do you want me to write them out for you? would that be easier

INT: If you want to

KC: how many do you want? about what

INT: as many as you want, as many good ones you can come up with, I am sure you have a lot of them, it is a 12 to 15 page paper.

KC: I could come up with 12 to 15 pages of antidotes.

Int: I guess pick a few best ones. That you have.

KC: I will write out about a dozen or so. some of them are long but.

INT: that's fine, if you want to take the extra time to write them out

KC: Sure then you can just do whatever....do what ever you want. You can have those, you might have to do a couple of those this afternoon. I'll try to have them this afternoon sometime you can have them. There is one other thing that you might be interested in, Northern is unique in one way. Way back when we were the first university that had its own laws, own ordinances that was passed by the state legislature. That is one of the few places in the state where that is required. Yet now they are the lowest paid police officers of any college or university in the state of Michigan, who have the highest mandated requirements for entry and the lowest pay.

INT: Is that is a campus department?

KC: Yes. And when safety was added into the department, that will be in the annual report one of those will give you the date safety was added. No budget was provided so we continue have increased responsibility on NMU every year things change that gives us more and more that you have to comply with. We have no resources, the compliance part of it and the funding of that has to come out of the Public Safety budget which has not increased since 1987 and I have lost position. This year is no exception, we are going to be cut back in this round of budget cuts in safety.

INT: You are getting the faculty though.

KC: Well that is going to be two or three years, it is not a facility that is dedicated to our needs and the real reason that we are getting a new facility because faculty needed this space and we are being moved out. It isn't as though this building is a show place it is in pretty rough shape, they are going to renovate it for the faculty and moving us out. As part of a move we will be put in another building that is being constructed.

INT: That one is far away to..

KC: Birdseye

INT: That is a problem I have no questions left. Anything else to highlight?

KC: Do you have a draft. do you have a outline?

INT: Yes.

KC: If you want to give me a copy of your outline I might be able to fill in some spots for you. Do you have it with you?

INT: No i don't. it is the same thing that in the last interview I had so this is the only outline that I have at the moment. and Hopefully this weekend with both interviews and all the information I'll be able to basically put the bulk of the paper together.

KC: If you want to drop off a copy I might be able to fill in the blanks for you and give you some suggestions. There are lots of things that we are not even going to touch on like academic cadet program.

INT: Well that is a good thing, it sounds good.

KC: We used to have what is called an Academic Ed Program and that is absolute Criminal Justice Department was formed here. We used to run a police academy we would bring juniors here with a certain gpa and put them to work and we would put them through on our bill a regional police academy then they would come back as certified police officers and then they would work for us as part time police officers until they graduated.

INT: Is that still going on?

KC: No, Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Training Council did away with the program basically because it was a union issue we were depriving people of jobs.

INT: When I was in school here, public school here that there was some kind of something like this obviously you wouldn't become a certified police officer are there any programs like that; police training programs for young people?

KC: Not right now that is one of the reasons that I was in Lansing yesterday because we are trying to get that started again.

INT: I had wanted to do that in school.

KC: We still have the American Legion Cadet Program which is a high school program but the police academy is currently not operational but we are trying to get it started again.

INT: I wanted to do that but you had to get a certain amount of teachers to recommend you and I didn't think....I didn't even try.

KC: Had a problem with your behavior side.

INT: I had good grade but I was insubordinate

KC: I have one of those at home.

INT: Couldn't deal with authority figures.

KC: I have a sixteen year old at home, gets good grades but doesn't get along with the teachers. Academic report card looks good but his conduct side is wow! I think it will be easier soon we see an outline of what you have or a rough draft to fill in and expand go back further we could put dates with stuff.

INT: Okay, well if you want to hold out for that thing if you would be willing to do another interview after I am done with that.

March 20, 1995: Director Kenneth Chant

INT: I guess first of all if you know when the Public Safety Department was created, if you know the date.

KC: You mean as it is now?

INT: I heard from the ???? downstairs that it started as a security.

KC: Actually it started as a security department probably in the late 50s.

INT: You do not have any precise date on that?

KC: No, I could get you the precise date. The first chief of security was a fellow by the name of Wayne Stameaugh

INT: Can you spell that?

KC: S-T-A-N-E-A-U-G-H. It was pretty much a security department until probably 1966 and then it became a police department and it was a police department until 1969. Then its name was changed to Public Safety, Bill Lyons was the chief at that time. And in 1970 it was changed....Yeah, did I say 69'?

INT: Yes.

KC: IT was 1969 it was changed to Campus Safety in 1978 it got its current name Public Safety and Police Services. Now the security part of it in the 50s and early 60s was basically resident

halls, security of buildings and when it became a police department they got into traffic enforcement a little bit and parking enforcement predominately in the same functions that they have always had. The name was changed to Campus Safety because of the unrest on university campuses throughout the country.

INT: During the 60s.

KC: During the 60s. They wanted to get away from the "police image" so it was changed from Campus Safety which was pretty much of a trend nation wide, safety departments. Then in 78' they had it changed to Public Safety and Police Services and the rationale there was to emphasize again because there was a lot of confusion as to what role and function of the department really was so put police back in the title to emphasize the service part of the police and then Public Safety because our role again then changed and safety had been incorporated into our department. Safety meaning, ???? and compliance, environmental safety, workers safety and those kinds of things. We have only been doing that since 78'.

INT: Do you know why it was created in the first place? For so long there was no public safety on campus, like anything that sparked the need?

KC: I would say that it would have to be tied into the establishment of Job Corp here. Which was they brought an awful lot of inner-city people to the university so that would have been part of it. Night watchmen have always been a part of the university used to come out of the physical plant and no matter where you go, some of our ivy league institutions go back 1790s there were night watchmen. So it has always been a part of a university to have some kind of security I think the unrest of the 60s, the escalation of crime in the 70s and 80s really created a need for university police departments. A lot of unique clientele that we deal with, problems that are similar to any small city but are different because you are dealing with the same people in a same age group day in and day out although our population ??? age group it ???? deal with that.

INT: I heard that you have in some kind of handbook or whatever an outlines the purpose of public safety.

KC: I can give you a copy, there is one in the library as well but if I give you mine I would like to have it back.

INT: Well if there is one in the library I can just use that.

KC: Unit review for Public Safety basically a year long study of every single aspect of the department. It is more current then historical but it gives you in one document everything that we do in law enforcement safety, parking.

INT: How long have you worked here?

KC: Since 19??? off and on.

INT: So are you director.. is like the same as chief was?

KC: Yes. The titles mean different things, chief implies law enforcement of security and director implies public safety, public safety is broader based than chief of police.

INT: Is there a chief here then? Like a separate...

KC: Um, no.

INT: Historically do you know anything since you have been here or even before any kind of big major things that have happened say during the 60s were there any major riots anything on campus that had to be dealt with?

KC: During the late 60s there were some racial incidents, there was a championship televised basketball game that was stopped by a demonstration, there was fire bombings, in the administration buildings there were people held hostage.

INT: Really?

KC: Yes, those were during the late 60s. The vice-president was held hostage I think he was the dean of students then but when on to become a vice-president.

INT: Do you know which one that was?

KC: Toc????

INT: Al?

KC: Yes, Alan

INT: Any um.. As far as moving on to the categories of personalities and such do you know like any real outstanding figures in the department or you know any weird or interesting stories about anybody.

KC: Nothing that I want to put on tape. It was in 7.. I think 73' when you need a degree as a manager requirement, employment. So the police officers, for example, have to have minimum of an associates degree in law enforcement or bachelor s degree in criminal justice, all the supervisor positions require at least a bachelors degree in criminal justice so that was a major change. At that time we were the only department in the state that required it to be employed, now there are three besides us that do but they are all university police departments.

INT: Other police departments don't require that in the state?

KC: No, that is one unique aspect of it we deal with ???? which is what police officers are in and the sergeants and investigators are in the administrative professional unit which is a bargaining unit and in turn the captains are senior administrators. The clerical people are CT Union

INT: Which is, CT?

KC: Clerical/Technical. Well let's see here over the years the changes I suppose How much time do you have to do this?

INT: I think there due..

KC: At the end of this semester?

INT: Yes, around the beginning of April.

KC: I could probably get dates for you for some of this stuff. There has been a lot of changes in the last probably ten years the most significant changes about the organization and how we came to work the way that we do now and the department is really split into three different areas and that is told in the review, in that document. We have law enforcement, safety, and parking and traffic are the three broad unit. You have a lieutenant that is the patrol services supervisor and he is the one that is in charge of all of the law enforcement activities, the investigator works through him. and all the police officers work for him. The captain who is also the assistant director is in charge of the front office, parking and traffic and that kind of stuff. In the area of safety there is where I have safety and security arson investigation, fire inspection person and safety compliance, records man of safety and crime prevention he is in that area as well. The duties and the corporals that is something that's something that is relatively new that is about 4 or 5 years old those are really awarded of longevity to the police officers . Then you get ??? ??? serving that role. The duties that is covered in the Unit Review, the services all of it is covered in the Service Review. Education, criminal justice courses, three we teach in CJ our D.A.R.E. Sgt. Lovelace he is also a D.A.R.E. mentor, which there are a couple hundred of them nation wide and those are the people who serve as a leadership role to the D.A.R.E. officers themselves. He is involved in that is the crime prevention person, same person. Seminars, I will give you a copy, the only one I have is 93' it shows the type of number of people that attend them that kind of stuff.

INT: I didn't even know that you had seminars.

KC: Were all the state and local police, everybody here is also a deputy sheriff of Marquette County everybody that works in the department. We also have mutual aid which means if we need assistance we can call on the closest and if they need assistance they can call on use. Student employment, I think at one time we had 65 to 70 student employees were down to about thirty now, budget reductions. Arson and vandalism. I will give you also of the annual report but it is 93s; 94s statistical is still being compiled.

INT: Has been the case historically as well, larceny and vandalism?

KC: Yes, Larceny and vandalism. if you look through the back of the annual report we have it go all the way back to probably 68' and 69' but I started it several years ago from compiling a ten year average so the further you go back you will at least have a twenty average of crimes. So one year you may have for example two or three arsons, another year you may have twenty or thirty arsons. I depends on the year but the predominant crimes are arson and malicious destruction.

INT: Have there ever been any homicides.

KC: No homicides, there have been suicides, no homicides lots of rumors about them but never been one. There have been fatal accidents.

INT: Fatal accidents such as like car?

KC: Automobile accidents.

INT: Any other kinds

KC: No, not directly related to employment, any lab injury or anything like that. There has been people that have died on campus that happens every year. Employees, people in the P.E.I.F. who have had heart attacks that have died and people in the bowling alleys. So death is not unusual but homicide is.

INT: Do the officers carry weapons?

KC: Yes, they are certified police officers they are required in the state of Michigan to go through the same training that any other police officer in the state 15 week, in Michigan you have to be licensed to be a police officer.

INT: Do you have like besides like the revolvers that you carry do you have other weapons?

KC: We currently carry 9 millimeter pistols, we do not carry revolvers, we do not have shot guns...

INT: Available at all, in case of like a riot or some major upheaval.

KC: We have somethings they are not carried in the cars. But they have defensive weapons that they carry like the baton which is a expandable baton not the PR 24 nothing like that.

INT: PR 24?

KC: That is the infamous baton that the Los Angeles Police used on Rodney King. And also carry pepper mace.

INT: Have there been any crimes where the officers had to use their weapons here on campus? Is it a rare occurrence?

KC: Fired there weapons?

INT: Yeah.

KC: Never. Not in the whole school.

INT: Not in the whole history?

KC: No, a weapon has never been discharged.

INT: At northern ever? Not even with the hostages or anything?

KC: No, in fact they were unarmed in that period of time. We had a combination of security and some law enforcement but the state hadn't mandated training requirements at that period of time so some were armed and some were not. The basic rule was the people that were transporting the money for banking deposits were the ones that carried the weapons the others didn't. When we went to the mandatory certification everybody here was a certified police officer we started carrying fire arms, you can not expect a police officer to not carry a fire arm.

INT: In the course of like, you said that you had the Mutual Aid Pact with state and local police; have there been any discharge of weapons ever?

KC: Not by our officers, by others by ? when we were with them.

INT: Lets see. One thing I was curious about, when famous people come here, like the Vice President what do you do?

KC: that is confidential, I could ????. It depends on who it is, if it is someone like the vice president then our role is basically to provide assistance to the secret service, liaison and manpower. When the vice president was here the entire staff worked. Every single person was working, including the majority of our student employees, and different aspects of the security, if it is somebody else, over the years we have had former presidents here, Ford was here, we have had dignitaries like Muhammad Ali when he was world champion that was probably the most extensive security that was ever provided to anyone.

INT: For Muhammad Ali?

KC: yes. we had people like Morris ?, who was the former minister of defense of Israel. While he was minister of defense here. It depends who the personality is to what kind of security to provide.

INT: What kind of measures would you take?

KC: Threats, depends on what kinds of threats it would be, we had the secretary of education here, security is not nearly as tight as it would be as ? ? when he was here. It just depends on what they do and what kind of background there is, how controversial they are. We had Dr. Hannah who is in charge of World food organization and a couple of months later we had ? Ginsberg, they are different so it depends on who it is, and of course when you have a senator or vice president, we have had Ford has been here, Bush has been here.

INT: Bush has been here?

KC: Yes, not while he was President. Before he was president. Mondale when he was running for Vice President.

INT: So what measures do you take then? Or you can't ?, what are the type of things you do?

KC: Well give me an example of who you want to look at.

INT: Well just for Muhammad Ali

KC: Well Muhammad Ali was different, that involved both for personal security and ground control. Then personal security means everything from driving to being in a location like body guard. Crowd control is both down town and the mall all the influx called ?, are places you have to set up security in advance, parking is taken care of, the route he is going to be following is secure, and being with him. Someone like the Vice president when he was here our response is secret service responsibility is body guard function, but then we also have to have someone assigned response team incase there was an incident. Traffic control, intersection control, crowd control, security of any of the vendors that would be on campus, those are time consuming and someone like the vice president you would go through with the dog, that is trained to sniff for explosives, do searching of all the buildings securing the building in advance, opening the building and providing the security once he is in place, animal vacate, complicated stuff.

INT: Block off all the streets in that case?

KC: yes.

INT: Those loggers came through and everything

KC: It was all arranged in advance.

INT: It was.

KC: yes

INT: I was wondering. Because I didn't think they would let them go through. Surprised them.

KC: NO that was all coordinated through here, many grants with them.

INT: Someone let you know

KC: they wouldn't of come if they didn't.

INT: That is what I thought, because I didn't really think that they were going to

KC: We knew, I had several telephone conversations with the organizers, what they wanted to do and what we had room for. At the last minuets they wanted to change the rules and we redirected them to a different place.

INT: I see.

KC: You can imagine if you have a series of logging trucks and they want to block the intersection stuff like that and actually be in the position of having the vice president so that he wouldn't be able to move.

INT: was it public safety that said you couldn't load the trucks, the trucks couldn't be loaded, I think there original intent was to have fully loaded.

KC: no, we never told them that they couldn't be unloaded or unloaded, but those are all contract haulers, that is someone elses property on the back of those trucks. That is a decision someone else had to make.

INT: From hearing that it would of been an unsafe thing you know with all the crowd, some one could of messed with the chain or something.

KC: or dropped a load, no we did not tell them that they couldn't, but we had a back up plan in place if a load lets go or if a truck got spilled or a truck got stalled or anything ? ? ?.

INT: I see. another thing I had on there was technological innovations. I think that has probably changed the department a lot.

KC: Well we are 100% computerized. All of our records are in the computer.

INT: As far as you know you have the green dot door and stuff like that.

KC: That comes under the security function in crime prevention. And the university watch networked for us. That is a computer controlled access system. Eventually the building well is starting now you have cards ? opposed to keys. That doesn't seem ?

INT: Do you have a lot of problem with breaking and entering on campus buildings.

KC: Breaking and entering, no. Larceny yes. Because people don't lock there doors behind them. We do have them. We don't have lots.

INT: Is there a tunnel system under the campus?

KC: oh sure. A tunnel system is well it's purpose is to get the steam lines from one building to another, they are passable, in a lot of places you would be on your hands and knees, other places you could stand up. Some places you have to lean over, but it is possible to get from one building to another.

INT: All the buildings are

KC: the majority of the buildings are steam, you know.

INT: I got in trouble once when I was a kid, with public safety, when I was trying to get in those tunnels, when I was in junior high.

KC: for being

INT: I got in and couldn't get back out. I dropped into those doors down over by Thomas Fine Arts.

KC: Some have big exhaust fans that aren't antiquely guarded. someone should get hurt. There is a lot of asbestos in those tunnels and there is a lot of hot steam wise.

INT: Is that like something that you would check out in case of...

KC: They are all ????

INT: Oh are they

KC: If anyone tries to gain access to one of the access points you ??? ??? in there. Most of our buildings are now are ????

INT: Any other technological innovations, like you know that really changed how the department worked.

KC: Probably the biggest outside the alarm system would be ??? our records. We had stuff like ??? telephone calls are all reported and all that they are not hard kept. That great big piece of machinery sitting behind the tables that is a reel to reel 24 hour recorder that reports the radio traffic from the headphones and everything. We have had that for years that just happens to be a new one because the other one quit. Radios, have always ben around since the 40s actually since the 30s.

INT: What about future developments in the department?

KC: We are just going to try to keep our heads above water.

INT: You are having problems trying to keep your head above water as far as finance.

KC: Budget. Pretty severe budget cuts over the last several years we lost positions, programs...

INT: You should try to keep that ticket money for ourself then you would be all set.

KC: That is a change that has occurred here I think the third year now that the Park and Vechile Registration is self-liquidating we are able to fund those positions, that was a budget reduction that we went through. So in order to keep the positions we fund them out of the revenue out of the vechile registration.

INT: But parking tickets go into the general fund?

KC: A percentage of it comes here, a percentage of it goes to the general fund and a percentage of it goes into parking lot improvements. The largest percent is the parking lot improvement. So from here we pay for repaving, repainting parking lots, snow removal for parking lots, enforcement for parking lots it all comes out of the ????. Any new parking lots unless there connected to a

renovation or a new building are funded out of that money. So when you look at the expansion of LOT 28, that is where you got a lot of that money.

INT: As far as future developments...

KC: Well we have a big change coming up we are going to be moving into a new building one of the nicest things about that move is we got the opportunity to design our own area to meet our unique needs. It is not going to be any bigger but we are not going to be spread over two floors.

INT: Where are you moving to?

KC: The new building well actually it is a renovation of an existing building but it involves a little bit of new construction down by the Birdseye Building.

INT: That is kind of far from...

KC: We knew it was far from the center of campus but one other factors that influenced the move was that probably 90% of our business if dealing with ????. Instead of driving here they can drive to another location and we will be considerably closer to the resident halls. Those were a couple of reasons that we looked at plus we have to move we did not have a choice in the matter faculty are coming into this area.

INT: Are the residents halls like the people that live in them say from out of town, people that come to school from out of town are usually more problematic to local ??? people.

KC: It depends on what the problem is if you have people who are living here then you will have more incidents, quotation points then you would if people would go home at five o'clock or a little afterwards.

INT: I am wondering as those that are committing crimes are they more local people or out of town?

KC: We have a lot of local people living in the residents halls to.

INT: That is true.

KC: So you would have to say that if you looked at the if you looked at the types of things that happen after classes are over, well predominately are activities would be in residents halls, ordinary student housing, and faculty housing, and single student apartments things like that, only because everybody else is gone. Traffic offenses, serious traffic offenses like reckless driving or drunk driving are typically non-students. It is not to say they that their all non-studnets.

INT: Where is your jurisdiction?

KC: Marquette County

INT: All over Marquette County you can go, I mean can you like....

KC: Actually, a police officer has jurisdiction anywhere in the state. Jurisdiction typically is thought of as the area that is under your control so here anything any property owned or leased or under the control of the university would be our jurisdiction. So if when we have a boat down at the harbor that it is in our jurisdiction.

INT: What if someone was speeding down Washington Street can you pull them over?

KC: Can they yes, will they it depends on the violation. If there is a hazardous violation then they will make the traffic stop anyway. If it happened to be the differences you see when we patrol, Washington Street, no we don't. But we have to go to court, we have to go to the prosecutors office, we have to go different places in the city if they see a hazardous violation then they are going to take enforcement actions. But there are a lot of city streets that run in and around our property. Lincoln Avenue for example, and Wright Street, and Presque Isle, and Seventh Street, Eight Street. For example, we wouldn't sit up and run radar on Wright Street or we wouldn't set up and run radar on Lincoln Avenue. Where as we do here on Harden Circle and other places, not typically on city streets.

INT: Do you stop people for going over 15 miles an hour here?

KC: Well the speed limit is 15 so between you and I and the little machine there, the reason the speed limit is 15 is to keep people from over 20. We had people going through here at speeds that you would not believe, 65-70 miles an hour and that is pretty dangerous when you look at the amount of pedestrian traffic that we have.

INT: Pedestrians usually don't even look, they just walk.

KC: You would never do that downtown.

INT: I don't understand that I always look, I don't now.

KC: We even over the years have done things like ask the psychology department to do studies for us as to why this is happening.

INT: I always wondered to.

KC: Well that is why we what these are.... our crosswalks are called high visibility crosswalks and typically you will see crosswalks with two parallel lines without the diangle lines. Because of this phenomenon that we have here we have to mark those crosswalks.

INT: I have come close to hitting people, it is easy to do and I don't usually speed.

KC: Well if you took the same group of people and put them on the corner of Third and Washington Street and they would never do that and yet the traffic is going at about the same rate and probably be at a higher volume it is almost like a game. I have even written editorials for the student newspaper about it.

INT: It is almost worse when they look at you and still walk, it bothers me even more.

KC: I think they even give you hand signs.

INT: Basically we ran through the outline here no stories nor groovy antidotes?

KC: There are a lot of them but I am saving them for my book.

INT: For your book?

KC: No. I guess I would have to think about which ones would be appropriate but there are lots. You could imagine that we handle about a 1000 criminal complaints every year so that area alone there is going to be a lot of amusing things that might happen. Parking and traffic, the number of people that come in here irate, sometimes it is just plain amusing.

INT: My grandpa used to be a sheriff and he just has so many stories.

KC: More so probably two years of right to privacy and confidentiality doesn't deal with a different set of laws. Students rights and the right of privacy so our antidotes....

INT: Can not be published.

KC: Usually it is more internal chuckle then external. Although there are some.. I could probably share with you if I didn't use any names.

INT: That would be fine, it would spice up the paper a little.

KC: After you leave the interview I know that you will have questions and when you come back I will have some antidotes for you. Maybe one armed traffic, that one is going to be a bit obscene that's okay, right for your paper?

INT: Oh, yeah in a way that's kind of the stuff that he is kinda into you know the weird happenings.

KC: Well there are a lot of weird happenings maybe I will share one on a faculty member and one on a staff member, and one or tow on students.

INT: And any on officers past or present. Because he has given some examples like some president or faculty member would not travel after six, he would stop no matter where he was and just you know weird things or famous or officials on campus.

KC: Someone from here?

INT: Not from public safety he was just giving us examples for stuff to look for.

KC: Russ is?

INT: Yeah.

KC: Yeah we could give you some from the things that have happened in committees, there are lots of committees associated with this department.

INT: So I could get together with you then, when would be good a week from now?

KC: Whenever you have a chance to go through you if you want to just call and set up a time to come back in that would be fine. I could give you the copy of the annual report, I would like to have that back. In fact if you want to use my copy of the unit review....

INT: Well I be definitely coming back in if that is okay...

KC: You can use both the unit review and the.....