To be clear, we never do a thing called hog-tying. Lauzon explains—where an individual has his arms bound behind his back, their feet tied together and then cuffed behind them and tied to the arm bindings. Lauzon says hog-tying has actually led to death, whereas hobbling simply prevents a person who, for example, kicks a lot from damaging either the patrol unit or themselves.

“We also sometimes have people who are very bendy,” Lauzon admits.

Lauzon and Gardiner then spin us a story about the bendiest man in Edmonton. The way Lauzon tells it, he and another officer arrested a man, cuffing his hands behind his back and sitting him down in the back seat. They were driving away when Lauzon looked behind him and saw the man’s hands—still in cuffs—were somehow in front of him. They pulled him out of the car and re-cuffed his hands behind him, only to drive away and notice his hands were in front again.

What happened, Lauzon explains, is the man was flexible enough to slip his hands under his legs and bring them up in front—while sitting strapped in with seatbelt on. When the Edmonton Police Service arrived to pick the person up, Lauzon warned them about his ability. They stripped this guy into the back of their squad car so tight he figured he couldn’t slip out—only to have him kick the driver's seat so hard it broke.

The Patrol:

With Gardiner in the driver's seat, we get ready to drive around. The typical route is HUB Mall, which the officers generally walk through at the beginning of their shift. Rather than actively looking for particular types of crime, the officers simply patrol the areas and deal with whatever comes across.

As we traverse the Fine Arts Building, Lauzon points out a place where people used to be caught sleeping all the time before lights were installed. With problem areas like this, Lauzon says Protective Services gets an officer to make some recommendations for change.

The tops of HUB's stairwells are another problem area, but Lauzon says some of them have had mirrors installed so students getting up or down can see what's on the next set of stairs. HUB Mall also has a catwalk running the length of its perimeter, where one officer can patrol while the officer below keeps point.

We make our way from HUB into Tory, where Lauzon peers over the top of the stairwell first, explaining he likes to know as much as possible about a situation before proceeding. Luckily, most of the activities on campus are designed to let officers do just that.

Close to midnight, a call goes off on the officer's radio noting an "ACC party in 8 Henday." We make a quick trip back to the cruiser to head over the residence immediately.

On the way there, the officers go over the details of the call. As a student reported a concern with one of the night's floor parties, several students were trying to throw items out the windows.

The patrol unit pulls up in front of Lister Centre and Gardiner kills the engine. Quaintly, there are a dozen or so people getting ready to head to various parties, despite the night's cold bite. The officers pleasantly greet everyone before leading them inside. As we go down the inside stairswell, the officers maintain a good rapport with everyone we pass, wishing them a good night and making general small talk. At the bottom of the stairs another officer, who also responded to the call, meets us.

We reun a corner and walk past a group of students bussed by the elevators. As Lauzon and Gardiner open the door leading into the stairswell, a moment later we meet up with the hall's security guard, who made the call.

After speaking with the officer, in the stairswell, we head to the elevator and take it up to the common room.

The scene is filled with students: some dressed as animals in an on-offer, while a couple male room shiriifs' laughter and chatter flows through the room as the residents enjoy their night.

Gardiner and Lauzon make their way into the common area, casually making conversation while ensuring everything is under control. Upon noticing their presence, some students dispense with caution from a distance or quickly shift their gaze away. Two students about to head into the hallway catch a glimpse of the officers' backs and sprint the other way.

The officers ask what everyone is up to before heading over to the side of the room through a mess of garbage, shredded paper and what appears to be shattered glass or plastic on the floor to inspect whether the windows have been tampered with.

After making sure everything is secure, they and the floor coordinator go to the side, questioning him further about the situation. He claims no one had thrown anything out the windows, but Lauzon figures out the PC into the sink. He apologizes promptly and promises to get things back under control.

After one last walk around the room, the officers head back down the stairs, peaking through the door windows from the stairwell as each floor common area to check on students.

"They either show some to make conversations with students about the movies they're watching, or even the fine dances groups are energetically performing. "You come into an area and people automatically think 'you're there to respond to something,'" Lauzon says later.

"Sometimes we're either there just to make sure everything is okay or just to say hi."

Lauzon points out the security cameras throughout the halls of Lister that can be used to review a suspect's path in more serious instances before exiting the building. After a few incidents around campus such as re-contacting students from closed-off areas, we head back to the Lister front to make sure the residents are all okay.

Some students that stumble through the prayer for the night are offered a ride.

"Where's Officer, Steve?" asks one male student. Upon yelling him his name on duty tonight, the Lister resident expresses his disappointment.

A small group of students begin to crowd around Gardiner as they try to get her first name. She humors them, laughing at how many people actually seem to remember her first name.

"Upon finally getting it right, they all grin about their missed guesses. One student recalls how he knows her from the last time he saw her — when he was caught with open liquor in the common room — laughing all the while.

"Peace, officer!" says one of the students as they say their goodbyes and make their way back to their rooms.

It's clear from this scene and from the students' conversations that the officers try to establish themselves as more than just a uniform.

The hazing "officer-stripe" is painted in large letters across one of the walls of 8 Henday, proving just how much. We impact some of these officers have had on the community.

"Think the biggest part of it is the relationships he built up with them, usually through frequent patrols of the area," explains Lavozn of the patrol.

One new call directs us back up to one of the floors of Lister. The officers enter one student's room to hold a private conversation about her concerns with one of the other residents.

After finishing the conversation, Gardiner explains how one resident, who has been known to drunkenly try to start fights, went off to a nearby pub allegedly carrying a knife. The student who made the call expressed her concern for the safety of others who might cross his path on his way back.

After getting a description of the male, we head back down to the cruiser along the street where the male was reported to be walking. After about an hour, Lauzon notifies Gardiner that the suspect is heading back to Lister down by Avenue near the Butterdome. From the car, the student comes into plain view, and another of the patrolling servants approaches him outside with Lauzon while we wait in the vehicle.

The male admitted to carrying a two-inch paring knife with him, claiming he had been jumped the weekend before and wanted to find some protection. The officers continue to talk with him and suggest different spots and times for anyone safe late at night — including their phone numbers — before escorting him back to Lister.

At our ride along comes to a close just past 3 a.m., the officers will persist for hours longer. Twelve-hour shifts for multiple consecutive days are routine for parts of the UAPPS force.

"We've got a good group of people, and the nice thing is you work so many hours with them. You get to know their habits and how they work," Lauzon explains.

"Essentially, it's like working with a really strong team."