02-20

12 CUA Students Arrested in Alcohol, ID Bust

Phil Essington
Tower Staff

Twelve CUA students were arrested for underage possession of alcohol and misrepresenting their age to procure alcohol last Saturday evening during a District of Columbia police sting operation at University Wine & Spirits.

Seven officers in unmarked squad cars were stationed outside the store on Hawaii Ave. from approximately 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m., according to Second District Police Officer Dave Carter, who led the operation.

"We had received complaints about particulars who are serving minors," said Carter, who noted that the process went smoothly. "We stopped kids, we identified ourselves, we asked them for identification, and if they were in possession of alcohol, they were arrested," said Carter.

A police van was called to accommodate the large number of arrestees. "We had to call another vehicle... in order to get them started on the processing procedure as soon as possible," Carter said.

Jonathan Sawyer, interim dean of students, left open the possibility of puntitive displinary action by the University. "We're going to take the same action that we would consistently take on any off-campus behavior that is reported to us," he said.

University Wine and Spirits manager Scuhu Jung, who was not charged with any wrongdoing, said his store regularly checks identification. "We sold beer and liquor to students," Jung said, "not knowing some of them had fake ID."

Carter said he spoke with Jung after the operation was completed about methods of identifying the age of store patrons. "We try to work with the store owners," he said, "but first we try to see what's going on."

Jung said that he uses a book that lists features of each state's driver's licenses. He said, "A lot of students are from out of state, and we check their IDs in the book to see if they are legal."

Though the liquor store is within the fourth police district, Carter said the students were processed at the second district because the officers were based in that district. Carter said that all of the students were processed and released within "a couple of hours" after being charged with misrepresenting age to procure alcohol, and/or underage possession of alcohol, both of which are misdemeanors.

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Brookland: 'University Must Guarantee Four-Year Housing'

Phil Essington
Tower Staff

Brookland community leaders demanded last Thursday that the University guarantee to house all students on-campus before they would recommend the University's Master Plan to the D.C. Office of Zoning.

The community leaders, many of whom are members of the Brookland area Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC-5A), sent a series of demands to the D.C. Zoning Office, which must approve the Master Plan. ANC member Mary Baird Currie, who drafted the list, said it was signed by community representatives and sent in response to complaints that University students were disrupting the Brookland neighborhood. The University must take "full responsibility for off-campus misconduct" before the Brookland community approves it, she said.

District of Columbia law mandates that all universities present a Master Plan every 10 years, detailing any intent to construct, renovate, or demolish buildings on-campus. The Office of Zoning solicits feedback from area residents when considering whether to approve the Plan.

"The Zoning Office gives 'great weight' to the ANCs," said Darcy Flynn, a Brookland community activist and former ANC member. "It's definitely not veto power, but it is a hurdle that the University needs to overcome through the zoning process."

Currie said that to reduce off-campus misconduct, "The ANC would be in opposition to the Master Plan unless the University states in writing that they will commit to build enough housing to accommodate all of its stu-

See Master Plan, page 4

ZONING COMMISSION
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Exhibit 62

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
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EXHIBIT NO.62

Master Plan, from page 3

dents," Currie said.

"That's not going to happen," said Katie Boone, director of Housing and Residential Services. "We are striving to house as many as we can, but we just can't keep up with the demand," she added. Furthermore, "Seventy-five percent of juniors and 59 percent of seniors are living on-campus. Those are extraordinary numbers," she said.

Carl Petchik, director of Facilities Planning and Construction, downplayed the ANC demands. "These are not objections," he said, noting that the University currently provides housing for any student who desires it. "We will continue to require 100 percent full-time freshmen and sophomores to live on-campus," he said.

Boone announced that HRS is planning to launch an Off-Campus Housing Office next year to help alleviate some of the problems associated with students living in the Brookland community.

As for the misconduct, Boone said, "The University has taken action in the past when misbehavior was well-documented." She said that HRS has consistently reiterated the need for students to be good community members.

Even so, Currie insisted that the University specifically take responsibility for misconduct "within the Master Plan, and not in some addendum that's hanging in the back."

However, Petchek confirmed that the housing issues would be contained in an addendum to the Master Plan. "You don't want to re-write the Master Plan with every community concern," he said.

Friday, February 14, 2003

02-20

DC Zoning Supports Master Plan Approval

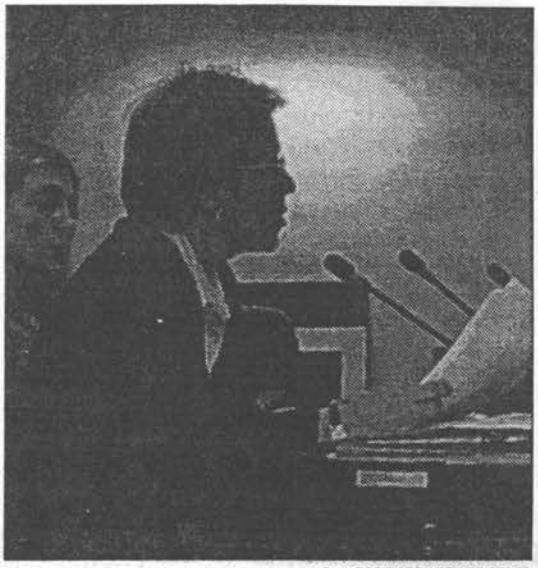
Phil Essington
Tower Staff

The District of Columbia Zoning Commission held a hearing yesterday on the University's proposed ten-year Master Plan, and the five-member panel heard testimony from University officials and Brookland residents on any potential negative impact the plan may have on the Brookland neighborhood.

The D.C. Office of Planning (OP), which reviewed the Master Plan, recommended it be approved by the Zoning Commission. "We are supportive of the plan," said OP representative Dave McGettigan. He also applauded the University's environmental considerations, including the traffic reorganization and green space increase, calling them "nation-leading."

In a 60-minute presentation by the University, Vice President for Student Life Susan Pervi and Associate General Counsel Allison Prince, along with landscaping and traffic consultants, detailed proposals to expand enrollment, improve on-campus facilities and maintain a positive relationship with the Brookland community. Additionally, a reorganization of traffic flow to the perimeter of the University and an increase in green space throughout campus are key projects within the plan.

Given objections to the plan by some community activists, Pervi emphasized that "our improvements must be respectful of our neighborhood community." She said that the plan will "practice responsible renovation and growth."



PHIL ESSINGTON/TOWER STAFF
VP For Student Life Susan Pervi talks to the zoning board.

The Commission sought public input from residents who might be affected by aspects of the plan. In separate statements, Dino Drudi and Jeff Wilson, both of whom live in Brookland, spoke about University students disrupting the neighborhood. Wilson described late-night "parties in the middle of the street" that routinely upset many residents.

"For over one hundred years," Drudi said, "the University and the Brookland community have had a harmonious relationship. We are very fearful that we are seeing it going south." He also cited an Advisory Neighborhood Commission demand, sent last week to the Commission, that "the University must guarantee to take responsibility for off-campus student misbehavior."

However, the University has taken steps to prosecute misconduct, according to Pervi. She said that students who live off-campus are held to the same standards as students who live on-campus.

The Commission instructed the University to submit its final draft of the Master Plan on March 6, after which ANCs would have two weeks to review it. The Commission would then vote on the plan's approval in late March.