ASUA SENATORS FACE REALITY

Senators find promises don’t always lead to programs

By Dana Crudo

One month into the school year, ASUA senators have realized that following through on their campaign promises can be an impossible task.

Senators turned in their project proposals last week to Melanie Rainer, ASUA executive vice president. But their plans for the year do not reflect the promises made when they campaigned.

That’s a problem that occurs every year, Rainer said.

“It is a scenario you run into with elected officials; it is often their first time in ASUA and they don’t really know much (about the job),” said Rainer. “It is entry-level and they haven’t researched before making promises.”

Senator Soral Karim who said during his campaign last year that he would create compatibility quizzes for residents, put on multicultural fairs and organize huge campus-wide parties on the mall, quickly discovered that those projects were beyond his power.

“What I campaigned was things I didn’t know much about,” Karim said. “I did a fair amount of research but at the same time I oversimplified the position of the senate. I came in with idealistic views but things have very much changed.”

He said he realized that compatibility quizzes cost too much money, other departments don’t want to participate in multicultural fairs, and organizing parties on the Mall is too huge a task for a senator.

Karim’s efforts are now concentrated toward working with the freshman class council and coordinating resident hall formal.

Sometimes things don’t work out, benefits sometimes don’t compensate for the time and money required.”

Karim said.

Underage drinkers not deterred

By Greg Holt

Reid Redman has received four minor possession citations since the school year began, including one a little over a month ago at a Jefferson at Star Ranch party.

Yet Redman, 20, remained undeterred Friday night as he drank a Bud Light on the balcony of a Star Ranch apartment.

“It doesn’t change anything. The only thing it changes is how much I hate the TPD,” said Redman, a business sophomore. “I don’t understand why they should be using so much force.”

More than 57 people were taken to jail after the Aug. 29 bust when more than 50 Tucson law-enforcement officers surrounded and confined partygoers at the West-side complex. A similar bust at a Star Ranch party last May landed 74 in jail.

Redman received his most recent MIP a week ago just three months before his 21st birthday.

“The thing that I question is why the cops are here. This is one of the biggest cities for auto theft in the country, and they’re busting underage drinking,” Redman said.

While the arrests might have done little to curb underage drinking, the impression the police presence has made on the minds of Star Ranch residents is undeniable.

“When someone knocks on the door, we get paranoid. We’re always looking over our shoulder, for sure,” said Hamed Beytollah, 19, a general biology sophomore who lives with three roommates at Star Ranch.

“Not a lot of the kind of thing that makes us stop partying,” Beytollah added.

Eric Steiner, pre-business sophomore and Beytollah’s roommate, fondly remembers the Star Ranch security force that has been replaced with police officers.

“Last year we were friends with security; they even knew us by name. Security would let us do what we wanted as long as they didn’t smell drugs. They

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Threat policy up for debate today

By Andrea Kelly

Nearly one year after a student shot and killed three professors in the College of Nursing, a campuswide threat policy will go up for approval at the Faculty Senate meeting today.

Senate members will review the fourth revision of the policy on threatening behavior that outlines specific steps people can take if they feel threatened on campus.

The steps for students and faculty who feel threatened or observe a threat, even if it is not directed at them, include instructions to leave the area, call the police and file a report at the Dean of Students Office.

Professors and other employees must also notify their department if they observe threatening behavior.

Students may be expelled depending on the severity of the situation.

In October of last year, Robert S. Flores Jr. who had a history of making threatening statements shot and killed three professors during class, then turned the gun on himself.

That brought the issue of threatening behavior to the forefront of faculty concerns.

Provost George Davis said he learned that faculty members did not feel they were receiving adequate support from administration and that the communication system was not effective for faculty who did feel threatened.

Davis spoke with faculty after the shootings to get an idea of what they wanted.

“I immediately after the shootings, I knew I had to do something,” Davis said. “I did get a clear impression that they were really asking the university to be more supportive of them.”

Students also feel there is a need for such a policy.

“Teachers shouldn’t have to go to class if they feel threatened,” said Randy Wegman, pre-physiological sciences freshman.

The policy makes sense following the nursing school shootings, said Stephen Barta, business sophomore.

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RECENT TPD BUSTS

› August: Nearly 60 people taken to jail after MIP busts at Star Ranch party.

› May: More than 70 people taken to jail after party in UA area.