By Ty Young

Police take heat for underage drinking raids

Tucson police have received an increasing number of complaints from parents and students with their attempts to weed out underage drinkers.

Negative sentiment came to a head following the arrest of 36 students on Oct. 17. The students were traveling in a bus from the Vagabond Hotel after a Gamma Phi Beta sorority date dash. For the first time, police met significant resistance from community members, said Capt. John Leavitt of the Tucson Police Department midtown division.

“Was an interesting phenomena to experience where all the other enforcement operations that we were engaged in were tremendously supported, but when that particular incident occurred, parents from people on the bus and others who believed they knew the circumstances complained quite loudly,” he said.

One of the loudest voices has been Glen Huntsberger whose son Matt was arrested on a minor in possession charge after police stopped the bus. Huntsberger has launched a letter campaign that has reached, among others, Tucson law enforcement, President Peter Likins and Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano.

Huntsberger said that police are using scare tactics and heavy-handed enforcement techniques to force their message onto students.

“I hate it when students become the victims of a bully, which I think the police department is,” he said.

Although he said he supports the police in their attempts to stop criminals, especially drunk drivers, Huntsberger is concerned that the wrong people are being singled out.

It makes no sense that the students were arrested despite making attempts to ensure safe driving after the event, he said. See DRINKING/10

POLICE RAIDS

• Oct. 24 — Trident Grill, El Charro at El Mercado
  3 arrests

• Oct. 17 — Gamma Phi Beta sorority date dash
  36 arrests

• Sept. 2 — Jefferson at Star Ranch apartments
  125 arrests

• May 8 — House raid
  74 arrests

Some Tucson bar owners are beginning to voice their opinions about increased police enforcement in their bars — and things may soon get a bit louder.

Luke Cusack, owner of The Keys, is on the cusp of bringing “extremely severe legal actions” against the City of Tucson. He thinks that large-scale police raids on bars and restaurants are affecting business owners and creating a state of prohibition in Tucson.

“I want to see every citizen be able to enjoy the rights that have been granted to them without harassment or prejudice,” he said. “That’s the battle I’m fighting, and I’m going to take it to the end of the planet. I’m not going to be deterred.”

Cusack cited the enforcement of overserving of alcohol as one of the keys to the problem.

If police find that a bar owner has knowingly served an intoxicated patron, they can levy a $1,500 fine on the bar owner.

Police use a variety of determining factors before deciding that a person has been over-served, said Capt. John Leavitt, of the Tucson Police Department midtown division. Police will interview other patrons, bartenders and servers to make this determination.

Cusack said in his experience, police take a much simpler approach.

“They should not be coming into a bar and pulling people out because their eyes are red and watery and cite the bartender and bar owner,” he said. “If people are acting responsibly and not driving drunk, then leave them the hell alone.”

Despite his issues with police techniques, Cusack said he understands that they are receiving their orders from certain members of the city council.

“I am generally very supportive and very sympathetic to police officers and the

Eller College’s dean takes off for Rochester school

By Alexandria Blute

Zupan leaves UA after 6-year stint

Awards and UA memorabilia crossed Mark Zupan’s office, the evidence of six years of service to the UA. Next semester, all of those memories will be cleared away.

On Jan. 1, Zupan, who has been the dean of the Eller College of Business and Public Administration since 1997, will assume his new position as dean of the William E. Simon School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y.

Zupan’s departure from Eller marks the end of a long stint as dean, wherein he undertook a massive, $100 million fundraising campaign, worked to bring in more faculty, and implemented a screening process for Eller applicants.

With Zupan’s fund-raising efforts — including numerous trips to visit potential donors in Phoenix and hundreds of breakfasts, lunches and dinner parties with potentially generous alumni — the mid-million dollar goal is close to being met.

While many university programs suffered from massive budget cuts, Zupan implemented a $500 under-graduate program fee to bring in several new faculty and allow for the accreditation of certain Eller programs. All of these programs, Zupan said, have contributed to a better education for every business student.

“The students have been a joy to work with. We get very good students from around the world,” said Zupan, who also noted that Eller’s standing as the 14th ranked business school in the nation requires that every student get an above average education.

Though his duties have kept him busy, Zupan still makes time to answer student e-mails, handwrite personal notes and attend numerous student functions. Students who have worked closely with Zupan say that while he is constantly looking for ways to improve the college, he is always willing to listen to student concerns.

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Bar owners tired of police presence

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