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Metro Police makes few liquor arrests

■ Weekend passes quietly despite underage drinking crackdown

by Michael Barnett
Metro Editor

Metropolitan Police officers arrested only a handful of students for underage drinking during a weekend that saw scores of students in handcuffs last year.

Lt. Robert Aiello said seven people, several of them students, were arrested for underage drinking Thursday, Friday and Saturday in MPD's second district, which encompasses GW, Georgetown and American universities.

Aiello could not say whether any GW students were arrested.

Lt. Patrick Burke, who oversees operations that target underage drinkers and liquor vendors that sell to minors, said MPD has arrested more than 1,300 underage drinkers, many of them college students, in the past two years.

"We'll be strong, of course, in the beginning of the (academic) year, but we'll follow it up throughout the year," he said in a telephone interview Thursday.

"(But) we don't measure our success by the number of arrested people," he said.

Burke said MPD officers show up unannounced at nightclubs frequented by 18- to 20-year-olds with state-of-the-art fake ID scanners and alcohol sensors.

MPD and other District agencies have received \$1 million in federal grant money to conduct the operations and have already cited at least 41 liquor vendors for selling to minors.

A Labor Day weekend that last year was marked by the arrest of 70 students, including at least 11 from GW, was relatively quiet this year, even though MPD officers regularly patrolled Foggy Bottom and Georgetown for underage drinkers.

Officer John Brennan, who is assigned to Foggy Bottom, said he didn't arrest any students this weekend for underage drinking.

"Last year, we were getting a lot more underage possession," he said.

Asked why he hasn't found more underage drinking, Brennan said, "It's



Jeff Baum/asst. photo editor

MPD officer John Brennan checks the ID of a suspect he arrested in connection with a bar fight that spilled onto a Georgetown street on Saturday night.

unpredictable. I'm not sure"

Officer Howard Smith said MPD sees more drunken students a few weeks after classes start.

"Wait for a month, let a few weeks of classes pass ... then you'll see a lot of parties," he said.

Brennan said he almost always finds underage drinking when he patrols GW, evidenced by his encounter with a sophomore who was throwing a party at his Statesman apartment Saturday night.

Instead of arresting the student,

whose drunkenness was as obvious as the birth date on his ID, Brennan let him off with a warning that he would get arrested and fined \$300 if he was caught drinking again.

"He has alcohol in his system, yeah," said Brennan, explaining why he chose not to arrest the student. "Even if he has alcohol in his system, I've got to see him with a drink. I just can't go in his room."

"He was right there," continued

See MPD, p. 12

Powell to speak in Lisner Fri.

by Ryan Gallagher
Hatchet Reporter

U.S. Secretary of State and GW alumnus Colin Powell will address more than 1,500 students, faculty and staff at Lisner Auditorium Friday, almost a year after University officials first requested that he speak. Powell will also take part in a brief ribbon-cutting event before the speech to mark the ceremonial opening of the new Elliott School of International Affairs building.

Although GW officials have been courting Powell for more than a year, they have not been able to bring him to campus until now because of his schedule, said Kathleen Reilly, director of ESIA public affairs.

"You can imagine how busy this man is, with all that's going on in the world," Reilly said. She also brushed off suggestions that Powell canceled a visit scheduled for earlier this year and said GW and Powell "never had a firm date to speak."

More than half of Lisner Auditorium's 1,500 seats Friday are reserved for students, Reilly said.

Starting at 11 a.m. Tuesday, students will be able to pick up free tickets at the Lisner Auditorium box office on a first come, first served basis. Students must bring their GWorld cards.

Officials from the University and the State Department said members of Powell's staff have declined to divulge the theme of his speech.

Reilly said Sept. 5, the day when Powell is set to speak, is significant because GW held a cornerstone ceremony for the Elliott School building on that day last year.

Attendees should be seated by 10:30 a.m. Friday, half an hour before Powell speaks, because of security precautions.

University Police Chief Dolores Stafford said through a spokesman that she was "not at liberty" to discuss security arrangements for the event, but said UPD is working with Powell's security detail. Students must relinquish back-



See POWELL, p. 17

Surveying the scene with MPD

by Michael Barnett
Metro Editor

A humid Saturday night in August finds Officer John Brennan in a Metropolitan Police patrol car, checking out Georgetown University girls to make sure they're not drinking. Or maybe he's just checking them out.

"It's always off the hook right now," says Brennan as he looks for students nursing open beer bottles and red Solo cups. "You can always find something here."

Brennan, a 25-year-old with a stubbly beard and intent eyes, navigates the narrow streets of Georgetown, past hordes of students in polo shirts and short skirts enjoying the last vestiges of summer.

Brennan's ears perk up as the radio dispatcher alerts all officers to a robbery in the vicinity of 33rd and M streets. Officers are instructed to look for four Hispanic males in a red vehicle.

The streets of Georgetown are soon aflame as five squad cars comb the area for the suspects. Brennan drives over cobblestones and

trolley tracks, his bright lights offending the yawning townhouses lurking in the shadows.

Darting through side streets, Brennan pulls over a red Chrysler convertible that sped through a stop sign. Getting out of his car, Brennan walks slowly toward the Chrysler as its driver looks worriedly out of his side-view mirror.

The driver does not fit the suspects' description and Brennan lets him go with a warning. The suspects are never found.

Twenty minutes later, a noise complaint comes over the radio and Brennan proceeds to the Statesman apartment building on F Street.

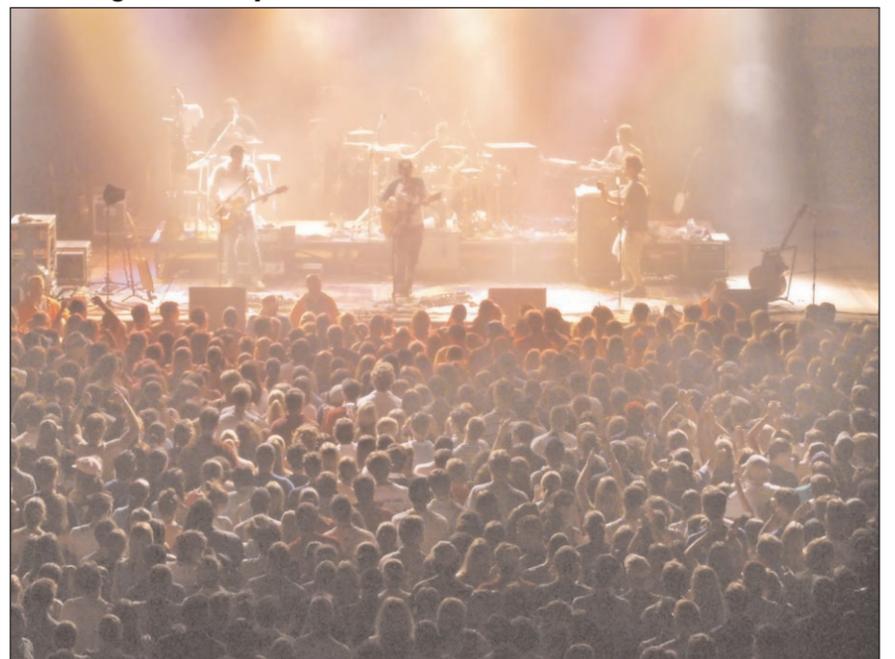
Upon entering, Brennan climbs the steps to the second floor, where he knocks on the door of room 227.

"If you don't live here, you need to roll out," he tells the dozen or so GW students holed up in the apartment.

After several minutes, the party's host emerges with a sheepish smile on his face. Brennan tells him that it's too early to be drunk.

See BRENNAN, p. 12

Providing a 'Remedy'



Andrew Snow/photo editor

Jason Mraz performs in the Smith Center Monday night as part of Welcome Week. Events will continue through Thursday. See story on p. 3.