

PSAG: Curbing bike theft also discussed at meeting

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"It's been nice that the committee picked an issue and saw it all the way through," she said. "We didn't just make a recommendation, we got a policy change. We're just an advising group, so that's great." After the group approved the revision, DPS Interim Director Tom Hicks said that while he did not want to speak for all DPS officers, he expected them to appreciate the extra flexibility the discretion clause would provide.

"I believe ... this will be well-received by the department as well," Hicks said.

PSAG unanimously passed a motion April 26 recommending that DPS alter its policies to better emphasize its goal of protecting students' medical safety when responding to calls for assistance, prompting the revision.

Even after the group voted formally to approve the revision, there was still some debate about the bounds of discretion and what constituted "aggression" or "unruly," two behavioral factors used to determine how a student will be cited.

Hicks said in most cases, if the interaction is the first contact DPS has had with a student and the student is compliant, he or she will be cited through Student Judicial Affairs.

"I think we have, in general, been pretty consistent with that, but I've had to go back and look at some of our cases and try to explain to them why they ended up getting cited through municipal court," he said.

Hicks said that at a previous meeting questions had been raised about the definition of "discretion" as well.

"I'll be quite open in saying I'm not going to get pinned into that corner. It's the officer that's there at the scene and evaluating the

situation and the circumstances going on that's going to make that call," he said.

Hicks gave the group two examples of an officer responding to a call for a student who had passed out: Hicks said he expected the first student, who was inexperienced and had little to drink, would be cited through campus channels; the second student, who was "celebrating their 19th birthday with 19 shots" and was "really inebriated," might receive a municipal citation.

"If we try to write in black and white what 'officer discretion' is, we no longer are having discretion," he said.

The revision will replace the older code in officers' handbooks, and officers will be briefed and receive retraining. Hicks said he expects it will be in place by the end of the week.

The group also heard a presentation from DPS officer Chris Fosnight on the role of community policing in curbing bicycle theft. There have been 192 bike thefts reported on campus from Sept. 15 to March 21, an estimated \$86,348 in loss, according to materials Fosnight provided.

"DPS can't accomplish this by ourselves. We need the community to help us with this," he said.

Fosnight's presentation included recommendations that DPS help the community take a more proactive role in preventing theft, such as improving the visibility of bike racks and the lack of consistent DPS policing, and creating better boundaries between public and private space.

"There are a lot of things people can do that are pretty easy and aren't being done," Fosnight said.

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IN BRIEF

Second man pleads guilty to human smuggling

BOISE, Idaho — A South Korean citizen has pleaded guilty to smuggling 13 women and a man from Canada into Idaho as part of an alleged prostitution ring.

Bum Suk "Michael" Kim, 33, faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He entered his plea in U.S. District Court in Coeur d'Alene on Monday, U.S. Attorney Tom Moss said.

Another man, 29-year-old Sang Yoon "Steven" Kim of Surrey, British Columbia, pleaded guilty to the same charge earlier this month. The two are not related.

In a plea agreement, Michael Kim said he was paid between \$300 and \$350 for each of the 14 people and said he knew they were illegal immigrants and could not legally enter the United States.

Investigators claim that on April 1,

the two men drove together from Los Angeles, where Michael Kim lived, to Worley, Idaho, where Steven Kim dropped off Michael Kim at the Coeur d'Alene Casino and Resort. Steven Kim then apparently picked up the 14 people near the Canadian border, but he was stopped and arrested on Highway 95 by Border Patrol agents, who had been tipped off by an informant. Michael Kim was arrested April 3 in Worley.

Authorities believe Michael Kim, himself an illegal immigrant, wanted to stay at the resort 130 miles south of the Canadian border to avoid a chance encounter with U.S. immigration officials.

The Idaho Legislature has formed an interim study committee to determine whether human trafficking is on an upswing in the state following other reports of border smuggling.

— The Associated Press

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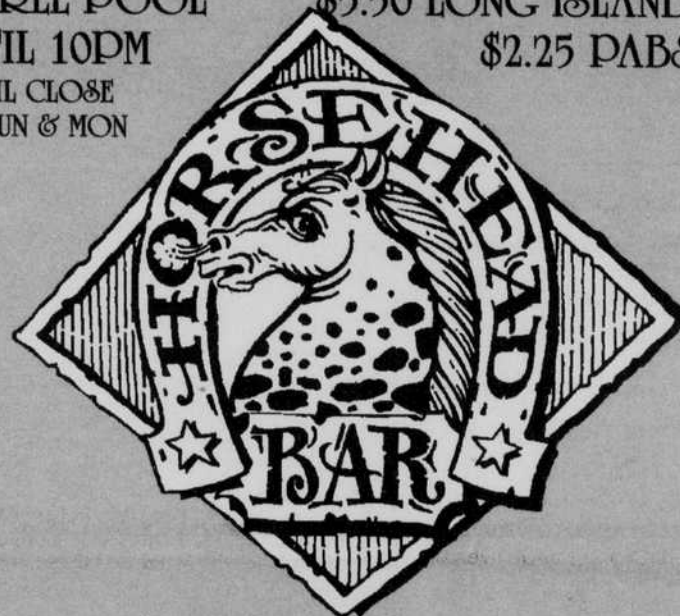
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