

# Police undercover operation nets four UI students

## Citations issued for providing alcohol to minors at fraternity parties

By Mark Williams Daily News staff writer

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Moscow Police cited four University of Idaho students for providing alcohol to minors stemming from undercover operations conducted this fall.

Assistant Police Chief David Duke said the department conducted five operations with the use of underage informants from early October through late November.

Duke said the informants went to large parties in and around the UI campus after home football games. Duke said the informants were either people who have a background in or are seeking a career in law enforcement.

The operations yielded four citations at three fraternity houses.

Robert Jackson, 21, of Bruneau, Idaho, was cited on Nov. 19 at the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity; Richard Broaddus, 18, of Kellogg, Idaho, was cited on the same date at the Alpha Kappa Lambda house; Jacob Benedict, 22, of Salmon, Idaho, was cited for two counts and Lucas Silveria, 22, of Grangeville was cited for one count at the Alpha Tau Omega house on Oct. 31, which was homecoming weekend and Halloween. Duke said Benedict and Silveria were not members of the ATO fraternity.

Three of the students were formally cited in mid-November while Benedict was cited Dec. 5.

Dispensing alcohol to a minor is a misdemeanor and the first offenses carries a penalty of a minimum fine of \$500, maximum of \$1,000 and a maximum prison sentence of one year. All four students were first-time offenders.

Dean of Students Bruce Pitman said he was aware of the operations during the latter stages and praised the MPD, particularly for their use of informants.

"I was very pleased that they used the strategy," he said. "We need to do all we can in terms of enforcement."

Though the incidents took place on private property, Pitman said the students are subject to the university's student code of conduct, which includes a fine and enrollment in an alcohol or drug education class. A third offense can result in a suspension for an entire semester.

"It's not our property, but if there are violations of law that occur, and if those ... are also violations of the student code of conduct, then a student can be dealt with twice," he said.

Duke said the first three students provided beer, while Silveria provided rum. Duke said none of the informants were actually sold alcohol at any of the venues, but were allowed to enter without having their identification checked.

"We were also interested to see if people were selling alcohol, but nothing was found," he said. "There had been allegations of that happening without licenses to do so."

Duke said police have conducted similar operations in the past as part of their enforcement of underage drinking laws, focusing on sales venues like grocery stores and other businesses with permits to sell alcohol.

Duke said a combination of information about potential parties and repeated instances of encountering minors with high blood alcohol contents led to the new approach this fall.

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