



**Office of the
Special Narcotics Prosecutor
for the City of New York**

80 CENTRE STREET
SIXTH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10013
212-815-0410, GEN.
212-815-0440, FAX

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2010

CONTACTS:

Kati Cornell
Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office
(212) 815-0525

Paul J. Browne
New York City Police Department
(646) 610-6700

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DRUG RING DISMANTLED: FIVE STUDENTS
AND THREE OFF-CAMPUS SUPPLIERS ARRESTED**

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, New York City Police Department Commissioner, announced today the indictment and arrests of five Columbia University students, who together sold drugs at three fraternity houses and other on-campus residences. "Operation Ivy League" also led to the arrests and indictment of three of the students' drug suppliers, including one defendant from Manhattan's East Village who is charged with plotting to kidnap a pair of rival cocaine traffickers.

During a five-month investigation that began in July, undercover officers with the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Manhattan North made 31 purchases from five students, who sold a variety of drugs, including cocaine, marijuana, powdered MDMA (ecstasy), Adderall and LSD. In some cases, LSD, a liquid hallucinogen, was applied to Altoids mints and SweetARTS candy.

The majority of the sales took place in common areas and bedrooms at three fraternities: Alpha Epsilon Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha and Psi Upsilon. Two students also sold drugs from their rooms at the Intercultural House and East Campus Housing. Each specialized in selling specific drugs and referred customers to one another. The undercover officers made nearly \$11,000 in purchases from the students during the investigation.

All five students are charged in indictments and were arrested on the Columbia University campus early this morning. Police searched the students' rooms in their fraternities and other campus housing pursuant to warrants. The searches yielded a bottle of LSD, 50 MDMA capsules, 15 Adderall pills, more than half a pound of marijuana, and approximately \$2,000 cash.

The investigation also led police to three narcotics traffickers who supplied the Columbia University students. One Brooklyn-based cocaine dealer, ROBERTO LAGARES, was arrested on Sunday afternoon at Kingsborough Houses, a New York City Housing Authority Development located in Bedford Stuyvesant.

Another two drug suppliers were apprehended on October 27th in Manhattan's East Village. One of these defendants, MIRON SARZYNSKI, sold cocaine, LSD and DMT (dimethyltryptamine) to undercover officers on seven occasions in the East Village and in Ridgewood, Queens. SARZYNSKI also manufactured drugs for distribution at his apartment at 430 E. 6th St. in Manhattan, with the help of his girlfriend, MEGAN ASPER, who specialized in growing marijuana.

Additionally, SARZYNSKI faces charges for attempting to kidnap a pair of rival cocaine traffickers, whom he believed had stolen money from him. During the investigation, SARZYNSKI tried to hire an undercover officer to help him with the kidnapping. His plan was to kidnap the victims at gunpoint, hold them for ransom, and torture them by forcibly administering a heavy dose of LSD. SARZYNSKI instructed the undercover officer that the victims would be killed if no ransom money was provided.

A criminal complaint charges that SARZYNSKI told the undercover officer he would shock the victims with a stun gun, hit them in the head and rob them. SARZYNSKI said, "Then I would have done something nasty like put a few drops of acid (LSD) in his mouth and then leave him there." Just prior to SARZYNSKI'S arrest, he handed the undercover a vial of LSD to be used in the kidnapping.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor BRIDGET G. BRENNAN said, "An ominous aspect of this investigation was the involvement of college students in the violent drug dealing business. The recent shootings on September 29th and November 1st of young people involved in selling marijuana highlight the all too familiar link between drugs and violence. The students arrested today supplied dangerous substances to their friends and other students to turn a quick profit, but subjected themselves to risks, of which they were either ignorant or in denial. These students were playing with fire."

Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY said, "The fact that a supplier to the Columbia students was willing to kill his rivals should demolish any argument that drugs on campus is a victimless crime. This is no way to work your way through college."

At the time of SARZYNSKI'S and ASPER'S arrests, police searched the apartment pursuant to a warrant and seized approximately two-dozen marijuana plants

and all the equipment needed for growing hydroponic marijuana. The apartment also contained equipment for manufacturing DMT, a hallucinogenic substance, and several jars of the drug. DMT is made from the root of a South American plant, which is treated with solvents to form a crystalline substance. Additionally, police seized a bottle of LSD, \$1,200 in cash and two air pistols.

The five Columbia University students are expected to be arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court later today.

SALES TO UNDERCOVER OFFICERS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Cocaine	40 grams	\$1,100
MDMA	50 capsules	\$1,000
LSD	44 tabs	\$440
Marijuana	2 ½ lbs	\$7,900

SALES BY ROBERTO LAGARES TO UNDERCOVER OFFICER

Cocaine	35 grams	\$1,500
---------	----------	---------

SALES BY MIRON SARZYNSKI TO UNDERCOVER OFFICER

Cocaine	90 grams	\$3,100
LSD	2 vials (100 drops per vial)	\$1,300
DMT	10 grams	\$2,000

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Miron Sarzynski 12/24/1986 430 East 6 th St.	Attempted Kidnapping 1 st – 2 cts. CSCS 1 st – 1 ct. CSCS 3 rd – 3 cts. CSCS 5 th – 7 cts. Conspiracy 2 nd – 1 ct. Conspiracy 6 th – 1 ct. CPCS 3 rd – 1 ct. CPCS 5 th – 1 ct. Criminal Possession of Marijuana 1 st – 1 ct
Megan Asper 9/7/1988 430 East 6 th St.	CPCS 5 th – 1 ct. Conspiracy 6 th – 1 ct.

Roberto Lagares 6/20/1980 Brooklyn	CSCS 2 nd – 1 ct.
Chris Coles 3/19/1990 Intercultural House, 554 W. 114 th St.	CSCS 5 th – 2 cts. Criminal Sale of Marijuana 1 st – 1 ct. Criminal Sale of Marijuana 3 rd – 4 cts. Criminal Sale of Marijuana 4 th – 1 ct. Criminal Nuisance 2 nd – 1 ct.
Harrison David 8/18/1990 Alpha Epsilon Pi, 546 W. 114 th St.	CSCS 2 nd – 1 ct CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct Criminal Sale of Marijuana 3 rd – 6 cts. Criminal Sale of Marijuana 4 th – 2 cts. Criminal Nuisance 1 st – 1 ct. Criminal Nuisance 2 nd – 1 ct.
Adam Klein 3/12/1990 Psi Upsilon, 542 W. 114 th St.	CSCS 5 th – 2 cts. Criminal Nuisance 2 nd – 1 ct.
Jose Stephan Perez 10/25/1990 Pi Kappa Alpha, 536 W. 114 th St.	CSCS 5 th – 4 cts. Criminal Sale of Marijuana 3 rd – 1 ct. Criminal Nuisance 2 nd – 1 ct.
Michael Wymbs 10/21/1988 East Campus Housing, 70 Morningside Drive	CSCS 5 th – 6 cts. Criminal Nuisance 2 nd – 1 ct.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictments are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.