

38 adults, teens nabbed in "Operation Hi-School Daze" drug bust in 3 high schools

Thirty-eight adults and teenagers who allegedly provided drugs to police officers posing as students at three Las Vegas high schools were arrested Wednesday following a three-month investigation.

The drug bust, dubbed "Operation Hi-School Daze" by police officials, rounded up nine students at Rancho High School, seven at Chapparral High and four at Clark High who allegedly sold or gave drugs to the officers who posed as students.

Eighteen adults who police claim provided the narcotics, mainly marijuana and cocaine, also were arrested in the

sweep that started shortly after dawn. Several students were taken into custody at school after educators removed them from classrooms.

"This round-up of drug dealers is just the beginning of a crackdown on the peddlers of poison that stand to infect our community and youth," Clark County Sheriff John Moran said after the arrests.

Moran said few of those arrested had previous criminal records, indicating "we have a problem in our community which has historically been neglected."

"This is the first

round-up of this kind in Clark County and it will not be the last," the sheriff said. Moran and other police officials would not comment on whether other undercover police officers are posing as students in other high schools.

Officers armed with search warrants also raided three residences, a cocktail lounge and Long John Silver's restaurant, 3000 E. Sahara Ave. Small amounts of narcotics were found during the raids and arrests.

But Lt. Mike Manning, head of the department's narcotics detail, said authorities were not unhappy with the

amount of seized drugs because the operation was aimed at the people providing the drugs.

Those arrested were booked on charges of possession with intent to sell. Authorities expected those booked on the relatively minor charges to be quickly released on bail or their own recognizance.

Juveniles usually are released to the custody of their parents pending filing of charges in court.

Police officials contacted the Clark County School District last year and requested permission to place officers in classrooms. Educators agreed to the plan and

enrolled the young looking officers last semester.

Moran said he anticipated criticism from some parents.



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