

Student may be victim of date-rape drug

by Tom Cowan
News Editor



On Sunday morning on January 14, a female freshman Brevard College student was taken to the

hospital for a head injury occurring after a party on Saturday night. Blood work at the hospital revealed that the student had ingested rohypnol, which is commonly known as a date rape drug.

The student said that the large off campus party seemed to be completely comprised of Brevard College students. The student claims to have opened her own drink(s) but says that someone could have slipped something in her drink while she wasn't looking. The student left the party around 12:30am and returned to campus before feeling the tranquilizing effects of the drug. She does not recall her accident taking place but says that she thinks she hit her head on a desk in her room judging by the pools of blood on her dorm room floor. The student woke up at 8:30am afraid and covered in blood. Around 9:15am the student's AD drove her to the hospital where she was treated with 12 stitches for cut above her eyebrow and a cast for a broken pinky finger.

Blood work revealed that the student had recently ingested an anti-depressant and a barbiturate called rohypnol. The student claims to have no prior knowledge of taking either of these drugs. The student talked to police at the hospital on Sunday and is planning to talk further with a detective later this week.

The student claims to have no idea who might have poisoned her. She is currently recovering back on campus. She said, "I thought I

was hanging out with people I could trust". Finding out otherwise is a shock she says she is still getting over.

How can I protect myself from being a victim?

- * Don't accept drinks from other people.
- * Open containers yourself.
- * Keep your drink with you at all times, even when you go to the bathroom.
- * Don't share drinks.
- * Don't drink from punch bowls or other large, common, open containers. They may already have drugs in them.
- * Don't drink anything that tastes or smells strange. Sometimes, GHB tastes salty.
- * Have a non-drinking friend with you to make sure nothing happens.

If you think that you have been drugged and raped:

- * Go to the police station or hospital right away.
- * Get a urine (pee) test as soon as possible. The drugs leave your system quickly. Rohypnol stays in the body for several hours, and can be detected in the urine up to 72 hours after taking it. GHB leaves the body in 12 hours.
- * Don't urinate before getting help.
- * Don't douche, bathe, or change clothes before getting help. These things may give evidence of the rape.
- * You also can call a crisis center or a hotline to talk with a counselor. One national hotline is the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE. Feelings of shame, guilt, fear and shock are normal. It is important to get counseling from a trusted professional.

Source: US Department of Health & Human Services

Security Report

Nov. 29. A female student reported the possibility of a stalker looking for her on campus. The suspect has never been observed in Brevard.

Dec. 1. A burglary was reported in Beam Residence Hall. The matter was investigated by police and resolved. See article.

Dec. 1. A minor confrontation between two students in Beam Residence Hall was broken up by security.

Dec. 4. An enraged female student removed all of her roommate's belonging from their room. Security was called to settle the dispute.

Dec. 4. A set of tests was reported stolen from a faculty member's office. The faculty member believes their office was illegally entered while the door was locked suggesting the perpetrator used a master key.

Dec. 4. A student destroyed a table in Beam Residence Hall by kicking and bashing it apart. This incident happened approximately two weeks prior to its report.

Dec. 6. A small amount of marijuana was recovered from West Beam Residence Hall.

Dec. 6. The smell of marijuana was reported to security in East Jones residence hall. A search was conducted and nothing illicit was found.

Dec. 12. Clothing was reported stolen from the laundry room in Beam Residence Hall. A suspect's room was searched. The clothes have not been recovered.

Dec. 12. A student reported their bike having been stolen several weeks prior. The bike was found on campus by security. No one was charged with stealing it.

Jan. 15. A small amount of marijuana and some candles were recovered from a dorm room in the North Village.