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documents. The tablets dissolve easily in beverages such as soft drinks, beer, and liquor, leaving no taste, color, or odor.

Rohypnol is becoming the drug of choice for would-be rapists whose identity is often masked by the amnesia-like effects of the drug, said Pamela Smith, a registered nurse at Boynton Health Services Women's Clinic.

"There are women found in cars without clothes or who can't remember anything except that they feel violated," she said.

Several days after the early October incident, Kristin had pieced together what happened, combining her own shards of memory and her friend Julie's recollections.

Shortly after Kristin met the man with long hair, she began to act "wasted and drunk," even though she had consumed little alcohol that night. Kristin said she thinks the man spiked her drink with a Rohypnol tablet when he leaned close to her to introduce himself.

The drug's effects can begin within minutes, said Ann Marie Anglin, a spokesperson for Hoffman-LaRoche, Rohypnol's manufacturer. And they apparently did with Kristin.

What started out as innocent dancing with the man quickly progressed into the man's attempt to escort Kristin out of the bar. Kristin believes the bruises on her arms and neck were a result of the man trying to force her to leave with him.

Fortunately, Julie intervened and took Kristin home.

"I shudder to imagine what might have happened," Kristin said. "I had no decision-making capabilities at all." Kristin said she believes that without her friend's help, she would have been abducted and raped.

Rohypnol comes from the same drug family--benzodiazepines--as Valium and Halcion, but has a much more powerful, hypnotic effect than those drugs, said Anglin.

To help identify victims of Rohypnol-related sexual assaults and combat negative press reports, Hoffman-LaRoche began offering free

drug testing this summer for suspected victims.

"We're concerned because it's our drug, and we're quite disturbed because it's being used for this unfortunate purpose," Anglin said.

Suspected victims can have their urine tested within 72 hours of exposure at a health care facility such as a local hospital or campus health center. The sample will be mailed to and tested by Roche Laboratories in Massachusetts, free of charge.

Until recently, there has been no way of detecting the drug's presence in cases of sexual assault, and few confirmed victims have been identified. But hopefully with the new test, Anglin said, suspected rapists can be identified and prosecuted.

The use of Rohypnol in sexual assault cases began in Florida and Texas, but has quickly spread north to afflict such universities as Penn State, whose health authorities reported as many as 10 suspected Rohypnol-related rapes this fall.

Smith said that several inci-

dents of Rohypnol poisoning have been reported at the University of Minnesota, but that none have been confirmed.

"We don't want people to fall prey to this," she said. She recommended that people "watch their drinks, go with a partner or friend...but don't go alone."

Anglin said Hoffman-LaRoche is cooperating with the Drug Enforcement Administration and other law enforcement agencies to stop illegal diversions of the drug into the United States. In late September, the company discontinued production of the potent two-milligram tablets, which is the dosage of choice among rapists.

Last month, Congress approved a bill that imposes much harsher criminal penalties for using any drugs to commit sexual assault and other violent acts. The bill provides a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison for using any controlled substance, including Rohypnol, to commit a violent act.

**Holiday Sale
MC Book Store**

•20% off all clothing through December 23

•Available at the beginning of December:
"Celebrate 40" t-shirts

•Textbook buy-back:
Dec. 6, 9, 10, 11 from
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
in front of the store



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF AT THE BOOK STORE!

HELMS from page 1

another Ted Kennedy in the Senate," said Helms. "I have to look at Ted Kennedy every morning, and if you've had a good breakfast, you might lose it."

When asked why he has "gone after" Gantt, Helms responded, "He has tried throughout the campaign to show himself as something he is not." According to Helms, Gantt wants more money, higher taxes, and is against a balanced budget and the death penalty. Helms also accused Gantt of wanting to allow homosexual teachers in schools. "North Carolina is a conservative state," said Helms.

Helms talked about his trip to Asheville where he met with Billy Graham and spoke about the trouble in this country with crime and drugs. The big issue is morals and spiritual values, Helms said.

During the last 10 minutes of the conference, Helms entertained reporter's questions. A reporter for a local television station wanted to know what was going to be done about student loans. Helms passed the question to Nichols, who said the Senate has increased loans every year, and between 1995 and 2005 student loans are expected to grow by 50 percent. Another person questioned the proposition of the open-door

policy on people coming into the country with contagious diseases. Helms said he would not allow such a thing and would oppose the proposition.

Although not a member of the press, an MC student persisted in having his question answered as to what Helms plans to do, saying, "All you've done is criticize Gantt." Helms finally said, "You don't make your point." The supporters of Helms booed the student as he walked away.

Finally, MC president Dr. Elton Hendricks thanked Helms for coming. Helms, at 75, won his seat as senator of North Carolina in the 1996 election.



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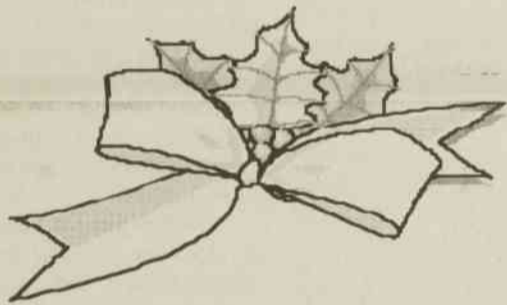
Graduating seniors must attend exit interview regarding loans

Government regulations require that all graduating seniors who received student loans must attend an exit interview.

During the exit interview, a list of student's lenders and total amount borrowed will be provided. Information on loan consolidation will also be provided. The inter-

view process should take 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

If you have not already attended one of these sessions and are scheduled to graduate in December, it is imperative that you contact Denise Carter, loan coordinator, in the financial aid office or call 630-7195.



**Campus Calendar
December 1996**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Residence Halls Open	2 Campus Crusade 8 p.m., Weaver Basement SGA Meeting 11 a.m. SAC Meeting 11 a.m. Computer Science/Math Club meeting 11 a.m., S103 Teacher Education Meeting 11 a.m., T209	3 Last day of classes Christmas Dance 9 p.m., Student Union FCA 9 p.m., Weaver Basement Men's basketball vs. Chowan 7:30 pm Methodist College Chorus Christmas Concert, 8 p.m., Reeves Auditorium	4 Reading Day Chapel Services 11 a.m. Exam Breakfast 10 pm, Student Union NC Symphony Holiday Pops Concert, 7:30 pm, Reeves Auditorium; Free with student ID	5 Exams begin	6 Chanukah begins	7 CLC Christmas Project
8 Moravian Love Feast 7 p.m., Chapel	9	10	11	12 Exams end Platform practice 9 a.m., Reeves Auditorium Graduation practice, 2 p.m., Reeves Auditorium	13 Graduation 2 pm Residence Halls close 5 pm Women's Basketball vs. Chowan, 7 pm	14
15 Fayetteville Symphony Christmas Concert, 3 p.m., Reeves Auditorium; Free with student ID	16 Men's basketball vs. Maryville, 7 pm	17	18	19	20 Pay Day	21
22	23	24 College Closed	25 Christmas Day College Closed	26	27	28
29	30	31 Happy New Year				