

# THE PENDULUM

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"If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum."

## Date rape reported; Elon Police investigating

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News Editor

An Elon student reported to police Monday that she was taken to the hospital and traces of drugs were found in her bloodstream after spending time with four unknown men at West End Bar on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

The student, who was at West End from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., had a few draft beers. When she and the men came back to her apartment, her roommate noticed that she was acting oddly and made the men leave.

The next morning, the student didn't remember what occurred the night before. She went to the hospital and doctors found traces of amphetamines in her blood. On Monday, Feb. 6, the student told campus police that a form of a date rape drug was placed in her drink Wednesday night.

"The young lady came in to see me first," said Vickie Moehlman, sergeant of the investigations division. "Her main concern was getting the news out to other students to prevent it from happening again. There were four men probably taking her home thinking her apartment was empty. She was very fortunate."

According to an e-mail sent to students and staff, the men were described as college-aged. Two of the men are white; one about 5'6" and muscular, and the other taller. The other two were described as large black men, with one heavier set than the other.

Chuck Gantos, director of Campus Safety and Police, acknowledged that this is a vague description because the young lady didn't have any recollection of the night before, but he said his team can work with what they were given.

"Usually if something like this happens, one of the men will end up having one too many beers and start talking about it," he said.

Gantos' team will be looking for guys in



Illustration by Alicia Krawczak

groups that match this description as well as trying to figure out if the men are regulars at the bars.

"Finding these guys will be a concentrated effort," he said. "When law enforcement finds out about situations like this, they get together to work on it. It won't just pass by."

According to Moehlman, police and doctors think the men put ecstasy in her drink, even though it's not commonly used as a date rape drug. She said she's gathered an abundance of information about date rape and date rape drugs through her own extensive reading and researching.

"One of the main things about amphetamines is that it messes with the ability to remember and it lowers inhibitions," she said. "Along the lines of losing inhibitions, ecstasy has the tendency to make you do things you wouldn't normally do. It's a rave drug. People tend to use it specifically to have euphoric, physical feelings. You can imagine why it's called the love drug."

Moehlman said she puts this knowledge to use on her team as well as the university. Along with having a lesson plan about date rape drugs and what to expect that's geared specifically for police so the officers will be on top of

things, she also offers a PowerPoint presentation to organizations and resident halls about date rape drugs.

Leigh-Anne Royster, coordinator for Personal Health Programs and Community Well-being, contributes to sexual violence awareness by going to different organizations on campus to discuss rape and the myths and facts of rape. Her program was implemented last year, which underscores the urgency that security has placed on sexual assault on Elon's campus.

Although the student was not a victim of date rape, Gantos and Moehlman believe students should take extra precautions when going to bars and drinking.

"Obviously, number one, you want to go with people you know if you're going to a bar," said Gantos.

He advises students to not to put their drink down at any time and to keep their eyes on anything they're drinking, even if it's non-alcoholic.

"I would suggest buying your own drinks in a bottle or a can and preferably opening it yourself or having someone beside you when you buy and open it," said Moehlman. "It doesn't matter if it's alcohol or a soft drink, it will have the same affects."

She said that GHB, a synthetic, man-made amphetamine, tastes salty, so students shouldn't drink anything that tastes or smells out of the ordinary.

Gantos stressed the fact that students should get tested for amphetamines within 24 hours if they think they've been drugged.

The investigation was turned over to the Town of Elon Police after the student told campus security.

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