

Was WFMY's coverage of Elon fair?

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ALE and Elon Police had increased their numbers that night in a combined effort.

"When we join efforts with another department in the past, like the Elon Police Department, there's more resources to put together," Yates said.

However, after WFMY aired their story about the incident, many students felt that the portrayal was not an accurate depiction of Elon.

"They just focused on one person and didn't focus on everyone else there who was behaving themselves," freshman Elizabeth Rymer said.

"It not only embarrassed the school, it embarrassed specific people," sophomore Cameron Scarborough said. "I think doing a drinking story on Elon students is appropriate if you put it in the right context."

Comments on WFMY's Web site were varied, and a group on Facebook was created by Elon students to protest WFMY's story.

Other students, however, saw the story differently.

"At first I had real issues with it because they were focusing on Elon," freshman

Facts About Drinking

1,700 college students age 18-24 die each year from alcohol-related causes.

31 percent of college students meet the criteria for diagnosis of alcohol abuse.

Nationally, college students drink an average of 6.1 drinks per week.

Elon students drink an average of 11.5 drinks per week.

Statistics courtesy of collegedrinking-prevention.gov and the Elon Poll

Hunter Gross said. "But it's not saying 'don't drink' - it's talking about excessive drinking."

Greek Life and Judicial Affairs also had their say.

"I didn't have much of a reaction except

that could have been anywhere, anytime, any town," said Jay Anhorn, director of greek life. Anhorn supported the sorority involved in this situation, saying he believed they reacted appropriately.

"The organizations involved handled them completely the way they should have," he said. "There was a guest list, there were wristbands, there were sober monitors. They followed everything that we needed to see on our end."

Scott Nelson, Dean of Judicial Affairs had a similar reaction.

"You've got to get people to watch your TV, and how do you do that? It is by shock value and showing the worst and then talking about the best," he said.

As for the school's actions against Ware, Nelson couldn't comment. But he did say that the school isn't out to expel students.

"You know, students, young people make mistakes, we make mistakes too. But that doesn't mean you automatically turn around and suspend everybody."

Information contributed in part by Phoenix14News.

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Photo courtesy of WFMY

Invisible Children bus stops at Elon Wednesday

Jessica Frizen
Reporter

Invisible Children representatives will stop by Elon on their tour across the United States to show their documentary of the struggle in Northern Uganda at 7 p.m. on March 12 in the Koury Business Center's LaRose Digital Theater.

Today is the last day for students to donate money as a part of Invisible Children's Try-Peace week. Invisible Children members will be collecting \$3 donations and selling T-shirts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to raise money for Invisible Children's Schools for Schools campaign.

The campaign works to build schools to educate the children of Uganda, and help them "take responsibility for their future and the future of their country," according to the Schools For Schools Web site. Money raised through the program is concentrated on five major areas of reform for the children of Uganda, including water, teachers, books, a building and technology.

There are currently 246 schools - 5,172 students - raising money to build schools for the children of Uganda.

"Basically this is our generation's Rwanda," Meyers said. "We can vote now; we can do something about it now. It's our time to start taking responsibility for the humanitarian crises that are going on."

Meyer created the Elon division of Invisible Children in January after participating in an event called Global Night Commute in her hometown of Indianapolis. About 400 people showed up with sleeping bag in tow, ready to spend the night outside in the rain.

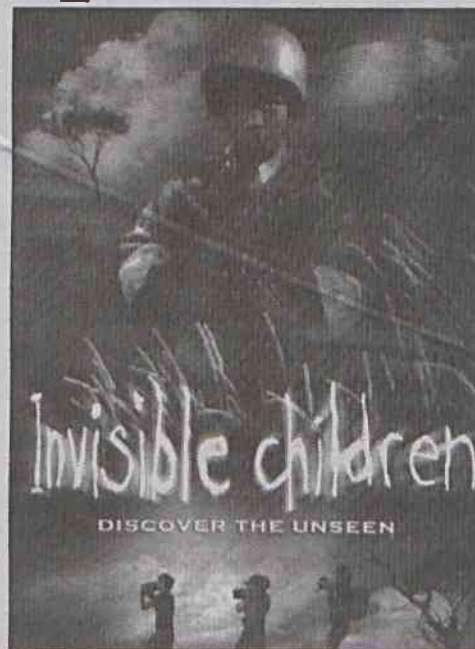
Overall, 80,000 people from around the U.S. gathered in countless cities that day to show the government there was a wide concern for the circumstances in Uganda. A day later, Congress passed the Northern Uganda Crisis Respond Act.

"Anyone knows they don't get passed in one day at congress - that's unheard of," Meyer said. "For all the people who say that college students never vote and we never make a difference; this is a way we can definitely show we can affect change."

Meyer said Elon's Invisible Children organization is planning to do more on campus to continue to raise awareness, including fundraising ideas such as a bake sale, dodgeball tournament, benefits concert and selling Invisible Children merchandise.

Information about the nonprofit Invisible Children program appears on television programs such as Oprah, CNN, Channel One and National Geographic's channel. The movement that began with three Californian college students is coming to Elon's campus in the form of a tour bus and a DVD.

"Right now there are over 1,000 people dying each week, because basically the government has completely abandoned them,"



Graphic courtesy of invisiblechildren.com "Rough Cut," the Invisible Children DVD, documents the creation of the organization.

said freshman Katie Meyer, president of Elon's Invisible Children organization. "They don't have water, they don't have a place to live, and they can't get food."

After a 20-year civil war in Northern Uganda, 90 percent of its residents were forced to evacuate their homes and move into Internally Displaced People camps. The rebel group kidnaps children from ages 5 to 15 and

trains them to become part of their army, the Lord's Resistance Army. According to the Invisible Children Web site, 90 percent of the rebel army are children.

Each night these children commute to a larger city away from their families to escape being kidnapped by the rebels and hide in places such as hospital basements.

"I would say in a basement that is probably the size of one of our house basements, where you can have 30 people comfortably, there are probably about 300 to 400 kids sleeping on the floor there - just literally stacked next to each other," Meyer explained.

Invisible Children has three campaigns to help these youth, who as a generation know nothing but war and killing.

The DVD, "Rough Cut," will explain why those college students started the organization, what the rebels have done to train the children, what we can do, what the global night commute accomplished and more. After the screening, the Invisible Children staff will sell some of their merchandise and answer questions.

Meyer said the biggest problem with the situation is the government and people of the United States don't know there's a problem.

"It's been deemed the worse humanitarian crisis, because no one knows about it," she said.

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