



Tom's Shoes: buy a pair and send a pair to South Africa p. 10



Men's basketball p. 14

Elon University's Weekly Student Publication

The Pendulum

Wednesday, December 5, 2007 • www.elon.edu/pendulum • Volume 33, Edition 24

Bar owner arrested on drug charges

Brittany Smith
Editor in Chief

Lighthouse Tavern and Sidetrack Grill owner Grayson "Chad" Snyder was arrested around 10:30 p.m. Friday at the Lighthouse Tavern on charges of selling and delivering cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and attempt to violate the Controlled Substance Act by possessing the date rape drug GHB (gamma hydroxy butyrate).

Snyder, 35, was arrested about 15 minutes after a Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and Alpha Chi Omega sorority mixer began at Lighthouse that night.

Snyder attempted to trade cash and several grams of cocaine for 11 bottles of counterfeit GHB from an undercover officer. The officer traded fake GHB made by the State Bureau of Investigation lab to look and taste like the real drug. He was in possession of at least 3 grams of cocaine at the time of his arrest.

After the exchange of cocaine and GHB, six uniformed officers entered Lighthouse, located Snyder as he was leaving his office and arrested him based on an anticipatory warrant.

Elon town police, Burlington police department, Alamance County sheriff's office, North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement and the SBI surrounded Lighthouse after the arranged deal. Officers wanted to arrest Snyder before the student mixer began to minimize the number of



Grayson "Chad" Snyder

students at the bar, but because of an unspecified delay, officers did not respond until after 10:30 p.m. The 20 to 30 students at the mixer thought the two SBI vehicles and more than five police cars present were meant to discourage underage drinking. But after seeing SBI officers with bulletproof vests and guns drawn, several students said they realized it was a more serious situation.

"The next thing I knew, three more cop cars came and a guy in a SBI bulletproof vest came and held a gun up," senior Andrew Wilen said. "I was 4 feet from the guy. I felt like it was in my face. He yelled for everyone to leave and put their drinks down. It was confusion."

Snyder's arrest was the final step in a four-month investigation into the drug activity at Lighthouse. Town police received an anonymous tip in August about the possible use of GHB in a girl's drink at Lighthouse. Town police then requested the assistance of SBI agents, who usually deal with drug-related investigations. Snyder has no prior history of drug-related charges.

"Narcotics are always an on-going investigation that we take very

seriously," said Capt. Sam Russell, assistant chief of Elon town police. "We hope for the best and investigate the worst. It's sad to think about really, especially since it's someone the students trusted and was quite popular on campus."

Lighthouse, which Snyder has owned since 2005, is closed indefinitely at this point.

"It's such a shame that you have a nice place to go, and now we have to worry about things like that," Elon Mayor Jerry Tolley said.

Sidetrack Grill will remain open for business despite Snyder's arrest, his family said.

Snyder was an adjunct instructor of religious studies at Elon University from 2003 to 2005. As an adjunct professor, he only taught classes as needed by the religious studies department, which usually uses graduates from Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Snyder will no longer teach his scheduled class for spring semester. He graduated from Elon in 1996.

"This is so sad," said Jeffrey Pugh, professor of religious studies and department chair. "It's also very serious."

Snyder was taken to the Alamance County Jail on Friday night under a \$50,000 secured bond. His court date is set for the afternoon of Dec. 31. He had no comment at his initial hearing on Dec. 3.

What is GHB?

History

GHB was originally used as an anesthetic in France, but American doctors rejected it because of the negative side effects. It is often used as a date rape drug and is slipped into unattended drinks.

Effects

GHB is a depressant that affects the central nervous system. Users get a sense of euphoria and sedation with low doses, but just a small increase in the dose can cause a variety of health effects such as coma, muscle spasms, amnesia and death.

Protect Yourself

Don't take drinks from others; keep your drink with you at all times; don't drink from communal containers like punch bowls; don't drink anything that tastes or smells strange. Many date rape drugs are odorless and tasteless though, so don't rely on those senses to determine if your drink is safe.

If you think you've been

date raped: go to the police or the hospital right away; don't urinate or shower beforehand

ARAMARK stems donations to local food bank

Bobby Hoppey
Reporter

The relationship between ARAMARK and Loaves and Fishes, a Burlington Christian Food Ministry, has suffered recently. The reasons are likely to vary depending on whom you ask.

In the spring of 2006, ARAMARK began donating unused food from Elon's campus to Loaves and Fishes, whose mission is to feed those in need.

When the system was firmly in place, Elon was on a pickup route throughout the state that stretched from Stony Creek to Hillsborough. The route included stops at every Food Lion along the way, as well as a number of Harris Teeter and Lowes Foods store locations.

According to Tag Gray, the ARAMARK food service director on campus who initiated the arrangement, day-old bread from Danieley Center, Octagon and Acorn was available for

morning pickup at the Acorn location. Additionally, unused portions from Harden Dining Hall were stored to be picked up twice a week.

Loaves and Fishes still picks up leftover bagels from Acorn every Monday.

"Any time during the week if we have leftover bagels, we freeze them and call Loaves and Fishes the next day and they come pick them up," Acorn manager Brian Donnelly said.

Gray, who has previously worked at regional schools like UNC-Greensboro and Wake Forest University, said this was the first time he saw ARAMARK take this kind of action.

According to Brenda Ingle, executive director at Loaves and Fishes, the system became significantly flawed after four months. She said that their driver would often arrive to a kitchen that was unprepared



Ashley Barnas/ Assistant Photo Editor

Loaves and Fishes food bank is not picking up food from university dining halls such as McEwen anymore, after a relationship breakdown with ARAMARK.

ARAMARK continued on p. 4