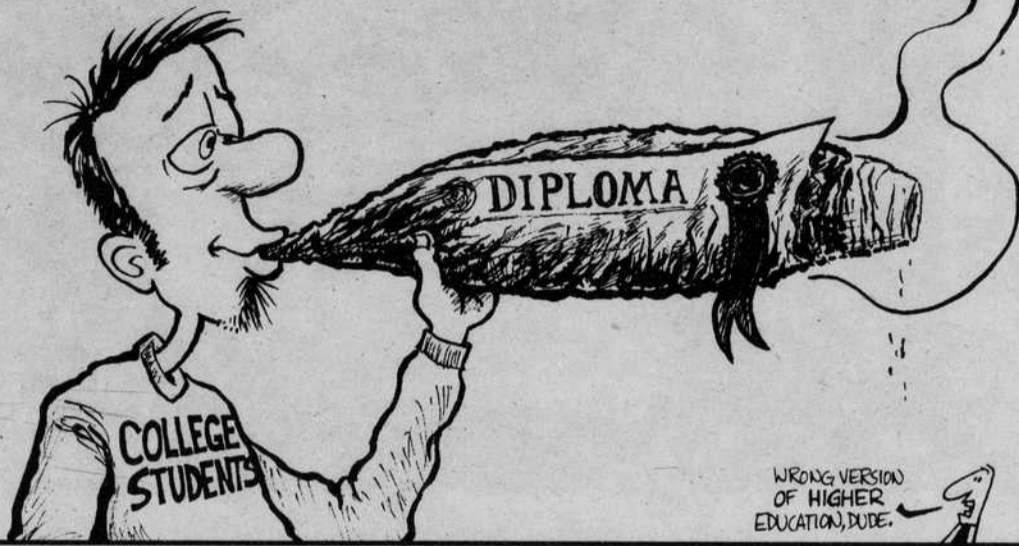


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## Be aware of date-rape drugs

GUEST COMMENTARY

Annie Dochnahl

Have you ever left your drink with an acquaintance while at a party? Have you ever accepted a drink from someone and you didn't know what was in it? It's sad and frustrating that anyone needs to worry about either issue, but these situations could potentially lead to a violent crime that no one deserves to experience — sexual assault.

Every student at the University has the right to pursue his or her academic goals without fear, intimidation or violence, yet sexual violence exists on this and other campuses. While it should always be the survivor's decision whether to report an assault, reporting can help individuals regain a sense of personal power and connect them to critical resources including health professionals, counseling services and community agencies. Reporting to the police does not mean one must proceed with prosecution, but it can improve the chances of bringing a perpetrator to justice. University survivors can also choose to complete an anonymous report.

The Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP) composed of

students, staff and faculty, educates and develops programs and policies to prevent sexual assault at the University. The topic of date rape drugs — rohypnol, ketamine and GHB — is frequently raised at meetings. These drugs are receiving media attention as tasteless, odorless substances that can be slipped into another person's beverage and used to facilitate rape.

According to the University Health Center and Eugene's Oregon Medical Labs (OML), people often delay testing for these drugs. For proper detection, urine tests must be performed within 12-36 hours, and ideally within the first 12 hours, after ingesting the drug.

It is difficult to predict the effects of any of these drugs because of numerous variables (type of drug, how much of the drug has been ingested, weight, metabolism, gender, whether the drug has been mixed with alcohol or other drugs, etc.). Symptoms of ingesting these drugs

may include disorientation, intoxication, memory loss, drowsiness or waking up hung over. Survivors are never responsible for a sexual assault — even if they have been drinking at the time of the assault. If the survivor has had alcohol, symptoms are amplified beyond the typical response from the amount of alcohol consumed.

If you believe you have been slipped a date rape drug, get to a safe place. Call Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS), 911, or go to the hospital emergency room. Preserve any physical evidence and request the hospital take a urine sample for date rape drugs. If you want to go forward with criminal prosecution, forensic evidence needs to be collected at the hospital. SASS has advocates who can accompany survivors during this time and in the months ahead. In addition, the University Health Center can provide other services at a lower cost to the survivor including pregnancy testing, emergency contraception, drug testing, and medical assistance.

Annie Dochnahl is a Health Educator for the University Health Center and a member of the Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention.

## Graduate students are workers, too

GUEST COMMENTARY

Jey Strangfeld

It is often a forgotten fact that many graduate students at the University are also employees of the University. They are students, but yet they are also workers. As students, you may see us in the library or labs for long hours, reading, writing or otherwise just exhibiting outdated fashion sense and poor social skills. As workers, we grade papers, (and then we grade more papers, and then we grade a few more), teach approximately 27 percent of the credit hours on campus, hold office hours, answer e-mails, and sometimes mediate between students and faculty. As students, we have watched our tuition and fees increase and as workers we have watched our wages decline. Adjusted for inflation, graduate employees earn 12 percent less than we did in 1983. That percentage would likely be even higher had we not fought for what we still have. But now graduate employees, represented by the GTFF, are collectively bargaining to counter that steady decline.

I had all this in the back of my mind the other week as I sat eating my frozen rice and canned

corn courtesy of the food bank that supplements my meager wages. I was glancing through The Register-Guard, looking diligently for the labor section, and came across the sports page. On the front was a breakdown of the salary for one of our most beloved local heroes. Now I know that the University's commitment to education is best expressed by having our football coach make more money than any one else on this campus. So, I, of course, am just as delighted as the next person that his salary is expected to reach \$1 million next year. But what I thought was really interesting was that coaches receive bonuses when their athletes graduate. It gave me a profound idea.

Since graduate employees and faculty actually teach the classes that these students take to graduate, then we should get a bonus as well for every student we graduate in our departments. Or if not that, I had another idea (after all,

I am a union worker and so I know all about compromise and negotiating). Perhaps we could get a bonus for every game the Ducks win. It is us that gives students the deadline extensions, make-up exams and lecture notes that allow them to freely pursue their athletic endeavors.

What I'm after here is not lowering the salary of another worker, however much that worker seems to make. We all deserve the value of our labor. But the issue here is that graduate employees have been earning less overall in the past 20 years. We started with little and have less. For the past two years at least, we haven't even kept up with the cost of living. Graduate employees are asking for what we need to effectively teach the quality classes that make the University attractive to students, faculty and corporate sponsors. I believe it is time that the University expand its commitment to education. Give graduate employees the kind of recognition that educators in the Athletic Department seem to enjoy.

Jey Strangfeld is a graduate teaching fellow in the sociology department.

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