

# A woman's worst Nightmare

Drugs, ignorance may make women more vulnerable to date rape

By KRISTINA BUFFIN  
 THE BATTALION

A college woman walks into a bar intending to relax and have a good time with friends. She does not expect to remember this night as the worst night of her life. She meets someone who she believes is a nice guy, but 10 hours later she wakes up and cannot remember anything that happened.

Rape — most college women try not to think about it, although it may be their biggest fear. Nationwide statistics indicate one out of every four women between the age of 18 and 25 are victims of acquaintance or date rape. And in a national survey, 25 percent of college women admitted they had been coaxed into having sex, 10 percent had been forced, and 4 percent of men admitted they had forced themselves on a woman.

These numbers have increased dramatically in recent years, and a new variable has been added to the equation — the so-called "date rape" drug.

Linda Castoria, executive director of Brazos County Rape Crisis Center, said the first reported case of a woman being drugged and raped in this community was last summer.

"Since then it has escalated," Castoria said. "It is occurring around the nation, and everyone is up in

arms. We've had similar problems with alcohol but with these drugs, it is a whole different ball game."

The drugs Castoria speaks of are Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and flunitrazepam, commonly known as Rohypnol.

Rohypnol is produced throughout the world and is used as a drug for people with severe sleeping disorders. However, the Federal Drug Administration has not approved the drug in the United States because of the dangers associated with it. U.S. Customs banned the importation of Rohypnol last year.

Castoria said the trend always has been that there are more incidents of date or acquaintance rape than stranger rape. However, the Crisis Center is seeing more cases of stranger rape with the use of date-rape drugs.

"It is a stranger, even if you know their name,"

Castoria said. "We try to work with everyone involved in a situation like this, but they [date rape cases] are difficult to take on. The survivor has such a low recall."

Rohypnol sedates a person one to two hours after it is ingested, and its effects usually last six to eight hours. The drug impairs a one's ability to remember details of an event. When combined with alcohol, the effects are even worse.

Cindy Larson, a senior geography major, said Texas A&M students need to become more aware of their surroundings and realize they are not safe from harm.

"I don't really know that much specifically about the drugs," Larson said. "But I'm in an organization for medical students, and we were talking about how it would be nice if people were more aware at parties and not take drinks that have already been opened."

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department, said A&M has seen a high proportion of date rapes on campus compared to stranger rapes.

"We have two or three at the most reported every year," Wiatt said. "These are date or what we call 'acquaintance rapes,' and we have a crime-prevention unit which constantly speak with students about date and acquaintance rapes."

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For more information on coping with rape:  
<http://rapecrisis.txcyver.com>

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Artwork by Tim Moog

## INXS' latest from Outback defies classification

By BRANDON TRUITT  
 THE BATTALION

Separated from the rest of the world, Australia may be one of life's great mysteries. How much is really "normal" about the land down under?

It is a land of strange animals, such as koala bears, kangaroos and duck-billed platypy.

It also is a land of strange movies. (*Priscilla: Queen of the Desert?* *Crocodile Dundee?* — enough said.)

There's also Australian football, the 1788 penal colony (better known as Sydney), the dingoes, the veggiemate, the mass numbers of sheep and toilets that supposedly flush backward.

So it should be no surprise that

**INXS**  
*Elegantly Wasted*  
 Mercury Records

★★★★ (out of five)

the country's music is just a little out of sync with the rest of the world's as well.

The largest Australian musical mainstay is perhaps INXS, who has sold over 20 million records, played thousands of concerts and had a steady stream of hit singles ever since today's college students were able to operate a radio.

INXS' 10th studio album, *Elegantly Wasted*, is as familiar and different as anything the band has ever done.

Throughout its career, INXS

has always been one of those unclassifiable bands: not quite rock 'n' roll, not quite pop, not quite like anything else. It could be the duck-billed platypus of the music industry.

*Elegantly Wasted* has the same distinct sound of every INXS album, but it also has a few newer concepts thrown in.

There are far fewer keyboards in this album, and this emptiness gives the songs a less "80s" sound than some of the band's past efforts.

INXS' guitar and keyboard player, Andrew Farriss, elaborated on what else is new about this album.

"For the first time in our entire career, we were not just capturing the best, but often the first take of each song," Farriss said in a press

release. "Some of the vocals on the record are the first time those words have ever come out of (lead singer) Michael (Hutchence)'s mouth! A lot of instrumental parts are first takes as well."

This spontaneity shows through in the songs and gives the album a nearly live feel, especially "Show Me," "Girl on Fire" and the title track, "Elegantly Wasted." No one knows what the band will do next, because in a way, its members do not know either.

This album could be described as unclassifiable, like a platypus; cool, like Australian football; and different, like a toilet spinning the wrong way. But probably the best description is that it is simply Australian — whatever that really means.



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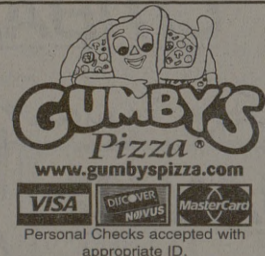
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