

Protect Yourself, Protect Your Drink: Drug Awareness Program Launched

UPEI is taking part in a joint awareness program to educate the public on the presence of date rape/club drugs on PEI. It is being initiated by the Liquor Control Commission in partnership with UPEI Security, PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Women's Network PEI, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Holland College, RCMP, Charlottetown City Police and Summerside City Police, as well as licensed establishments across the Island.

Date rape drugs, such as Rohypnol, GHB and Ketamine are easily dissolved in any sort of liquid, including alcoholic drinks, soft drinks and juices. Date rape drugs cause dizziness, blackouts, sleepiness, forgetfulness, immobility and intoxication. Depending on the dose, they have been known to cause coma and death.

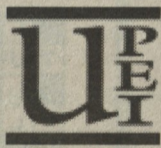
The drug awareness program was launched on December 5. Among the speakers was Wendy Adams, a police officer with UPEI Security Services, who made the following presentation:

"The consumption of alcohol occurs in all communities, including university and college campuses. UPEI is committed to making sure that students are safe at all events and activities, both formal and informal, and this campaign will go a long way towards raising awareness and educating our campus community. In

the past, UPEI Security Services has had the opportunity to partner with organizations like the Women's Centre, Residence Life, and Health and Wellness, as well as Holland College, to promote safety. In 2004, UPEI formed a Safety Task Force to address safety issues on campus. We also introduced the TIPS program to our community, and have a certified TIPS trainer on the security police staff to facilitate training on a continuous basis. TIPS stands for training for intervention procedures, and it teaches servers, sellers and consumers of alcohol to prevent intoxication, drunk driving, and underage drinking.

This campaign we are launching here today takes our previous work one step further, and our campus and off-campus partners are looking forward to working with us to make this initiative successful. I would like to thank the PEI Liquor Commission for launching this campaign. Education and awareness are key factors in prevention, and I believe this campaign will accomplish both."

For help or information go to <http://www.peirsacc.org> or call the Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre. The centre has a public information line at 902-894-5510. The Rape Crisis Line, which is staffed by volunteers seven days a week, 24 hours a day, is at 566-8999 or 1-800-289-5656. Call 911 to report a drugging emergency.



Be Smart - Be Safe

Crossing a busy street carries a risk at any time, with or without a marked crosswalk and traffic lights. As winter hours of daylight and weather conditions approach, such hazards increase.

We want you to arrive and depart the UPEI campus without incident.

Browns Court is home to many UPEI students. Although there are advantages to living this close to campus, crossing University Avenue is a potential hazard. With the only designated crosswalk at the main entrance to the University, it is tempting to cross this wide and busy street at other points.

Please take the extra few moments to only cross University Avenue at the designated crossing.

Be Smart - Be Safe

A message from Student Services, Facilities Management, and the UPEI Student Union

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Seating is Limited!

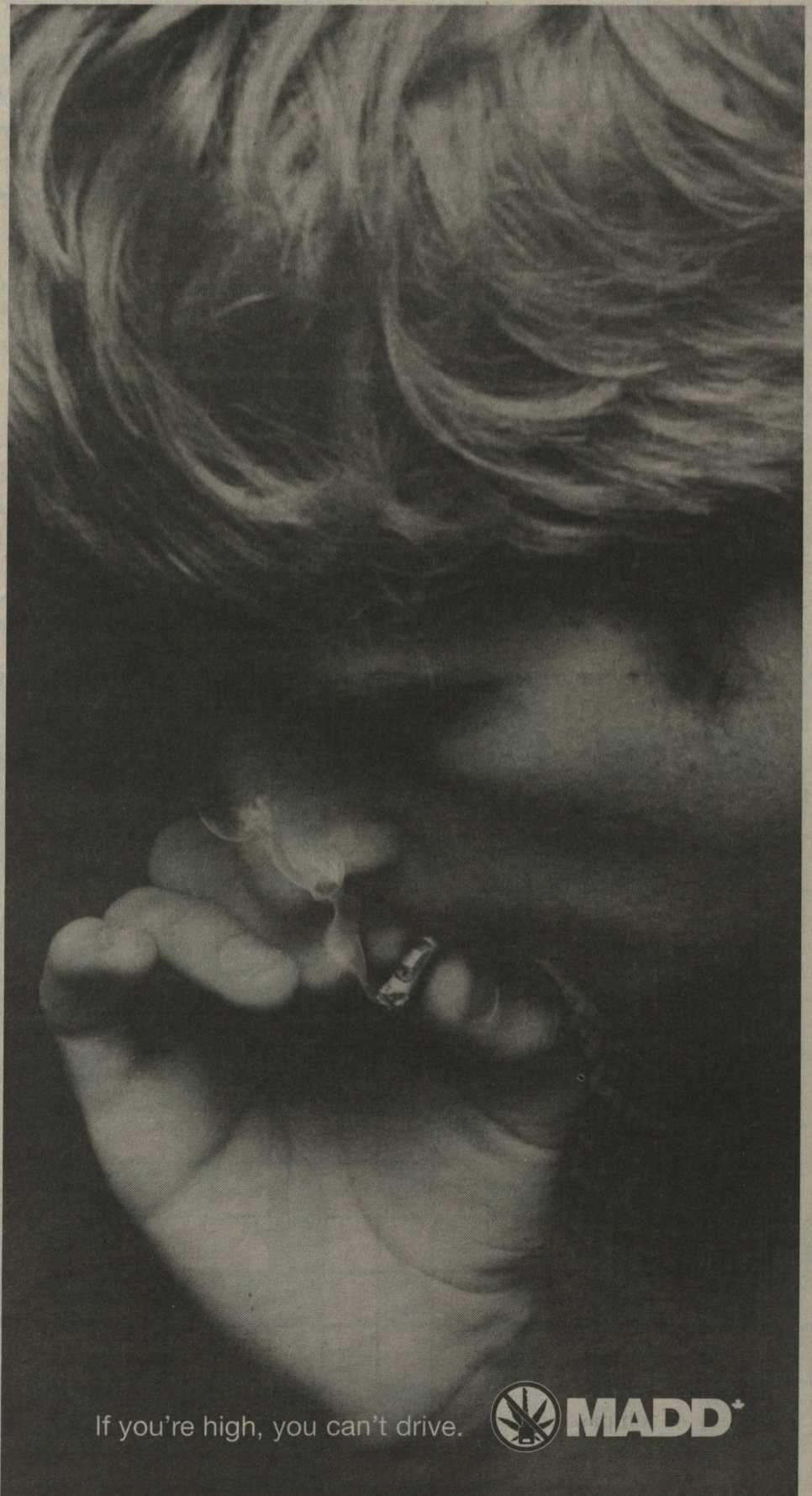
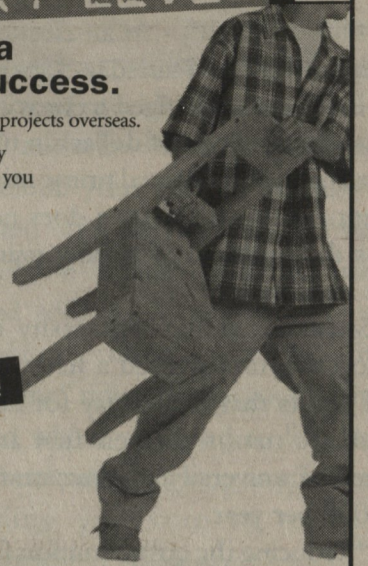
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