

# DEAD END STREET

By Anne Stover

**I**t was almost midnight and Kristen was headed home from a party. Although she was only 19, Kristen had been drinking, and against the warning of some friends, decided to drive herself home, insisting she was just fine.

Kristen turned onto a dimly lit street without her headlights on. She was going much faster than she should have been, but she was almost home and she wasn't feeling well. Up ahead

she saw bright lights – but not until it was too late.

When Kristen regained consciousness, she was in the hospital. She sustained a head injury, a broken leg and arm, and minor cuts and bruises, but at least she survived. The other two people had not.

The bright lights turned out to be those of another car. Kristen had turned onto the wrong side of the street, running head-on into a father and daughter, killing the father instantly. The little girl died later in the hospital.

Crazy parties and alcoholic consumption are often glamorized in movies like “Animal House” and “American Pie,” but what these movies fail to show are the stories like Kristen’s.

Students attend parties with the intention of having fun, but the “fun” often results in poor decisions, which end up jeopardizing their mental and physi-

cal health as well as their academic future.

College freshmen often find themselves in uncomfortable social situations when they enter college. “Sure alcohol can make you more comfortable, but what made you uncomfortable to begin with?” says Heather

During college, Heather, a non-drinker, did go to parties where alcohol was consumed. “I hung out with my friends until they became people I didn’t recognize [as an effect of the alcohol], and then I headed home. I have never met a person I liked more when they were drinking



Purdue, a recent college graduate. “The drinker relieves their discomfort for an evening, but the sober person has gained social experience. Over time, the sober person will learn so much more about social interaction than any drinker will.”

rather than when they were not,” adds Heather, who brought her own non-alcoholic drink to the party. “No one really cares if you drink or not. It doesn’t make you any cooler in anyone else’s eyes. No one will remember that you nursed a Sprite all night long.”

## Caution: Danger Ahead

Don’t buy the line that the drugs are harmless. Since some club drugs cannot be smelled or tasted, they can easily be slipped into a drink without you

being aware. NEVER leave a drink unattended at a party. When combined with alcohol, the drugs become even more potentially harmful.

Listed here are some of the common drugs on the scene today – and their very dangerous effects.

STREET NAME	SUBSTANCE	POTENTIAL EFFECTS
<b>Ecstasy, Adam, Lover's Speed, X</b>	MDMA (methylenedioxy-methamphetamine)	impaired memory and learning, damage to brain's ability to regulate emotion, sleep and pain
<b>Cat Valiums, K, Special K, Vitamin K, Ketalar SV</b>	Ketamine	lower doses: loss of attention span, learning ability, and memory. Higher doses: delirium, amnesia, high blood pressure, depression, severe breathing problems.
<b>Forget-me pill, Mexican Valium, R2, Roche, Roofies, Roofinal, Rope, Rophies</b>	flunitrazepam* (Substance is tasteless, odorless)	memory loss for the time under the drug's effects, low blood pressure, dizziness, drowsiness, stomach upset
<b>G, Georgia Home Boy, Grievous Bodily Harm, Liquid Ecstasy</b>	GHB* (gamma-hydroxybutyrate)	drowsiness, nausea/vomiting, headache, loss of consciousness, loss of reflexes, seizures, coma, death
<b>Speed, Ice, Chalk, Meth, Crystal, Fire, Glass, Crank</b>	Methamphetamine	memory loss, aggression, violence, psychotic behavior, heart problems, addiction

\* Associated with sexual assaults

For more information on these and other drugs, visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Web site at [www.clubdrugs.org](http://www.clubdrugs.org) or call 800-729-6686.