

Lehigh University student waives hearing, faces trial for alleged false rape report

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Students walk on Lehigh University's campus in Bethlehem earlier this month.

A 19-year-old Lehigh University student who allegedly made a false report about being raped by a campus police officer waived a preliminary hearing today and could stand trial.

Brielynne Neumann, of Shrewsbury, Mass., was lying in the center of Parkhill Street at 11:49 p.m. Sept. 3 when Bethlehem police approached her, according to court records. She identified herself as Brei Scano and gave a fake date of birth, records say.

The lie backfired when police, who claim she was intoxicated, took her to her sorority house to verify her identity, records say. Neumann then told officers she had been raped the day before by a man who claimed to be a Lehigh University police officer, records say.

Bethlehem police turned the investigation over to Pennsylvania State Police, who interviewed Neumann on Sept. 4. According to records, Neumann told a state trooper a different tale than the one she spun for Bethlehem police. She told the trooper she got into a car with a man who said he was a police officer; he groped her before she fled, records say.

When the trooper asked Neumann to sign her statement, she refused, according to police, and recanted the entire story. The trooper wrote in the criminal affidavit, **“She admitted that she made the whole thing up.”**

Neumann waived her preliminary hearing today before District Judge Nancy Matos Gonzalez. She faces trial on a charge of false reports. She remains free in lieu of \$20,000 unsecured bail.

She also waived her hearing on charges of false identification to law enforcement, public drunkenness and underage drinking.

https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/2009/10/lehigh_student_waives_hearing.html