

The Fourth Estate

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April 2013

Harrisburg Area Community College

Spring SGA Elections



Three candidates vie for the presidency slot being vacated by Kadijah Kastriba in May

Marriage = • Wildwood Writer's Festival • Sexual Assault in the Military

In This Issue

The Fourth Estate

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Fourth Estate welcomes letters from readers. Letters should include the writer's affiliation with the college, address, and phone number. Submissions are subject to editing for style, length, and libel. They should not exceed 350 words. All submissions then become the property of *The Fourth Estate*.

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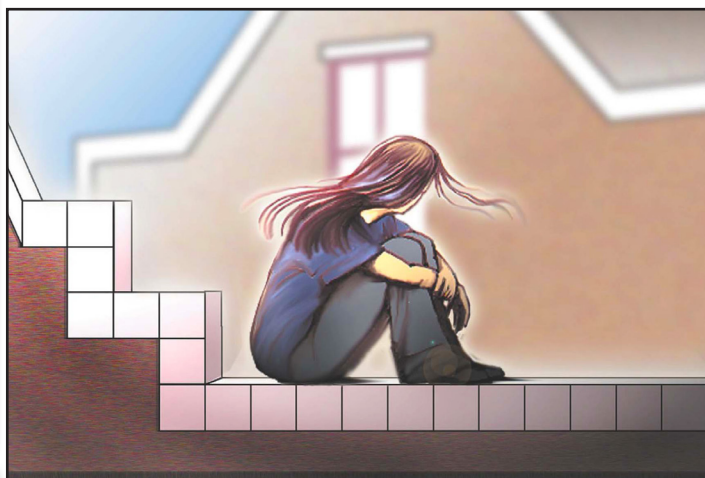


LEIF JOHNSON/TFE

SGA Presidential Debate

With a record number of candidates in recent years, three students squared off in the political debate of the school year. They debated issues like improved security, promises of no lost paperwork, and democracy on campus.

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MCT CAMPUS

Suicide and Counseling

Many college students still fall victim to suicidal thoughts and tendencies. Whether facing a trauma, mental illness, or both, help is available. Read HACC students' experiences with suicide.

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LIANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY/TFE

David Liu

Known around campus for his challenging classes and dry wit, Professor Liu talks to TFE about SI/SA, the importance of field work, and his two decades of teaching.

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MCT CAMPUS

Sexual Assault in the Military

Sex in the military is no laughing matter when it's not consensual. Sexual harrasment, assault, and rape have all been unjustly dealt with in the past. Find out how new legislation is putting a stop to it.

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News Briefs

Study Abroad Information Session: Stop by to see the travel courses HACC is offering. Saturday, April 20, 10a-2p. Quad in Cooper.

Blood Drive - everyone who attempts to donate gets a T-shirt! Wednesday, April 24, 9:30a-3:30p. Community room in Cooper.

Make One, Take One: Custom T-shirts! Join SPB on April 24 at the Midtown lobby, or April 25 in the Cooper lobby. Take a T-shirt home with you.

Doctor Who Silence Day: Join the ranks of the Whovians on April 23. Draw tally marks on your arms, face, and hands. We must not forget!!

Midtown Spring Job Fair: April 29 at Midtown 2. 1p-5p. Contact Cindy Ernharth for more information.

Pre-Finals Breakfast: in Cooper lobby. April 29, 9a-11a and May 1, 9a-10a. Sponsored by Student Programming Board.

Silent Auction: April 30 and May 1. Cooper lobby 8a-4p. Sponsored by the Dramatic Arts Club (DAC).

Pre-Finals Massages: April 30, 10a-2p in Cooper lobby. May 2, 10a-2p at Midtown II. Sponsored by Student Programming Board.

SGA State of the Campus Address: Wednesday, May 1, 1p in Cooper lobby.

HACCFEST! Come on out and support the Ronald McDonald House and have fun doing it! May 3. Be there or be square.

Got a news brief? Get the word out about your cause, club, or upcoming campus or local event by submitting information to TFE. To place an ad, contact the editorial board for pricing information.

Ski holds security forums

By Leif Johnson
Staff Writer

After two domestic incidents on campus within six months of each other, students have been wondering if they are safe on campus. HACC President John "Ski" Sygielski, has sent security updates through emails and Ski-grams. The majority of measures reported by President Ski were increased patrols and higher visibility of security officers.

On March 26, 2013, President Ski hosted an open forum for both students and faculty. He addressed not only security, but other matters to the college. No concrete information was given concerning security, except to say it was being discussed in a meeting held the day after the forum. President Ski assured us that safety is his number one concern by saying, "Safety keeps me up at night, but I am reassured with the great team we have in place."

Since the forum, a specialist has been brought on campus to assess our safety and security. A highly experienced individual in both safety and security, Gary Crowell served in the Marine Corp, with FEMA for a number of years, and in the

Department of Homeland Security as the assistant to Tom Ridge.

Mr. Crowell has already started making changes to the security department. More security personnel have already been seen patrolling Cooper and Whitaker Hall. More security details are sure to come in the months ahead.

The staff weighed in with their concerns on how secure they felt on campus. One faculty member commented on the inability to lock classroom and office bay doors from the inside. If a shooter was in the school, the instructor would have to walk into the hallway to lock the classroom down. Another faculty member commented on how disappointed she was in the evacuation last December, when an abduction occurred on campus.

President Ski agreed that the evacuation, "seemed a little awkward." One of the faculty reminded President Ski that the parking lot was gridlocked for about an hour and a half. Another staff member said she stayed in her office during the evacuation, and President Ski commented that she was, "probably safer staying on campus," with an alleged shooter than following security guidelines. No solid information was given at the forum regarding safety.

Interested in joining TFE? We are currently looking for photographers, sports, and general news writers, illustrators, business majors, and other creative, enthusiastic people to join our team. For more information, email us at 4estate@hacc.edu or check us out on Facebook. Staff meetings are open to all interested students and are held Thursdays at 2 p.m. in Cooper 110.

HACC's First Annual Student Symposium: is being held at Midtown II on Friday, April 26, from 9a-4p. College-wide. Hopes to highlight student successes and increase interaction and collaboration between disciplines and programs.

\$50 for Lisa's 50: Honor Lisa Linton Farver's memory by helping to establish the Lisa Linton Farver Endowed Memorial Scholarship for HACC students.

HACC Spirit Day! Wear your HACC gear on Thursday, May 2 for the chance to win a prize. Sponsored by the Student Programming Board.

Annual Honors Exhibit: Wednesday, April 11 to Friday, May 4 in Rose Lehman Art Gallery.

Day of Noise! Tuesday, April 16, Cooper Lobby. Come on out and support Allies and your cause. Sponsored by Allies: We Are GLOW* Food, club tables, and music!

Corrections to TFE:

At The Fourth Estate, we strive for excellence in all of our issues. However, when mistakes do happen, we take pride in correcting them as soon as possible. If you notice something that needs to be fixed, please contact us at 4estate@hacc.edu.



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HACC Virtual campus visits Apple headquarters

By Leif Johnson
Staff Writer

On February 8, 2013, members of the virtual campus staff and President John “Ski” Sygielski traveled to Cupertino, California to meet with executives from the Apple Corporation. President Ski said the goal of the trip “was to energize the creative partnership between HACC and Apple. We discussed innovative ways online educational content can be delivered to recognize and authentically assess a variety of different types of student learning.”

The virtual campus staff consisted of Amy Withrow, director of advancement and outreach, Lise-Pauline Barnett, director of operations, Caroline Mellinger, director of faculty relations, and Suzanne O’Hop, recently promoted from director of academic integrity to provost of academic affairs. They talked about some of the agreements and partnerships that HACC has with Apple.

One of the partnerships is the iTunesU program. This allows faculty to record lectures and classes and post them on iTunes, not only for their students, but by any iTunes user. The program has been, and continues to be, successful. “Because of the quality of our iTunesU content, we continually have really high use of the content,” said Withrow. As of March of

this year, iTunesU HACC downloads have reached a milestone of 1 billion downloads. Sixty percent of students who use iTunesU are international students.

The iBooks application is another feature similar to iTunesU. With iBooks, a professor can create an interactive textbook with text, pictures, and videos. These books can act as supplemental materials for the class and complement iTunesU. The books created on iBooks are credited to the individual who created them and the college or university that the professor teaches from. “It’s a more interactive and immersive way to interact with the content of the courses.... It also fits perfectly with mobile devices such as iPhones and iPads,” said Withrow. She also noted that iBooks is not meant to replace standard textbooks (though you can buy some textbooks from iBooks) and that a formal training program for professors should roll out in the fall 2013 semester. During a recent in-service day, a representative from Apple visited HACC and gave a demonstration to the faculty on how to use the iBooks application.

One of the big goals of these projects is to integrate them into the physical classroom. “We don’t see ourselves as just the silent partner doing online classes and learning systems management, but as a source that can become integrated with the traditional classroom setting,” said Withrow.



L-R: Suzanne O’Hop, Caroline Mellinger, President Ski, Lise-Pauline Barnett, and Amy Withrow in front of Apple headquarters in California.

Barnett commented that some professors have started integrating iPads into their classroom, and HACC wants to see how iPads can be put into the hands of more students. Withrow commented further on iPad accessibility, “What we might envision is having iPads accessible in the library for students to use.”

Some professors are already integrating online lecture information in their classroom. Professor Jonathon Gainor, of the Philosophy department, encourages his classes to go online and watch the lectures

he has prepared for his online courses. Hetal Thacker, an English professor teaching on the Lancaster campus, has been utilizing iPads in her classroom for three semesters. Students can definitely look forward to the technology being implemented in the coming semesters.

Amy Withrow is interested in hearing student ideas and suggestions about what they would like to have in order to integrate technology into their learning. Withrow can be emailed at: aswithro@hacc.edu



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SGA presidential candidates debate priorities

By Lydia Hurley

Staff Writer

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Monica Graham

Editor-in-Chief

The Student Government Association's presidential debate was held on Monday, April 1. There are three candidates on

the ballot for SGA president: Brandon Brown, Christine "KC"

Mackey, and Brent Miller.

The debate was held in the International Room in Cooper, and had a low student turnout. The audience was mainly made up of current SGA members and The Fourth Estate staff, people who are already involved at HACC.

Brandon Brown views the role of president in a similar way as the US president. Brown believes in the democratic process, but didn't

use his time to elaborate on how he would encourage it other than reinventing the role of the SGA and SGA president. Brown feels that the students need aggressive representation. He wants to make policy changes. Brown is not a member of the SGA.

Christine Mackey wants to give students a voice. Mackey agrees with how SGA allocated the budget this year, but she would change how the basis of the budget plan in spending. Mackey would plan the budget around enrollment numbers rather than projections from administration. Mackey served as an SGA senator this year.

Brent Miller is familiar with the way SGA runs. Miller knows the SGA rules and regulations from chairing the documents committee as a senator this semester. He was involved in reworking the SGA constitution and bylaws included in it. Miller wants to increase outdoor recycling. He is happy with

the way SGA uses its budget. He would change when they use the budget to later in the semester so that they have funds for emergencies. Miller has the most SGA experience of the three candidates.

When a student from the audience, Richard Laird, asked what the candidates thought about the ratio of adjuncts to full-time faculty, Brown didn't seem aware of the fact that adjuncts are people

who don't have a guaranteed job the following year. Mackey said that faculty hiring

is not part of what SGA does.

With such low turnout at the debate, it was appropriate that one of the questions from the audience was about how candidates planned on increasing student involvement. Student involvement is a problem at HACC because it is a "commuter campus," as Miller mentioned.

He went on to say that he wants to use

VoteNet, the software SGA uses to run the election, to survey students. Mackey believes talking to

students in person would better help the president. Brown thinks that if students are not passionate, there isn't anything that SGA can do to get them involved.

Another student asked about the importance of tutors. With budget cuts, tutoring has taken a cut and there are fewer qualified tutors available for students. Could SGA possibly help with

paying tutors?

Miller says that SGA is not directly involved in the payment of student workers.

Mackey agrees that SGA does not play a role in student worker salaries.

The students have a tough decision because candidates didn't use the opportunity at the debate to distinguish themselves as a good candidates for the president of SGA. But without much of an audience it doesn't make much of a difference. They weren't heard. SGA needs to let students know why the decisions that SGA makes matter to them.

Brown feels that the students need aggressive representation, and wants to make policy changes.

Mackey would plan the budget around enrollment numbers rather than projections from administration.

Miller knows the SGA rules and regulations from chairing the documents committee as a senator this semester.



LEIF JOHNSON/TFE

Brandon Brown wants to reinvent the role of SGA and its president.



LEIF JOHNSON/TFE

Christine "KC" Mackey, current SGA senator, wants to improve the student voice.



LEIF JOHNSON/TFE

Brent Miller, current SGA senator, wants to increase recycling.

Avoid issues when transferring schools: check your list

By Elizabeth Hewitt
Contributing Writer

As another semester is coming to an end, some students are faced with multiple daunting questions:
*“What classes will I take next semester?”
*“Do I want to stay at HACC?”
*“How long does the transferring process take?”

As one student put it,
“What am I even doing with my life?”

In between taking a full course load, working, and trying to have a social life every so often, it may seem impossible for a student of any age to make such difficult and life-altering decision.

HACC has many online services, handouts, counselors, and advisers who are available to help a student in every stage of the transfer process. On HACC’s homepage, under the Student Services tab, there is an Advising link; this is where students can begin researching what courses are necessary

for the school to which they eventually wish to transfer.

Christine Cappuzzo, the campus director of counseling, says that even if a student does not have any questions about a particular school or does not know where to begin in the search for the perfect school to complete a degree, talking with a counselor can help narrow down different ideas and perhaps

college education.

The best thing to do when trying to make these difficult decisions is to use the resources that are available to all HACC students. Upon entering Cooper on any given day, there are many tables set up with counselors from different schools to help students with this transition.

A frequent question asked by students

still at HACC. Even if an institution is not listed right on the website, a counselor or an advisor would also be able to help a student research what is needed for a specific degree.

Once a student applies to the school to which they want to transfer, it seems that time can go a lot faster. “A student should allow a nine month period before the semester they wish to enter.”

said Mary Furlas, professor of counseling.

HACC works with many different transfer institutions to provide several options for students who wish to continue their education.

The number of credits that are transferrable rely on the institution the student wishes to transfer to, but as Furlas put it, “trust that 60 credits will transfer.”

No matter how many resources are available to the students of HACC, it is up to the students to have the initiative to use them when choosing the right school to continue their education.

“What classes will I take next semester?”

“Do I want to stay at HACC?”

“How long does the transferring process take?”

make things seem a little simpler and clearer.

“Many students wait until they start scheduling classes to think about the transferring process, but this is a very stressful time,” says Christine Cappuzzo. When students are settled into the semester schedule, that is the time when they should start researching and making decisions about the rest of their

is what credits will or will not transfer to a specific institution. The resource that would be most helpful for these students would be the advising link on HACC’s website. It will give a student transfer check sheets and degree requirements to the many institutions listed.

These tools help the student decide what classes he or she can take while

Online Courses: yea or nay?

By Brianna Walker
Contributing Writer

It’s that time of the year again where students choose their classes for the fall semester. Some students, depending on the classes they need to sign up for, are stuck taking an 8 am class two to five days a week. Does that sound awful, or what?

There might be an alternative to waking up bright and early. Online classes. Online courses can be a huge benefit for a student with a busy life, but they can sometimes be stressful too.

Online assignments are typically organized from week to week, with information on when homework assignments are due and when tests should be completed. Students can plan their personal schedule around it.

One benefit to online classes is that most assignments are due a week after they are given, where a class a student has on campus might have the assignment due the following class, two days later.

Another benefit to online classes is that students get to work at their own pace at times that are convenient for them. This may allow some students to work a 9 to 5 job, go home, eat some dinner, and then get working on their online classes until it is time for bed.

Another advantage to taking online classes is that students can save some money on gas by not commuting to school every day of the week. Even taking a few online courses can limit your driving to a couple days a week.

Unfortunately, there are some downsides to taking online classes. There are technical difficulties that keep students from turning in assignments on time.

Another downside is that some professors are teaching classes from other states and do not have office hours where students can meet up with them in person; if your professor is holding the class from Oklahoma, and students can only contact them by phone one day of the week between a one hour period, that’s not ideal.

Students have found it difficult to receive sufficient help from their online professors due to miscommunications through email or over the phone.

Another negative is the amount of homework seems more excessive in online courses. Professors will usually assign multiple homework assignments every week (discussion boards, quizzes, and chapter review questions).

Online courses can definitely benefit someone with a busy lifestyle, but if a student procrastinates, it can hurt them in the end.

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Breed Specific Legislation endangers pit bulls

By Alyssa Davis
Contributing Writer

The breed that just decades ago was known as “the nanny dog” because it was so loving and reliable, underwent a reversal in public perception so severe that some cities have banned it. The pit bull refers to a set of dog breeds: American Staffordshire terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, or any mix of the breeds. They held the conventional “man’s best friend” reputation in the early twentieth century, even appearing in film and television shows like Petey from *The Little Rascals*. In more recent years, a deep-rooted stigma formed for the pit bull, which has ultimately caused many American jurisdictions to deem the breeds dangerous, leading to bans and difficult restrictions for responsible pit bull owners.

Currently, Pennsylvania pit bull owners are protected by a legislation stating that “a local ordinance otherwise dealing with dogs may not prohibit or otherwise limit a specific breed of dog.” However, Ordinance 1816 in place in Clairton, PA requires owners of Staffordshire terriers, American Pit Bulls terriers, pit bull mixes, and Rottweiler to fill out an Application for Licensing of Dangerous Domestic Animals, which includes a non-refundable fee of \$50 per animal per year, and to confine the animal in a secure building or enclosure, along with a long list of other restrictions they must abide by. Statewide, they must also face the difficulty of restrictions and bans of their family pets in most rented homes and complexes.

Clairton’s ordinance could be considered marginal in comparison to many other jurisdictions’ Breed Specific Legislation, or BSL. With the help of 2009’s Home Rule, a pit bull ban was adopted in Denver, Colorado. A 30-day notice was placed in the newspaper, letting pit bull owners know when they would be performing a “pit bull round up.” According to the documentary *Beyond the Myth*, over 340 pit bulls were euthanized during the first 3 months of the ban. Since the ban became active over 4,000 pit bulls have been euthanized. If the county seizes a dog and it must be euthanized, the owners are not allowed to bury the body within Denver County. If it is known that a pit bull is buried in the county, the remains will be dug up and the owners will be fined.

Cincinnati police has created a Vicious Dog Task Force made and trained specifically to identify the pit bull type breed that the city considers “vicious”—not vicious behaviors. Since the restrictions were put in place, over \$500,000 has been put toward the Vicious Dog Task Force, and more than 300 pit bulls have been euthanized.

According to *The Newsmagazine for Veterinary Medicine* in Miami-Dade County, where pit bulls are banned, the county’s Animal Services department is responsible for evaluating breeds, taking reports of pit bull violations, and conducting investigations. Stray pit bulls picked up by Animal Services are euthanized after five days if they are not registered or licensed. Lost pit bulls that are registered or those with identification are held for five days and the owner is sent a citation and given the opportunity to remove the dog from the county. The police are also trained to identify a pit bull type breed with a checklist of “pit bull characteristics.” Any owners with this type of dog would be given an immediate citation and 48 hours to re-home the dog, with proof that it is not living within the county. Over 2,000 pit bulls were euthanized at just one shelter from 2005 – 2009.

There are many arguments on the anti-BSL side, including how the media has influenced the pit bull’s reputation for the worse and the jurisdictions’ hand in furthering this stigma. Many supporters of repealing this legislation would argue that the bans and restrictions should be placed on the other end of the leash. Most dog bites occur due to mistreatment, neglect, and under socialization of the dog, along with the poor judgment of the people involved. Many dog bites occur when a child is unsupervised, or if the dog is not spayed or neutered, tied up, running loose; if its instincts for protection or fighting are aroused, if it’s with puppies or in heat, along with many other scenarios that are all up to the humans involved to fix or avoid.

It is imperative to understand that it is not only pit bulls targeted by BSL, but a longer list of breeds that are banned or hold restrictions in some jurisdictions. There could always be a breed added to this growing list. Executive Director of the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area Amy Kaunas stated, “HSHA does not endorse breed specific legislation because this type of legislation fails to deal with the true causes of breed specific issues, which are many times centered around pet overpopulation and overbreeding in general. As well as a lack of enforcement of laws already in existence and poor pet ownership practices.”

Jennie Tatnall, a 23-year-old second year student at HACC, is a pit bull owner and an employee of the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area. She understands the threat pit bull owners are faced with in other areas and would move to another jurisdiction if faced with this type of legislation. “I don’t think that the government has the right to tell me what type of dog I can have,” she says, “Pit bulls are extremely nice dogs. With any dog it is all in the way they are raised. Pit bulls just have a bad rap. I don’t feel that they should single out one breed.”

Heather Faucon, a 38-year-old business administration major at HACC said, “Yes, I was aware of that law, and I do not agree with the law. I think that dogs that are hav-

COURTESY: ALYSSA DAVIS



The writer’s own three-legged pit bull, Hazel.

ing these problems should not be punished. It has a lot to do with the way the animals are bred, the blood lines, and a major part with the dogs that do have aggression issues is how they are raised and socialized.”

There is a large amount of supporters for BSL along with citizens who are not affected enough to take action on the subject. Benjamin Berger, a third year web development major at HACC, said he, “does not currently care...I don’t think it is the best way to handle it though.”

For this reason there are many organizations, like the Pennsylvania Alliance Against Breed Specific Legislation, set up to persuade more individuals to take actions against this type of legislation in other states as well as counteract any movements toward BSL in PA. It’s time to return the rightfully deserved “nanny dog” title back to these dogs.

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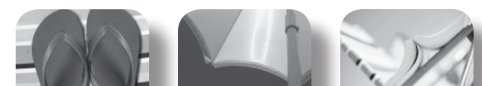
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Marriage equality cases get their days in court

In March, the Supreme Court heard arguments on two cases affecting same-sex marriage rights, Prop 8 and DOMA. Their response, expected in June, will help determine the future of marriage rights legislation in the U.S.

By Allison Stark
Associate Editor

On March 26 and 27, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), heard arguments in two cases, whose results could dramatically impact the legal status of same-sex marriage in our country: *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, The California Proposition 8 Review, and *United States v. Windsor*, The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) Review. Both cases relate not only to the legality of same-sex marriage, but to the conflict between federal and state laws on the issue.

In 2008, homosexual couples in California could legally obtain “virtually all” of the same state benefits and obligations as married heterosexual couples by entering into a “domestic partnership,” but could not legally call themselves “married.” In a consolidation of six separate appeals cases, the Supreme Court of California ruled that refusing to allow same-sex couples equal marriage rights violated the California state constitution. In their decision, filed May 15, 2008, the court labeled this “differential treatment” under the existing law, likening it to state laws prohibiting interracial marriages which were struck down in *Perez v. Sharp* (1948).

As a reaction to the court’s decision, opponents drafted Proposition 8, or the “California Marriage Protection Act,” a statewide ballot proposition asking the public to vote for an amendment to the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Prop 8 was voted in by 52% of voters in

the state’s November 2008 election, and Article I, Section 7.5. “Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California,” was added to the California constitution.

Several plaintiffs banded together in 2009 to challenge Prop 8 above the state level in federal court, citing it as unconstitutional at a federal level. United States District Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker agreed, ruling in June 2010 that “Proposition 8 is unconstitutional under both the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses” of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and prohibiting its

There are 1,138 federal statutory provisions accorded to married heterosexual couples which DOMA denies same-sex spouses.

enforcement. In February 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld Judge Walker’s ruling 2-1.

The Defense of Marriage Act, on the other hand, is a federal law enacted in 1996 defining marriage as “only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife.” Passed by an overwhelming majority in both houses of Congress and signed by President Clinton, DOMA eliminates federal benefits for homosexual couples who are legally married under state law. It was written as a pre-emptive strike against the possibility of Hawaii legalizing same-sex marriage.

There are 1,138 federal statutory provisions accorded to married heterosexual couples which DOMA denies same-sex spouses. As a result of DOMA, someone legally married or in a domestic partnership under state law cannot file joint federal tax returns with their spouse, be covered under their spouse’s health insurance from any federal job, receive benefits while their spouse serves in the military, become a citizen through marriage, or collect survivor’s benefits through Social Security or federal or military pensions.

Now-83-year-old Edith Windsor took the federal government to court over DOMA in 2010. Windsor was widowed in 2009 when her partner of 42 years, Thea Spyer, died after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. The couple had been legally married in Toronto, Canada, in 2007 – a marriage which was recognized by their home state of New York. Upon Spyer’s death, the federal government levied an estate tax of over \$350,000 on the property Spyer had willed to Windsor. If DOMA wasn’t in place, Windsor would owe nothing, since spouses don’t

have to pay any federal estate taxes.

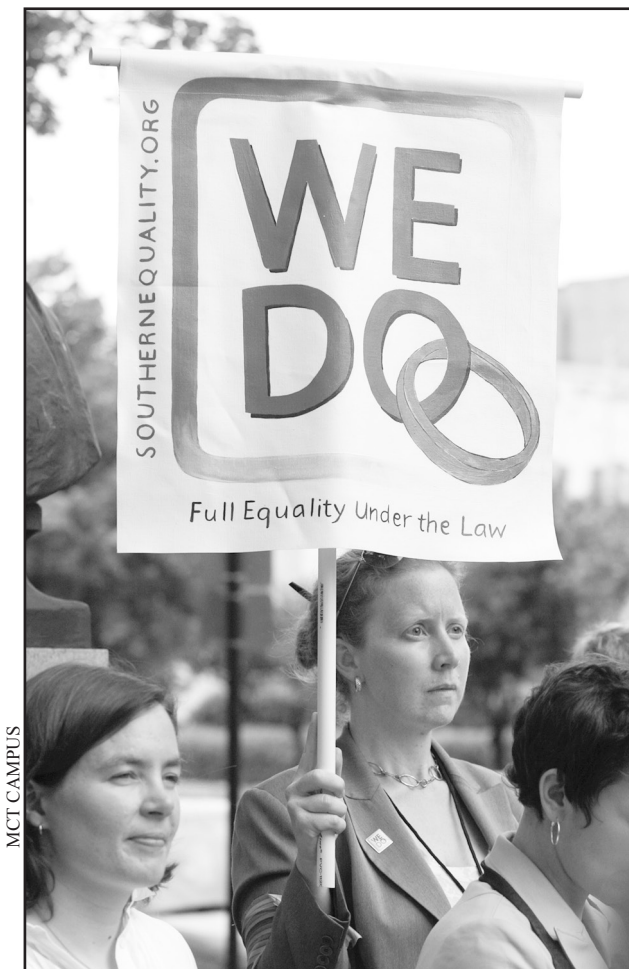
In June 2012, Southern District of New York Judge Barbara Jones ruled in favor of Windsor, saying DOMA violated both the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution. In October 2012, a U.S. Court of Appeals panel unanimously upheld the ruling.

Now, Prop 8 and DOMA are getting their audience on appeal before the highest court in the land.

Marriage equality is a thorny issue for SCOTUS. During the arguments two weeks ago, both liberal and conservative justices expressed doubts about whether they should even be hearing either case. For the court, it’s not just a social issue; it’s about setting precedents for federal law versus states’ rights.

If SCOTUS upholds the U.S. Court of Appeals’ ruling to overturn DOMA, but doesn’t uphold the ruling on Prop 8, the court is saying that marriage equality is a state issue. Couples in states where same-sex marriage is legal would be given the same benefits from the federal government as heterosexual couples. Couples in states where it was not legal could still be denied benefits. This leaves a gray area for couples who were legally married in one state, but live in a state that doesn’t recognize their marriage.

If it upholds the lower court’s ruling to get rid of Prop 8’s state constitutional amendment, SCOTUS is endorsing that court’s statement that denying gay couples the right to marry violates the Fourteenth Amendment, opening up challenges in every state with a same-sex marriage ban.



Katie Watson, of the Campaign for Southern Equality, holds up the banner for the WE DO campaign.


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CMA college newspaper convention held in NYC

By **Monica Graham**
Editor-in-Chief



L-R: Monica Graham, Trum Simmons, & Allison Stark in New York City.

The Spring National College Media Association's conference in New York City was not just an excuse to get away from the whirlwind of school, work, and family life. It was an opportunity to learn more about the field of journalism, and how to incorporate the new skills into improving our existing newspaper and office dynamic.

This year, The Fourth Estate sent its two editors and our adviser, Trum Simmons, to the conference. To maximize the amount of helpful information we received, we split up during the sessions and met up during the keynote speakers, which were at noon. Sessions were held all day, from 9am to 5pm.

Session covered a broad range of topics, including everything from writing, editing, design, and photography, to more specific topics, like book reviews, website development, news stories with sensitive topics, and how to run an efficient newspaper. There were even sessions for advisers.

Since one of The Fourth Estate's goals is to have an online pres-

ence, I went to several website oriented sessions, including *How to Boost Your Social-Media Presence*, *Optimizing Facebook for Your Organization*, and *Free Tools to Increase Your Following on Twitter and Facebook*. As much as I may pride myself in my social media knowledge, I don't know all the tips and tricks, and these sessions gave me a lot to think about. I never thought to use Pinterest or Instagram as online tools for the college newspaper.

I also wanted to have more productive meetings, so I took two additional sessions: *How to Use Improv to Make Your Staff a Better Team*, and *I'm Gonna Be a Good Leader*. At those sessions I was able to get some tips on running efficient meetings, working as a team, and not having deadline day be so hectic. Rule number one: be a hard-ass when you need to be. Rule number two: even if it means having only a two-page paper, do not accept late stories. Why kill yourself with that stress?

The keynote speakers were special guests from the media landscape. One keynote I attended, featuring Willie Geist of *Morning Joe* and *Today*, had a really nice speech on finding your place in the media landscape. He talked about his experience moving up to the shows he is on today. Not every journey is the same, but there are a lot of ways in.

The highlight of the trip was the tours. Some filled up fast, like the Conde Nast tours. With my mind on websites, I was ready to go on the tour of *Mashable's* building, a web magazine of techy things. Instead, I took my adviser's advice and took the tour of *Democracy Now!*, and I'm glad I did.

Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Since they are independent, there is no visible bias. I was able to see their studio (the loft space is amazing), how they go about producing the stories, met with staff and interns, and saw a live taping of the show. They also translate their show in Spanish so they can reach a larger audience.

What excited me the most, besides knowing I could listen to them on NPR, is that I was able to see the variety of journalism related careers, not just news anchors or newspaper column writers.

And of course, let's not forget the lure of the city. You can't go to NYC without visiting the central location of Times Square. Holy lights and noise, Batman! There were too many people for me to enjoy living there permanently, but you can tell why it's the hub of the media landscape – there's too much going on for it not to be.

“Arcadia accepted all of my community college credits.”

Robin Young '13
International Studies Major
Spanish Minor

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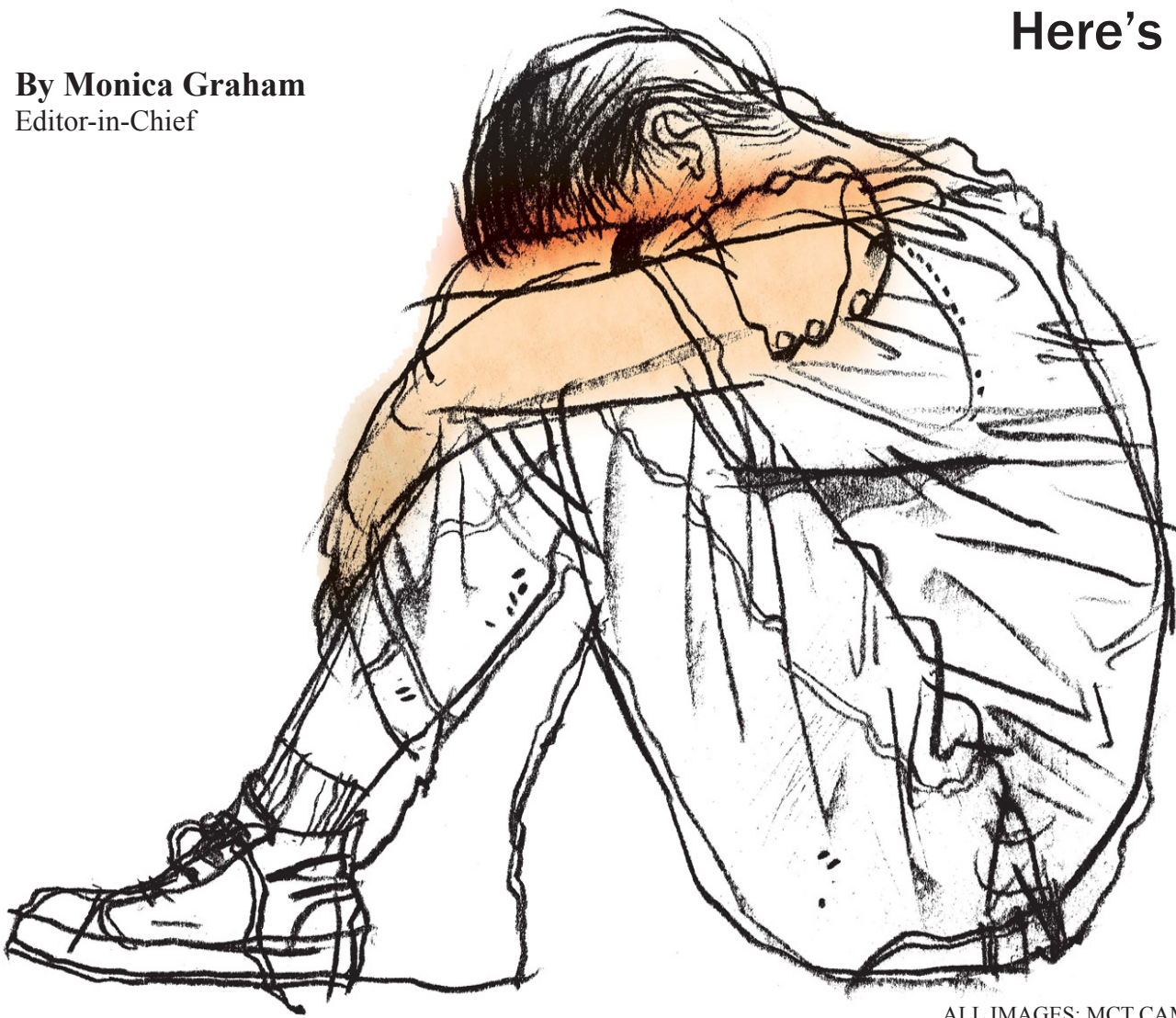
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Suicide: the mental health issue that everyone and no one is talking about

Though it seems to be everywhere in the media, few people publicly open up about their personal experiences with suicide. Several students at HACC were brave enough to share their stories. Though the students did not want TFE to use their names, the pain and healing they revealed are across these pages.

Here's why we can't ignore suicide, and why we still need to talk about it.

By Monica Graham
Editor-in-Chief



ALL IMAGES: MCT CAMPUS

“The biggest misconception is that we’re selfish and weak,” says a student about suicide. He continues, “That couldn’t be further from the truth. It’s because we think of others that we make that decision. We are trying to be unselfish by not being around.”

Another male student, 32, echoed that sentiment, saying, “My justification, my thought process, was that I was helping people. By eliminating myself I was helping them out.”

There are a lot of taboo words in our society, topics we shouldn’t discuss in polite company.

Whether it’s because we are uncomfortable with the matter or because it’s deemed inappropriate, suicide is one of those subjects.

Suicidal thoughts affect a number of people, with college students at high risk. According to NAMI, the National Alliance of Mental Illness, suicide is the third-leading cause of death for people ages 15 – 24, and males are four times as likely as females to commit suicide.

College students’ suicide rates have tripled since the 1950’s, which is why there is a need to understand suicide and how to prevent it.

Associate Director of Counseling Services Matt Braswell is well aware of the statistics.

“Advising is what we do most, but the most important thing we do is counseling,” Braswell says of his department. They offer personal counseling for students while they are at HACC.

“You are going to be here for two years and life is going to happen,” he says. “You are going to have stress and it’s going to affect you. We are here to help you get through that.”

Several students were interviewed at HACC about their personal stories.

Whether they attempted suicide themselves, or know of someone who tried, the students all had similar emotions.

All but one student wanted to remain anonymous, and many found it hard to talk about their experiences. One student commented that they thought it would be easy to talk about, but it was much harder once they were being interviewed in person.

The majority of students who were interviewed, who attempted suicide, had a traumatic or stressful event that triggered the attempt. They felt hopeless in their situations.

A female, 21, says she tried multiple times to end her life due to shame and guilt brought on from continuous rape by a family member at a young age. Later she learned her mother and grandmother had experienced the same trauma. “I felt like a statistic,”

she says, regarding her reasons for not seeking help.

Braswell understands anonymity is important to students, which is why he likes the current set up of the counseling area as it is now.

“Ninety-some percent are advising students; they just want to be advised,” he says of students going upstairs to the Advising/Counseling area in Cooper. “You won’t know the fact that the student has set up a personal appointment with me to go over certain issues they are facing. They just come through like everyone else – it’s anonymous that way.”

A number of students cited their mental disorder as the cause of attempting suicide.

Not in treatment at the time, one 32-year-old student recalls her spiral into depression.

“I swallowed lots of painkillers after my son was born,” she says. None of her attempts were pre-medicated, and after doing it she knew it was a bad idea.

Another student agreed that impulsiveness is a common behavior.

“It was more mental than a physical plan,” she said, regarding her multiple attempts at self-harm. “I didn’t want to burden people. If I was to do it, I wouldn’t want to be found by family members.”

The 12 counselors on the Harrisburg campus of HACC are all at least master’s level, so they are “fully prepared in terms of counseling skills, to see students who are in crisis,” says Braswell.

“We understand your diagnosis and know what we can do here in order to meet your educational requirements and goals - that’s what we’ll work with you on. If you’re bipolar, we want to make sure your schedule matches your cycle; we work to make sure the difficulty of classes is not such that you are over-stressed. Is it getting to be too much? We’ll pull you from the class. We’re starting to see symptoms show; we will work with your therapist and work with the medication levels. We’re in contact.”

A common theme among students who have attempted suicide was not the lack of help, but the lack of understanding.

“It seems the medical community just wants to throw drugs at you. It’s not that simple,” says a

20-year-old female. She continued to say that people are more comfortable with a

‘chemical imbalance’ than looking at themselves.

One student mentioned that he feels the stigma is worse if you are male.

“They look at you like you’re a pussy, like you can’t deal with emotions,” says one African-American male student, who feels his racial background does not look kindly on mental illness. He felt the stigma when he was diagnosed with dysthymia, a chronic depression.

“It just doesn’t happen in my culture. You need to man up,” he says.

The negative light placed on mental illness is the reason so many students don’t pursue the help they need.

One 21-year-old female student says she remembers being treated differently after a hospitalization. “They look at you like, ‘Oh, you’re that kind of crazy,’ and they slowly back away. Like you’re going to explode.”

A female student, 32, feels that stigma was applied to Andrea Yates, when she drowned her children. “I felt so sorry for her,” she says, “All I could think was how neglected she must have been. It takes a long time to get bat-shit crazy.”

These are the first steps in understanding. We have to realize what mental illness is – an illness. It can affect anybody. Chances are you know several people, or you yourself, who suffer from a mental condition.

According to NAMI, mental illness affects one in four adults. It affects all genders and races. Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, and 75% by age 24.

“Does everyone come to us? No,” says Braswell, but they try to help those that do.

What happens when a student goes to the counseling area with thoughts of self-harm?

“One, we want to make sure they are safe and those around them are safe. Two, we want to make sure they’re safe when they leave here,” says Braswell. “We’ll talk with them, we’ll find out what’s going on, see if we can get to a plan where they feel confident. Hope is the key ingredient. If they see hope, we see they are less likely to take any action against themselves.”

He continues to say they don’t chase after students if they run, but they do try everything in their power to de-escalate the situation.

It’s also tough on the other side of suicide.

According to the CDC website, family and friends who lose a loved one to suicide are at a greater risk than the general public of committing suicide themselves. They deal with grief, abandonment, and guilt.

One 27-year-old male student found out about his two middle school best friends’ suicides through Facebook. He says, “It’s shitty. You never

know what a person is going through.”

Students had much input on how others could help when they confide their suicidal thoughts.

A 22-year-old male remembers his friends trying to give him hope. “They encouraged me to be myself and complimented me on who I am,” he says. “They said, ‘If you die, you take a part of us with you.’”

A 20-year-old female says, “I need to know that I’m not in danger of people abandoning me, or not being around me. That they won’t stop loving me. That they do care and want me to keep pushing.”



“They look at you like, ‘Oh, you’re that kind of crazy,’ and they slowly back away. Like you’re going to explode.”

Wildwood Writer's Festival's past &

Kerry Shawn Keyes helped found the Wildwood Writer's Festival in the 1980's and Dr. Geri Gutwein has been organizing and running it since 1992. TFE talks to the professors/poets who have helped bring performance literature to HACC students.

By Kent Sariano
Contributing Writer

TFE: You started the Wildwood Writers' Festival, right?

KSK: In conjunction with others. I was the one really behind it and getting it going and I went to the people who were full timer and asked them if they would support me and then I was the one who ran who we invited and that kind of thing. Ray Shearer was very much involved early on in the sense in the sense of being someone you'd consult and very supportive of me even though I was part time.

TFE: So you were adjuncting then?

KSK: Yeah I was teaching at different times here. I taught English comp for awhile. I was full time what they called ESL at the time for about two years, but basically I didn't want full time work. But when the ESL came in full time I took it for a year or two.

TFE: At that point you were trying to teach part time and do writing on the side?

KSK: Only when I've been captured a few times have I slipped into full time, paid work. I didn't sit around I was reading, writing, gardening, and fishing and stuff like. It depends on your metabolism. I never had that metabolism that I could do full time work, I knew I couldn't do full time work and write. But I've seen people that somehow manage it, I don't know how. I think they would just end up in the loony bin or nervous if you wrote full time, and I didn't want to write part time.

TFE: I find it difficult as a student to strike a balance between writing and completing coursework.

KSK: The professors who are teaching creative writing are all over and, if they're doing it full time. I've seen many of them...their writing just goes down and they don't have...it depends on how much time they give to their students. Of course, some of them just go in and wing it. But if they're a really good, devoted teacher, then it's hard to be a devoted writer. But you can be kind of a half ass teacher and not really pay attention to your students and write if you want to, but I'm not that cynical so...

TFE: How does it feel to come back to the writers' festival? Is this the first time?

KSK: This is the first time. I think Rick (Kearns) had the idea. I don't come back that often. And then I guess he contacted you? (Geri Gutwein)

GG: Well Rick and I worked on the festival together. He's the assistant director.

RK: I've been helping Geri for about a decade.

KSK: The clincher for me coming in was my help founding the festival. Which was a surprise because there was not much...well, it was not a surprise to me because I know there is not much institutional memory in these things. You said you had to go back and research to see when it started. Usually there isn't because of transitions. Geri, you came in around '91, I guess?

GG: '92.

KSK: The festival started around 1980-81; I can't remember.

GG: I've been involved with the festival since '92 and Terry Wallace took over after you.

KSK: Yeah, he was slowly doing more and more when I was involved, but yeah, he just completely took over.

GG: And then I took over for him as he was transitioning out, retiring. But he just gave me more and more responsibility over time and I just felt it was really important to keep it going because it really is a wonderful, wonderful event.

KSK: Well at least with this giving credit, at least you can get students out which is nice. When we did it there were students coming a fair amount, but in the early days it was more of Central Pennsylvania. People would come from Lancaster and Reading, we'd get this more of a grown up audience, but I like the idea that somehow you've managed to work the students. At that time, no one was working the students in or giving credit or figuring out how to



Kerry Shawn Keyes returned to HACC from his current home in Lithuania to read his poetry at the festival.

get them into the audience.

GG: And it evolved to become very student centered over time. I really think we wanted to make sure we could get a lot of students into it.

TFE: What's been the most challenging aspect of keeping the festival going over the years?

GG: Through the years, I haven't had a difficult time keeping it going because it has been so much a part of the English department, so much a part of the division. And the faculty is extremely supportive. I would say probably the biggest challenge is maintaining the budget over time.

KSK: The budget was huge when I was in. I don't know what it was, but I know they were flying three people in from wherever, California, wherever, and putting them up in hotels for three days. Workshops and stuff. Then they'd have another three or four local poets, so it was big. But that was in the time when it was big in lots of places. People were giving readings.

present converge at this year's event

TFE: So it has scaled down in terms of outside readers, but it's still very strong in the HACC community.

GG: Well, I think that the best part of it is that faculty have their students come, and we do have a lot of students attend, there are some students who say, "Wow, we've never been to anything like this before," and it's really very cool. It's a really powerful language arts experience for them that they've never had before, and I think that's what education's about, getting people involved in things that they wouldn't normally be involved with.

KSK: Yeah, it's a little more high-brow than your typical entertainment. Maybe music which can be very good, but people go out and appreciate it. So, you really have to work on it. But I think that's what education should be, or part of it.

GG: And the exposure to it. We used to have a smaller student audience in the early '90's and as time has moved on we have grown.

TFE: What has your experience working as a poet? What's the life of a poet like?

KSK: It's changed in the states. When I went to the university there were only a few MFA programs where you'd do poetry. It was mostly masters of literature and you could take some creative writing courses. But it hadn't become what I call an industry at the time. Because it does attract a lot of students and it's not considered a hardcore course at some places. So the program was resisted by the English departments across the country for years, maybe with good reason for awhile because it'd

There are some students who say, "Wow, we've never been to anything like this before," and it's really very cool.

be an easy course, considered at the time, though I think it could be very good at the university level. But they didn't have those degrees in it and I was very eccentric in that I had my degree early on, I could have gone in and had the cushy job at the big university teaching poetry a few times. But I was always on the road. I wanted to live other places and closer to the edge, but that was just my...and I knew I could only write that way, whereas I've seen other people as I mentioned that have gone that route, teaching, that managed to combine the two, and continued to write.

GG: I think it's challenging, teaching writing and also trying to do your own work. It really is challenging because there are times I want to write but I have a stack of papers I have to read, and mark, and respond to, and it does take a lot of time to do

ALLISON STARK/TFE



Dr. Geri Gutwein is involved with all aspects of the festival, including taking a shift at the sales table, where students can purchase featured authors' works.

that, and if I am going to be a good educator, a good teacher in the classroom, and so it does take away some of that creative energy. And I am always torn. I'm always torn between ok, should I give my time to my own work or should I give my time to working with my students and providing what I need to in the classroom.

KSK: It can be a choice. I didn't have family early on, so I didn't need that income, but I chose not to actually, because I chose the writing, and I knew, for me, that I couldn't have family. I knew I would not be able to have a family and write the level that I wanted to write on and also be a full time bread winner? It would have been impossible. I adapted very well to living in Perry county even though I grew up here in the city. But the other reason I moved out there was because I knew I could live at that time very cheaply, and could get by on a part time salary. I originally lived on a dirt road there, so I was able to buy my property very cheap. A few friends and I built my place together by hand. It was one-tenth of what it would have cost if we'd had a contractor. And it was wood heat. And so I could maintain that whole thing and only teach one course at HACC and live very well, garden. I mean I still was teaching. I needed an income. I wasn't trying to be Thoreau or something, but it gave me lots and lots of time to read and write for 20 years. And I was just somehow lucky after all these years

when I moved to Lithuania...suddenly I met someone and know I have my family in my old age. But I had already written. I'm still writing, but I imagine all these young fathers and mothers, it's very, very difficult now with kids, taking them to school every morning, taking them to all their extra curricular activities. For me I made the right choice. I would have been in that boat if I was a young father. And now I've written a lot, forty books or something.

TFE: Who are your poetic influences?

KSK: The traditional canon. British, Keats and so forth. Later, I started reading lots of Latin American and Spanish poets, Pablo Neruda and Federico Garcia Lorca. Tons of international poets and eastern European poets. But now for example, on this trip, I wanted to re-read, so I've been re-reading *The Divine Comedy*, Dante's thing, so I'm reading that very carefully with all the notes. I hadn't read it in 20 years in a translation I like by John Giardi. So I brought that, three volumes to read. I'm trying to read all of Seamus Heaney, who was the Irish poet who won the Nobel Prize, so I ordered all his books and I lip read or read aloud these poets to catch, imprint the particular rhythms, the cadence, but it's different. Cheslav Milos was also a Nobel prize winner from Lithuania who wrote in Polish. He became a big influence because I moved there and I like to read people who came from the environment I'm living in at that time if possible.

Faculty Profile: David Liu

Taking one of professor Liu's classes? Come for the challenge, stay for the witty repartée

By Kent Sariano
Contributing Writer

Walk into Whitaker 211 and you'll see Professor David Liu listed as the office's "Resident Rabble Rouser." Alliteration aside, Liu's title as assistant professor and chair of the department of sociology has been hard earned.

Completing undergraduate degrees in psychology, sociology, and "Fire Starting" at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Professor Liu went on to receive his Master's in Sociology from York University in Toronto, Canada. Eventually, he completed all the coursework necessary for a Ph.D., but cited committee problems as a reason for not finishing his dissertation. "My advice if you're going on to a graduate degree, especially a Ph.D., is to make sure that your committee is supportive."

While earning his master's in Canada, Liu held jobs in construction, house-keeping, and book scouting. "What's a book scout? You go around to yard sales, church sales, and rummage sales and you buy books for cheap and resell them to book stores." He also tried his hand at baking. "During that same time, I baked banana bread and carrot cake for a coffee shop for five years."

After his 16 year stint in Toronto, Professor Liu moved back to the states. His motivation to come back? "The same thing that motivates many people to do crazy, irrational things: love."

When asked how he felt about returning to the area, Liu said, "I never expected to be back in Central Pennsylvania...I'm still suffering culture shock." He soon began teaching. "I adjuncted all over the place for 5 years. I was actually a visiting professor at Dickinson. Then a tenured position became available at HACC's Harrisburg campus and here I am."

While Professor Liu has been at HACC for ten years, his teaching career spans two decades. Currently, he teaches Sociology 201, Honors Sociology, and Race and Cultural Relations, a course which travels to Canada every summer.

In the classroom, Liu's goal is to help his students think sociologically. "The lessons are very example driven and question centered, rather than answer centered." He recognizes this is difficult, saying, "That's frustrating for some students and I understand that, but I think it is a much better way of introducing students to thinking."

For students looking for an A in his class, Liu says



David Liu ponders why he never pursued psychology, while drinking from his SI/SA mug.

they need to do two things: "You need to surprise me and you need to surprise yourself."

But for those who are struggling to find their place at HACC, Professor Liu has a few words of advice. "It's fine to not know what you want to do, but make an effort to discover who you are and what you really want to do."

"HACC is a great place to do that. I think all

sions." As with any club, time is a major obstacle. "We'd love to do a lot more, but time's limited."

Discussing the college as a whole, Liu was asked to comment on the management of HACC. "I think the college right now is turning itself around. For over ten years, the college was run into a ditch by its previous president. A lot of that is coming out now." He called for justice, saying, "I'm hoping the

people responsible for that are punished accordingly."

"We're seeing the consequences of that with layoffs and limited resources."

He commended the school and faculty, saying, "I think

HACC does a great job with what it has, but the resources are limited. We're stretched thin here and I think everybody does a great job of doing the most with the least."

Despite the more serious issues plaguing the school, Liu has made it a point to keep a sharp sense of humor. "The best part about HACC is the free parking." When pushed for a more serious answer, Liu responded, "Wildlife. In fact, I saw what I thought was a rabid skunk yesterday... He was out during the day, his eyes were crazy, and he was walking funnily towards me. I reported him to security. I'm just hoping he's been caught."

For students looking for an A in his class, Liu says they need to do two things: "You need to surprise me and you need to surprise yourself."

students benefit from a Liberal Arts type experience. It's important to give students the opportunity to experience different disciplines."

Liu's teaching efforts reach far beyond the classroom. He is the advisor for the student club SI/SA, Social Inquiry, Social Action. Only two years old, SI/SA emerged from a need to "do things out of the classroom and try to integrate the classroom experience with a hands-on, real world experience."

Liu says SI/SA has a "small but fantastic, committed group of students," and has been extremely active the past two semesters. "We've been involved in recycling efforts and we just took a trip to Philly; we do fundraising and we've had panel discus-

Employee Profile: Brandon Sheppard

From smart classrooms to Tunes at Noon, Sheppard brings the sound and vision to HACC

By Allison Stark
Associate Editor

Panel discussions, campus forums, honors lectures, Phi Theta Kappa inductions, nursing program pinning, and awards ceremonies; if you've attended any of these special events on campus, you've seen Brandon Sheppard, 40, Lead AV Technician, setting up mics and manning the sound board.

Sheppard is ubiquitous around Cooper Student Center. Known for his jovial personality, he counts many of the students as friends. "There's groups of students that will allow me into some of their circles, and I relish that fact. It makes me feel that something I said makes enough sense for someone to listen to."

Sheppard began working at HACC in 1995. In addition to performing temporary setups of equipment – projectors, laptops, and audio – for special events, his duties include maintaining the smart classrooms, classroom support, and maintaining and performing first level service on all audio-visual equipment.

During his 18 years on the job, Sheppard has seen a lot of changes in the technology HACC uses to run its smart classrooms. "At the time I started, we were very, very heavily analog and portable. We moved a lot of TVs, like the TVs on carts," he says. Though the computers on campus were Dells, they were the old-style beige box models, running off a mainframe.

The early smart classrooms looked much different than those we see now. Sheppard says, "It had a big piece of furniture – a huge piece of furniture – with a computer and a mounted projector, and it was, essentially, the same types of equipment we have now, but state of the art at the time. It was huge!" The old folding furniture was rectangular, with a flap that came down as the keyboard tray. "Unfortunately, when you unlocked it, sometimes the mechanism would fly... I only got hit once, in my time, when we had those. It was very quick – it hurt, and then it stopped hurting because I was embarrassed, but other than that it was pretty good," Sheppard recalls, laughing.

"In the time I've been here, we worked about changing those things to make more sense for the way people wanted to teach their classes and the way for students to learn," he says. When they chose the Smart Sympodiums the college uses over the SmartBoards, which were becoming popular at the time, it was to facilitate different teachers using the same classrooms, as well as bet-



ALLISON STARK/TFE

Brandon Sheppard sets the stage for students to rock the mic.

ter visibility for students. SmartBoards were static – they couldn't be adjusted to accommodate instructors' height differences, or placed for optimum viewing for the class because the instructor had to be able to reach the screen. The school went with the Sympodiums because they could be installed at the ADA-compliant instructors' stations, and the board itself could be mounted higher up in a central location for students taking notes.

Sheppard says another thing that's

Speeding up problem resolution is essential, Sheppard says, "because every minute that I'm in the room, that's time they're not teaching."

changed since he started was his appreciation for instructors, and how he relates to them on the job. "When I first started to work here, I didn't understand how important it was to be a good, customer-service-oriented person. I was more worried about the task... People would ask for stuff that either didn't make sense, or I didn't understand why it was so hard for them to know that you push the button to make the TV work. Over the years,

I've come to learn that's because they're standing in front of classes all day, every day. Everybody's looking at them, and the instructors are afraid to make mistakes in front of the class."

That clicked for Sheppard one night when he received a call just before the end of his shift from an instructor who couldn't get a tape to play in her classroom's VCR. He quickly saw the problem. "She hadn't rewound it from the last time she used it," he says, "And,

as I stood there in front of her class and in front of her, pretending I was doing something, just turning the TV off and pushing buttons – because I didn't want her to feel bad, it was a simple mistake – that was one of the things that turned myself around, as far as how I dealt with people. I fixed it. I rewound the tape, and I turned the TV off and turned it back on again, pretending like I did something. And as I went to leave, she kept

asking me what was wrong, what was wrong, what had happened to it? And I said, as quietly as I could, that she forgot to rewind the tape. And she laughed, and her class laughed, and I talked to her two days later, and we both laughed about it."

Since then, some of Sheppard's favorite instructors have been the most technologically-challenged, especially those who taught in the smart classrooms as they were transitioned to their current configuration. "Mary Hoffman was one of my favorite instructors here," he says, "I got to know her and count her amongst my friends here at HACC because when she started to get put in the smart classrooms and she needed help, at first, she would come and her face would dim a little bit – like she would see me in the hallway and feel bad" because he was there to fix something again. "After a while," Sheppard says, "she would start to smile when she saw me coming because she knew there was an answer coming."

Now, instructors can start to smile before they even see Sheppard's face because the newer X-Tron controllers allow him to troubleshoot classroom problems from his office, and help resolve them from there. Speeding up problem resolution is essential, he says, "because every minute that I'm in the room, that's time they're not teaching."

Outside of HACC, Sheppard is a busy father of three with his wife of seven years, Kechia, who he met through school. "We lived in the same neighborhood for a long time, and I don't remember having seen her before – she's a few years younger than me – but where I officially met her, we own a house at that corner. It used to be a bus stop when we were younger, for the city bus, and our house is directly across from that corner."

They're a football family. His two sons, 18 and 10, played for the Harrisburg Broncos, and his daughter, 6 – "the young princess," is a cheerleader. Sheppard and his wife volunteer at most team functions. "I help wherever it's needed. I cook in the concession stand... I help set up before and I help clean up after the games," he says. Sheppard loves spending time with the kids, though he leaves the coaching to the coaches, saying, "I don't coach and I don't bother the coaches. My son goes there from 6:00-8:00 for football practice, he's their kid. I give people who can coach all the credit in the world."

When it comes to pro football, though, that politeness flies out the window. Sheppard is a Steelers fan, and loves to taunt friends with clashing team loyalties. "I won't even talk about Facebook, I have too much fun on there!" he says.

HACC Student Profile: Andrew Glindeman

By Harmony Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Andrew Glindeman is one of many unique personalities on HACC's Harrisburg campus. He is a 24-year-old nursing student, a leader of HACC's LGBT community, and a prominent member of the student body.

After seeing HACC Allies at a Club Rush event and meeting former treasurer Eric Torres, Glindeman was approached by Hope Cook, his predecessor, to run for President of HACC Allies. As president, he oversaw two drag shows, two galas, and masterminded the Day of Noise event. His crowning achievement, however, was the diplomatic reunification of HACC Allies: We Are GLOW* and the Christian Student Fellowship. Along with the former president of the CSF, Andrew brought the two groups together to set aside their differences. The Fourth Estate took the time to talk to this student.



Andrew Glindeman brings his sparkling personality to campus events, like the upcoming Day of Noise.

TFE: Andrew, you're known for being out and flamboyant and very proud of who you are. How did you get to be this way?

Andrew: It all started when I got back in contact with my father. I moved out here when I was 20, and I confessed to him a year earlier that I was gay. The reaction I got was astonishing. He threw me a party, celebrating the fact that his son was gay and I had found myself. He was very proud of that, which I didn't expect and it was a very confusing and very happy moment at the same time, in that I didn't get a bad reaction like I always see.

Through the years I've been with him, he's always encouraging me to be the best person I can be. One of our favorite quotes is "go big or go home." If you're gonna do something, be big, and make yourself so big that people know who you are just by opening your mouth. In doing that, with him supporting me, it's gradually grown and the people I surround myself with support me being me and I've slowly grown into this fabulous gay man. I'm just me, ya know?

I get people on the outside looking in saying, "Andrew, how did you get so comfortable being gay, even in public?" To me, honestly, there was a point in my life where I kinda snapped. If you don't like me for being gay, then that's your problem, not mine. I have to live in my skin every day, you don't. If I'm not okay with myself, that's my problem, but if you're not okay with me that's your problem. I don't have to be with you every day. I can ignore you and you can go away.

People ask me, "What do you do if someone doesn't like you for being gay? Do you have to deal with this constantly in your life?" That's when you use coping

skills and say, "Look, you don't like me and that's fine but you need to find a professional way to make the statement that I'm human too and I'm here for this reason and the fact that I'm gay shouldn't have any bearing on what we're doing here."

It's my family and friends' support that does it for me.

TFE: Have you been able to help anyone here with their problems?

Andrew: As the ex-president and current vice president of Allies, I've actually helped many students who've walked through the Allies doors on personal matters. I've helped them with suicidal thoughts; I've helped students get the right help to see Christine Capuzzo, the head of counseling here. I've helped show students how to handle things. I've always told everyone, "I'm happy to help if I am able to." That's just my nature as a nursing student. I've helped with little things and very big things.

TFE: Have there been faculty who you've changed or touched?

Andrew: I'm not sure about that. I've been told by many faculty, Trum Simmons for instance, that I'm an entrepreneur because I'm so busy and I'm always on the go. My past adviser for Allies, Amy Withrow, I think I touched her in a special way because coming into Allies I didn't know what I was doing and I didn't have experience leading a group. She told me right before we broke away that watching me grow as a president was a very inspiring thing for her, because she was unsure of my

abilities, and the fact that I did well really surprised her. That was awesome.

I inspire nursing faculty all the time. I've been told that I kind of embody nursing, that I carry the spirit of nursing and am truly nurturing to people. I'm honest, I see the good side of life, am very uplifting, and I'm able to help people in their time of need - even at the cost of my own personal time.

I've also talked with Dr. Ski. He says I'm an inspiration to my generation. I'm so active in the community. He thanked me for what I do for the student body, helping new students from high schools find their way. He was very appreciative of what I've done and told me I was a superstar of my generation.

TFE: HACC is obviously a large part of Harrisburg and its community. You are one of the leaders of the LGBT community on this campus. Do you feel that you're a leader in the larger Harrisburg area?

Andrew: I could be, honestly. I do keep it more on campus, and campus is in its own right a large part of the community. I help out with the LGBT Center here in Harrisburg, and with a lot of the other initiatives around here. It's organizations like that that I get in touch with for our drag shows, our galas - these are community events that I bring out. I'm part of the community, and I feel like I can have a larger impact eventually.

TFE: Do you aim to do that?

Andrew: Yeah. I do aim to be some kind of role model in how I live my life. I want to be an inspiration to others who've been through the same hardship and strife that I have. There is a brighter and better day out there. Maybe eventually I'll have some kind of political or powerful influence, enough to change how a city views LGBT people like our treasurer, John Campbell. He's done so much for the LGBT community in the city. It's really inspiring and that's why I got into nursing.

Healthcare in general needs somebody who advocates for the LGBT community. Part of LGBT discrimination is healthcare, getting it, how to obtain it, and coming out with things medical professionals don't understand because they don't understand what it's like to be an LGBT person.

TFE: Your time here is almost done. Do you see yourself coming back here to move people the way you do?

Andrew: Honestly, I have to say yes because I'm dual enrolled in a BSN program in Millersville University, and some of the classes are here on campus through Millersville University, so I'll still be around.

I definitely will be even if I don't follow through with that program. I'll still be working as a nurse in Harrisburg. Being a role model for college students is really important because they're building who they are. I've jokingly talked with my dad about taking classes just to go to Allies meetings. It would be very interesting.

TFE: Every leader has groomed or taught a protégé of sorts. Who have you taught?

Andrew: There are two people that come to mind. Our current president of Allies, Jacob Cichy, has taken the skills I try to instill in him and me as his boyfriend, to teach him in life how to deal with adversity and deal with the things that he's going through.

The other person would be Brandon Gallagher. He has definitely come a long way and he told me that I inspire him because he's able to accept himself for him. I hope he runs for Allies e-board next semester. He'd be a very good candidate. To be a good leader, you have to have confidence in yourself.

Dear Linda: letter from a Perry County scumbag

By Richard Laird
Staff Writer

Hello, my name is Richard and I'm a Perry County scumbag.

(Applause)

Oh, well, thank you. That's kind. I've lived in Newport pretty much my whole life. Newport, if you don't know, is Perry

County's largest and most cosmopolitan town. And...wow, confession is hard.

We have cars parked in our yard that don't run. They're not on blocks. Other things

are on blocks but not the cars. My brother has really long hair, wears a Confederate flag cap, and chews (and spits) tobacco. I've learned to watch where I step. I got so drunk once off the moonshine that I make, I almost had sex with a cousin – but we couldn't remember if we were also brother and sister or nephew and aunt, and by the time we broke out the family shrub to clarify things, the mood

had passed. I've tried to cut down my random gunfire to just the holidays and my birthday. And yes, every so often, I fill my pick-up truck with junk, haul it 30 miles to Harrisburg, and dump it. And –

Hey, why look everyone, we have a guest. The Honorable Linda Thompson, mayor of the Florence on the

for 2010. As a cat lover, I thought you were wonderful when you couldn't pay Harrisburg's various vendors, like the Humane Society, so that there was nowhere to take all those stray dogs from 2011 to 2012. I mean, come on, "shoot-'em, adopt-'em, or drop-'em," was a great policy for the police to follow. It even rhymed. And it wasn't cruel

campaign manager quit and no one is really sure who's running your campaign; I'm sure many Harrisburg residents know how you feel. It must be hard that people are always deserting you, like how most of your executive staff left during your first year and called you "delusional," "combative," "unwilling to accept counsel and

advice," on their way out City Hall's revolving door.

I'm glad you forced your employees to pray during work – that's about the only option Harrisburg has left until

...most of your executive staff left during your first year and called you "delusional," "combative," and "unwilling to accept counsel and advice," on their way out City Hall's revolving door.

Susquehanna, the city of Harrisburg.

(Tepid applause)

Come on now, she's doing a great job. To decrease crime in the city, she's held up efforts to get the city out of debt, so now there's less for criminals to steal.

I can understand the need to spend 35 grand on renovating your offices: you needed a clean, new space to contemplate cutting payrolls and what to do about the 3.8 million budget shortfall

either. The law was clear: one bullet is humane; more than one bullet is cruel.

As an Irish-Japanese-German-Filipino mutt, who's not gay or Jewish, I completely understand how you can say you embrace diversity while reportedly calling City Controller Dan Miller "that homosexual, evil little man" or appreciate a developer's "Israel money." We got one of each in Perry County.

I am sorry to hear your re-election

May 21.

By the way, Linda – can I call you Linda? The term scumbag first came into usage as slang for a used condom. Which I think better describes how the city of Harrisburg has felt with you as its mayor. As someone who loves the town I'm from, and the city I visit, I hope you come by your well-deserved vacation soon. Very soon.

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Military sexual assault holds few consequences for offenders

By **Monica Graham**
Editor-in-Chief

Many people were not aware that sexual assault in the military was a problem until the senate hearings regarding military sexual assault, MSA, and the ineffectiveness of the military to prosecute accordingly began in mid-March.

Scandals have been reported, like the 1991 Tailhook scandal, where more than 100 Navy and Marine Corp officers were assaulted during an annual symposium, or in the 1996 Aberdeen scandal, several Army officers and non-commissioned officers were charged with sexually assaulting female trainees. In the 2003 US Air Force Academy sexual assault scandal, it was found that 70% of the women were sexually harassed, 22% were pressured for sexual favors, and 12% reported they were victims of rape or attempted rape. In March of this year, changes to military law were proposed. These changes would strip commanders of the right to overturn convictions in military court for sexual assault or other major offences. Yes, that has happened before. A US Air Force officer was convicted of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to a year in prison, but his commander was able to overturn his conviction and make it all go away.

Once the senate hearings began, MSA victims were able to tell their stories and the public heard the horrors of their testimonies read on the House floor. Listening to the seemingly endless stories the victims shared is hard to believe, but they are all very real.

A 2012 documentary named *The Invisible War* looks at the high rates of sexual assault in the military. It's described as, "Probing at the depths of trauma caused by sexual assaults in the U.S. armed forces, dredging up the military's failings in addressing the issue, and bringing survivors' stories to light."

According to the documentary, one in four victims in the military service don't report an assault because the person to whom they have to report it is the perpetrator. They live in fear of retaliation and so instead keep quiet. Representative Jacki Speier (D-Calif) introduced the STOP Act (Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act) in 2013, which gave the reigns of handling MSA cases to a mostly civilian office, just for reasons like that.

According to the Department of Defense, military women are victimized twice as much as civilian women – during their military career 1 in 3 are assaulted. Most recently, the Department of Defense estimated that 19,000 female soldiers were victims of sexual assault. Just 12 years earlier I was part of those statistics and, sadly, my story is not unique.

I was a fresh-faced 19-year-old, first

time out on my own. My first duty station in the military was Fort Bragg, North Carolina - home of the 82nd Airborne Corp, Special Forces, Delta Force, and myself for the next couple of years.

I was still getting to know my fellow soldiers, the ins and outs of the base, and my responsibilities. Right away, I was told to

What's the answer? The same as it's always been and should be. No means no. Unconscious means no. Start handing out convictions and sentences that are not just a slap on the wrist.

stay away from a certain male sergeant, because of his touchy-feely ways. It was just my luck that my first assignment with the unit was guard duty; out in the woods, overnight, with none other than the aforementioned sergeant, who also happened to be my superior.

All day I was teased by my fellow soldiers and told to watch out. One female staff sergeant in particular took me aside to tell me to keep on my toes because he was known for picking on the "new girls."

That night was uneventful. The next morning was not. I awoke with a familiar face above me, and hands where they should not be.

My situation was a perfect example for the necessity of representative Speier's STOP Act. There was no way I was going to tell my command that one of their finest drinking buddies attempted to assault me, but I couldn't keep this to myself. I told a friend, who in turn relayed the information to the battalion commander. Once my immediate command found out I had gone "above their heads," they were peeved I "blabbed."

Not once was I asked if I needed help. They were only concerned with knowing what happened so they could cover their behinds. The battalion commander was the only one who actually gave me the card of a therapist. He was the only male who looked at me like I had gone through a terrible incident, and not merely an inconvenience that made the battalion look bad.

In the military, accusations are still processed administratively. The commander chooses whether there is enough evidence to move forward with a full court martial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Statements are prepared and signed, and all evidence is brought forth to make the final decision.

One of the most harrowing experiences of my life was being dissected in a public forum. I had to relive my experience, step by step, while facing the man who did this to me, and a board of strangers. I fought back, and it took a terrible toll on me. I was a mess of emotions, and my confident soldier façade was crumbling.

Being questioned on how well you

remember events, forced to question everything, is hard. You are already in a state of shock and you don't know what to think. His defenders picked at every little thing they could to discredit me, from my lifestyle, how I dressed, to my memory – even my eyesight. That's right, my eyesight came into question. Years later,

I realized how stupid that was. How can you not recognize your attacker when he's right in front of you, having just spent an entire night alone on guard duty together? Horseshit.

In the end, his 'punishment' consisted of a reduction of rank and a fine of two months pay. This only happened because he was encouraged to admit to it, so the case wouldn't go any further – a plea bargain of sorts.

My humiliation, however, didn't end there. The sentence was read aloud for everyone to hear and posted on the "Wall of Shame" across all the companies. Though names were blacked out in the sentencing

paperwork, everyone knew who it was in reference to.

I still had to work next to the man, who was able to continue his career path while he destroyed mine. He retired with full benefits and no record, while I no longer believed in being, "Army Strong."

My experience was of lower severity, as it was an attempted assault during my first assignment. As low on the totem pole as it was, it still affected me greatly. I no longer felt safe. The army was supposed to be the one place where everyone had your back, and took care of each other. These were supposed to be your brothers and sisters, your mentors, your pseudo-family. Now, I could no longer trust these people. What if this happened again?

I was not alone with these thoughts. There is a website called MyDutyTo-Speak.com which has many stories of military assault. Not only are the acts heinous, but the aftermath as well. It's clear why female veteran assault victims are nine times more likely to develop PTSD than other veterans.

What's the answer? The same as it's always been, and should be. No means no. Unconscious means no. Start handing out convictions and sentences that are not just a slap on the wrist. Zero tolerance. Perhaps then survivors can begin to heal.

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Under the guise of a school trip to Philadelphia for some field work, Professor Liu implements his nefarious plan to crush his sociology students and SISA club with a giant domino.

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