

That Was Fast: Colleges Fail to Responsibly Address Sexual Assault

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Numerous students at the University of Southern California (USC) have filed federal complaints that the school has failed to adequately respond to sexual assaults on campus.

job, which is to provide a safe environment for the students on campus. In addition, their reasoning for why rape is not a crime is ridiculous. "Even though his penis penetrated [her] vagina, because he stopped, it was not a crime," a Department of Public Safety detective allegedly told a victim, according to Mail Online.

fore there needs to be consequences for his actions. According to Merriam Webster, rape is "illegal sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent or is inflicted upon a person who is incapable of giving consent." So, last I checked, the definition for rape still has not changed.

In addition, officials should always try to solve rape cases to the best of their potential. The fact that the students are paying to attend that college and the college will not even protect their basic rights is astounding. Why aren't the officials making every effort they can to arrest the rapist? Why are they instead making excuses for the attacker? Another student, Tucker

Reed, stated that her ex-boyfriend raped her in December 2010. However, when she went to officials in December 2012, she said her case was not properly investigated and was eventually dismissed, even though she had presented detectives with a recording of her alleged rapist admitting to the crime. Everyone who reports a crime deserves to have their claim investigated thoroughly. The fact that her case was ultimately dismissed even though there was evidence to back up her claim demonstrates

the unfairness present in society when dealing with sexual assaults against women. The officials need to step up and do their job to the best of their ability by properly investigating each case every time and ensuring that the rapists are brought to justice. It is the officials' jobs to protect the community, and it is blatantly clear through several occurrences that the officials did not deliver that protection. More action must take place at these universities to ensure a safer community against sexual violence.



Should Bullies be Charged for Murder When Victims Commit Suicide?



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Murder is defined as the unlawful killing of a person. When juvenile bullies harassed an innocent 12-year-old girl telling her kill herself, she eventually did. Though this was indirect murder, it is still murder as it was a causation of the result, and therefore the bullies who harassed her should be faced with criminal charges. Those bullies who initiated the harassment deserve to be punished severely as courts would punish murderers even if their actions were indirect, but consciously caused someone to die. It does not matter if they are remorseful or not, since it is impossible to bring back a life; any bully who caused their victims to commit suicide needs to be punished. This is because more bullies tell their victims to kill themselves, despite knowing the power of words and more often than now, they succeed in traumatizing or even driving the victim to commit suicide. A slap on the hand and a reprimand will not transform anyone's behavior, much less apathetic intimidators. The First Amendment protects verbal bullying, since it gives everyone the right to free speech. However, just because people in the U.S. are allowed to speak their minds, civil harassment laws state that harassing someone causing substantial emotional distress without a legitimate purpose is a crime. Due to these laws, everyone, including bullies, is held accountable for their words and actions.

People commit suicide for a variety of reasons—one being bullying. Bullies should not be charged with murder, even if their victims commit suicide, because bullying and murder are not comparable in a sense of laws, morals and ethics. Some adolescent victims of bullying commit suicide, but should the bullies go to jail for almost all of their lives because someone else killed themselves? They should not be charged with homicide, since suicide is often the result of multiple, coupled factors. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, these factors include mental disorders, a stressful life, drugs, exposure to another suicide and allowed access to lethal suicide methods. Since there are so many factors involved in suicide, it is unfair to only pinpoint one external cause, bullying. As stated in the First Amendment of the Constitution, everyone is given the freedom of speech. It is true that bullies misuse it to unfairly attack their victims, but they still do have the right to say whatever they want. If bullying is proven to be a main reason for the bullies with harassment, assault and battery would be more appropriate than charging them with murder. If there were to be a charge for this predicament, then it should not be treated as a homicide. Bullies do not premeditatedly kill them, nor necessarily expect it to occur.

GIRAFFES: ANOTHER POINTLESS CHALLENGE

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3:00 a.m., the doorbell rings and you wake up. Unexpected visitors, your parents, are there for breakfast. You have strawberry jam, honey, wine, bread and cheese. What is the first thing you open? For the past few weeks, many Facebook users have been trying to solve this riddle and some have been unsuccessful. If the person answering the riddle gives the incorrect answer, they must change their profile picture into a giraffe for the next two days. Many took part in the "Great Giraffe Challenge," which swept through social media. This is one of many challenges that teenagers have followed throughout the past couple years, which range from hilarity, like the "Chubby Bunny Challenge," to more harmful tasks such as the "Cinnamon Challenge." Teenagers tend to jump onto the bandwagon, despite there being no reason to. Teens know that these chal-

lenges are foolish, uncalled for and potentially dangerous, and yet we still manage to popularize them. Upon answering the riddle, no one was forced to change their picture into a giraffe. Nobody needs to know how many marshmallows they can stuff into their mouths or how much cinnamon they can consume before eventually coughing up a cloud of brown. The mouth can only fit so many marshmallows, which may lead to choking or triggering of the gag reflex. Cinnamon is a spice that dries the mouth and taking in a large amount is a safety hazard which can lead to choking, throat irritation or even lung damage. Although all these safety hazards are well known, teenagers still manage to compare up ridiculous challenges for others to complete. Whether it be as simple as the "Giraffe Challenge" or as life threatening as the "Cinnamon Challenge," perhaps due to our reckless teenage minds, we still tend to follow these ridiculous trends. MOOR graphics by SIMON ZHAO

IN THE RICE BOX Numbers Game

OLIVIA CHEUNG Editor in Chief

Anyone who tells you that balance is easy is a liar. As teenagers, we know of the failed attempts at balancing our academic, social and personal lives all within 24 hours. As students, we are encouraged—if not conditioned—to tip the balance scale in order to prioritize our grades for a comfortable future. But what if our futures aren't meant to be just comfortable? What if we want to tell our college friends about the time we snuck out of the house at four a.m. to bike around the empty streets with a dear friend? What if we want to tell our kids about the time we spent 20 hours binge watching Gray's Anatomy and still bear no regrets? What if we want to live a little? Don't get me wrong. Grades are important—I would be a liar if I said I let my grades slide—but so is everything else that pertains to us. I'm consistently asked why I sleep at 1 a.m. on a near daily basis if I know it's awful for my health, but I laugh every time and smile like I did when I was five years old, an age epitomized by invincibility and happiness, and answer, "balance." I may look like a walking corpse at school, but I feel alive to an extent schoolwork alone could never afford me. I often envision myself as an overworked 30-year-old and ask, "Will I remember how many A's I earned in high school? Or will I remember the time I watched Piranhaconda with a friend and laughed for what felt like the first time?" I believe there's more to our lives than paper and numbers. I hope you believe so, too.

