

Opinion

Monday, June 6, 2016

Sexual assault | Offenders should receive more than suspension

BY JASMINE AQUINO



Consequences for sexual assault incidents within the University of California have been as silent as my attacker was when I said "Never mind, I don't want to do this. Stop."

If I have learned anything in this last year at UCLA, it is that sexual assault is still prevalent within the UCLA community.

The University's continuous lack of promotion for real deterrence and compliance creates a space more suffocating than the situation my attacker placed me in.

Currently, sexual assault survivors have UC President Janet Napolitano's Task Force

on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence and Sexual Assault working toward ensuring student conduct policies are clear, Counseling and Psychological Services and Campus Assault Resources & Education also provide support for survivors.

But the people using these services are the victims, after an attack and continuously from then on. The blame in the situation is not on the victim, but the attacker.

Kathleen Salvaty, UCLA's Title IX officer, said that the steps her office considers for prevention are on a case-by-case basis. "Are we doing enough?" she asked.

The answer is no. Prevention is not the end-all, be-all of sexual assault policy. Attackers need to be held

accountable for their actions to actually learn from their actions. The university, and specifically the Dean of Students Office, needs to develop the kinds of sanctions that will help educate the criminality of the assault.

Title IX co-sponsors Sexual Assault Awareness Month with the USAC general representative office and other campus organizations, but the problem is not lack of awareness. As my fellow columnists Julia McCarthy and Keshav Tadi met mentioned, while sexual assault awareness campaigns are important in disseminating information regarding sexual assault prevention, the real problem is a lack of effective deterrence.

Offenders are not discouraged from continuing their paths. This event sets a pre-

survivors of sexual assault have two reporting options: Title IX and UCPD. The two departments work together to keep the campus safe from sexual assault, though the former investigates violations of student conduct while the latter investigates the criminality of the assault.

As of January 1, the UC implemented a systematic procedure that guides sexual assault survivors to report their incidents for investigation. The report procedure no longer handles instances of sexual assault like other conduct violations, like plagiarism and alcohol violations. Such violations are accompanied with workshops, exercises and other resources that help the accused gain a better understanding of their

actions and the consequences. Title IX does not administer sanctions. Rather, they take their findings to the Dean of Students, who can then administer a sanction ranging from a minimum two-year suspension unless there are exceptional circumstances. But these sanctions do not include the education portion.

And it's sorely needed. This past year, the administration has failed to appropriately respond to sexual assault allegations toward a UCLA professor where Gabriel Peterberg was suspended last spring quarter without pay, only to eventually return and remain on campus as a professor. His time-out is over, but he can now go back to the way things were.

This event sets a pre-

cedent for students who are suspended on the basis of sexual assault and then can return to take classes, continue extracurriculars and remain who they were before.

While the sanctions currently set are appropriate, they can be improved by including a more engaging educational component to them. An attacker might feel bad during their suspension, but unless they take the time to sit down and really consider their actions with a facilitator, they will not change.

The obstacles set around holding my attacker accountable are like how I felt trapped between his arms. I am stuck in a position where I can either ignore what happened,

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BY ABHISHEK SHETTY



I

Vice Chancellor Jerry Kang was a presidential candidate, he would be John Kasich. They're both voices of relative sanity among the politically divisive and unconstructive noise in an attempt to "flip the script" and "learn something new." His purpose was to communicate with the student body in a conversational style, something unheard of for a university administrator. Kang has explained that the site, which currently consists of six posts on campus incidents, is meant to be a hub for information on discrimination to deepen the conversation on equity at UCLA.

It seems counterintuitive if a post, aimed specifically at students of a particular organization, goes unseen by the president of that organization. Kang isn't at fault here. Kang's office is responsible for not expanding the reach of his CrossCheck posts. The main way he announces his newest CrossCheck posts is through his personal Twitter account, which has 298 followers, where he also conveniently forgot to include any mention of his fifth post.

In essence, Kang's posts, intended for the entire student body, don't reach enough students. That's not a public platform to discuss equity; it bears far more resemblance to an aspirational personal diary against bigotry that a select few have managed to stumble upon.

This is disappointing, considering that Kang has made some insightful comments in his posts in a

more cordial and conversational tone. Although his office is inherently biased against intolerance, his posts include explanations about how the First Amendment works, which some UCLA students are evidently in need of.

In an email, Ricardo Vazquez, associate director of UCLA Media Relations and Public Outreach, said that the office uses various channels to reach out to students, such as giving talks to groups of students across UCLA. Instances include Kang speaking at the 2016 Diversity Symposium and at an event hosted by UCLA Residential Life on Asian-American and Pacific Islander heritage, and the EDI office co-sponsoring programs on gender and transnational issues. These are praiseworthy efforts, but they apply to niche audiences. The office should be targeting the demographic that doesn't involve itself in groups that have already been concerning themselves in matters of equity and diversity.

The need for students to know about the work of the office has been underlined by Kang himself. In December, he said that work needed to be done to educate students on equity, which some UCLA students are evidently in need of.

Additionally, it would help if the board had more than one meeting a quarter as equity isn't something that pops up every three months. Holding more meetings would help the board successfully carry out its communication with the UCLA community. While giving the board its autonomy, Kang should also use it as an extension of himself and the office and help it expand its outreach to students.

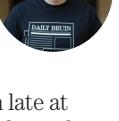
Furthering its outreach would also help the office improve the response to its programs. One such program is the Bruin Excellence and Student Transformation Grant Program, which will provide funding to 14 different student-run projects based on diversity, retention or campus climate. The program received a total of 18 proposals, from both under-

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-30- Columns

Surmounting the challenges to give The Bruin a new lease on life

BY SAM HOFF



My happiest discovery this year was one I stumbled upon late at night during fall finals week: the campus library's reels of microfilm encompassing every Daily Bruin dating back to 1915.

I spent my winter break reading the reels, following as the Daily Bruin grew alongside the school it covered. From UCLA's decision to settle in Westwood to Bruin Plate's opening and the countless student movements that came along the way, the story of UCLA is tangled and complex, but beautifully vibrant and human.

And perhaps even more human is the paper that recorded it, moving from a biweekly tabloid to a multimillion-dollar enterprise with dozens of pages each day filled with advertising and with circulation in the tens of thousands. Even a decade ago the Daily Bruin was wildly different from how it is now, with minor tweaks each year adding up to a product that evolves with each subsequent editing team.

My term as editor in chief hasn't been a traditional one. Coming in I inherited an excited staff looking forward to the 150 issues we'd make together. But I also walked into a dusty newsroom with dated policies and crippling debt.

This year we aimed to make the Daily Bruin relevant and sustainable. And I'm really proud of what we've achieved.

We pulled out old cubicles, repainted and even built a new wall in the office. We had a dedicated team of developers work on rebuilding Bruinwalk.com, one of our key resources for the campus and a long-neglected website. We redesigned the paper and grew the staff from 200 to 500. We sent reporters around the country and the world to tell the story of the UCLA community.

And much of my year was spent outside of any newspaper



editor's comfort zone, looking at financial statements and old documents and piecing together a referendum that asked the student body to support campus media, giving the Daily Bruin a new lease on life.

What I saw during election week was nothing short of breathtaking. Staffers woke up early to head to campus, armed with flyers, to talk to strangers about why they should vote to support the paper. And then they walked back into Kerckhoff and stayed in late, sometimes until 1 or 2 in the morning, working on the next

day's newspaper. I'm still reeling from the fact that it passed.

Somewhat the Daily Bruin has pushed against the odds, soon to become the most sustainably funded campus newspaper in the world just a year ago we were \$200,000 in debt. And I'm hopeful that with student support and help from alumni and friends, the Bruin will keep telling UCLA's story and growing the next generation of journalists for years to come.

A last note: Despite my title, I'm not the reason the Daily Bruin had such a remarkable

year. It was the 519 others on the paper who worked every day to report, write, photograph, code, shoot and edit. It was Jeong Park and Eldrin Masangkay, the Daily Bruin's real heroes, who made sure that each day's paper came together despite the late-night plot twists that seem to come every day. Each of them did more for the paper this year than I could have ever hoped to.

It was the 53 other editors who proved exceptional leaders and even better storytellers as they worked to grow their sections. And it was the staff and fellow editors at UCLA

student Media who showed unbelievable passion despite a bevy of seemingly insurmountable financial problems and increasingly limited resources.

The Daily Bruin could easily have grown to be your typical college paper at a DI school. But in the past 15 years something special has happened; we've collected more national journalism awards than any other paper in the country, and seem to be growing despite the crippling challenges facing the journalism for years to come.

Hoff was a News contributor from 2012-2013, News reporter and staffer from 2013-2014, assistant News editor and Graphics senior staffer from 2014-2015 and editor in chief from 2015-2016.

and certainly unlike anything I will ever do again. I would be lying if I said I won't miss it every day.

To my staff, I thank you for giving me the honor to guide the paper this year. And to the campus community, your readership and support are what kept me going. Thank you for the experience of a lifetime.

Hoff was a News contributor from 2012-2013, News reporter and staffer from 2013-2014, assistant News editor and Graphics senior staffer from 2014-2015 and editor in chief from 2015-2016.

The experience of running an organization like this is humbling and heartwarming,

An ode to social awkwardness, lasting friendships and the words that count

BY RYAN NELSON



I'm not really good with public displays of affection.

Or emotions, really. In fact, one time someone even went so far as to ask me what it was like not to feel anything (my reply: "\u263a\ufe0f").

So this is really weird. I could write something about what having been in the Daily Bruin for four years means to me, but that's obvious. If you've been paying any attention to the paper (and if you're reading this, you probably have been) you've either seen my face next to a column dedi-

cating them to offering stories or advice you could easily get from somewhere else. I want to give this moment to other people. More specifically, I want to take this opportunity to say a phrase I probably have not fit into this neat little rhetorical device I've developed but without whom UCLA would never have been the same: Lisa, Jono, Mike, Lizzie, Kevin, Andreas, Marko and Ishant; from the bottom of my heart, that's all of us.

Thank you to my entire staff, including all of my writers, but especially to my assistants, Liberty and Ara. You've all made this a year I could never forget.

I've always been better at letting those pregnant moments with the people I care about sit in roaring silence. In those spaces, I let the words on my tongue wither and die instead of taking the chance to see what they could

literally of us sitting around talking about absolutely nothing at all. Or winning at Super Smash Bros.

And finally, to everyone who doesn't fit into this neat little rhetorical device from this: Appreciate those people, and say those words, because we're all fucked in the head in some way with our own empty spaces, cracks and neuroses. The only way we manage to hold together this illusion of normalcy is that we have others filling in our gaps.

Before I sign off with one last dramatic concluding sentence, let me recognize one more person. Andy, it's been nearly nine months since I woke to messages about your death, and I still don't

Nelson was an Opinion columnist from 2012-2014, assistant Opinion editor from 2014-2015 and Opinion editor from 2015-2016.

Jerry Kang | Office outreach needed to improve campus equity

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OPINION

Our newsroom is a rare place where substantive diversity is reality

BY ARTHUR WANG



If there's one thing I'll remember and appreciate about the Daily Bruin once I leave, it's the diversity of the newsroom.

Yes, I am writing about diversity – one of the emptiest buzzwords in all of higher education and organizational discourse today. Diversity initiatives and efforts are one of the most watered-down, apolitical and abstracted forms of social justice; only bigots usually oppose them. The idea is so sanitized, corporations and companies love diversity and they love promoting it – it bolsters their bottom lines.

During my two short years of writing and editing opinions for The Bruin, I have sought to avoid, wherever I can, the promotion of simple, surface-level diversity, which takes form in any effort that seeks to bring a larger variety of people under one roof. In descending order of prominence, usually this diversity is conceptualized in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability or socioeconomic status.

This university, and others around the country, exercises simple diversity in spades and even take pride in it. UCLA is one of the most diverse college campuses in the country, after all – and among top universities, no school has a higher proportion of its undergraduate population receiving the Pell Grant, an indicator of low-income status. It also recently passed a diversity course

requirement for students in the College of Letters and Science.

Yet, for all this celebration of diversity, the campus has not become a place where very different people come together regularly and voluntarily to explain somewhat-to-very different viewpoints. It's natural for people with similar affinities to choose to associate and interact with one another, but there is such a lack of "substantive diversity" at UCLA, the dining hall Feast never seems to have more than 15 people who aren't Asians eating there at once. It was only last week that I sat near a group of friends at a dining hall who looked diverse enough to appear for a photo shoot in a UCLA viewbook. I encounter diversity in the classroom, but these people aren't going to

be my friends – I'm probably not even going to add them on Facebook.

In joining the Daily Bruin, I have been incredibly fortunate and grateful to have experienced and benefited from a rare site of substantive diversity on campus. This may sound surprising to some, as one of the most common criticisms of The Bruin is that it is a vast institution – which it is – that doesn't adequately represent all communities on campus, and there's no doubt this argument has merit too (the previous editor of the blog, my predecessor was dismissed for allowing a culturally insensitive post to be published.) And the prospect of working for long hours to report news for no pay certainly discourages low-income students from

joining, but in today's student journalism landscape that can't be helped.

But in Kerckhoff 118, I've made such friends, or at the least had such conversations, that by no chance in hell I would have had if I joined almost any other club instead. The range of perspectives present in the newsroom is nearly unrivaled as each section attracts students of different backgrounds – but more importantly, of different personalities and interests. Most clubs, especially those that are oriented toward the celebration or affirmation of a certain identity, attract one kind of student. This is the only place where I've had conversations with engineering and other South Campus students. And there are people

who I actually disagree with here. It's a wonderful thing.

I fear that it will take a long time before I find another place where so much differences coexist in a single place. For one, newsrooms in the so-called "real world" are significantly less diverse than the staff of The Bruin.

I'm more than satisfied with what I've been able to write at this newspaper, and amazed with how far the blog has come in the last year. Yet nothing impresses me more than the sheer diversity of the people that I've worked with to make it all happen. For once, it's not a buzzword.

Wang was an Opinion columnist from 2014-2016 and Blogging editor from 2015-2016.

Shaping my own voice by giving voice to the storytellers

BY FRANCESCA MANTO



I'll insert my super interesting lead here. Now that that's out of the way, I've always preferred to be behind a digital single-lens reflex camera, behind a brand's social media account because I've never been comfortable with using my voice to tell my story. I found there were far more interesting stories to be told

that weren't mine. My job as the Daily Bruin Social Media director was to simply share them and there's nothing special about that.

Unlike many staffers at the Daily Bruin, I don't fall into this category of naturally gifted writers. It's a challenge for me to express myself in words because it requires a voice that is clear, articulate and confident. Characteristics a social media director should have, but ones I've never mastered.

It's difficult to part ways. Difficult for me to stop myself every morning and

realize it's not my job anymore to share the day's stories, feel excited to first "tweet" breaking news or be the person behind the paper online. I thought I did well disassociating my voice while developing the Daily Bruin, but now I realize how much of it stems from my own.

The Daily Bruin account was my own little outlet for self-expression.

It was my daily way of listening to the community, showing my passion for

sharing stories and more importantly, my determination to deliver the news to UCLA in the best way possible.

As social media continues to change, so will this paper's voice. I know that when I look at the Daily Bruin's social media even a month from now, it'll be different, unfamiliar.

It's no longer mine to look after, but that doesn't mean I'll be any less proud. It'll only get better.

Daily Bruin, you gave me the opportunity to share the works of incredible storytellers and the confidence to develop my own voice through you. And with the beauty that is 140-characters, I conclude:

For many @UCLA, the @dailybruin is a source that gathers different voices.

For me, it's the source that shaped mine. #ThanksDB.

Manto was a Video reporter from 2012-2014, assistant Video producer from 2014-2015 and Social Media director from 2015-2016.

Kerckhoff 118, a Daily Bruin work space that became my home

BY CHANDINI SONI



My address on Facebook is listed as Kerckhoff 118. While this was the result of one of many, many hacks my account has been subject to over my time here at UCLA, it is one of the few that has rung true.

I was an Assistant News editor at the time and definitely spent more time in the Daily Bruin office than in my dorm room. Aside from being the place where I worked, the newsroom was where I would take midmorning power naps, hang out between classes and of course, get hacked on

Facebook.

Jokes aside, the Daily Bruin has taught me so much over the years that I can't put it into words. It taught me to care about issues that go beyond what immediately affects me. I am immensely grateful for the opportunities I have had to report and learn about a wide array of topics.

I'll never forget the California NanoSystems Institute director I met while reporting on a story, whose research and life inspired me to change my major. Similarly, the heartwarming tale of the ice cream shop owner who was determined to honor his grandfather's legacy. I remember bonding with the engineering dean about how her father and

were both civil engineers who helped create networks of roads and bridges after India's independence.

One of the biggest skills the paper forced me to perfect was multitasking as I attempted to juggle four science and engineering classes, a near full-time job being an assistant editor, sleep and a severe Netflix addiction. One year and several color-coded spreadsheets later, I somehow managed to retain a sliver of it.

While I might not have been involved these last two years, I occasionally poked in when News was short-staffed and was a member of the editorial board for a year. But the main reasons I stuck around

were to hang out with my friends, to play with our advisor's adorable fluffy dog and to volunteer with a high school journalism club in downtown LA.

When I look back at my time at UCLA, there are a few things that come to mind: the time I dropped milk on my laptop in the middle of a 350-person class and beeped uncontrollably for one of the longest minutes of my life (that's what I get for editing in class), the countless hours my friends and I spent coming up with biengineering related haikus and puns, Bollywood nights with my roommates and LA bus adventures.

I have always worried I would regret not having a more 'typical' college experience. I haven't tailgated at a single football game, gone on a spring break vacation with friends or participated in Dance Marathon. But on the other hand, I've had the chance to explore and report on quirky museums in LA, meet Chancellor Gene Block and experience what it's like to be a real journalist.

Although I cannot check off every item on my bucket list, I've done so many other things I didn't even plan on doing.

And a majority of it is thanks to the Daily Bruin.

While I certainly haven't lived in Kerckhoff 118 these last few years, it has still felt like home. A combination of muscle memory and reminiscence draws me back every

so often, even when I have no reason to be there.

Still, graduation is approaching quickly. I will no longer be able to even half-convince myself into leaving that Facebook address as a joke.

But I'm lazy and nostalgic and don't want to do it myself. Considering how approximately 80 percent of what is posted through my Facebook account is a hack, can the next person please change my address to something amusing so I won't feel sad about it?

Thanks.

Soni was a News contributor from 2012-2013, science and health editor from 2013-2014 and senior staffer from 2015-2016.

Korbin's Corner: Saying thanks in my one and only column

BY KORBIN PLACET



Since the start of my Sports editorship this year, staffers have asked if I was ever going to write a column. All the other Sports editors were writing one (Claire-ing, Tanner's Take and Matter of Fact), and everyone just assumed I would too. I would tell them, "No, I don't have a clever enough column name to write one."

That was mostly a joke. I actually liked some of the names that people came up with, especially Korbin's Corner. I chose not to write a column because I wasn't completely sure of myself, and I wasn't sure what I thought was important enough or

interesting enough to be read by the UCLA community.

Now that my time here is coming to an end, there are things I want to tell people before it is too late.

Not everyone will understand a lot of these anecdotes, but I hope people will understand the sentiment and how much I care about my time at The Bruin. I also write these moments so that when I read this years from now, I look back at my time here fondly.

I will remember the time I was watching Super Bowl XLIX at my friend Michael Perez's place while waiting for the men's tennis team to call me to do interviews. The guys lost to Baylor on the road in what was a rout. Writing that wrap, especially when one of the biggest games in Super Bowl history was going

on, sucked. Sorry to Matt Joye, who had late run that night. You helped my writing so much last year and I can't thank you enough for that.

I will remember the club sports medicine package that I worked on with Anay Dattawakar and Matt Cummings. I felt like we worked on something that helped make an impact here at UCLA.

I will remember the time I went to the office, coming back from my 7 p.m. film class, to discover the Sports editors, Design and Copy losing their minds over the Arizona football insert. I wish I stayed longer to see the famous Justin Bieber "Sorry" dance performed by Derek Yen, Hannah Brezack and Tanner Walters. I loved and hated those long, long nights, and I will miss them greatly.

I will remember the week leading up to publishing the Billy Martin feature. Matt Cummings and I stayed up till

being great people to Matt Cummings, Lea Chang and me, and giving us so much advice. Sorry that season didn't turn out the way you hoped. I learned a lot on that beat, and what it means to be a sports journalist.

I will remember the time I went to the office, coming back from my 7 p.m. film class, to discover the Sports editors, Design and Copy losing their minds over the Arizona football insert. I wish I stayed longer to see the famous Justin Bieber "Sorry" dance performed by Derek Yen, Hannah Brezack and Tanner Walters. I loved and hated those long, long nights, and I will miss them greatly.

I will remember the week leading up to publishing the Billy Martin feature. Matt Cummings and I stayed up till

to Barneys Beanery every Wednesday (why did we do hour-long interviews?), gathering data and outlining the story. Matt, I am so proud of that piece and I love collaborating with you. I can't wait to do it again in Rio de Janeiro this summer for the Summer Olympics.

I will remember that cold winter night in Yosemite during editor's retreat, where Tanner wrecked Matt Cummings, Claire Fahy and me at an arcade basketball game outside the lodge we were staying at. Working with you three is easily one of the highlights of my time in college. I looked forward to coming to the office every day because it meant that I got to see my best friends. Animal Round forever!

I will remember going out to love.

And my experience was all of those things, but so much more.

Everyone of us who has worked at the paper has our own collection of 26 letters that we keep tucked in the back pages of our memories.

But they come with an important lesson we learned as journalists: We have to be okay with recording what we can, with the knowledge that the whole story will always be slightly out of our grasp to tell.

I can use adjectives to describe what I've felt in the newsroom. I can use verbs to say what I did there. I can use nouns to identify the people who I grew up with and grew

Allocating finite letters to describe immeasurable moments

BY KEVIN TRUONG



If you open up to the first chapter of a standard economics textbook you'll probably find the definition of the term in similar form as "the study of how we allocate finite resources to fulfill unlimited wants."

To be honest, that might be the only thing I actually learned in the four years of classes I slogged through to earn my degree.

Where I really got my education was in the muggy, sweaty newsroom lodged in the bowels of Kerckhoff Hall. But, looking back on four years at the paper

– and forward to a career in journalism – ironically enough I found that I learned the same thing there.

As a newspaper reporter, empty space on the page is a limited resource. Bordered by ads, photos and Sudoku puzzles, this blank canvas is populated with articles created by the push and pull exercised by staff members, the trimming of fat and the taming of biases.

At the Daily Bruin, the space is filled by the arguments that come from the nervous ego of a writer running headlong into an editor who's ten minutes away from breaking down in the little office behind the water cooler.

you're still in the process of forming. The smile that says everything it needs to.

Journalists are often portrayed as arrogant and aloof and I think part of the reason is because our job is to use words to do the impossible.

How do you sum up someone's life in a 750-word profile? How do you condense the life of a person in a neat little quote? How do you describe the look in someone's eyes when they're recalling the happiest moment in their life?

The honest answer is that you can't. Not all, or even most of the time.

The infinite space that seems to exist within our own heads, let alone other people's, are.

So we come up with ways to make up that gap.

The glance between two friends that replaces a sentence. The silence that expresses the opinions that

is often too distant for us to reach with language. But there are times when you can use the limited collection of tools of words, grammar and punctuation to create something special: a piece of writing that was more honest than you were prepared for.

So while this column is ostensibly a farewell to a place that called home for four years, it may read as a bit of an apology. Because it's one last example of a failure of ours.

I can use adjectives to describe what I've felt in the newsroom. I can use verbs to say what I did there. I can use nouns to identify the people who I grew up with and grew

to love.

And my experience was all of those things, but so much more.

Everyone of us who has worked at the paper has our own collection of 26 letters that we keep tucked in the back pages of our memories.

But they come with an important lesson we learned as journalists: We have to be okay with recording what we can, with the knowledge that the whole story will always be slightly out of our grasp to tell.

Truong was a News contributor from 2012-2013, assistant Opinion editor from 2013-2014 and News, A&E and Opinion senior staffer from 2014-2016.

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someone else names the same perpetrator.

The tool effectively identifies and helps stop repeat offenders once caught and set straight by a sanction. But the sanctons themselves need to be reconsidered in order for them to be effective against sexual assault incidents.

The tool offers survivors a platform to create an electronic timestamp document of their experience, and allows them to opt into a matching system which allows the report to be sent to the school or UCPD if

sanctions to better directly combat issues of rape culture through education as communities prepare for a new academic year.

Reporting my offender would be pointless if all that would change is a setting.

Simply suspending an attacker does not combat issues of sexual assault on campus. Time does not directly change someone, otherwise I would not walk around still troubled by a horrible experience from many months ago.

Email Aquino

The Bruin gave me a platform to report, listen and make a difference

BY SHREYA AIYAR



middle of the crowds – I had never been honored like that. All I had heard until that moment was that I was only in middle school, that I didn't have the power or the authority to do anything that could make a difference – followed me.

I came to UCLA, and the discouraging words – that I was only an undergraduate student who could not make a difference – followed me.

The Daily Bruin, the first organization I signed up for in college, was just a really stressful club at first. I didn't know how to ask for help from my first editors, so I kept missing up my interviews and turning in confused, editorialized drafts. But as time went on, I realized that the newspaper was the place where I could fulfill the goals I had set for myself back when I was 13.

While reporting for articles, I heard stories about minority artists facing discrimination within the college community just for trying to succeed and overcome institutionalized racism. I spoke with groups of friends who supported each other through post-graduation struggles of unemployment and uncertain futures.

When I think back to when I was 13, I remember being beaten down and discouraged for thinking that I could make a difference, that I was not qualified enough. But overhearing that brief conversation between my great-aunt and my friend's mother sparked a sense of bravery I had never known before.

I learned about love, passion, dedication, identity, death and everything in

between. And I've received messages from those same groups of people, who threw open their hearts and souls to a complete stranger like me, telling me how much they appreciate The Bruin's work and how reassured they feel knowing that they have allies on their side.

Through the paper, I've been able to prove those discouraging ideas wrong: I have been able to make a difference. Though I may not have catalyzed great waves of change, I've been privileged enough to hear the stories of ordinary and extraordinary people and to lend them a platform to share those stories.

Aiyar was an A&E contributor from 2012-2015 and music arts editor from 2015-2016.

I stood shocked in the

My family and I were at an Indian festival, and I glimpsed a friend and her mother in the middle of the crowd. I waved, but they didn't see me first – their attention focused instead on my great-aunt next to me. "You were her pediatrician," my friend's mother said, her mouth forming a perfect O. "You saved my daughter's life, and you listened to our stories and troubles."

I stood shocked in the

When there's no path ahead, pave your own road forward

BY ARA SHIRINIAN



If the Bruin has taught me one thing, it's that the world is what you make it.

I don't mean that in an inspirational way. The truth is, you probably don't have the first clue about how to make the world a better place. I certainly don't.

Up until now, I always thought that with enough time I would find some purpose – not a divine purpose, but a path to follow. A path that, with enough hard work, would lead me to do something meaningful. But none of the work I ever did made me feel like I was finding my way.

Part of the reason is that I always had a hard time getting myself to try hard in classes. In school, your performance is measured with a grade. If you get an A, you've done as well as you can, and a C is close enough to feel satisfying.

But at The Bruin, there is no grade. Each piece has infinite room for improvement. Everything comes together in the final print product and website, but the paper is never better than the sum of its

parts. Every piece has to be worth reading. That's not an easy thing to accomplish.

Everything I had ever written before The Bruin was either for myself or for a specific task. But at The Bruin, the goal was always to write something that had merit in its own, something that someone else would want to read for themselves. Thinking about the challenge quickly became terrifying.

So I started trying harder, attempting to create better content. The work I put into something and the result I got out of it was more clearly linked at The Bruin than it ever had been anywhere else. When I put in the effort to create real content, I saw that some people appreciated it. But even still, my best work often didn't seem like it was enough.

The Bruin taught me that if you want something to be better, you have to figure out how to make it better yourself. It's not that the path ahead isn't always clear, it's that it doesn't exist. There is no road to purpose waiting to be found. We have to pave it ourselves, one column at a time.

Shirinian is an Opinion columnist from 2014-2015 and assistant Opinion editor from 2015-2016.

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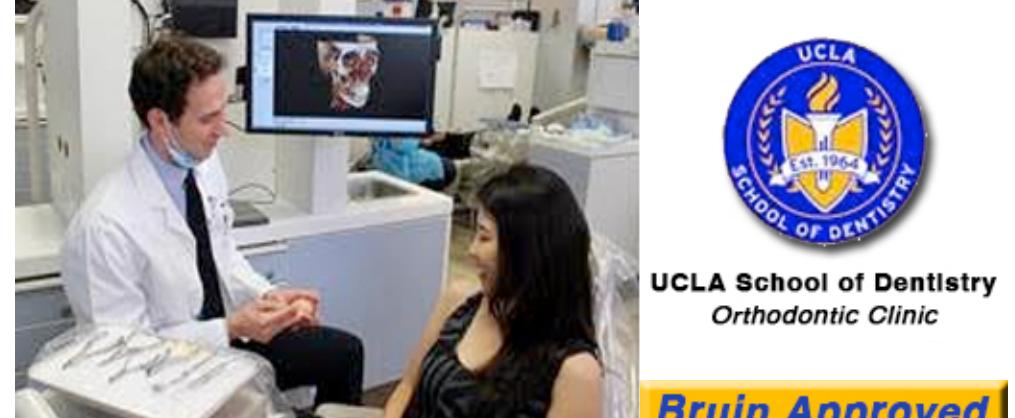
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An attempt to write the angle-less story of multi-angle experience

BY ALAHAD PATANKAR



The lede of a story – the first set of lines designed to hook a reader – is supposed to be the most important part.

This is what I have been taught for the past four years, along with a few "never-to-dos" to keep the valuable lede intact: Don't open with a clause, don't drop too many numbers and never, ever use a cliché.

I played by the rules for the most part, so I'm sure my editors will pardon me this one exception.

After writing thousands of words on hundreds of printed pages day in and day out in a windowless office, these last thousand have been the hardest.

Like any writer, I've been obsessing over with what

"angle" to approach this column when in reality, my years at the Daily Bruin have been wonderfully directionless.

There were quite a few highlights that year. I was cursed to be "peled by rabid Tribbles" by one reader, and was called "depraved" by another who was upset over my review of a horror movie about an alacryc monster (I had that one coming). We published a completely non-ironic story about norncore, a trend which the magazine was always pretty to look at.

I would be lying if I said Kerckhoff 118 has been my home. I like to work on my articles alone and away from the office, and although I've made some very good friends, I haven't really reached the Snapchat gold star level of camaraderie with most of my peers that this kind of job often brings about. So why did I stay?

We also wrote about the Skid Row community coming together to produce a series of plays illustrating the grim realities of life in the infamous neighborhood through artistic expression. The heart and soul of this story is how I chose to remember my sophomore editor attempt.

Eventually, I got tired of the physical complexities of reading a newspaper while walking

against the wind, so this year I transitioned to content editor of Daily Bruin's quarterly lifestyle magazine, prime (I don't know why it's lowercased either). Working with some of the kindest people I've met here, I got away with a little too much, but we published some powerful stories along the way and the magazine was always

wonderful people stay in my life at least as occasional Facebook updates, and I'm happy to count some among my best friends.

If there were a take-away message from this angle-less story, I suppose it would be that I've been slacking on my initial goal to write as many reviews as possible. So, let me give it another shot.

I would rate my experience with the Daily Bruin four out of five paws. I'm taking half a paw away because the crossword in this morning's paper was infuriating, and the other half because as long as it was, I would have been okay if it went on just a little bit longer.

Patankar was an A&E contributor from 2013-2014, A&E editor from 2014-2015, editorial staffer from 2014-2015 and prime content editor from 2015-2016.

Finding a Daily Bruin destiny on the Drake Stadium track

BY MATTHEW JOYE



It was almost destiny for me to work at the Daily Bruin.

Yes, I know that sounds cliché. But first, consider this story.

During the 2012-2013 school year, I was a community college student at Santa Monica College, doing all I could to be admitted to UCLA as a junior transfer the next year. My days at SMC were hardly eventful, but the one thing I cherished everyday was working out at UCLA on the Drake Stadium track. I would go there every morning after class and run sprints, saying to myself, "This will be my school next year, just keep working hard."

The Drake Stadium track was my antidote for depression, loneliness and anxiety at times. I was in a period of limbo in my life – my close friends from high school had all traveled their separate ways, and I hadn't found a new group of friends during college. Every day was rife with solitude. Working out on the track was basically my only sense of peace.

Then came Milan Tiff. Like myself, Milan worked out at Drake Stadium every morning. He still does, just about every day. He's a legend to anyone who goes to the Drake Stadium track on a weekend morning for a workout.

For those who don't know, Milan is a former UCLA triple jump champion who was part of three straight national championship outdoor teams from 1971 to 1973.

At first I just assumed Milan was a coach for the UCLA track and field team. He always wore that special Adidas team gear that seemed reserved only for staff members. I mean, from head to toe, this guy bled Bruin blue.

Milan would see me running on the track, with few other people out there at 9:30 a.m. on a weekday morning, and he'd give me pointers.

After I finished running, he'd ask me where I was from and if I was on a

Bruin gave me the platform to do so. Without the coincidence of meeting Milan at the UCLA track, I don't know if I'd be where I am today.

As I write this column and reflect on my Daily Bruin and UCLA career, I don't think I've ever been more at peace.

Joye was an assistant Sports editor from 2014-2015 and UCLA football and men's basketball beat writer from 2015-2016.

COURTNEY TRAN/DAILY BRUIN

Learning to fail and never failing to learn from struggle and success

BY BRENDAN HORNBOSTEL



asked the question I knew was coming, because I had studied it for months since a similar incident occurred during protests at the University of Missouri: "If there's a meeting and they ask you to leave because you're not black, what will you do?"

I might be a little too honest sometimes; I stick to my principles. I explained that my group had diligently thought about the issue with regards to the context of this movement within a white supremacists society and my own performance in a journalistic institution where one of the most respected organizations, The New York Times, stereotyped and victim-blamed Michael Brown after he was shot dead by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri.

I said I would leave, not because I don't believe in freedom of the press, but because the fact I can do something doesn't mean I should. Though we did not get the scholarship, and I found myself questioning what I did wrong, the words of one of the students I had talked to kept ringing in my head: "You have to lose."

I am the default in this country, and though the many privileges I receive because of the scholarship, we were

silencing and alienating members of our community. Until the Daily Bruin understands that we make biased choices every time we choose to run one story over another or include this quote instead of that one, we are fated to wander aimlessly through campus discrediting any critique as misplaced ignorance.

We can, and we have, done better. We can use the privilege of having thousands of our newspapers on the stands every day as an avenue to start much-needed dialogues with our community. If we understand our shortcomings, our implicit biases, the Daily Bruin can be that beacon of balanced coverage we want it to be.

But the Daily Bruin does not exist in the abstract. It was born – and subsists – within a white supremacist, patriarchal society that continually tries to hide its oppressive history. The privileges from this oppression bleed through The Bruin like ink through our pages.

The Daily Bruin can be the future of journalism. We shouldn't wait for the Washington Post or The New York Times to change the game. We are the next generation of journalists, armed with coding skills and a greater understanding of the world and its historical context.

And to Namrata, one of the strongest, most thoughtful people I have met, thank you for challenging me to think critically, question everything and even love in everyone and every day.

disregarding critical voices inside and outside our office, then we have learned nothing. But if we understand the context of our coverage and the capabilities of our generation, we will revolutionize journalism and make it a template for the industry.

As I spend my last moments in the Daily Bruin office, I'm hopeful. The people I've met while working here have inspired me more than I can ever say words. They've given me the strength with which to contextualize my existence and continue fighting when I've failed.

In whatever form The Bruin lives on, it will depend on new voices challenging the print system, building a sustainable niche in the web and ensuring the newsroom welcomes with those voices.

The Daily Bruin can be the future of journalism. We shouldn't wait for the Washington Post or The New York Times to change the game. We are the next generation of journalists, armed with coding skills and a greater understanding of the world and its historical context.

If we continue to pretend The Bruin is neutral, while

Brendan Hornbostel was an A&E contributor from 2012-2013, A&E music editor from 2013-2014, A&E editor from 2014-2015, editorial board member 2015-2016 and slot editor from 2015-2016.



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