

# 2 Opinions

From the desk of the Roundup: Editorial

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Sept. 26, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions commented on current litigation regarding Pierce student Kevin Shaw and the school's Free Speech Area.

Sessions said, "Many colleges now deign to 'tolerate' free speech only in certain, geographically limited, 'free speech zones.'

Shaw filed a lawsuit against Pierce College, after he prohibited him from distributing Spanish-language copies of the U.S. Constitution outside the Free Speech Area.

According to the LACCD's Board of Trustees Article IX rule, the Free Speech Area requires that campuses govern "the time, place and manner in which said areas are to be used" so that speech does not "disrupt the orderly operation of the college."

Along with these restrictions, the 616 square foot Free Speech Area is the only location on campus where students can "distribute petitions, circulars, leaflets, newspapers and other materials," including U.S. Constitutions, which state that government shall make "no law... abridging the freedom of speech."

Ironically, Shaw, according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), was handing out U.S. Constitutions, and administration said that he would be escorted off-campus unless he submitted a permit application granting him access to the 616 square foot Free Speech Area.

Not only is this ironic, it is at least Orwellian to call an area a Free Speech Area, if it requires speakers to submit a permit application, comply with the vague Article IX rules and be constricted to a geographically minuscule area.

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens once said, "It is offensive in public discourse a citizen must first inform the government of their desire to speak... and then obtain a permit to do so."

With national attention directed at Pierce, the college has become the center of a growing controversy over academia's treatment of the First Amendment.

Shaw told me, "Free speech is constantly being trampled on college campuses. Students are the last line of defense against these increasingly authoritarian policies."

Pierce student  
Daniel Covelli

President Donald Trump announced his decision to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), creating anxiety and uncertainty for the mass of student recipients. DACA protects undocumented citizens, who arrived as children, from deportation and allows them a work permit.

The program has also made undocumented students eligible for certain types of financial aid for school. This program has helped undocumented students who felt they had little options, and provided them a means to access higher education to create a better future.

Pierce should have a clearly organized group to assist DACA students create game plans and maintain awareness of the current state of affairs regarding the program. Having a Facebook page for students to check in to receive updates on the situation would be helpful.

A leader who is knowledgeable about DACA proceedings could create scheduled meetings on campus where students can receive all the information they need to make guided decisions.

According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, almost 800,000 undocumented young people have been served by the DACA program since it was created by President Barack Obama in 2012.

Trump's decision will impact students who have been working to achieve their educational goals. About 11,000 students enrolled in LACCD are in the DACA program.

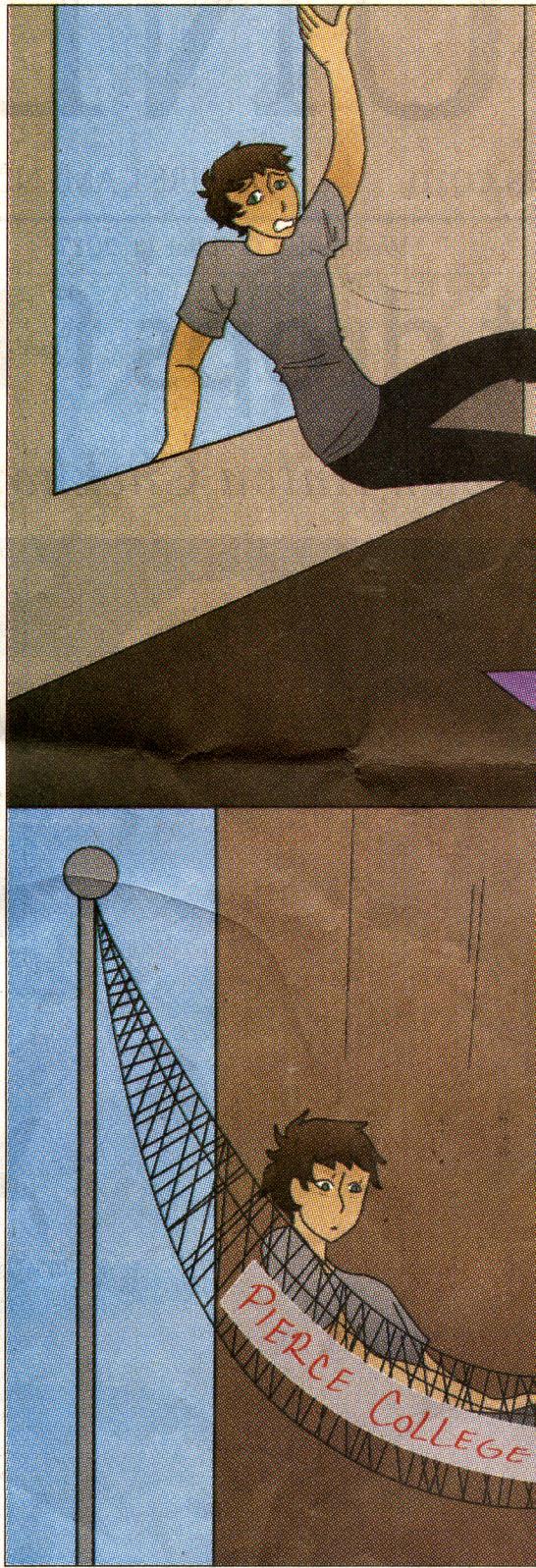
There has been notable uproar in response to executive decision to terminate the program, in addition to uncertainty about Trump's course of action.

Pierce College had a march in protest of the removal of DACA on Sept. 12. Protests make people's voices heard, but DACA students may be left wondering about their next step.

Support for DACA students is out there, however, students need a "home base" to check in for reliable information and guidance.

People deserve a fair chance and shouldn't be faced with bleak options because they were born in a different geographical location.

## More supp



DACA has been a blessing for undocumented youths who have spent the majority of their lives in this country.

In a survey by University of California, San Diego political scientist Tom Wong, 64 percent of undocumented millennials stated that they felt "a greater sense of belonging after receiv

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LACCD



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## Pro: Forego the Fattening Foods



busy with school and work that they forget about the importance of healthy eating, which can lead to weight gain, health problems and obesity.

Obesity, which is marked by being extremely overweight, is

When is the last time that you saw a healthy option on a stop



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Vending  
be limited