

VIEWPOINTS

Editorials, Opinions and Letters to the Editor



The mission of the Southwestern College Sun is to serve its campuses and their communities by providing information, insights and stimulating discussions of news, activities and topics relevant to our readers. The staff strives to produce a newspaper that is timely, accurate, fair, interesting, visual and accessible to readers. Though the "Sun" is a student publication, staff members ascribe to the ethical and moral guidelines of professional journalists.

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Student Press Law Center	Society of Professional
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Freedom Award, 2011	National Mark of
National Newspaper	Excellence, 2001-14
Association	First Amendment Award,
National College	2002, 2005
Newspaper of the Year, 2004-15	San Diego Press Club
Associated Collegiate Press	Excellence in Journalism
National College Newspaper	Awards 1999-2014
of the Year	Directors Award for
National Newspaper Pacemaker	Defense of Free Speech,
Award,	2012
2003-06, 2008, 2009, 2011,	Journalism Association of
2012-2014	Community Colleges
General Excellence Awards,	Pacesetter Award 2001-15
2001-15	General Excellence
Best of Show Awards, 2003-15	Awards, 2000-15
Columbia University	San Diego County Fair
Scholastic Press Association	Media Competition
Gold Medal for Journalism	Best of Show 2001-03,
Excellence, 2001-14	2005-2014
California Newspaper	American Scholastic Press
Publishers Assoc.	Association
California College Newspaper	Community College
of the Year, 2013	Newspaper of the Year
Student Newspaper	San Diego County
General Excellence, 2002-14	Multicultural Heritage
	Award



MICHELLE PHILLIPS/STAFF

editorial

The Issue:

SWCPD continues to downplay or ignore this college's sexual assault problem.

Our Position:

Our governing board needs to get tough on administration and police chief to make campus safer for women.

SWCPD blunders yet again by releasing serial assaulter, insulting victim

There is no more room under the rug for Southwestern College's Police Department to hide sexual assaults. This time, thanks to a brave victim, the professional campus police at San Diego State University and the county news media, the rest of the region may finally start to see what we have seen at SWC— a campus police department and administration more concerned with public relations than the safety of our female students.

After harassing and assaulting three women on SWC's Chula Vista campus and being released from police custody, perpetrator Glenn Balancar was arrested and thrown into the South County Correctional Facility after assaulting a woman at SDSU.

News outlets including the San Diego Union-Tribune, NBC 7/39 San Diego, San Diego 6, The CW, KUSI News and La Frontera San Diego covered the SDSU assault while Balancar's three previous assaults were buried in the obscure terminology of SWCPD's turgid crime log.

This should surprise no one. Lina Chankar's exhaustive investigation of SWCPD reporting failures (The Sun Jan. 21-Feb. 13, 2015) showed a police chief incapable of doing basic paperwork and a campus out of compliance with federal law.

Already frightened by the assault in the library, the victim said she was scolded by her police escort over her outfit. Nevertheless, she found the courage to sign the paperwork to press charges. As usual here at SWC, nothing happened. Another assault on another woman goes unanswered.

SDSU by comparison, takes violence and sexual harassment seriously. They arrested Balancar, turned him over to San Diego Police, pressed charges and had him put in jail where he cannot hurt any more women.

It is ridiculous that women's cries for help are being muffled and ignored as our administrators and police department continue with the SWC tradition of trying to save face, rather than saving women. They need to face the reality that the system is broken and the staffers responsible for these cases are not doing their jobs.

Our elected officials are not helping the situation, either. This campus has a documented pattern of sexual assault and harassment against women that SWCPD Chief Michael Cash and Dean of Student Services Mia

McClellan continue to downplay or ignore. Our governing board is guilty of applauding the minimal efforts of Cash when it should be reprimanding him.

Cash's answer to our dangerous campus? Developing a safety app that most students will never download. Even the blue poles he is taking so much credit for are a result of Prop R and not our campus police.

Our administration and governing board need higher standards for themselves and our campus police. Consistently letting criminals get away with a slap on the wrist is disturbing. SWC administration and police need to stop the dog-and-pony shows at board meetings and start protecting the women that attend this school.

Southwestern College is not a safe campus for women. Our campus police park empty cars all over campus in a menacing fashion, but the cops themselves are invisible. No one walks the campus. No one makes accurate, timely reports. SWCPD is toxic, dysfunctional and ineffective. It needs to be overhauled or dissolved.

Sexual assault should not be tolerated on this campus and perpetrators need to be dealt with firmly. These four steps should be taken immediately:

1) Hire a female police chief and some women officers. Some of our men in blue are good cops, but others need a rap on the head for their sexist attitudes.

2) Amend the Campus SaVE Act for clarity and provide standards to protect women and expel perpetrators.

3) Make the police department release clear, accurate reports through text or email in a timely manner when assaults occur on campus.

4) Hold Nish, McClellan and Cash accountable. SWC's top cop is incompetent, hyper-defensive and was fired from his last three law enforcement jobs. Our Dean of Student Services is stubborn, lazy and disinterested in the well being of students. Nish, who is smart and a hard worker, is sitting pretty in the president's office with her new three-year contract, turning a blind eye to the dark side of SWC's police force and administrators. We expect more from a female leader and role model.

Sexual assault is a serious black eye for the college and our leaders are sitting blithely on a PR, legal and safety time bomb. Do something. Please!

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SEX AND THE SUN



ALYSSA PAJARILLO

Right wingers' attack on Planned Parenthood is misguided

Just when it seemed that America's increasingly loopy right wing hit a new low with Donald Trump and company comes a disgusting new attack on Planned Parenthood.

Over the summer a series of fabricated videos against Planned Parenthood surfaced on the Internet, faking a tale of sales of aborted fetus body parts through the family planning group. Hysterical and shrill as Nazi propaganda, the video of Planned Parenthood is comparable to the videos of the terrorist group ISIS.

Seriously.

Unfortunately, Planned Parenthood personnel have grown accustomed to defamatory stunts. These videos are only the latest in the right wing agenda to defund America's preeminent family planning organization, which ironically, is our nation's best preventer of abortions.

Contrary to what the right thinks, the public overwhelmingly supports Planned Parenthood and a majority of American women have relied on it for services at one time or another. A recent national survey shows that Planned Parenthood is far more trusted and respected than the Republican Party. Oopsie.

As much as the uptight white right would like to paint the non-profit as the evil town abortionists, Planned Parenthood is an effective and multi-faceted family health organization. More than 60 million people a year get information on sexual health from Planned Parenthood online and 2.7 million Americans have visited a Planned Parenthood clinic. More than 1 million people get all their sex education from Planned Parenthood. Chances are you or someone you know has relied on Planned Parenthood at some point.

Planned Parenthood is actually our nation's best hope for lowering the abortion rate and which it has been for decades. It provides services like contraception, STI testing and preventative healthcare like cancer screenings and Pap smears.

Defunding Planned Parenthood and its services would cause the abortion rate to soar.

A war on Planned Parenthood is a war on women and on healthcare.

It is a war on anyone who has ever been in need of STI testing, a pregnancy test or mammogram.

Defunding Planned Parenthood would cost American taxpayers billions and cause social unrest.

In 2011 Texas lawmakers cut funding to their family planning programs by \$73 million. As a result, the government was hit with a hospital bill of nearly \$273 million in delivery costs for 24,000 babies women would not have had if the family planning budget had stayed the same.

Planned Parenthood is cost-effective and a bargain for America. For every dollar spent on providing women contraception, the government saves about \$7.09 by avoiding unwanted births, according to The Milbank Quarterly. That is on contraception alone, not including all the preventative care Planned Parenthood provides like Pap smears and cancer screenings.

Politics and religion aside, the country clearly relies on this family planning program more than it realizes. Planned Parenthood is and should be treated as a cornerstone service for the public. It should be protected and funded as a fundamental part of our society.

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