

## BATT

Mark Doré, Editor in Chief

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## ANSWERS to today's puzzles

SCALP ATMS CATS  
TONAL CHAT AFRO  
UNTIE HAIR NAIL  
IRAS IDITAROD  
BBO SET SPED  
LOU EVER DISCS  
ESCH DENIMS ANEW  
ANCHORAGETONOME  
CIAO SMILED BEE  
HARPO DEED ANT  
ELSE ELM PTS  
SLEDDOGS YELP  
PIAF ARID NIECE  
IFSO PELE TRAIN  
NEER STOW SALAD

8	2	7	1	3	5	6	4	9
4	6	5	7	2	9	1	8	3
9	3	1	4	6	8	2	5	7
6	7	2	3	4	1	5	9	8
1	5	9	2	8	7	3	6	4
3	8	4	9	5	6	7	2	1
7	4	6	5	9	3	8	1	2
5	9	3	8	1	2	4	7	6
2	1	8	6	7	4	9	3	5

## TITLE IX CONTINUED

Meg Penrose, professor at the Texas A&M School of Law, has a specialty in Title IX procedure. She stressed that Title IX, established as part of the United States Education Amendments of 1972, protects all genders and covers students, staff and faculty.

"Title IX requires any school receiving federal funding makes sure that someone's gender not be a basis for their inability to access educational opportunities," Penrose said.

In 2014, President Barack Obama's administration created a task force to monitor Title IX compliance. Penrose said A&M and other universities have taken the advice seriously.

"They take them very seriously, and

her committee, along with others like the Women's Resource Center and Student Conduct Office, hold lectures and distribute information about resources available to survivors and those who seek to help survivors.

Penrose said these programs don't just communicate information, but also bring an enhanced sense of awareness on college campuses.

"When we have open dialogue and discussion about certain items that exist, it brings a heightened level of awareness," Penrose said. "It's not just institutionally speaking that schools say, 'We support this program and that's what the law requires,' but also to remind students that if you find yourself in a vulnerable position, either the school has programs to aid you or they're providing training."

Another component of Title IX in-

"We let them make that decision," Winkler said. "But even things that I've heard when survivors come to me and are trying to decide if they're going to report, it's this thing of, 'I'm going to have to talk about it to strangers.' ... I don't ask for details. If a student wants to share that with me, I'm here to listen. If they don't want to, that is okay."

While Harrell said students may view an adult talking about consent and prevention as a "talking head" at times, she said the university is working on programs that encourage more peer-to-peer interaction.

"Peer-on-peer communication is received much better by students," Harrell said. "They feel safer speaking to other students. They're more familiar with the language of the generation and the cultured context."

*"In a college setting, for example, it's very seldom, if ever, the person with a ski mask who jumps from behind a hedge."*

we know that sexual harassment in schools is far too common," Penrose said. "There are some statistics that eight in 10 students say they experience some form of sexual harassment, and that's not necessarily college and it's not just girls."

Kristen Harrell, associate director in the office of the Dean of Student Life and chair of the Sexual Assault Survival Services Committee, said the mission of the organization is to provide education for students and consult with them on issues involving sexual violence.

Harrell said compliance with Title IX is very broad. Ranging from training and education for students to incident response, A&M works to increase awareness of sexual violence issues.

Harrell said effective education can be a challenge. Students may not take the discussions to heart, and those who have been victims of sexual harassment or violence do not report to the university.

On the education tract, Harrell said

involves investigating reported acts of sexual harassment or violence. While each case is handled by the Student Conduct Office if it involves students, Harrell said staff and faculty across campus are educated to work with students.

With more people educated on handling cases, Carol Binzer, director of Administrative and Support Services for the Department of Residence Life, said issues can be addressed more efficiently. An example she gave included a student going to the Women's Clinic for support, but who still had other concerns or issues. If the student needed to be moved into different housing, for example, a practitioner at the Women's Clinic would know a contact within Residential Life.

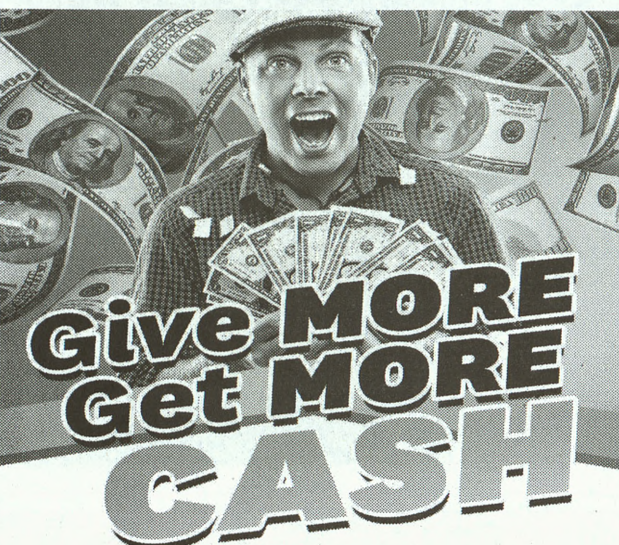
Angela Winkler, assistant director of Student Assistance Services, said students do not have to file a formal complaint with the conduct office to receive the care and resource information they need.

Harrell said an ultimate goal is to give students and staff the feeling of empowerment to say something and bring up issues for discussion. A&M, she said, has values that encourage this type of discussion, creating a culture of respect.

Sexual violence does still exist on campus, and Harrell said some traditions may be inhibitors to effective education. "There are road bumps," Harrell said. "Mugging down at yell practice can be fine as mutual consent, but there is social pressure to act in tradition."

Penrose said one misconception about Title IX is that it only applies to students and specifically to females, but nothing in the act that states female. Any gender is protected under the law.

"The good thing about Title IX is that it's motivation is that no one's gender, male or female, should prevent or preclude them from gaining access to educational programs," Penrose said.



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Application forms should be picked up and returned to Sandi Jones, Student Media business coordinator, in Suite L406 of the MSC. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

## A letter to the sexual assault task force

Change involves more than just another awareness campaign



Sam King  
@Sam\_King372

It's uncomfortable to acknowledge that sexual assault is a national problem — and perhaps even more so to admit that it is caused by Aggies on campus. But for all the uneasiness, it's nothing compared to the consequences of ignoring it.

### The Challenge

According to the Division of Student Affairs, there have been 32 cases of reported sexual assault, including rape and sexual abuse, since the summer of 2012. The key word here is "reported." According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization, "just over half of rape victims do not report the crime."

To A&M's newly established sexual assault task force, you have a difficult job ahead of you. It's not enough anymore to just say, "This is a problem." If you, the task force, want your campaign to be successful, you need to make sure you are tackling the issue with decorum and sensitivity while ensuring the correct information is communicated.

In order for the campaign to be successful, you should tackle four issues: awareness, prevention, interference and reaction.

### Awareness

Awareness has been a huge focus of many national campaigns. Obama's "It's On Us" campaign was huge in raising national awareness. Awareness includes defining sexual assault.

Part of the reason so many sexual assault cases go unreported is that the victim may be unaware that their experience is even considered sexual assault. Clear definitions — and the simple understanding that sexual assault is a problem at A&M — should be cornerstones of your campaign.

### Prevention

Prevention is a topic you need to handle sensitively. You cannot approach it from the perspective of teaching people of all genders how to "not get raped." Rather, you need to view it from the angle of programs like Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention, SHARP, a self-defense course hosted by the University Police Department (even though that class is specifically for women).

"Prevention," doesn't mean teaching men

and women how to not get attacked, though. It doesn't mean sending the message that it's up to people to hinder their chances of being assaulted. It does mean teaching people how to handle themselves if they are ever faced with the reality of an assault.

### Interference

Interference is the next component of the ideal campaign. Many national campaigns feature messages like, "If you see something, say something." This is a great catch phrase, but you need to look at defining what both of those "somethings" mean. What should people at a party look for in a potentially dangerous setting? What kind of interactions could become harmful? Along with recognizing the signs of sexual assault and harassment, students need to know how to step in.

Your campaign should show how to stand up and protect our fellow Aggies, even when they may not be capable of protecting themselves. The Aggie Honor Code applies outside the classroom and can easily be expanded to apply to this campaign. An Aggie does not lie, cheat, steal (or harm another person) or tolerate those who do.

### Reaction

Last but not least is reaction. This goes back to the lack of sexual assault cases that are reported. Many students are unaware of the steps that should be taken following an attack.

You need to make information easily available if something should happen. This is perhaps the least comfortable part to discuss, because to talk about it means to accept that it happened.

Even beyond reporting the crime to the UPD, there are resources available to victims, including counseling. Sexual assault trials, especially those found on college campuses, have garnered a reputation of being incredibly trying and often fruitless. Your campaign needs to reassure students that if something happens to them, proper steps will be taken to ensure that A&M will do everything it can to support the victims. And that needs to be a truthful statement.

I think that a public message and campaign is incredibly important. But it can't stop there. If the Division of Student Affairs doesn't follow the message it is trying to send and follows in the unfortunate footsteps of universities like those we've heard in the news, then the efforts of your task force won't mean anything.



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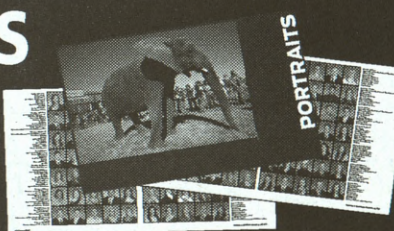
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It's your yearbook. Be in it.