

“Rape guide” puts Dartmouth student in danger

BY NICOLE ZELNIKER
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of Americans are enraged by an incident that occurred at Dartmouth College regarding an anonymous website and a “rape guide.”

“My first reaction ... was disgust and dismay,” said Naomi Madaras, Guilford College sophomore and Students Assault Awareness Support and Advocacy member. “It is terrifying and painful to see that sexual assault is so prevalent on college campuses.”

After one young woman’s name was published on the student-run Bored@Baker website in a “rape guide” on Jan. 10, she was attacked in February.

“For the first time in months, I started feeling safe,” the woman told The Huffington Post. “I went out last week and got assaulted at the first and only house I went to. Then I got told it happens all the time.”

While the author of the “rape guide” is currently being put through Dartmouth’s judicial process, questions have arisen regarding the college’s role in content published on Bored@Baker.

“Bored@Baker is an anonymous online forum designed by an individual outside of the Dartmouth community,” said Dartmouth senior Holli Weed in an email interview with The Guilfordian. “As such, it is not under the jurisdiction of Dartmouth and is protected by free speech.”

In response to debate about whether Dartmouth should shut down the website, an anonymous source and moderator of Bored@Baker insists that the website is invaluable to the student body.

“While these kinds of posts can surface, (the website in question) is an indispensable means of communication,” said the source in a phone interview with The Guilfordian. “It’s been a really valuable resource for students working through personal issues. It has talked people out of suicide.”

Although Dartmouth cannot claim responsibility for the website’s content, many believe that this is just one more incident on a long list of unanswered problems.

“Dartmouth has had a problem with rape and sexual assault for decades,” said UltraViolet campaign director Karin Roland in an interview with ThinkProgress. “They have a long history with this issue, and student groups on campus are finally fed up and are leading the charge.”

However, sexual assault extends far beyond the campus grounds of Dartmouth.

“Many campuses are struggling due to the complexity of the issues involved,” said Guilford’s Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs Aaron Fetrow. “Colleges understand that we must continue to work on prevention initiatives, but my colleagues across the country complain that the only way this will change is by changing student behavior.”

At Guilford, change in the form of a clarification may be the need of the hour.

“Guilford needs to make the judicial process more clear to students,” said Madaras. “Many sexual assault victims aren’t aware that they have the right to an advocate in the judicial process. Most of the solutions for Guilford involve a lot of funding ... like hiring full-time staff members for the wellness position and providing sexual assault response training for the deans.”

Flight 370 gone for more than three weeks

BY ADITYA GARG
STAFF WRITER

“It is very frustrating that in an age where we can always know our position via a smartphone, have satellites that can read license plate numbers and have a manned space station circling the earth, we can still lose track of a commercial airliner,” said David Ison, chair of the Master of Aeronautical Science program and assistant professor of aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, in an email interview with The Guilfordian.

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 has baffled the world for over three weeks. To date, the fate of the 239 passengers onboard remains unconfirmed.

After an extensive two-week search by a team of international aviation specialists, Malaysia Airlines finally arrived at a sobering conclusion.

“Malaysia Airlines deeply regrets that we have to assume beyond any reasonable doubt that MH370 has been lost and that none of those on board survived,” read the airline’s text message to the families of victims on Monday, March 24.

The decision to inform family members via text message has received widespread criticism from many. Nearly 100 relatives and supporters marched on the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing, China, chanting “Liars!” and “Malaysia, return our relatives!”

However, Malini Saudranrajan, a spokesperson for Malaysia Airlines, affirmed the airline’s commitment to helping the families of the victims.

“At this point in time, our priority remains to provide all assistance to the families and passengers of the crew,” said Saudranrajan in an email interview with The Guilfordian.

The question now remains: What caused the plane to disappear?

“It is extremely unlikely this was caused by a mechanical problem or fire for two reasons: The plane kept flying along a manipulated route, and there were no communications,” said Ison in an email interview. “If there was a major issue, the plane would not have continued for several hours.”

Both pilot Zaharie Ahmad Shah and copilot Fariq Abdul Hamid have received much criticism after officials found a flight simulator in Shah’s house. Many people have questioned his competence and handling of the situation.

“Our pilot is a very experienced pilot with more than 18,000 flight hours,” said Saudranrajan in an email interview, while Malaysia Airlines was unable to discuss the matter with The Guilfordian.

Experts have indicated that they will not know the fate of the flight until they find the black box, which consists of a rectangular housing for electronics and a memory module that holds various data regarding flight parameters.

The problem? Finding it. Despite various leads, the search for the plane’s debris has proved futile as of April 1.

“We’re not searching for a needle in a haystack — we’re still trying to define where the haystack is,” said Air Marshal Mark Binskin, Australia’s vice chief of defense, to reporters in Perth, Australia.

On March 28, newly analyzed satellite data shifted the search zone about 700 miles northeast of the site previously being searched, raising expectations that searchers are closely approaching the zone of impact. The size of the new zone is approximately 123,000 square miles.

The fiasco surrounding Flight 370 has left many questions unanswered and many disillusioned by the search process and the travel industry. But, according to Ison, the current situation will have few implications for air travel in the future.

“Flying is still the safest mode of major transportation we have,” said Ison. “Hopefully this disaster will prompt the world to adopt a better tracking system for aircraft flying in remote locations.”

Choates whore is [REDACTED]. She lives in Choates somewhere. Because of her reputation she is a bit of a recluse, so you’re gonna have to work on it a little bit. Hang in and around the choates, you’ll find her. Look her up on fb and friendsy so you can recognize what she looks like. “Befriend” her. Start hanging out with her. Just casually drink with her every now and then. “Prove” that you’re not a dangerous person and that she should trust you. Increase how much alcohol you give her each time. maybe flirt with her slightly. Then one such day, go for it.

This is a portion of the “rape guide” from Bored@Baker. The girl named was sexually assaulted in February after this was posted anonymously.

Oscar Pistorius awaits trial for murder

BY JAKE DELAHANTY
STAFF WRITER

“I respectfully believe the state has no basis for alleging that I wanted to take Reeva’s life,” Oscar Pistorius told the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, South Africa, on March 3, the first day of his trial.

The state, led by prosecutor Gerrie Nel, intends to prove otherwise.

It has been over a year since South African paralympian Oscar Pistorius shot and killed Reeva Steenkamp, his celebrity-model girlfriend, on Valentine’s Day 2013. Pistorius, who claims he mistook Steenkamp for a burglar, is now being tried for murder.

New evidence brought forth in the trial from witnesses and forensic experts seems to suggest premeditation.

“I was still sitting in bed and I heard (Steenkamp’s) screams,” witness Michelle Burger, a neighbor of Pistorius, told the court. “She screamed terribly and yelled for help.”

“Just after her screams, I heard four shots. Four gunshots. Bang, bang, bang, bang.”

Ballistics expert Captain Christian Mangena outlined bullet holes through a bathroom door that corresponded with wounds on Steenkamp’s hip, hand and

skull. While much of what he said did not contradict Pistorius’ testimony, Mangena claims that there had to have been a pause between the first and second shots.

“If it’s two double taps, then all the wounds would be in the same position,” said Mangena to the court. “There wouldn’t be any time for her to change position in that instance.”

If there was a pause, the prosecution argues, Steenkamp would have had time to scream. Naturally, this would have caused Pistorius to stop, but he did not.

Another piece of evidence revolves around Pistorius’ cricket bat. Pistorius claims that, after he realized Steenkamp was inside the bathroom, he grabbed his cricket bat in an attempt to break down the locked door.

Forensic analyst Police Colonel Johannes Vermeulen suggests otherwise.

“The marks on the door are actually consistent with him not having his legs on,” Vermeulen told the court. “I suspect the marks must be similar to the height that he was when he fired the shots.”

Using this testimony, the prosecution argues that Pistorius hit the door with his bat before firing shots or wearing his prosthetic legs.

They believe that Pistorius lost his temper with Steenkamp due to a strained relationship, after which Pistorius caused

Steenkamp to flee to the bathroom. He then hit the bathroom door with his cricket bat and finally shot and killed Steenkamp.

Pistorius’ trial has been a hot topic amongst student discussions at Guilford College.

“My family in South Africa seems to be split on this controversial issue,” said sophomore and former citizen of South Africa Byron Hamilton in an email interview. “Some believe he is completely guilty and deserves life in prison, and others sympathize with him.”

Another Guilford student who wished to remain anonymous weighed in on the issue.

“Pistorius seems to have an aggressive history and the ‘I’m invincible’ type of attitude,” said the student. “I wouldn’t be surprised if he is found guilty.”

“Personally, I think he’s guilty,” said Early College junior Neal Vaidya. “At the same time, the media might have skewed my view of Pistorius. We’ll just have to wait and see.”

The defense, led by Barry Roux, was scheduled to begin on March 28 but was delayed.

The trial will resume on April 7, when one of two assessors, assistants who help the judge reach a verdict, returns from hospitalization.

“I respectfully believe the state has no basis for alleging that I wanted to take Reeva’s life.”

Oscar Pistorius