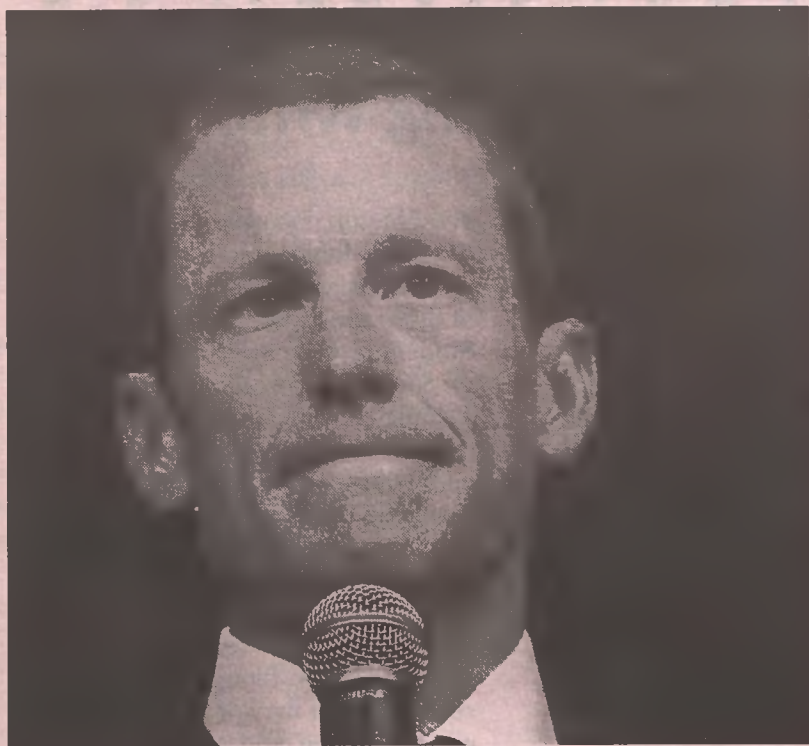


Lance Armstrong Comes "Clean"

Abigail Gupton, staff writer



Lance Armstrong, one of the most iconic cyclists of this generation, formally admitted to using performance enhancing drugs in an interview with Oprah Winfrey on January 17, 2013. With seven Tour de France wins to his name, Armstrong became one of the most celebrated and respected athletes in the United States. In 1996 he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Through his eventual victory in the battle with cancer he became more than a renowned athlete; he became an inspiration. His legacy was cemented with the creation of his foundation

"Livestrong." In 1997 Livestrong was created as a foundation to support those with cancer and cancer research. Even now, fifteen years later, people still wear Livestrong wristbands as a reminder of the struggle that they or a loved one may face or may have faced and in support of the fight in general.

On January 17 Armstrong admitted to Winfrey that he was using performance enhancing drugs until 2005. This confession shocked the world. When previously accused of "doping," Armstrong avidly denied the claims and went as far as to sue multiple corporations for making such accusations. In the interview with Winfrey, Armstrong claimed "the ultimate crime is the betrayal of these people who support me and believed in me and they got lied to." The interview, while a step in the right direction, was

not enough to get Armstrong back into the good graces of those who had once supported him.

The Livestrong foundation, which Armstrong separated himself from in wake of the scandal, released a statement on January 17 interview saying "we expect Lance to be completely truthful and forthcoming in his interview and with all of us in the cancer community. We expect we will have more to say at that time. Regardless, we are charting a strong, independent course forward that is focused on helping people overcome financial, emotional and physical challenges related to cancer. Inspired by the people with cancer whom we serve, we feel confident and optimistic about the Foundation's future and welcome an end to speculation." According to a January 17 article in Sports Illustrated, John Fahey, the President of the World Anti-Doping Agency, also had little sympathy for Armstrong telling the Associated Press "he was wrong, he cheated and there was no excuse for what he did. If he was looking for redemption, he didn't succeed in getting that."

Fortunately, many people feel that the Livestrong foundation will con-

tinue to thrive because of what the organization stands for. The editor of the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Stacy Palmer, has faith in the organization and says "The organization has done a lot to separate itself from Lance's image over the years. As a result, many people identify it as a cancer organization, which is why it's not already crumbling." Armstrong himself knows that his personal reputation has taken a serious hit commenting to Winfrey "I'm deeply sorry for what I did. I can say that thousands of times. It may never be enough to come back."

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Violence Against Women Act Goes to House

Marzi Nawrozi, staff writer

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) is a United States federal law. VAWA provides help and protection for women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and the professionals who serve these women. VAWA also helps immigrant and refugee women who face cultural, economic, practical and legal barriers to seek and receiving assistance and get justice. VAWA helps immigrant and refugee women about their rights and helps

"victims of trafficking, rape, sexual assault in the workplace and nannies who are held hostage." to get Crime Victim Visas.

According to MSNBC, "VAWA was first passed in 1994 but expired at the beginning of this year. Vice President Joe Biden, then the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, helped author the original legislation. The bill provides funding to aid and counsel victims of domestic violence while implementing stronger penalties for their abusers. Some of its components included maintain-

ing that a woman's past sexual history cannot be used against her in a trial of her abuser and that women shouldn't be forced to pay for their own protection or rape exam."

Last week all Democratic and Republican women in the Senate voted in favor of VAWA and it passed to the House. Since the bill passed from senates to house, there have been some protests and pressures for the

House from the supporters of VAWA. President Obama recently pleaded with Congress to pass the Violence

Against Women Act in his State of the Union address, saying, "We know our economy is stronger when our wives, mothers, and daughters can live their lives free from discrimination in the workplace, and free from the fear of domestic violence. Today, the Senate passed the Violence Against Women Act that Joe Biden originally wrote almost 20 years ago. I urge the House to do

the same."

The Senate version includes \$659 million in assistance over five years, a number actually down 17% from the last time the bill was reauthorized in 2005.

According to SCTIMES, this version of the law also would give more

attention to sexual assault prevention, help reduce a backlog in processing rape kits, includes provisions on targeting human trafficking, and ensures child victims of sex trafficking are eligible for grant assistance.



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