

OPINIONS

MARKS MY WORDS

Pushing the Right Buttons

It was one of those spur-of-the-moment decisions. I had to get to the fourth floor of Sweet Hall where I was late for a meeting. But did I want to stumble into the room gasping for breath? I'm no marathon-runner, but I knew that if I ran up three flights of stairs right before a meeting, I wouldn't make a good impression. There was only one other choice.



Miriam Ellora Marks

I looked over at, yes, the elevator. I cringed. The environmentally friendly culture in the Bay Area has taught me never to do something with a machine that my own muscles can't do. Thanks to my time at Stanford, I get uncomfortable when I'm in a car because 50 miles really shouldn't be too far to bike, right? But this particular situation seemed too dire.

I prepared myself for what would come next. Elevator conversations are uniquely different from any others; you're stuck in a tiny, tiny space with a stranger, but only for a few minutes.

But if you're in an elevator with someone, you have something in common by default — you're in the same elevator. That might mean that you're in the same hotel together, you're visiting the same office together or maybe you live in the same apartment building. The commonality that you share places some conversational pressure on you.

This pressure to make conversation is at the same time countered by your knowledge that, if this person gets off at the next floor, you want the conversation to have reached a natural end. At the same time, you don't want to have a pleasantly abrupt exchange followed by another minute of silence while you both realize you're going to the highest floors of the building. As some might say: awkwardaaaaad.

As a result, sometimes it is far easier not to talk at all. And that's why I usually stare at the wall, or at the panel of numbers in front of me, or at a spot next to my feet. Sometimes small talk just isn't really worth it.

I've tried it before. And unfortunately, Sweet Hall has been the site of some sub-par elevator encounters for me. One time, I knew I had a meeting somewhere in the build-

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ing, and I suspected it was the fourth floor. I waited with another student, we got in the elevator together and it was soon obvious that we were both traveling to the 4th floor. Since I wasn't sure where the meeting was, I opened first.

"Hey, are you here for the 6 p.m. meeting?" He was too! No way. "Do you know where it is?" He thought it was on the fourth floor. By the time we'd gotten through those few lines of conversation, speaking slowly and with naturally drawn-out pauses, the elevator arrived at the fourth floor.

What happened next was that we ended up taking two more elevator rides together. The meeting was not on the fourth floor. So we rode down to the second floor, his next guess. The meeting was not there either. And lastly we rode up to the third floor, where we finally found our meeting. At this point we'd had several less than ideal exchanges along the lines of, "So, what year are you?" Insert answer. "Cool." "So, what's your major?" Insert answer. "Nice." Not knowing when our conversation would have to be over, we instead had a bunch of mini conversations, none of which were particularly satisfactory. It was rough.

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OP-ED

A Thumb on the Scale of Justice

In light of President Hennessy's recent unilateral decision to change the burden of proof in student misconduct proceedings when sexual assault or domestic violence is alleged, we began to question the legitimacy of the fact-finding process in those proceedings. In so doing, we reviewed the training materials provided to hearing officers for those cases. Those materials confirmed our suspicion that Stanford is putting its thumb on the scale of justice. Quite simply, judicial panelists are trained to be biased against the accused.

It is a fundamental concept of American democracy, justice and due process that a fair tribunal is one with an impartial judge. Stanford students accused of misconduct have the right to judicial panelists free from bias.

Yet, Stanford trains its judicial panelists, who will hear and decide disciplinary proceedings involving allegations of sexual assault and domestic violence, that neutrality is not only unattainable but something which should be avoided. Neutrality, the panelists are trained, makes the fact-finder an accomplice to the abuse and further victimizes the complainants.

Specifically, panelists are provided with an article by Lundy Bancroft called "Why Does He Do That? Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men." The article instructs fact-finders that, "When people take a neutral stand between you and your abusive partner, they are in effect supporting him and abandoning you, no matter how

much they may claim otherwise." Further, the panelists are taught that, "to remain neutral is to collude with the abusive man, whether or not that is your goal."

Another article provided to judicial panelists is equally biased against the accused, who is almost invariably referred to as a male. That document is from the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness and provides judicial panelists with "indicators" of an "abuser." It states that an abuser will "feel victimized" and "act persuasive and logical." An impartial training system would not teach judicial panelists that if an accused defends himself persuasively and logically, they should infer that he is an "abuser." The Bancroft article admonishes, "Everyone should be very, very cautious in accepting a man's claim that he has been wrongly accused of abuse or violence. The great majority of allegations of abuse — though not all — are substantially accurate. An abuser almost never 'seems like the type.'"

Panelists are also provided with a document titled "Abuser Accountability," which states that an "abuser" becomes accountable when he admits that his behavior was "unprovoked," apparently ignoring the reality that instances of sexual assault and domestic violence are almost always relational and do not occur in a vacuum.

The intended effect of these materials is abundantly clear from the training evaluation, which asks participants to list three steps that

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The Stanford Daily

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Incorporated 1973

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OBSESSIVE KOMPULSION

(Wel)Come to Stanford

On the surface, I'm writing this column to convince one of my best friends to pick Stanford over Yale and Harvard (how's that for subtlety, Rachel?), but beyond that, this column is for every Stanford ProFro who is currently undecided about where to spend the next four years of his or her life. I can sympathize with the nervousness about having to choose by May 1. Fortunately for me, Stanford's Admit Weekend 2010 ended on April 24 — a full week before the deadline. But fortunately for you, Class of 2015, I didn't decide until April 30, either, so we're essentially in the same boat.

I remember the thrill of April — hearing back from schools on the first (and Stanford a full week earlier than everyone else), missing nearly two straight weeks of school to go to various admit weekends, flying home from my first-ever visit to California and announcing to my parents the same night, "Mom, Dad, I think Stanford's the school for me." Then I remember the immediate nausea I felt with the weight of my words, with the understanding that I was choosing to leave everything I knew on the East Coast to go to a school and live in a state and on a coast I knew nothing about. Two seconds after uttering these words, I decided to take them back; another two seconds later, I decided to take back taking them back. And then two seconds later . . .

Essentially, I remained "undecided" for an entire week, drawing up the pros and cons of an Ivy League education and staying close to home on the East Coast versus going to my dream school (Stanford), a name that caused lots of anxiety, some bad, but more good, whenever I thought of it. On April 30, as I tried to put off the decision another day, my mother stopped me and said, "You're not leaving the house until you make a decision." So, I said, "Okay, I pick Stanford."

My decision was one I spent a lot of time thinking about, so instead of giving the "just follow your gut" ad-



Kristian Bailey

vice (which did work, by the way, but also felt too intangible to trust), I'll give you my concrete reasons why Stanford is different from every other school you're considering and why it's better.

First and foremost, no university does the freshman experience better than Stanford. Before you even get here, two undergraduates have spent their entire summer reading your housing applications and hand-matching the roughly 1,700 of you that will choose to matriculate here. With few exceptions, the University does an excellent job pairing you with a roommate who will challenge you to learn, but in a way that's compatible enough with your own living preferences that you won't even feel like you're not at home.

Beyond that, freshman dorms are amazing. Not only do the aforementioned matchmakers pair you with your roommate, but they organize the entirety of your dorm so that your entire floor is compatible with each other, so that the dorm represents a cross-section of every kind of diversity the University excels in bringing to each class and so that the dorm becomes a vibrant community. More than anything, my freshman dorm has been my favorite part of my Stanford experience.

Why, you ask? Friday barbecues, weekly house meetings, inter-dorm competitions, fountain hopping, San Francisco Scavenger Hunt, Word Assassins, Secret Snowflake, Ski Trip (the University essentially pays for the entire freshman class to spend a weekend in cabins and skiing in Tahoe over the course of January), Assassins (yes, this is different from Word Assassins), Screw Your Roommate and *The Game*:

imagine teams of five students in a car, performing a Bay Area-wide scavenger hunt with clues based on really complex puzzles created by insanely smart and creative Stanford students. *The Game* was my single favorite activity within the single favorite part of my Stanford experience.

You'll be getting a great education no matter where you go — world-class faculty, brilliant and motivated students, etc. But based on what I know, no other university invests as much in cultivating a sense of community among the freshman class and within the entire school. Feeling a sense of belonging is extraordinarily important when you're investing so much of your life in this decision — not just in your intellectual development, but more importantly in your personal development. Feeling welcome, feeling free to be whoever and whatever you'd like to be and feeling capable to taking on the challenges of the 21st century are all what Stanford excels at.

Thursday afternoon, one of my professors and advisors gave Rachel what I think is the best piece of college advice I've ever heard: you won't be sorry wherever you decide to go, but if you go to Stanford, you won't be sorry you didn't go anywhere else.

I've yet to mention our excellent athletic program, beautiful weather, the gorgeous campus abounding with nature, etc. — and on the most serious level, this really affects the sense of community, my happiness and my optimism about the future — but I've already convinced you, and you're two seconds away from logging in, clicking "Accept" and making the best decision of your life . . .

Go forth unafraid, ProFros.

Kristian is in FloMo without a ProFro even though he's a RoHo, but since he's a HoHo, it's all a go-go. If you're mad at him for his asinine assonance, let him know at kbailey@stanford.edu.



ANASTASIA YEE/The Stanford Daily

Got time between classes? Give blood for life!

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White Plaza 11 am – 4 pm

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10 am – 2 pm

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Creative Arts

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TOMORROW!

1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 30, 2011

Tresidder Memorial Union, Oak East and West (2nd Floor)

UNIVERSITY

Knight Center debuts at open house today

By **MATT BETTONVILLE**
STAFF WRITER

One of the largest construction projects on campus this year, the Knight Management Center, officially opens today. The facility has been partially in use since January and fully operational since April 18, with an official open house and ceremony this afternoon.

The Knight Center, which is the new site for Stanford's Graduate School of Business (GSB), bears the name of Nike founder Phil Knight MBA '62, who donated \$105 million for the facility. The project cost \$345 million in total.

According to a press release, GSB administrators hope it will house the "site for the business school for 75 to 100 years." The old GSB campus, currently called the Littlefield Management Center, remains vacant with no final plans for its future use.

The construction of a new campus came as a result of 2007 changes in the MBA curriculum that called for smaller class sizes, necessitating smaller and more classrooms. The new curriculum includes "more critical analytical thinking, a global experience requirement, more innovative thinking and more personal leadership development," wrote GSB Dean Garth Saloner '81 M.S. '82 Ph.D. '82 in an email to The Daily.

The new campus also houses rows of individual study rooms, workrooms and "breakout rooms" that faculty can use to divide up a class for group work. The Knight Center houses 70 such rooms, up from 28 in the old facility.

Several other aspects of the new facility differentiate it from the old GSB complex. Most noticeably, the Knight Center now sits on Campus Drive and Serra Street. One major hope the GSB administration has for the new facility is to make it a more open area to bring in members of all Stanford departments. The new campus was also oriented to give better views of the Stanford campus, especially from the Bass Center, which is the new business school library and

the tallest building in the Knight Center.

"This is a place for the whole Stanford community," said Knight Center Program Director Kathleen Kavanaugh.

The new center was also constructed with the goal of earning the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum level certification. The facility has not yet been awarded LEED platinum, but according to Kavanaugh it is still "on track" for this distinction.

To contend for this certification, the facility was designed to consume 45 percent less energy and 80 percent less water than a typical office building, in addition to producing an estimated 12.5 percent of its required energy from photovoltaic cells. Kavanaugh said that green facilities were a priority for educational reasons as well, in hopes that students would carry environmental motivations into their careers.

"The GSB believes that the leaders of business are the people that can make change really happen," she said. "By designing and building this facility with these green aspects in mind, we're showing that we can design a green facility without compromising on design and functionality."

"What's important here is that the GSB practices what it teaches," Saloner added. "Sustainability is good business."

The center consists of eight new buildings around a main, central quadrangle and the Arbuckle Dining Pavilion. Another addition to the new campus includes a parking facility beneath two of the Knight Center's eight buildings that opens onto Campus Drive.

The GSB community along with President John Hennessey and the Board of Trustees will officially dedicate the Knight Center in a ceremony from noon to 2 p.m. today. An open house for all of Stanford will follow until 5 p.m.

Contact Matt Bettonville at mbett224@stanford.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

University expands 'gender-neutral' housing, renames 'gender-inclusive'

By **THE DAILY NEWS STAFF**

Student Housing will expand its gender-neutral housing program to Bob, Branner Hall, Crothers, Yost and all graduate residences next year, according to an informational email by Charles Syms '11 M.A. '11, who spearheads the student side of the program. It will further expand the program as more buildings are renovated so that they "are suitable

for gender-inclusive housing," he said.

Syms noted that students had been working with Housing to clarify the housing assignment process for transgender or "genderqueer" students, adding that if students were worried about being assigned housing by the gender listed in the registrar's database, they could speak to a housing specialist who could work with them to assure that their housing needs would be met, keeping in mind their gender identity.

Syms said Housing is changing the name of the housing type from "Gender-neutral Housing" to "Gender-inclusive Housing" based on student input and will refer to it exclusively as the latter after next year.

— Tyler Brown

MARKS

Continued from page 4

But the other day my fortunes turned. I entered Sweet Hall and, too daunted by the stairs, turned to the elevator and the guy in front of it. "Hey, are you going up?" "Yup!" We wait, and the elevator took an oddly long time to arrive, so we shot each other some questioningly amused glances. "Is it coming, or should we take the stairs?" we both seemed to say to one another, but finally the elevator doors slid open before us.

Once in the elevator, I pushed four and asked him for his floor. He said three. I tested the waters. "Oh okay, floor three . . . that's fine. If you were going to floor two, I would've judged. Can't you walk up one flight of stairs?"

It was a pretty loaded comment, but he responded with a laugh and agreed that you're only justified in taking the elevator if you're going up at least two flights of stairs. I laughed too and told him that I couldn't risk getting to my meeting if I were panting like a dog. Laughs all around, and soon enough he got to floor three and departed.

Our exchange was perfectly timed. It took up the precise temporal duration of the elevator ride. It was friendly and thankfully lacked the strained undertone of some small talk. And it actually left me wishing that not all short-lived elevator conversations had to end because great people pop up in all types of places, elevators included.

Miriam hopes you won't give her article the shaft. Please rise to the occasion and email her your feedback melloram@stanford.edu

OPED

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"staff can take to effectively respond to people experiencing relationship abuse." The goal of the training is apparently not to teach fact-finders how to be neutral, how to evaluate evidence for credibility and relevance or how to ensure that the accused is afforded his right to a fundamentally fair hearing. Rather, the purpose of the training is to indoctrinate judicial hearing officers with a particular ideology, which undermines the impartiality of prospective fact-finders.

These training materials are clearly intended for social and mental health workers who help victims

of domestic violence in crisis — their necessary ideology must be that those victims are telling the truth. By contrast, a judge at a judicial hearing must weigh evidence in a fair and neutral manner. A fair judge must start from the proposition that neither party is automatically to be believed. Stanford should use training materials that encourage neutrality and impartiality, not ones that undercut those goals.

As long as Stanford trains its judicial officers with the materials currently provided, no accused student can expect to receive a fair hearing in the Stanford judicial process involving sexual assault or domestic violence.

MIKE ARMSTRONG '70 AND
DANIEL BARTON J.D. '88