

Fall 2017

‘Taste Shaming’ can sting



Just enjoying something can lead to insults from others

By Matt Epperly

Just about everybody has a favorite something when it comes to popular media, whether it's a movie, a TV show, a comic book or whatever.

If you have a favorite movie or band, that is totally a matter of opinion and is yours to have.

But if you spend too much time speaking to the wrong people, you may begin to believe your opinion can be “wrong”. And that can happen because of others who don't agree with you.

A combination of internet culture and an increasing division amongst popular figures in the media seems to have exacerbated an unfortunate trend in discussions of various art-forms, something that is being called “Taste Shaming”.

For those not familiar with the term, “Shaming” can be defined as a form of systematic verbal insults directed towards people over things they should not necessarily be ashamed of.

Spiderman fights the bad guys, but that doesn't mean a reader won't be 'shamed' for liking him.

College safety report lists few problems

By Connor McCormick

The Annual Security Report for Sussex County Community College is a report that details crime statistics at the College for three years and also contains the school's policy statements concerning safety and security on campus.

As in 2014 and 2015, the report lists only one reportable incident at SCCC in 2016.

All colleges and universities around the country must disclose information about crimes on campus and security policies annually by federal law. This is required under The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, as a part of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The Clery Act was signed in 1990.

The Clery Act was created after the rape and murder of Jeanne Clery, a 19 year old Lehigh

University student, in the Stoughton Hall dormitory by another student, Joseph M. Henry on April 5, 1986.

According to the parents of Clery, if they had been aware that her murder was one of 38 violent crimes that had been reported to Lehigh University over the previous three years, they never would have let her attend the university. Clery's parents then advocated for public awareness of crimes on campus, which eventually led to the passing of the Clery Act.

According to the Clery Act, an annual security report must be filed by October 1st. The annual security report for Sussex County Community College has been published for the 2016 school

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A place where labels are not important

By *Kasey Smith*

Everyone deserves to have a safe place, a place where one can truly be themselves without feeling like they are being judged.

Good for Sussex County Community College we have a certain “Bulldog,” that will do anything to get that safe space.

Her name is Melanie Arpaio and she is the new advisor for the GSA also known as the Gender & Sexuality Alliance. After speaking with Melanie, it’s clear that if anyone can make an impact it would be her.

With the diversity center getting closed down last year, Melanie wanted to do anything she could so that students would have a place where they can feel safe to be who they are behind their “labels.”

The people of the LGBTQ community needed a voice so Melanie took action.

“I knew students needed a safe zone to

be themselves, so I decided to make my own. I emptied my office, painted my walls and put in chairs so people would have room to sit.

“I always leave the door unlocked so people at all times could have a space where they feel they aren’t being judged,” she said.

While the matter of possibly restoring a diversity center awaits action, Melanie and the GSA were trying to raise money and make clear the need for a physical room that can be a safe space.



The “safe room” is a place where one can relax without judgment.

“We are trying to get people to realize that now more than ever we need a diversity center that is full of love and support from one another in the community.”

We live in a world with so much hate that it is hard to be who you want to be and be accepted by the rest of the world.” The GSA recently did trust- building exercis-

es to learn to work together as a whole without judgement.

Bringing together strangers from different ways of life coming together as a team was the start for GSA.

With the GSA working together to help anyway they can by doing fundraisers such as the Yankee Candle and Comfort Food Bake Sale, working together to spread the love.

Other events held this semester are the Luna Parc trip and a trip to The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

If you are looking to join a club, look no further than the GSA. A club where one is free to be who one wants to be.

Meetings are held in Room C15 also known as Safe Space.



Some GSA members at the Meet the Clubs event earlier this semester. Kirau Tompkins, Megan Phillips, Professor Melanie Arpaio, Katie Scriani, Kyle Clark, and Rachel Palmer

New man on a Mission

*U.S. Navy veteran helps
other veterans find their
way at SCCC*

By Lucas Nooter

Last semester's departure of SCCC's Veteran Services Coordinator created a vacancy which needed to be filled as expeditiously as possible to avoid a lapse in enrollment.

In the meantime, a temporary solution was found to continue the process of certifying the student veteran with the Veterans Administration.

Then, a committee was set up to find the right candidate to perform the myriad functions of the Veteran Student Coordinator.

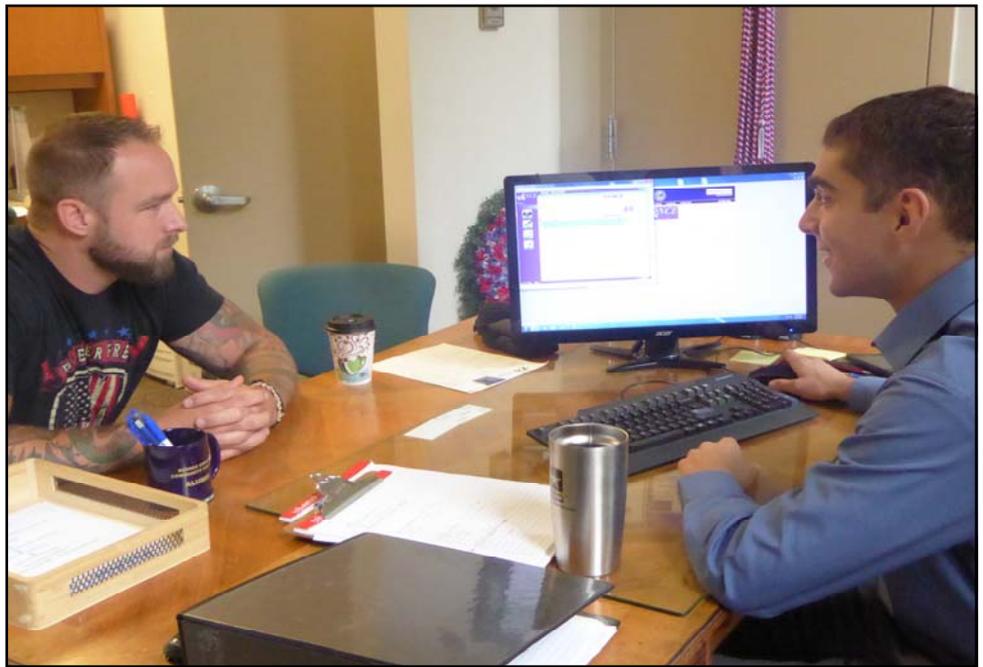
Enter Jon Finocchiaro, who had been a work aide to the previous coordinator, and helped him in the administration of his office.

In the meantime, the job was advertised and candidates interviewed to find the most qualified replacement.

After a thorough vetting of the applicants, Finocchiaro, who had applied as well, was appointed as the new coordinator.

Finocchiaro's mission is in his words, "getting the veteran students to help themselves and giving them the resources to do so, not to counsel but to coordinate."

Currently, Finocchiaro looks after 99 veteran students. Of these 92 are male and 7 are female.



Looking comfortable in his new position, SCCC Veterans Coordinator Jon Finocchiaro, a Navy veteran, counsels U.S. Army veteran Jay Christy.

The age range of the veterans is 28-35.

Broken down by branch of service, there are 46 Army veterans at the College, 25 former Marines, 24 from the Navy, while two each are from the Air Force and Coast Guard.

Finocchiaro's personal background also lends itself to being considered "the right man for the job".

Finocchiaro was born in Denville, graduated from High Point Regional High School in 2010 and now lives in Newton.

He is well acquainted with SCCC because he was a student at the College from 2015-2017, graduating with a Liberal Arts Degree.

In 2011, after graduating high school, Finocchiaro enlisted in the U.S. Navy and did boot camp at the Great Lakes Recruit Training Command in Michigan.

As an aviation ordnance man, Finocchiaro served on the aircraft carrier USS George Washington.

His home port was in Japan, but the carrier also sailed to many other countries in the region, including China, Philippines, and Australia.

When dignitaries came on board to visit the ship, Finocchiaro's responsibility was to

be in charge of the security detail, which restricted movements of the visitors to non-critical areas.

"Someone would always try to wander off and attempt to enter sensitive areas" he said.

Finocchiaro left the Navy in 2015 as a Petty Officer 3rd Class, and then enrolled at SCCC.

His additional duties at the College include, but are not limited to recruiting veteran students in the tristate area, keeping track of their progress, referring them to tutors, and fundraising.

The funds raised go to the Student Veteran Emergency Relief program, which helps with financial emergencies such as paying rent, utilities, or child care for any veteran student who might find himself or herself in a temporary bind.

In such situations, the decision-making process for the aid is for Finocchiaro to first ascertain the veteran's need. Then the information will be submitted to a committee for review and approval or disapproval of disbursement of the funds.

Finocchiaro also supervises four-work studies, who assist with the paperwork and the event planning.

Safety

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year and is available on the sussex.edu website.

According to the report there was an instance of forcible entry in 2014, domestic violence in 2015, and one case of destruction/damage/vandalism of property due to religion in 2016.

SCCC has had few incidents in the 2017 Annual Security Report, which is common for institutions that do not have on-campus housing for students.

The amount of incidents at SCCC is very low when com-



Jeanne Clery, murdered in her college dorm in 1986.

pared to schools with on-campus, student dormitories.

The number of reported incidences at SCCC is similar to what has been reported in the County College of Morris's safe-

ty report, "Right to Know". CCM's safety report stated there was one case of arson in 2016 and two burglaries in 2015.

However, according to Rutgers University annual security report, called "Safety Matters", there were 759 reported crimes across the Rutgers' campuses in 2016 alone.

Rutgers University has not reported any murders in the past three years but it listed twenty-three rapes and thirteen aggravated assaults in 2016.

According to the SCCC Annual Security Report, "any incident regarding safety or security on the Sussex County Community College campus should be re-

ported on an Incident Report Form."

These forms are available online at <http://sussex.edu/facultyandstaff/incidentreport/>.

It is also noted in the report that in case of an emergency or criminal activity, students should call 911 or contact security at (973) 300-2222.

According to the website of the Pennsylvania state Department of Corrections, Henry is being held at State Correctional Institution – Dallas. He is serving a life sentence.

Taste

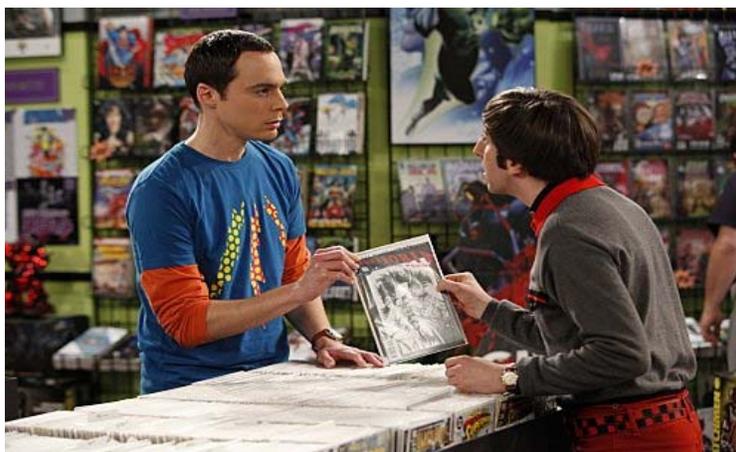
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A common example of this would be "Fat Shaming" which, obviously, involves verbally abusing somebody over his or her weight. That is something that cannot always be controlled and shaming can potentially hurt an overweight person's self-esteem.

In another case, "Taste Shaming" can involve belittling somebody for the types of movies or music he or she enjoys, and somehow writing off somebody's opinion as "invalid" because the things they like are not in line with the other person's likes.

For those who spend free time going to the movies or listening to the latest popular track, this can become a common practice if they wish to discuss these topics with like-minded people.

This is true for Richard LeChance, a second-year student of SCCC who spends a lot of his time reading comics and seeing the latest popular movies. When putting out his opinion, He considers it to be frustrating that people can't just agree to disagree,



Sheldon and Howard argue over a comic book that suits their tastes

"After the new Spiderman movie came out this summer, myself and a couple of friends were debating which of the Spiderman movies was the absolute best."

With so many iterations of the character in recent years, the

'You are entitled to your own opinion, so long as you know that yours is a stupid one.'

conversation did not take long to become heated. "Spiderman 2 came out when most of us were very impressionable, so nostalgia played a role in my friends' argument against my favorite being 'Spiderman: Homecoming,' which was the newest version of

come out". When it became clear they were not going to be making any progress on the subject, Richard offered a truce. But they did not leave without forcing him to concede his movie was the lesser of

the two. It's as if they needed to leave feeling like they convinced me, and if they couldn't they just left convincing themselves that I was stupid for believing in my point. You are entitled to your own opinion, so long as you know that yours is a stupid one."

Another student, Anthony Cruz, believes this pattern could stem from a modern inability to debate, "I think, believe it or not, it comes from outlets like Twitter and Facebook. When we were younger and there was no social media to complain to, so we did not read so deeply into everything. We could just say something and move on.

"Now every opinion feels so final that people feel the need to fight for them like they are fighting for their religion. Or their lives! It gets really crazy sometimes!"

Joe Borowic, a student and music enthusiast, is not bothered by this wave of negativity, even if his opinion of people who behave that way is not exactly positive, "I think the whole thing is pretty stupid to be honest.

"If you can't accept someone because they don't like the Rolling Stones, I can't help you. But I don't need somebody else to tell me my favorite bands are good.

"Frankly, I already know that, and I can enjoy them any time without caring what other people think."