

AUMNIBUS

Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

December 2014

Warhawk Issue - 18

A Woman's Perspective on Catcalling

Nikki Headley

A few weeks ago, my boyfriend asked me if I thought 'catcalling' was a form of sexual harassment. Without thinking, I quickly replied with a no. He seemed puzzled at my answer because he believed the exact opposite. He believed that it was very offensive to women. Truthfully, I had never been catcalled, nor did I know exactly what it was. According to Urban Dictionary, the definition of catcalling is "a loud whistle or comment of a sexual nature made by a man to a passing woman." Once I saw that it was whistling or yelling at a woman, I thought it was offensive but not necessarily harassment. That is, until it happened to me.

A few months later, I was walking into the Taylor Center from the main parking lot. I had places to be and things to do. Then, a white truck stopped beside me. I slowed down because I thought it might have been someone I knew. AUM is a relatively small campus compared to most, so it's definitely possible, right? In the truck, there were four men I had never seen before. They began whistling and hollering at me. I was taken aback by these actions, but what shook me to my core was not the yelling, but the way they were looking at me. All four of them

were staring at me like I was an object. To them, I was simply a piece of meat they wanted to tear apart. Of course, I put my head up high and kept walking.

Then, the question as to whether or not catcalling is sexual harassment began to fester inside of me. I am a college student that has two jobs. I have family members and friends that love me. I have hobbies I enjoy. These men didn't care about any of that. All they cared about was how



Photo courtesy of Nikki Headley

I looked, and this disturbed me. My first reaction to this event was anger. I was so mad that I could hardly see straight. In just 24 hours, that anger transformed into depression. I felt lower than dirt, like I was the lesser of the two genders in a world that had always treated me as an equal. All the men in my life always valued my ideas and thoughts. These men, however, did not.

I shared the episode with two other ladies. "It's gross and degrading," said Leigh Anne Hedrick, a sophomore and friend of mine, about catcalling. "[It] demeans women and makes them look like they are objects."

I could see the indignation in her eyes. She had been catcalled before. I also asked Hagir Abdelmagid, a close friend of mine, about her thoughts on catcalling. "I think it's horrible, and it really undermines women as a whole," she replied.

I was intrigued by her answer and relieved to know that other women had gone through this. I wanted to go into the matter a bit deeper with Abdelmagid. I asked her if catcalling made her feel unsafe. "Yes, very much because the second they start looking at me as an object, then they would probably be willing to do anything with no sort of conscious," she said. The AUM junior looked at me with zeal, and I could tell that I truly struck a chord with her.

Some people may think that catcalling is nothing but good fun. This is not true. I felt sexually harassed by these men. It is unfair to treat women this way. We do not want to feel objectified but equal. We want to be treated with dignity. Women do not want to be judged based on their appearances. We want to be judged based on our accomplishments.

Catcalling is a form of sexual harassment. After it happened to me, I felt dehumanized. This was all so different for me because I was naive to the fact that women actually got treated this way. I grew up in a small town with one stoplight, and stuff like this rarely happened where I lived. Some people may call me sheltered and fortunate, but I never had problems with being treated fairly by men in my life. I see this as a valuable truth

that I was taught at a young age. My ideas and opinions are just as important as anyone else's.

Catcalling shouldn't be the way any man treats a woman. I would never wish my experience on anyone, but the reality is that it happens way more than it should. The only thing I can do is let people know how offensive it really is. The next time you think about whistling at that pretty girl walking down the street think about why you are doing it. Catcalling is one of the most demeaning things you could do to a woman, so don't be the next offender.

The New Social Media Bully

Jessica Klinner

"No profiles. No passwords. It's all anonymous." The three short and simple phrases greet new users as they open the exciting, new social media app, Yik Yak, which encourages users to create and view posts made within a 1.5-mile radius. The anonymity of Yik Yak is what makes it so appealing. Users can rant about their annoying roommate without fear of confrontation, or tear apart a professor after receiving a bad grade without fear of failing. On the home screen, users can post their anonymous messages, and viewers can up vote (like) or down vote (dislike) each post. If a post gets five down votes, it is permanently removed from Yik Yak. While most posts on Yik Yak revolve around the woes of college life, many contain disrespectful comments and uncensored hate.

Tyler Droll and Brooks Buffington created Yik Yak after graduating from Furman University in Greenville, S.C. While Droll and Buffington designed the app to connect the students on college campuses, it has turned into a breeding ground for cyber bullying. However, this is not how the developers intended Yik Yak to be used.

"The app was made for college-age users or above, for college campuses and to act

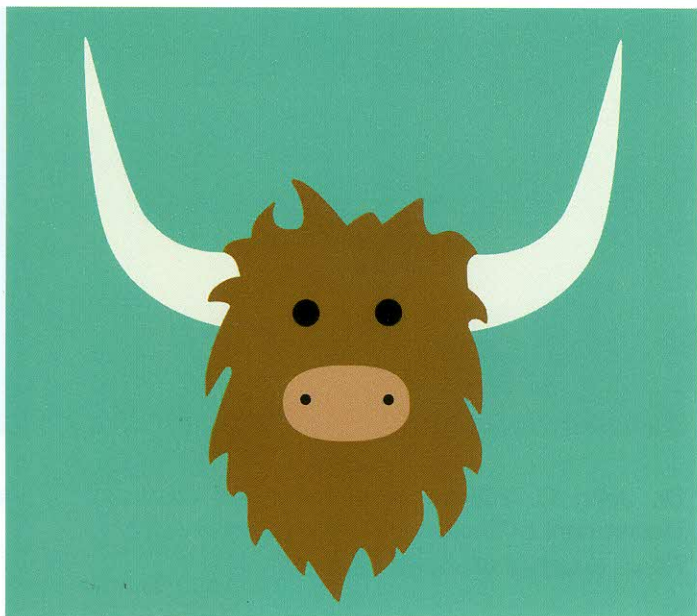


Photo courtesy of yikyakapp.com

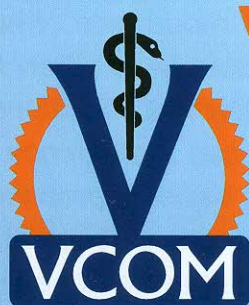
as a virtual bulletin board, so it acts as local Twitter for their campus,” Buffington said in an interview with CNN. “Anonymity can be a really beautiful thing, and one of the reasons we made

it anonymous is it gives people a blank slate to work from, so you’re not judged on your race or sexuality or gender. On Yik Yak, you are purely judged on content you create.”

Earlier this year at the height of Yik Yak’s popularity, schools in Massachusetts and Mobile, Ala., had to investigate threats made through the app. Other schools in Chicago, California and Connecticut have reported that Yik Yak has caused serious disruptions within the school including shooting threats.

Scrolling through the AUM Yik Yak, there are mainly posts from griping college students, but every now and then, a post will appear that is disrespectful and derogatory. “Yik Yak has unfortunately made it easier for others to say terrible things to people with no consequences because of the anonymity,” said Lane Pickett, a senior at AUM.

Thinking of Medical School?



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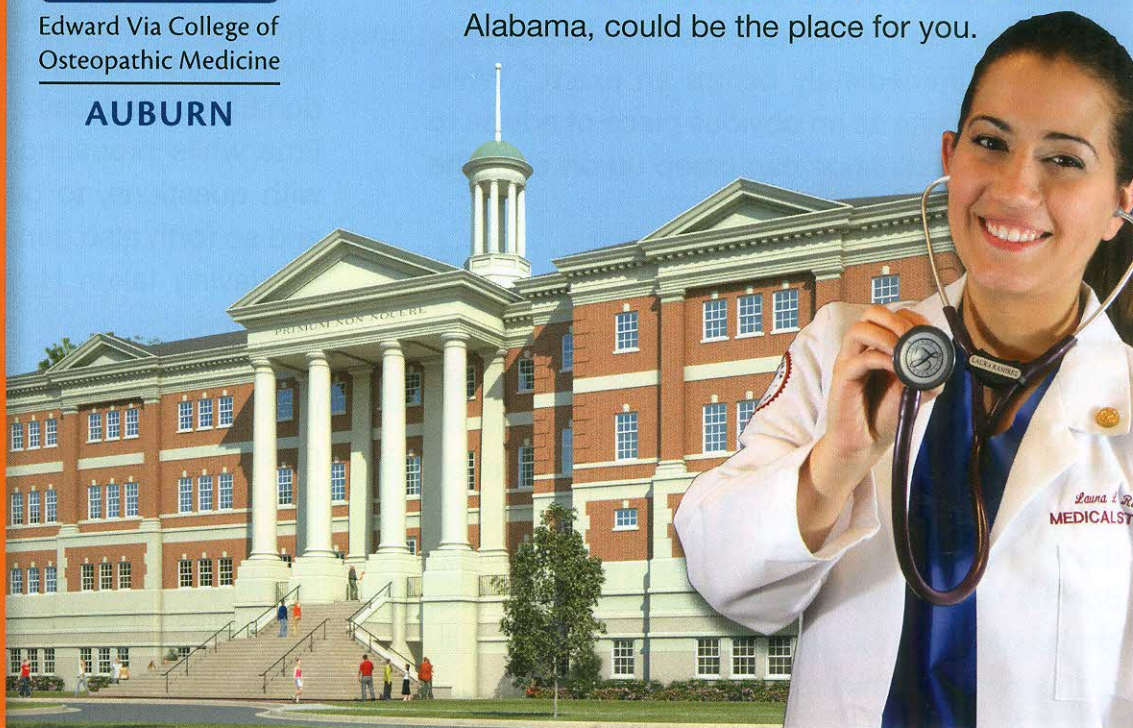
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So how do we stop the spread of cyber bullying on Yik Yak in our college community? Down vote the posts that make you feel uncomfortable. Don't allow someone to get recognition for posting blatantly rude and offensive things.

The Importance of Preparing for Finals

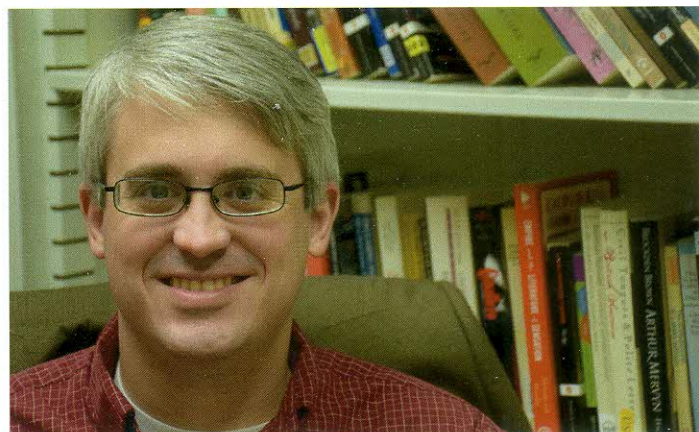
Jacob Saylor

Sometimes, the hardest question of all is, "How do you prepare for finals?" Being that finals are already upon our doorstep – some of you may already be taking them – I thought it would be smart to get the lowdown from one of our teachers on how best to prepare for these tests of knowledge.

I spoke with Dr. John Havard, an associate professor in the Department of English and Philosophy. Sadly, his words may come as tough news to those students who have not been paying close attention during the school term.

"The best way to prepare for finals is to maintain engagement in a class throughout the semester," Havard says. "Studies show that students learn material better through prolonged study over the course of a term as opposed to cramming immediately before an exam." While this might come as an obvious piece of advice to some, procrastination can creep up on even the most studious of individuals.

In the transition from high school to college, many students feel that they will be able to succeed while putting in the smallest amount of effort possible. "Most college students were successful in high school, and many breezed through high school without putting much effort into their studies," Havard explains. "Even for the brightest students, this approach generally doesn't work in college, as college work is more challenging both in the breadth and complexity of the material covered."



Dr. John C. Havard is an assistant professor in the Department of English and Philosophy at AUM.

Photo courtesy of Jacob Saylor

Contrary to popular belief, college isn't just 'more school.' Often times, it is through higher education that students will find out who they want to be and what it is they want to do during their lifetime. It is very easy to fall into the mind-numbing trap that dictates universities are simply out to scrounge more money from students' pockets. While tuition costs are rising, so too is the importance of having a college degree. This is doubly so when the extremely saturated job market is considered. We asked Havard if he notices a difference between students who see the value in preparing for a big test and those who don't. "First of all, students who come to class having done any required reading and who pay attention and take notes during class almost invariably do better on their work than those who don't," Havard says. "Students who take the time while preparing for exams to contact me with questions, to go over drafts of their work and so forth also generally do better."

Having taken Havard's Survey of American Literature class, I can attest to the importance of being prepared. Sometimes, teachers will look to throw students off during finals week by presenting questions in an unorthodox manner. By paying attention in class and studying your notes closely, you will be able to achieve a stellar grade. Considering that Christmas is only a couple of weeks away, you'll want to take the advice given here and start your winter vacation on a high note, right?

MINOR IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

College of Business announces new minor for non-business majors

Interested in running your own business? Considering earning an MBA?

Minor in Business Administration!

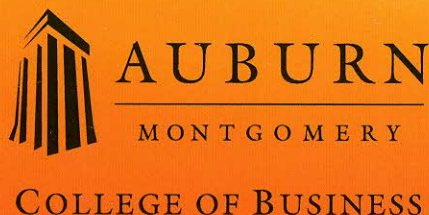
Business Administration Minor* consists of 6 classes**:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ECON 2000 | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCT 2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MKTG 2000 | <input type="checkbox"/> FINA 2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFO 2000 | <input type="checkbox"/> MNGT 2000 |

*Must have a 2.0 GPA to participate in Business Administration minor

**These courses may not be used to fulfill requirements for a business major

*For more information contact **your academic advisor.***



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Warhawk Squawk

Jacob Saylor

"How do you prepare for finals?"



Kyle Edwards
Senior
Communication

"I literally eat anything in sight. Zapps Voodoo chips, white chocolate mochas from Starbucks, fast food and chicken parmigiana have gotten me through my undergrad degree."



Sydney Kelsey
Freshman
Psychology

"I prepare for finals by going to the library and staying on like the fifth floor and having a bunch of my study materials to study."



Andrew Clarke Parrish
Senior
Graphic Design

"Well, I pour a glass of red wine, I sit at my computer and yeah, I just drink down the red wine and hope I succeed."



Kelsey Rodgers
Senior
Microbiology

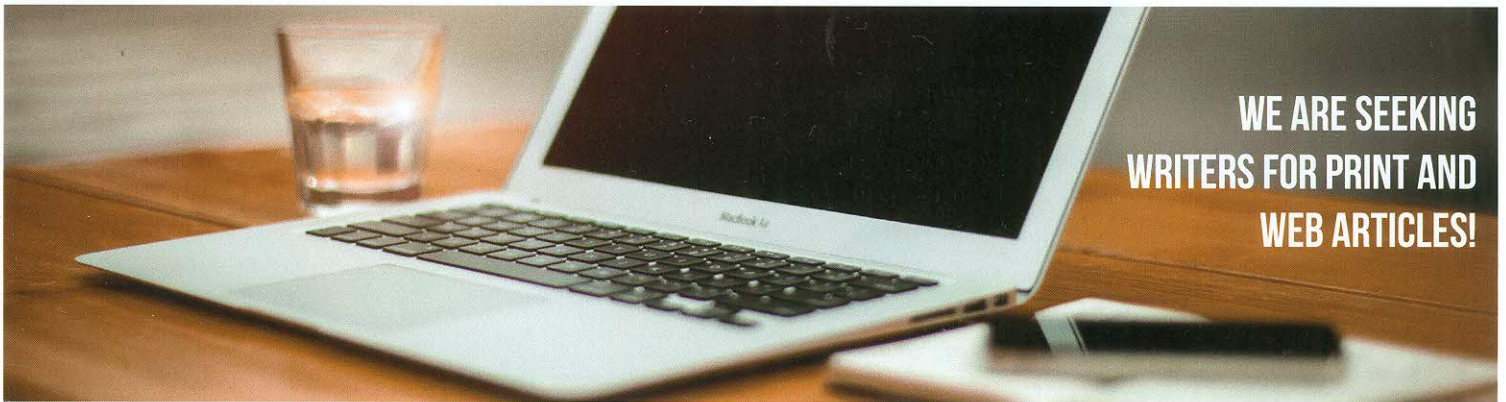
"When studying for finals, I go through all my notes, reread the chapters and I kind of just paraphrase it to where I can understand - but I keep studying until I can understand all of it."

Courtesy of Jacob Saylor



Jordan Price
Junior
Mathematics

"Try not to wait too late to study, go ahead and be working some problems and looking back through the old tests you've taken throughout the semester. Mainly just looking back at the old tests – focus on those."



Filibuster Still Seeking Submissions for 2015 Issue

AUM's Filibuster, the school's literary magazine, is still accepting poetry, prose, photographs and art for its 2015 issue! Any student currently enrolled at AUM may submit his or her work as an attached file (.txt, .doc, or .docx) to filibuster@aum.edu. Files containing photographs or scanned artwork (.png, .jpeg, or .bmp) should be at least 300 PPI. There is no limit on the number of submissions per student. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31, 2014. For further information, students can contact the magazine's faculty advisor, Robert Klevay, at rklevay@aum.edu.



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