



# The "F" Word

## UC Berkeley Faculty Members Call For Change

We've heard students speaking out against sexual harassment on college campuses for years now, with the most recent information coming from the Oscar-nominated documentary, *The Hunting Ground*, but we're now hearing of women faculty speaking out.

Upset with the way UC Berkeley has been handling current and past sexual harassment allegations, 28 feminist faculty members composed and signed a statement hoping that the administration would reform the current policy on a systemic level. The statement takes a stab at two main issues: "administrative mishandling of high-profile harassment cases and consistent problems with reporting procedures and subsequent response." It also frames sexual harassment on campus as "not just a safety issue but a violation of survivors' civil rights," according to signatory Wendy Brown, a political science professor.

The faculty statement also addresses well-known campus offenders' lack of accountability: harassment may go unreported because staff and students fear jeopardizing their careers, according to Brown. Over the years, Brown said, she has observed cases in which faculty and students reached a state of deadlock after experiencing harassment within their field. "I think many faculty feel there are repeat harassers on our faculty who are never charged," Brown said. "Graduate students gave up on careers, and these perpetrators were allowed to continue, and that was wrong — never should have happened."

For signatory Alice Agogino, a campus mechanical engineering professor, a major objective of the statement is to foster a more open, fair environment in which reporting sexual harassment is encouraged. Raka Ray, a campus sociology and South and Southeast Asian studies professor, further believes the statement advocates for staff members' and students' right to work safely on campus.

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.dailycal.org/2016/03/28/feminist-uc-berkeley-faculty-members-call-for-improved-response-to-sex-harassment/>

Submitted by: Kyra Rickett

## Problematic Promposals

I'm sure you have seen the videos shared by friends and loved ones on social media that depict a person with Autism or another neurodevelopmental challenge being asked to prom (or other similar gesture) by a neuro-typical (or, as the comments would suggest, "normal") person. The comments usually applaud the neuro-typical individual for being so kind and generous, cooing at how "cute" their date is. Before we break out a Humanitarian Award however, let's take a closer look.

*Bustle* writer Suzannah Weiss addresses the issues with so-called "promposals" directly in her article, "This Promposal to a Glenelg High School Student with Down Syndrome is Great, But We May Be Talking About It All Wrong." Weiss writes: "Media outlets that treat promposals to people with disabilities as newsworthy might as well use the headline, 'OMG Somebody Actually Wants To Go To Prom With These People.'" She explains that these videos can marginalize a group of people who are already struggling with how they are perceived by others: if people with dis/abilities were viewed as equal, there would be no story...we would see just another teenager getting asked to prom, and not an alleged act of charity.

Although these videos are likely made with good intentions, and many of them may be legitimate, imagine if it made the news when someone wanted to go to prom (or anywhere else) with you. As Weiss writes, "Imagine if the headline read 'This Promposal To A Teen With [Insert Trait You Are Insecure About] Will Fill Your Heart With Joy.' This wouldn't seem fair, because you deserve to be treated like a person worthy of other people's time, right?" Well, so do people with dis/abilities. So let's stop patting ourselves on the back for treating others with the respect and dignity they deserve.

**April is AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

Read Suzannah's full article here:

<http://www.bustle.com/articles/77093-this-promposal-to-a-glenelg-high-school-student-with-down-syndrome-is-great-but-we-may>

Submitted by: Kirsten Daley

## Event Calendar

**April 12<sup>th</sup>- April 26<sup>th</sup>** – variety of events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Visit [http://umaine.edu/OSAVP/events\\_rev/](http://umaine.edu/OSAVP/events_rev/)

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** – *Love Between the Covers*  
Screening at 6pm in the Coe Room. A lunchtime discussion of clips from the film will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm in the Bangor Room, presented by Philosophy Professor Jessica Miller.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Tribal-State Relations in the State of Maine. 4:30pm in the Coe Room. Professor Darren Ranco will moderate.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – HOPE Festival. 11am-3pm in the Student Recreation and Fitness Center. Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine and the UMaine Peace & Reconciliation Studies Program.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** – WGS Senior Capstone and Pizza Night. 5:30pm-8pm in Hill Auditorium.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup>** – **PRIDE WEEK!** Check out their [Facebook page](#) for more info!

## Famous Femmes!



Rowan Blanchard is not only an American actress on *Girl Meets World*, but also one of the youngest known feminists of this generation. Back in August, Blanchard answered a fans question from Tumblr, which addressed the issues of modern feminism. Rowan also stands for feminism and youth in fashion (specifically when it's gender bending) and not growing up too fast. Her eloquence and maturity in interviews makes you all eyes on her. She is truly revolutionary and is a fresh face to the "usual" feminists that we see. To get more of a feel of Rowan, check out her Tumblr post at the link below!

<http://rowanblanchardxx.tumblr.com/post/127296679289/row-i-wanted-to-ask-your-opinion-on-the-term>

Submitted by: **Kyra Rickett**

# You're Invited!

*Love*  
BETWEEN THE COVERS

"[This] feature-length film takes an affectionate look at the vast, unheralded community of women who have effectively kept the publishing industry afloat." – *The Boston Globe*

**April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**  
Coe Room, 218 Memorial Union

A lunchtime discussion of clips from the film with Philosophy Professor Jessica Miller will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 12PM-2PM in the Bangor Room

Questions? Contact WGS ([Firstclass.207.581.1228](mailto:Firstclass.207.581.1228))  
<http://lovebetweenthecovers.com>

## About the Film

"*Love Between the Covers* is a feature-length documentary film about the powerful community of women who read and write romance novels. Romance fiction is a (surprisingly) female-powered, multibillion-dollar business. *Love Between the Covers* takes us inside this world where female characters always win, where justice prevails in every book from every background you can imagine.

For three years, we followed the lives of five published romance novel authors and one unpublished newbie as they battle and conquer through this lifestyle. We accompany authors on trips with their readers, at conferences and special romance events. Romance is the behemoth of the publishing industry; it outsells mystery, sci-fi, and fantasy combined... Yet no filmmaker has ever taken an honest look at the global community that romance writers and readers have built."

For more information, go to:

<http://www.lovebetweenthecovers.com>



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