

# I Was a Victim of Sexual Assault at Boarding School

When I read about Chessy Prout's decision to reveal profile sexual assault at St. Paul's, I knew it was time

SEP 9, 2016

WEST VIRGINIA HEADLINES

## Lawsuit alleging abuse at former WVa school settled for \$52M



Lacy Crawford was told 'rape' a dozen.' She wrote h



to Survive an Elite Prep Before #MeToo

to jail. Now she's telling her

at 15, a Writer Loc comes Forward

says Lacy Crawford, the author of t encing."

# CONFRONTING THE HIDDEN SEXUAL GEOGRAPHY OF BOARDING SCHOOL

MAGGIE KEELER



TODAY EXCLUSIVE PREP SCHOOL ASSAULT SURVIVOR SPEAKS OUT



## The Girls Who Live in an All-Boys World

Until schools help boys understand personal stability, they thrive in some elite classrooms

BRENDAN KIELY



VIDEO LIVE SHOWS 2020 ELECTIONS CORONAVIRUS

## Accusations of Sex Abuse at Boarding School

sex as... 'toxic' sexual culture

## Student charged with raping a... Elite Prep school's Hookup Culture



PREP SCHOOL RAPE CASE

DEFENDANT EXPECTED TO TESTIFY

# PART I: INTRODUCTION & INSPIRATION

- **Overarching Question:** How do certain spaces complicate consent?
- **Specific Research Question:** How do spatial dynamics such as power, privacy, and sexual geography make co-ed preparatory boarding schools (grades 9-12) high-risk environments for sexual assault and reluctant acquiescence?
- **Unfamiliar Terms?** Reference the handout (link in chat)!
- **About Me & Why This Topic?** My experience, privilege, and intentions



## PART II: RECURRENT THEMES

- **Presence and Consent:**
  - Dorm room furniture
  - “Let’s be real: you’re here, so you want this” (Hirsch & Khan, 195)
- **The Role of Roommates:**
  - Consequences of first-year roommate requirement
  - Disproportionate access to and control over space
  - Perpetuates age-gap power imbalance
- **In Loco Parentis:**
  - Duty to care for in place of the parent
  - Acknowledging sex only when punishing it
  - Sex-negative attitudes
  - Incentive to sneak around into unsafe spaces



## PART III: INTERVIEW & SURVEY RESULTS

- **Shannon Guidotti:**

- Interdorming regulations
- Assuming the role of a parent

- **Charlotte Klein:**

- Finding privacy
- Open-door rule
- Pressure and consent

- **Survey Overview:**

- Experience-based
- 47 responses
- 6 different boarding schools

"The sexual landscape at boarding school sends a message that boys and girls cannot hang out with or visit one another's dorm rooms platonically."

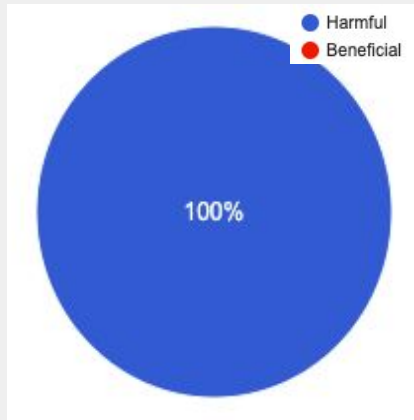
Shannon Guidotti

"I was not the first to numb myself during sex in those hallways or on those classroom floors. It was not one of us who was at fault but the culture that we were a part of."

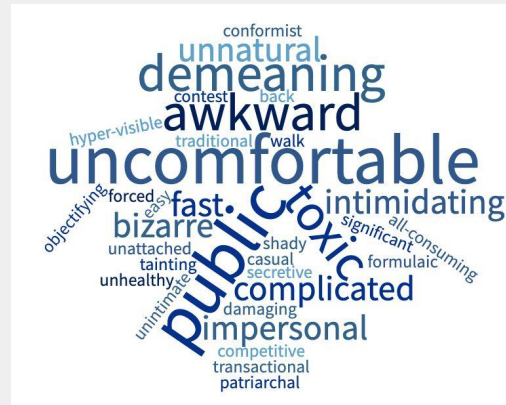
Charlotte Klein (Taft '15)

# SURVEY RESPONSES: GENERAL ATTITUDES

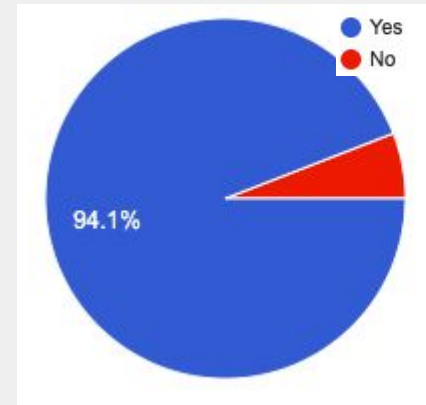
Do you believe the hookup culture at this school to be harmful or beneficial to the community overall?



What are the 3 most immediate words that come to mind when you think about hookup culture at prep school?

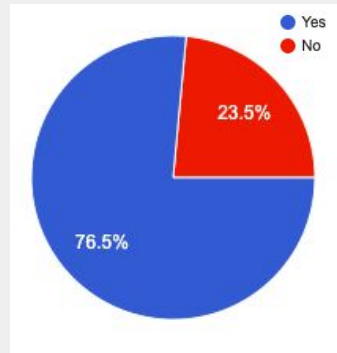


Did you ever break major school rules in order to have a moment alone with a partner?

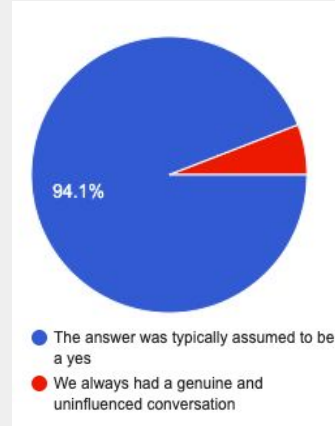


# SURVEY RESPONSES: PRESSURE AND CONSENT

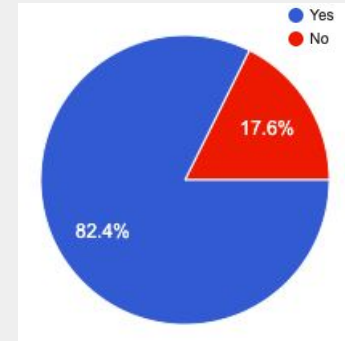
When you were able to spend time behind closed doors with an intimate partner, did you ever feel pressure to hookup merely because of this infrequent moment of privacy?



When you were able to spend time behind closed doors with an intimate partner, was consent usually assumed, or did a discussion take place?



Did you ever feel rushed into hooking up in certain spaces out of fear that a security guard, faculty member, or fellow student would walk in on you?



# PART IV: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

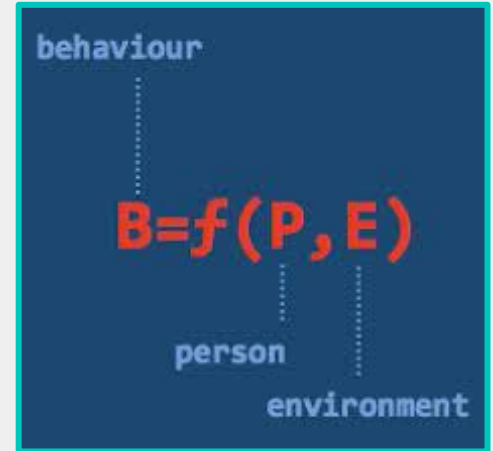
## 1. Interdorming Policy Reform:

- Allow students to close the door while visiting dorm room of the opposite sex
- Accept students as sexually maturing beings
- Encourage students to have sexually and emotionally healthy/mature relationships

## 2. Restructuring Campus Spaces:

- Relevant & applicable to university settings
- Invest money into improving campus spaces (for safety and well-being)
- Use of social architecture:
  - Creation of more communal spaces
  - Re-allocation of single-occupancy dorm rooms
- Use reopening plan as an opportunity to talk about space through a gendered lens

Kurt Lewin, Psychologist



Lewin's Equation

# QUESTIONS?

you can reach me at: [dmk107@georgetown.edu](mailto:dmk107@georgetown.edu)





## WORKS CITED:

- Arnold, Karen D. *Designing for Learning: Creating Campus Environments for Student Success* by C. Carney Strange and James H. Banning. *Journal of College Student Development*, 2016.
- Klein, Charlotte. *The Final Evening Bell: A Prep School Memoir*. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, April, 2019.
- Klein, Charlotte. *Personal Interview*. October 22, 2020.
- Guidotti, Shannon. *Personal Interview*. October 22, 2020.
- Hirsch, Jennifer S., and Shamus Khan. *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus*. 1st edition, W. W. Norton & Company, January 14, 2020.