

#MeToo inspires women to speak out

By **CAROLINE CEOLIN**
Staff Writer
@TheEtCetera

Rocio Martinez, 9, once again stands in her bathroom facing the reflection in the mirror. The girl staring back has tears rolling down her face. She hears a voice in her head telling her she's crazy and that it was only a nightmare. It sounds like her father's voice. Those are the consequences of watching scary movies, he says. Scary movies give you nightmares, and that's all this was, a hellish, cold-sweat inducing nightmare.

"This is not real," she tells herself, over and over again.

The girl in the reflection gets a slap in the face, and then another. Similar to the one her sister had given her. The invading tears continue to stream down her cheeks. She hits herself again. Whatever reality everyone else seemed to be in, she thought it best to join them.

Martinez had encountered something like this before. While being baby-sat at the age of 5 by her 13-year-old cousin, the teen forced her to give him a hand job. Once her sister returned home later that day, she found Martinez crying uncontrollably. Her sister, at the time 15, gave her a hard slap that calmed Martinez down.

Following that incident, Martinez's parents disregarded the young girl's story of the man in the house as mere imagination.

Martinez is one of over half of women in the U.S who have experienced unwanted and inappropriate sexual advances from men, according to an Oct. 17 ABC News/Washington Post poll. Women describe a wide range of abuse: rape, sexual assault, stalking, child sexual abuse, harassment, catcalling, groping and unwanted sexual overtures.

For many, the discussion of such instances is kept in secret. Martinez, now an Eastfield student, said she has had difficulty speaking about her abuse with anyone. The assault from her cousin was not the only case of sexual abuse. She felt that the multiple incidents she endured happened because of the person she is.

"I know it wasn't my fault," she said. "I thought maybe I could excuse the first time that it happened, but the second time that it happened, I felt like something was wrong with me. Like they knew to come after me."

The topic of sexual assault and sexual harassment, however, has recently shifted into the spotlight following the #MeToo social media campaign.

On Oct. 15, as the wave of rape and sexual harassment allegations were exposed against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, actress Alyssa Milano asked women on Twitter to reply "me too" to her tweet if they had ever been sexually harassed or assaulted.

By the next day, the phrase had been used

more than 500,000 times on Twitter and by 4.7 million people on Facebook.

The campaign had a clear goal: to let people know "the magnitude of the problem," according to Milano. A conversation exploring the unwanted sexual advances that women face in their lives and in their workplace has begun as a result.

Among those who are sharing their stories are Eastfield students, faculty and administrators.

Friends that do not stand up

Sarah Frichette was nicknamed jailbait at 16 by her friends while taking dual credit courses at Eastfield. Her friend group at the time was about 13 students whose ages ranged from 17 to 24. They regularly joked about sex, harassment and rape, she said.

Their treatment of each other reflected accordingly. Calling women sluts and whores was a joke. Overly sexualized women were funny. So, when Sarah's attacker, who was transgender and preferred female pronouns, assaulted her physically, it was no more than a slightly more obscene punch line to the group.

If anyone tried to stand up for another person, they were called prude and verbally attacked.

Frichette says she was humiliated one afternoon when she was walking toward the Pit and was greeted by her assaulter. She forced Frichette to give her a hug in front of a large group of friends.

When Frichette failed to respond to the hug, her harasser squeezed her butt with both hands. She recalls other times when she was touched inappropriately and commented on sexually.

Frichette says there were many other victims within her friend group who were subjected to public sexual advances. In one instance, a friend lost her balance near a chair and was pushed over by the attacker into a "doggy style" position and dry humped in front of everyone. She says many of the girls were clearly uncomfortable but didn't want to make a big deal out of the physical advances.

"Whenever something happened to me, I never intended on telling anyone," she said. "I planned to wait for that guy to graduate. I'd never see him again, I wouldn't have to worry about it anymore."

The harassment would likely have continued if Frichette's best friend hadn't witnessed the aggressiveness of an assault she had endured one day and pushed her to report it.

After reporting the incident to police, Frichette says she still feared the attacker would come back to do something worse since she had a tendency to hold grudges.

Frichette says she started attending the Baptist Student Ministry club after the incident and met new friends. She learned what healthy

Sexual Harrasment/Assault Facts

Six million college students encounter sexual harassment at college

1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted while in college

1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college

More than **90 percent** of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault

3 in 10 women have experienced unwanted advances from male co-workers

95 percent of women who've personally experienced unwanted sexual advances in the workplace say male harassers go unpunished

SOURCES: ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL (OCT. 17, 2017), NATIONAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

friendships were from students who had respect for women and says they are now some of her best friends.

"It's happened slowly, but I've been able to find power in myself because I went through that and I found those people to help me after," she said. "When younger students or people my age or older are going through that stuff, I'm able to empathize with them and talk to them about it and I understand what they're going through. It's easier to mentor and band together through it."

Harassed at school

Dance program coordinator Danielle Georgiou first experienced sexual harassment in the seventh grade. It was the end of the school year and everyone in her band class was passing

around yearbooks. One of her classmates left a disturbing and unsettling message. In place of a playful signature or a few kind words wishing her a happy summer break were instructions on how she should give a blowjob.

"I was like 12 or 13 and I didn't know what it meant, so I asked an upper classman and they explained to me," she said. "That was the first time that I had ever dealt with sexuality before, or the abrasiveness of it. ... I felt very uneasy and exposed because I didn't even know this guy, and he was telling me basically what he wanted me to do to him, and I just didn't understand."

For Georgiou and many other women like her, the first instance of sexual harassment was followed by many similar occurrences throughout her lifetime.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAN LUNA/THE ET CETERA

In that same school year, just before summer break, a different boy harassed her when he exposed himself when she was alone at her locker at school.

"I didn't know what to do," Georgiou said.

The incident, she says, opened her eyes. She no longer felt comfortable going to her locker.

"I didn't know if the guy was going to come back, and I didn't know what would be next if he tried to corner me because he got very close to me and exposed himself," she said. "And I just stood there because I didn't know what to do."

Georgiou reported the incident to a teacher, who told her that the next time it happened, she should just tell him not to do it.

"Nobody was able to help me or give me any sort of advice about what had happened."

I never told anyone until I was 24

"I disassociated from my body when it happened," Executive Dean Judith Dumont said.

It was close to the end of the school year for Dumont and her younger sister when their mother went out of town for the weekend.

The teens threw a party at their house, where they played drinking games, danced and listened to music.

"I was super drunk. I went back to my bedroom to go to sleep," Dumont said. "The party was still going on, loud music up front and I'm just back in my room. I didn't lock my door. I wouldn't think that I was at risk for anything. I just woke up with one of my guy friends on me."

Still intoxicated and unaware of what was happening, she asked the boy what he was doing.

She thought for a second that maybe he was

horsing around or taking photos of her passed out.

"It happened so fast," she said. "I was confused and kind of swimming in my own body because I couldn't really control my body. I was so drunk and he eventually took his forearm and laid it across my clavicle and pulled my pants off and had sex with me."

Dumont recalls telling him to get off and then trying to crawl away from him.

He responded to her protests by digging his knee into the inner part of her thigh and covering her mouth.

"I never told anyone until I was 24 years old that I was raped," she said. "It's just one of those things that you don't realize how twisted it is until you separate yourself from it. ... I developed an eating disorder. I got really depressed. ... My grades dropped. I ran away. All these things happened because I didn't use my voice to talk about it."

Dumont faced sexual harassment during college when she worked as a waitress and bartender and again working for the Dallas County Community College District.

"I had a higher up administrator, a male higher up administrator, inappropriately touch me in an elevator," she said. "He touched the small of my back and whispered in my ear things he wanted to do to me."

Now will you be my girlfriend?

Karla Alvarado, now 18, was a senior in high school when she started hanging out with a guy who went to her school. A few times, he invited her to hang out with him at his house.

Alvarado, who had recently gone through a breakup, declined his offers, but the two occasionally met for meals.

One morning the guy called and asked if they could ride to school together and offered to pick her up.

"That morning that I drove with him, he dropped off his little brother, and I thought we were going to school but we weren't," Alvarado said. "He told me he needed to pick up some stuff from his house."

He persuaded Alvarado to go inside with him, telling her that his parents were home and that he needed just a few minutes to he grab his stuff.

"I mean I trusted that someone was home. I was like, 'Where is everyone?' And he said, 'Oh, I thought they were home,'" she said. "We started making out and whenever that happened he kind of laid me down."

She then told him she did not want to have sex with him, but says that didn't stop him.

He continued to lie on her and unbutton her pants and then pull them down.

"I told him a few times that I didn't want to have sex with him," she said, "He forced it. I pulled my pants up a few times, and he would pull them back down. He kept saying, 'Come on. Come on.' And I was like, 'No.' It was already happening, but I kept on pushing him off. I told him to stop, that I didn't want to have sex with him. ... He just kept on going."

Alvarado started to cry.

"I don't know if he even noticed," she said. "He didn't even think he did anything wrong."

After the incident, Alvarado says the guy repeatedly asked, "Now will you be my girlfriend?" as if what he had done was somehow a token of admiration.

"For weeks, I was scared," she said. "All those memories would come to my mind so I'd spend a lot of time crying. ... I could not look at him

in the face because I felt gross. I felt dirty inside. I felt like it was my fault you know because I could have said, 'No, I'll just stay out here.'"

Alvarado told no one, fearing that blame would be placed on her.

"I know people will say, 'It's her fault. She should have never gone to his house or even inside his house,'" she said.

Later that school year, Alvarado overheard her friends talking about her rapist. He had been arrested on rape charges.

Her friends believed the victim was partially at fault because she was high and provoked him.

Alvarado eventually told her best friend about her rape but never planned to tell anyone else, fearing criticism and blame.

"I couldn't imagine my future husband hearing that something like that happened to me," she said.

#MeToo

Blaming or ostracizing victims who come forward contributes to an environment in which rape is common, women are silenced, and rapists are not held accountable, victims' advocates say.

Individuals who speak out about sexual harassment are often attacked, scrutinized and questioned about their choices and actions.

Georgiou says that victim shaming plays a significant role in silencing individuals who have experienced sexual assault and often prevents them from reporting abuse to authorities or even telling friends.

"It will take a huge cultural shift to be able to feel comfortable just to talk to another person, because we all know we can go to a counselor, we have services, but it's you feeling able to go," she said.

Every woman approached for this story, even those whose stories are not shared here, said they had been a victim of either sexual harassment or assault.

However, only 1 out of the 10 women actually reported the incidents.

Although rape culture and sexual violence has received more media attention in recent years, a long history of patriarchal power still holds sway in public opinion.

"I have experienced having men say things, do things that I never really checked in as harassment," Executive Vice President Rachel Wolf said. "We've become so conditioned to seeing women portrayed in a certain way that we embrace it socially. Women embrace it and we forget to question it."

Georgiou said both men and women must examine what's taking place and talk about it instead of staying silent. She said speaking up is key to triggering social change.

"I hope that many men are spending some time looking back at their own actions to see what they have done ... and really taking stock of their behavior or asking female friends of theirs, 'What is harassment to you? Have I done anything?'" she said. "If we can start that conversation too at this personal level for someone to say, 'I don't like it when you do that and this is why, because it makes me feel this way, I think that'll help move us in the right direction.'"

'I think of it as a nightmare'

Threats to DACA leave students with uncertain futures

By **ALE PENA**
and **JOSUE HERNANDEZ**
Staff Writers
@TheEtCetera

Gladys Castillo, an early college high school student at Eastfield, was six months short of being born on the American side of the U.S.-Mexico border.

In her parents' hometown, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, the American side was rumored to promise jobs and schools. The Mexican side, the Castillos' side, had family, comfort and a home. But Gladys' parents, Maricela Torres and Pedro Castillo, knew that with their humble income, they would not be able to provide for their 6-month-old daughter.

So, while following a border smuggler, wearing all black, and with Gladys secure in their arms, they made the 454-mile journey to Laredo in the late 1990s. The dayslong trek involved crossing angry rivers and consuming the least amount of water and food possible to ensure their physical load remained light.

It required sleeping in the wide-open Sonoran Desert — a place with extreme temperatures, home to deadly rattlesnakes, centipedes, and scorpions — and having faith that the coyote, a paid border smuggler, wouldn't lead them to a human trafficking ring.

The Castillos knew of these risks and the danger of being caught by Border Patrol agents. But they decided that it was worth it for one shot at the American dream.

DACA revoked

Gladys Castillo is one of nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children and protected under the Barack Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The program allows those who qualify, known as Dreamers, to work, go to school and live life without fear of being deported.

President Donald Trump ended the DACA program in September with a six-month grace period for Congress to make DACA into law. Several proposals were made, but none gained enough support to proceed. Lawmakers have since turned their attention to gun control follow-

ing last month's school shooting in Florida.

Trump's grace period ended March 5, but a California judge has ruled that DACA must continue pending the outcome of a lawsuit by the University of California on behalf of Dreamers.

Dreamers say they feel left in limbo, uncertain about their futures. Everyday decisions such as a simple trip to the convenience store could be life changing. Over the weekend of Jan. 26, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement made 86 arrests in North Texas and Oklahoma in a three-day operation.

Castillo is just one of those who have been affected by DACA's revocation. General studies major Dulce Giles, 21, said she is too afraid of deportation to continue her regular life.

Giles, like many other DACA recipients, was brought to the U.S. at a very early age. Her mother brought her here. Leaving this country is not an option Giles has considered.

"Everything I know is here," she said. "My family is here, my friends and my life are all here. I don't even know Spanish well enough to go to a university there."

But with the end of DACA looming, Giles has opted out of registering for any classes this spring and instead will focus on working and saving money.

"Basically, right now I have until next year to do something with my life," Giles said. "And even if I graduate, I don't think I'm going to be able to work with the degree I'm going to have. I guess it's the only reason why I'm not going back. I know if I study hard and I get what I want, the degree that I want, it's not going to be valid."

Applying for DACA did not guarantee acceptance. After twice renewing her DACA status, Giles encountered some trouble the third time she applied with three months remaining on her current permit. It took the letter an extra three months to get approved, leaving her out of work.

The cost of DACA

The DACA application costs \$495: a \$410 work authorization document fee and \$85 biometrics fee. It must be renewed every two years, and applications must be filed properly or the application is invalid. There are no



JESUS AYALA/THE ET CETERA

The future is uncertain for early college high school student and biology major Gladys Castillo. With DACA threatened, Castillo lives knowing that she could be deported should the protections be revoked.

refunds.

Hiring a typical immigration lawyer costs between \$100 and \$300 per hour. Expenses can quickly add up for a college student with tuition and book payments. This leaves DACA students wondering if their money is better spent elsewhere, rather than for tuition and books that will potentially lead to no reward.

Families and individuals desperately searching for help turn to Luis Gonzalez, 30, and "Raices" a non-profit immigration law services firm. Gonzales, a legal assistant, has seen firsthand how the current immigration changes have dwindled the spirits of young immigrants.

"One of the worst feelings is to love a country so much and time and time again be shown that they don't love you back," Gonzales said. "It's OK to feel angry, to feel disillusioned. It's OK to not be OK, but you have to keep fighting."

Statistics show that allowing DACA recipients to work legally and pay taxes has been a boost to the U.S. economy. According to the Center for American Progress there are an estimated 124,300 DACA recipients in the state of Texas, and an estimated 108,141 are working and paying annual taxes. Removing DACA and all those workers would result in an almost \$6.3 billion loss in the Texas annual GDP alone.

Edith Delgado, a second-year stu-

dent at Eastfield, has seen the effects of the turmoil on her fellow students and her family.

"You gave them hope, and then you just took it away," she said.

Castillo worries that Immigration and Customs Enforcement could pick up her parents at any moment. And without DACA, she could be sent back across the same border her parents had put so much faith in crossing.

Sacrificing for a new home

Castillo knows the sacrifices her parents had to make to immigrate to a land as close yet foreign as the United States in hopes of a brighter future for her. She has never physically met most of her family members.

All she knows of Mexico comes through the hazy stories her parents tell her and through Skype calls with her relatives on special events like her birthday.

"It's sad because you miss things like birthdays and anniversaries," she said. "My dad hasn't seen his mom in like, nine or 10 years, and she's getting old. He just wants to spend time with his mom, but, unfortunately, just time and the circumstances doesn't allow it."

Pedro Castillo works 12-hour shifts in construction. Torres works at an ice-cream shop and cleans houses for extra income.

The work ethic that her parents

live by made a mark on Gladys Castillo.

She has always been a straight-A student with hopes of becoming an orthodontist. She enrolled in the Samuel Early College High School at Eastfield, a program that allows students to graduate with both an associate degree and a high school diploma. Castillo is in the top 5 percent of her class.

"When people say that immigrants just want to live off the state or the government, it gets me angry," she said. "I know my parents work really hard. My whole family works really hard, and I worked really hard to get here. Not everyone gets accepted into early college and you have to grow up, especially with a kid, really fast, and be responsible. You get angry, but it's also sad that people don't realize that you work hard for what you have."

Castillo also fears being separated from her 7-month-old son, Jonathan Jr. She married the baby's father, who is a citizen, and considered applying for citizenship. But the naturalization process costs thousands of dollars. Lawyers advised her to pursue DACA instead.

It's been a year since she applied, and her application is in review. She has to live with the fear of being separated from her family at any time.

"I drive to school because I have

See For some, page 5 ►

PUT IT ON YOUR Calendar

March

**Wed
7**

Recital series: harpist
Cindy Horstman, 12:30
p.m., F-117

Scanning Electron Micro-
scope Demonstration,
9:30-11:30 a.m., C-350

Physics Lab Open House,
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
C-320

STEMinar: Beekeeping,
12:30-1:30 p.m., S-100

Fetal Pig Dissection, 2-3
p.m., S-101

**Thu
8**

Movie: "The Imitation
Game," 9:30-11:30 a.m.,
S-100

Solar Observation, noon-
1 p.m., S parking lot

Rubik's Cube Presenta-
tion, 12:30-1:30 p.m.,
S-100

Strawberry DNA Extrac-
tion, 1:30- 2:30 p.m.,
S-101, sessions every 15
minutes

Biology Labs Open
House, 2:30-3:30 p.m.,
S-315

**Fri
9**

Women of STEM Trivia, 8
a.m.-5 p.m., C-202

Movie: "The 33," 9-11
a.m., S-100

Documentary: "The
Hubble Space Tele-
scope," 11:30 a.m.-12:30
p.m., S-100

Meet STEM advisors,
12:30-1:30 p.m., C-201

Faculty Dance Concert, 8
p.m., Performance Hall,
free

**Wed
21**

Speaker: Quitting
tobacco, 11:30 a.m.-1
p.m., G-101

Recital series: soprano
Melinda Imthurn, 12:30
p.m., F-117

**Thu
22**

Panel Discussion: Femi-
nism after the #MeToo
movement, 12:30 p.m.,
G-101

**Fri
23**

Geeks Who Drink team
trivia, 11 a.m.-noon,
C-135

ABOUT THE COVER

OSER program coordinator Shernay Wormley
PHOTO BY YESENIA ALVARADO
DESIGN BY MANUEL GUAPO



Protestors gather Feb. 18, 2017, in Dallas to protest Trump's plans for a border wall and immigration moratorium.

Events pack April calendar for campus festival

The Literary & Fine Arts Festival will kick off April 3 and continue throughout the month of April, celebrating music, fine arts, literature and communications across campus.

This year, the festival includes a

dance performance, the annual Jazz Under the Stars night, a chance to explore communications fields and a play by the Harvester Theatre Company, among other events.

— Staff Reports



Sarita Westrup from the "Tierra Firme" project creates natural dyes along with her partner, Analise Minjarez. They will do a presentation as part of the Literary & Fine Arts Festival on campus.

For some under DACA, U.S. is their only home

Continued from page 4

no other option," Castillo said, "My husband works and my mother-in-law takes care of my baby, so she can't bring me to school.

"So, it's like, you're risking a lot of things when you drive somewhere. Even if you get pulled over for something little, and even for nothing, they can pull you over and ask for your citizenship and you have nothing. It's dangerous."

Although her parents are supportive and told her that it would be OK if she took time off school to focus on her newfound motherhood, Castillo knew that staying in school was a priority for her.

"My mom and my dad were like, 'If you need money for school, or if you just want to take a break, you can. Or if you want to do online.' But I was ready to keep on going to school," she said.

Her dream is to get accepted into dental school.

"All of that stuff takes a lot of time, effort and money, and I just want to give my family a good future," she said.

And this determination has paid

off. Because she is undocumented, she cannot receive federal aid. But due to her high grades, every university she has applied for has offered her scholarships.

Texas Woman's University, Texas A&M-Commerce and the University of Texas at Arlington have all offered her admission and up to \$5,000 worth of scholarships a semester.

With her DACA application still in review and the future of the entire program completely uncertain, Castillo feels that her future is hanging on by a string.

"I think of it as a nightmare," she said. "My son is 7 months old, and if they deport me, detain me and eventually send me back, I wouldn't want my baby to go there. I would miss him obviously, but I think it would be better to let him stay here."

Being sent back to a country where she had only resided as a newborn is terrifying. Castillo feels like an American.

"I am really grateful for everything I've been able to get here, for the teachers that I've had, and everything," she said. "I do feel patriotic because this is all I've ever known."

LITERARY & FINE ARTS FESTIVAL CALENDAR

April 3

"Speak Easy" launch party, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the Hive
Tierra Firme: Analise Minjarez and Sarita Westrup, land loom arts talk and workshop, noon-2 p.m., VIBee Lounge, exhibit continues through May 3

April 4

Haiku Workshop, 10:10-11:05 a.m., G-101

April 5

Jazz Under the Stars, 5-7 p.m., Lower Courtyard

April 11

Dance and Snack, 12:30 p.m., Lower Courtyard
The Et Cetera's Poetry Slam, 5:30 p.m., G-101

April 12

Digital Media Workshop, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., L-116

Gallery show: H. Schenk, opening reception 6-8:30 p.m., H Gallery, show open through May 11

April 16

Lecture: War photographer Kale Alford, 12:30 p.m., G-101

April 19-20

Play: Anna in the Tropics, 7:30 p.m. both days, 12:30 p.m. Thursday, 11:15 a.m. Friday, Performance Hall

April 23

Lecture: Digital Scholarship, Cody Jackson of TWU, 11:15 a.m., G-101

April 24

Communications Career Day, 11 a.m., G-101

April 25

Spring Juried Student Art Exhibition, reception 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Gallery 219, show open through May 4

April 26-27

Spring Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., Performance Hall

May 1

Eastfield's Got Talent Show, 6 p.m., Performance Hall

Wrapping locks, uncovering black history

story and photos by
Yesenia Alvarado

It's not just hair. As part of the events for Black History Month, Eastfield held a presentation, The Evolution of African-Americans as Told by My Hair, on Feb. 20. Guest speaker, Chesley Antoinette from Cantoinette Studios talked about the history of the headwraps and where a panel discussed various social issues dealing with hair in the black community.

"Headwraps are seen as a symbol of empowerment, beauty, and creativity just as women from back then did," she said.

The headwrap, originated in sub-Saharan Africa, represents more than a piece of fabric.

In Spanish colonial Louisiana, a law in the late 18th century implemented by the Spanish government demanded all women of color to use a headwrap or headdress to cover their hair. Before this law, free colored women used their money to create elaborate hairstyles, which caused competition with European women.

So the Spanish government created the Tignon law to lower the social status of black women. This was a way to oppress free black women by distinguishing them from white women and minimizing their beauty.

Instead of blending in with slave women, the free black women created all sorts of styles using the Headwrap, adding accessories like feathers and pearls using expensive colorful silk.

"The significance of the Headwrap is seen as a symbol of rebellion," Antoinette said. "Using creativity amongst women who reinvented the Headwrap against the intentions of the Spanish government."

From headdresses to slick hair to afros and dreadlocks, hair has been one of the most notable changes along with African American's journey through history.

"My hair is my crown," music major Jamiah Sandles says. "When I went natural I felt so free."

"Nappy," a word that was adopted to describe the short and tightly coiled of some African American's hair, was used to negatively compare their textured hair to European's hair. Today, African American women embrace this once derogatory word and give it a new light.

There is currently a resurgence of natural hair portrayal in pop culture as well as in movies, such as Black Panther, and magazine covers.

With so many different styles, **See Natural, page 16 >**

“WHEN IT COMES TO HAIRSTYLES, NOTHING IS REALLY NEW, HISTORY ALWAYS REPEATS ITSELF. HAIRSTYLES LIKE THIS OR OTHERS MAY LOOK LIKE THEY WERE WORN IN THE 70S OR EVEN EARLIER THAN THAT. HAIR IS JUST A PART OF YOU, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT'S THE WHOLE MAKEUP OF WHO YOU ARE.”

-SHERNAY WORMLEY, PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR OSER



“I SAY THIS A LOT: MY HAIR IS MY CROWN AND MY GLORY. IT REPRESENTS WHO YOU ARE. WHEN I WENT NATURAL, I FELT SO FREE BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT KEEPING UP ANOTHER TYPE OF HAIR THAT WASN'T MY OWN. I'VE BEEN TREATING IT LIKE I WOULD TREAT MYSELF BECAUSE MY HAIR IS A PART OF ME. I THINK IT REPRESENTS UNIQUENESS, STRENGTH, AND PRIDE. THE HISTORY OF IT HAS TO DO WITH A WOMEN DEFINING WHO SHE IS AND THE DIFFERENT WAYS SHE CAN REPRESENT HER UNIQUENESS.”

-JAMIAH SANDLES, 20, MUSIC MAJOR

“I DIDN'T GO NATURAL UNTIL THE END OF HIGH SCHOOL BUT TO ME IT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE YOU'RE MAKING A CONSCIOUS CHOICE SAYING 'I'M VISIBLY BLACK, I LOVE MY BLACKNESS.' WITH NATURAL PEOPLE, I ASSUME THEY'RE MORE WOKE BUT YOU CAN BE JUST AS CONSCIOUS WITH RELAXED HAIR. YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO LOVE WHAT YOU HAVE.”

-KIA JACKSON, 19, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR



Natural hair offers more than just style options

Continued from page 7

women find lots of way to change their hair. Afros from all sizes, Bantu knots, different types of braids, hair twists, and dreadlocks are some of the trendy styles today, some of which have existed throughout history.

Psychology major Kia Jackson explained a scale that distinguishes types of hair based on the curl, porosity, kinkiness, texture, etc.

"I'm 4C," Jackson said. "I moisturize a lot, I can't just go to sleep, I have to twist my hair, and

do a whole lock routine, but I think it's worth it"

Although hair is important to many cultures, African American women spend a lot of time, effort and money on their hair.

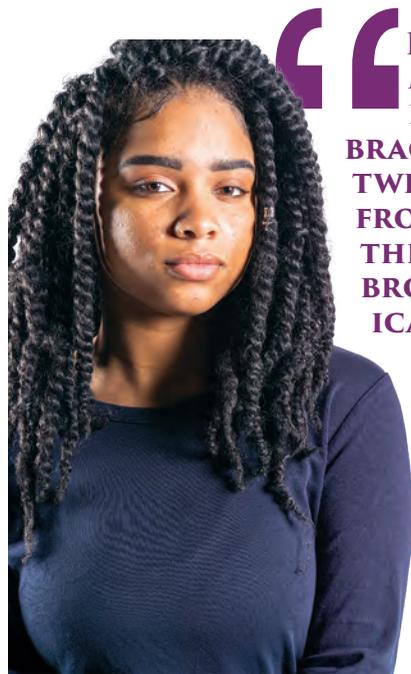
Senior Degree Audit Specialist and adjunct professor Terri Thompson said she spends a lot of time on her hair.

By continually twisting her hair and methodically "palm rolling" Thompson was able to achieve her dreadlocks

"It took about a good six months to a year for it to start locking," Thompson said.

Today, African Americans are still fighting for their rights with movements like Black Lives Matter and they will continue to express their voice through music, art, fashion, politics, and even with their hair.

"We were pressured to shame our hair forever, we had to cover it up, plait it up, and all of it just strip us from any beauty, cause they want us to look ugly, to feel ugly," Jackson said. "You don't have to go natural, but you shouldn't feel like you have to have a specific hair in order to do it for a job or be accepted."

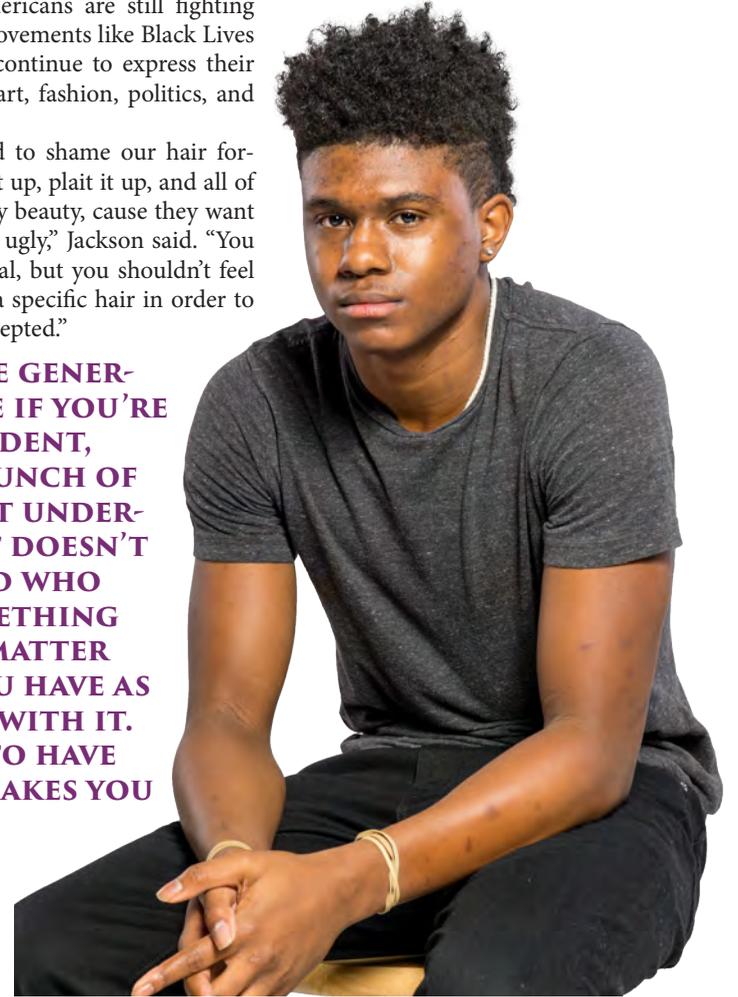


“I KNIT AND TWIST MY HAIR, THEN I PUT THESE LITTLE BRACKETS IN. THE TWIST IS ACTUALLY FROM AFRICA, THEN THE AFRICANS BROUGHT IT TO AMERICA, SO IT'S JUST BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.”

-NAKIA SMITH, 19,
PHOTOGRAPHY
MAJOR

“CERTAIN THINGS ARE GENERALLY ACCEPTED, LIKE IF YOU'RE RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT, YOU CAN'T HAVE A BUNCH OF CORNROWS. THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT'S JUST HAIR, IT DOESN'T DEFINE THE PERSON AND WHO THEY ARE, IT'S JUST SOMETHING THEY LIKE. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KIND OF HAIR YOU HAVE AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY WITH IT. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO HAVE HAIR, JUST WHATEVER MAKES YOU HAPPY.”

-TRAVIS SPIVEY, 18,
BIOLOGY MAJOR



New plan aims to remedy low student success rates in district

Continued from page 3

the interpretations are," Hinckley said.

Some faculty told Hinckley they that academic prgrams are being overlooked in favor of skills training such as welding, auto work and heating and air conditioning repair.

This feeling stems from a historic trend of elevating vocational training over academics paired with the national political climate with disdain for higher education, especially liberal arts, Hinckley said.

While he believes concern about a shift of focus from academics to workforce and vocational training may be a valid concern on the national level, it doesn't appear to be the case in the DCCCD.

During the early 2000s, the DCCCD began cutting back on vocational and workforce programs. Hinckley said faculty have been concerned since this trend reversed when May became chancellor.

"A few of them who remarked to me said they feared that we might be becoming an entirely technical or vocational college," Hinckley said. "I think, even though I'm an academic credit and transfer faculty, I think he [May] very correctly added emphasis to workforce and career technical education programs where

it had been lacking for the last 15 years."

He said the increased attention for these programs could create a feeling among for-credit faculty that they are being overlooked or undervalued.

Hinckley said that no faculty in academic, credit rewarding divisions have been laid off since the DCCCD began the push for more increase resources for workforce and vocational training and he expects more will actually be hired next year.

May believes the DCCCD can change that design, with the right moves going forward.

One of the changes that may have the biggest impact is by connecting with students before they graduate high school.

"I think we most agree that the old model of waiting for a student to graduate high school before connecting doesn't work," May said. "It's just simply too late in the process to change what's going on."

Programs like the early college high schools and the Dallas County Promise will be the spearhead in the effort to get more high school graduates to complete a degree.

The problems with completion may run deeper, though, May said.

About 18 percent of first semester students

do not complete a single course in the DCCCD, according to institutional research. More than 80 percent of high school graduates are not college ready when they receive their diplomas, 41 percent do not enroll in their first year after graduation and 52 percent do not continue into their second year of college.

"I truly believe we have students who are suffering in ways like never before," May said. "We also are seeing too many students who are falling through the cracks. Eighteen percent of our first semester students never finish a course. We cannot afford for one of them to not complete, not be successful, much less 18 percent."

May said the district would look to students who have found success on their own, without using only the tools provided by the district. Many of these students, he said, attend multiple colleges and create networks with other successful students outside of the communication provided by the DCCCD.

Eastfield President Jean Conway said she is excited about the changes.

"The district is planning to move forward in a way that hopefully we make a true difference, not only in students lives but we believe we make a difference in the city, the culture, the

economy, the county," Conway said. "By doing the things that the chancellor has proposed in a network model, we have an opportunity to be a part of that."

Hinckley said that the number of students who do not transfer or complete degrees is a sign that change is necessary. He said the Dallas County Promise will likely help.

He also believes Guided Pathways, which will tell students which classes to take and when, aid for students facing hunger or housing insecurity and assistance for students with mental health needs, all of which are receiving increased attention under the network, will all help students complete and transfer to a four-year institution.

He believes a move more toward a single institution mindset rather than being seven separate colleges under an umbrella, which the network plan is a move toward, will be a great help to students and success rates.

"There are differences between the seven colleges, but the perceived differences are greater," Hinckley said. "I've worked at two different colleges in the district. I've been to all seven. At all seven colleges, people care about students. That's why we do what we do, because we care about students. That's a unifying culture."

Campus re-evaluates LGBTQ needs, resources

By **ARIA JONES**
Reporter
@AriaJonesETC

The recent vandalism of LGBTQ safe zone stickers on campus has prompted Eastfield College's administration to take another look at its commitment to supporting LGBTQ students, faculty and staff.

"Going forward, my goal is to establish an access and equity center, where there would be support for LGBTQ [people], for any appropriate resources that anybody might need to be successful in college," said Associate Vice President Rachel Wolf, the college's Title IX coordinator.

In addition to federal Title IX regulations, the Dallas County Community College District has a policy prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

However, Wolf said she wants to create a physical, visible place for students to go on campus.

Another resource she wants to make available is LGBTQ safe space training.

Before spring break, LGBTQ support stickers on the doors of several



DAVID SILVA/THE ET CETERA

A safe zone sticker bears smudge marks after being defaced with a black marker. It is unknown who vandalized the stickers.

faculty offices on the second level of the C building were defaced with a black marker.

Some faculty members were hesitant to speak about the incident, because they were uncertain if the

stickers were allowed on campus.

"[The safe zone stickers] started with the faculty wanting to be sure we had a way to indicate places that were, for lack of a better word, safe spaces for people of the LGBTQ

community to be able to have questions and get support if need be," said Jean Conway, Eastfield College president.

Conway said she's supportive of the message and added that they were made in-house as part of a grassroots movement.

"Showing support for something and having somebody deface it can be upsetting and demoralizing, but I also don't think it means that we need to stop doing it or question it," Wolf said.

The only support for LGBTQ students on campus now is found in the counseling and health centers and this can be problematic, said Katy Launius, associate dean of the Office for Student Engagement and Retention.

Launius, who identifies as queer, said there is a stigma and history behind relying on counseling and health services as a resource for LGBTQ people. Homosexuality was classified as a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Association until 1987.

Launius said it's can be unsettling to an individual to hear that they require counseling to receive support.

"I'm not disordered," she said. "The world around me is disordered, and I'm just having to navigate a world that's hostile toward me."

Launius said people shouldn't avoid counseling, but that using counseling as a primary resource can reinforce an idea that something is wrong with a person for being LGBTQ.

Eastfield has other schools nearby that it can look to as examples. Richland and El Centro colleges have both participated in safe zone training from the Resource Center of Dallas, a non-profit that provides LGBTQ-friendly counseling and healthcare.

The Campus Pride Index, which evaluates how LGBTQ-inclusive a college is, recently gave the University of Texas at Dallas a 4.5 rating out of 5 stars.

LGBTQ clubs have existed at Eastfield, but they are student-run and several faculty members have said the clubs are hard to maintain because Eastfield is a two-year commuter college.

"When I came into OSER and began working with the student engagement team, it was an area where

See Sticker, page 5 >

Transgender speaker highlights inadequate support

By **JOSUE HERNANDEZ**
Reporter
@TheEtCetera

Tears flow uncontrollably from Leslie McMurray's face, as she sits defeated on the ground at her house. Feeling unsafe and full of panic, Leslie finally has lost all hope. Leaning back against a gun-safe she holds a fully loaded .45 caliber handgun. The safety is off.

According to The Trevor Project, 40 percent of transgender adults reported having attempted suicide. LGBT youth are five times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth.

Resource Center's representatives Rafael McDonnell and McMurray spoke March 26 on mental health, substance abuse and current political issues facing LGBT community members. McMurray, who is the insurance assistance coordinator at the Resource Center, shared her personal experience as a transgender individual.

"I came very, very close to ending it," she said. "I didn't think there was any reason to live anymore."

McMurray felt "hidden" throughout her life. She began hormone therapy in 2013 and began the transition from male to female. Having worked for CBS as a radio host for over 30 years, she earned her way up to a six-figure income, a 4,500 square foot home and a very comfortable life.

But she was willing to give it all up to finally be who she says she had always been.

McMurray's life was turned upside down after initially announcing her transition. She recalls a period of about 90 days.

"I lost a 33-year marriage," she said. "I lost that really nice, safe house. I lost a job that I dearly loved."

And I learned very quickly that I also lost a career, because I was pretty much un-hireable."

This sudden life change and the unwelcoming societal behavior toward transgender people all led McMurray to that day, gun in hand.

McMurray now spends her time raising awareness, and is an avid advocate of LGBT rights. Since that day she has not come close to those dark thoughts again.

"I don't have a lot of money... but at least I have me," she said. "I feel good about myself."

There are 89 school districts within the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Only five have any kind of LGBT affirmative or comprehensive anti-bullying policies, McDonnell said.

"It is important to feel safe at school," said Lauren Anderson, the activities coordinator at Eastfield.

"Set expectations in that homophobic and transphobic behavior or words are not going to be something that you will idly let stand," McDonnell said.

Stacy Bailey, a teacher at Charlotte Anderson Elementary School in Arlington, was placed under administrative paid leave.

Mansfield Independent School District says parents made complaints regarding her speaking to

their children about her sexual orientation.

According to the district's statement Bailey was suspended because she "insists that it is her right and that it is age appropriate for her to have ongoing discussions with elementary-aged students about her own sexual orientation."

Fully transitioning genders is not an expense every transgender person can easily afford.

Typically a gender reassignment transformation can range anywhere from \$20,000 to more than \$100,000.

Depending on the case, a patient can take multiple years before they are ready to move on to the surgery. After the hormone treatment, most doctors require patients to have a certain amount of therapy time, as the surgery is irreversible.

McMurray is thankful she had the money to fully complete the change, although she had to dip into her retirement account.

The current political and social climate for the LGBT community

does not allow for a comfortable or equal life.

"There is really no safe place to be outside the home," she said

The federal protection of Title VII under the Civil Rights Act does not extend to her community.

There is no housing or job protection. McMurray feels that all these conditions do not allow the LGBT community to be part of "polite society."

"The single biggest thing you can do is vote," McMurray said. "Thinking that your vote doesn't matter just allows other people to speak for you. Don't do that."

She added that advocates of the LGBT community should be vocal in local government, as well as being involved in their schools and communities. Most importantly allies can be a "gentle listening ear."

"We really by and large just want to blend in," McMurray said. "We don't want anything special, we just want to assimilate and be who we are."

PUT IT ON YOUR Calendar

April

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 4 | Recital series: Early Brass Ensemble, 12:30 p.m., F-117 Workout Wednesday: kickboxing, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Lower Courtyard Classic guitarist Emma Rush, 8 p.m., F-117 |
| Fri 6 | Fun Friday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., the Hive |
| Mon 9 | Student Veterans of America club fundraiser, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the Hive |
| Tue 10 | Faculty/Student Game Show, 12:30-1:45 p.m., the Hive |
| Wed 11 | Communication Club fundraiser, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the Hive Science Club fundraiser, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the Hive, also April 12 and 13 STEMinar: Small Hidden Treasures, a Primer on Micropeptides, noon, S-100 Workshop: Create a Student-Friendly Budget, 11 a.m., C-237 Recital series: Keyboard Department, 12:30 p.m., F-117 |
| Tue 12 | Last day to withdraw |
| Fri 13 | Student Government Association, noon, C-297 Recital series; Guitar Department, 12:30 p.m., F-117 |
| Mon 16 | Financial literacy event, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the Hive |
| Wed 18 | MALES club fundraiser, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the Hive Speaker: Quitting Tobacco, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., G-101 Recital series; Texas Guitar Quartet, 12:30 p.m., F-117 Workout Wednesday: dance, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Lower Courtyard |

ABOUT THE COVER

DESIGN BY MANUEL GUAPO

Sticker defacement worries faculty

Continued from page 2

I saw a gap in programming and services," Launius said, who has a background in diversity education and has facilitated safe zone trainings.

Launius said that it's important that the institution uphold and support programs for LGBTQ students so that the programs don't die when students and staff move on.

"I can step in and say, 'Oh, I see a gap.' I'm gonna offer some trainings. But it's not in my dedicated job description, so if I leave that's just something I was doing as a passion project."

Launius said OSER has plans to celebrate LGBT history month in October, which is also the same month as National Coming Out Day.

According to the Campus Climate Report produced by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 20 percent of students, faculty and staff at colleges across the country reported fearing for their physical safety because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Over half of the people surveyed said they concealed their sexual orientation or gender identity to avoid intimidation. The report says victims of anti-LGBTQ violence may suffer from chronic stress, depression, low self-esteem and other negative effects.

Leslie McMurray and Rafael McDonnell from the Resource Center visited Eastfield on March 26 and spoke about issues affecting the

LGBTQ community.

As a transgender woman, McMurray was able to share her experiences and explain the barriers she says she faces in society.

"You look at the inability to use a bathroom outside the home, no housing protection, no job protection, access to healthcare, and serving in the military," she said. "When you pull away hope, people can start thinking bad things. You get desperate."

A comprehensive anti-bullying policy is important for schools to emphasize, McMurray said.

"You can't learn if you're scared to death, or if you don't feel welcome," she said.

The safe zone stickers around campus provide visibility of LGBTQ support for students, but there are more steps colleges can take, McDonnell said, who serves at the Resource Center's communications and advocacy manager.

"It's good to have stickers, but I think you've got to have the training that goes with it," he said. "[Colleges should] encourage people to go through the training to get the stickers."

More training on how to better support LGBTQ students is an idea several faculty and staff are behind.

"Most of it is actually having a safe training for our staff members and our faculty to make sure that we are servicing our students and our colleagues and making sure that we

are a safe space and not just giving it lip service," said Courtney Pickens, the Providing Hope, Awareness, & Suicide Education Project Program Coordinator.

Launius said training plays an important role in creating an environment that is supportive of LGBTQ students.

"Training creates visibility," she said. "So it's important for there to be visibility around the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity because I think that there are real gaps here on campus in the services that we're providing to students, in the support and even just in knowledge."

Knowledge of the LGBTQ community is what can help create a better environment on campus, said Niko Robbins, a medical engineering student.

"I think a lot of the time the problem is not that people are transphobic, but sometimes they just don't have the information they need," Robbins said.

The administration's response when attention was called to LGBTQ support on campus has given David Willburn, an art instructor, hope that progress is being made.

"I feel encouraged by the fact that, prompted by faculty, the administration is recognizing their role," he said. "And in cases of creating this sense of institutional equity and equality, it has to start at the top. It has to come from the administration."

Willburn said Eastfield could be the leader for putting DCCCD's anti-discrimination policies into practice, and Eastfield has the right administration to do it.

He said the messages that student media, the administration and Eastfield send need to be considered to create a space where students can seek support.

When a recent opinion piece was published in the Et Cetera about sexuality being a choice, Willburn said there was a larger, far-reaching social impact.

"It felt like it was just not a First Amendment issue," Willburn said. "Does the Et Cetera have a higher standard to say... 'We're not going to shine a light on things that are just meant to cause harm for the sake of causing harm?'"

Willburn said the opinion piece was reflective of old ideas.

McMurray said there are steps that students, faculty and staff can take themselves that don't require a club or a program provided by the administration.

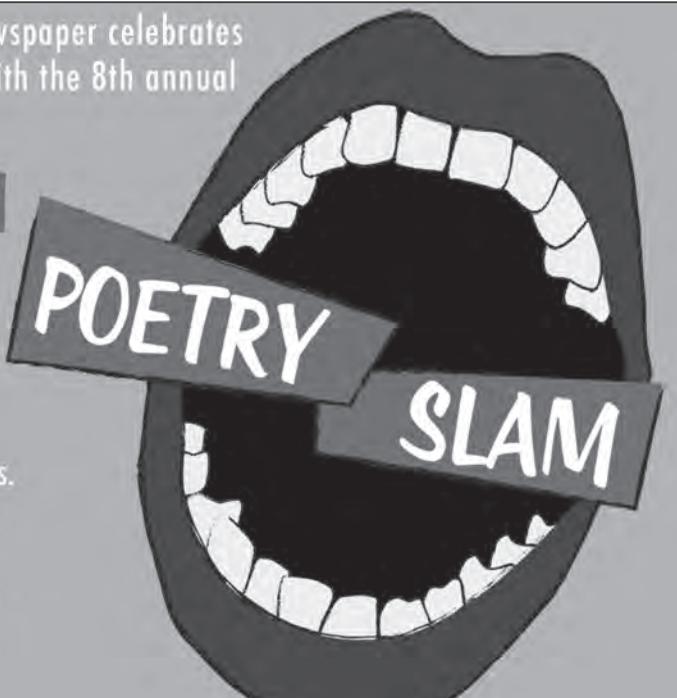
"Be a gentle listening ear if someone wants to come out to you," she said. "For me, coming out was very difficult. It was a secret I'd held my whole life. I didn't feel safe telling it to anybody. If you're the type of person that someone feels safe talking to, you're worth your weight in gold, and you don't have to do anything other than just listen and make it a safe space."

LITERARY & fine arts festival

The Et Cetera student newspaper celebrates National Poetry Month with the 8th annual

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

5:30 P.M. MEET IN G101



Students are encouraged to read their original poems and compete for prizes. Contestants should arrive at 5 p.m. to register. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Langton at elizabethlangton@dccd.edu, call 972-860-7130 or visit room N-240.

The richness of black culture

Professor dedicates himself to educating African-American history through museum

By **JAMES HARTLEY**
and **KATHERINE HIGGINS**
Staff Writers
@JamesHartleyETC

Hearty and uninhibited, Jamal Rasheed's laughter ricochets from honey yellow walls lined with portraits of civil rights activists. His devotion to black history is evident in every corner of the Ellis County African American Hall of Fame, where he shares stories of those who came before him, passion seeping from every syllable.

Rasheed, the founder and CEO of the Hall of Fame, teaches sociology at Eastfield. Equipped with endless curiosity, a formal education and experience, he dedicates his time to sharing knowledge with anyone willing to listen.

His museum is just one way he does that. The Hall of Fame tells the story of black struggles in America, focusing on civil rights movements.

Rasheed also operates a cemetery for homeless African Americans. The cemetery was historically an all-black resting place because blacks could not be buried in a graveyard for whites.

The Hall of Fame building itself is storied, once the meeting lodge for the Colored Knights of Pythias, a closed society and, during a period of the city's history, the only place black students could meet to hold a prom.

It was designated as a historic building in 2012 by the Waxahachie city council, three years before the Hall of Fame opened there. It was recognized in 2017 by Preservation Texas for its historic quality.

"The building is identified by many older African Americans as the 'only place in town we could have dances,'" said Ellen Beasley, an architectural historian and author.

Life rarely came easy for Rasheed growing up in the 1960s on the South Side of Chicago. Rasheed was 5 years old when his parents divorced and was left with a mother busy trying to make ends meet. So he spent his childhood raising himself.

He became involved in gangs at a young age.

"That's how you live in Chicago," Rasheed said. "I grew up quick. My friends were the streets. My friends were members of the gang."

The Black Panther Party was active in Rasheed's neighborhood dur-

ing that time. Finding inspiration in its 10-point platform, he turned his back on gangs and volunteered his time to the Panthers by selling newspapers that spread their message in local communities.

The focus of the Black Panther movement, as outlined in the platform, included full employment for black Americans, reparations for slavery and segregation, the end to police brutality and fair access to housing and education.

However, the Panthers were not without controversy. Along with a shootout involving police and two members of the party, there were reports that violence erupted within the group.

In pictures, the Panthers are shown with black leather vests and Afros spilling out of black berets, often holding rifles and shotguns. This militant-like persona was stigmatized, but Rasheed said they were merely exercising their Second Amendment right.

"If you understand the panther, a panther doesn't strike you unless you strike it," he said. "You come to my neighborhood and create injustices, then we're going to be prepared ... Because your Constitution says we have the right to bear arms."

Social programs that aimed to lift black communities out of poverty were at the heart of the Black Panther movement. The Free Breakfast for Children Program fed thousands of hungry kids through the early 1970s and, according to the National Institutes of Health, the group also opened 13 free health clinics in communities across the country, serving both black and poor citizens.

"We weren't these radical folks running around shooting people and creating injustices," he said. "We were trying to unite a people in a community and feed them and clothe them and give them a place to stay. The programs that we were doing were effectively working in the community. That's why the community didn't fear us."

While working on his master's degree at Sam Houston State, Rasheed applied and was accepted into a scholar program that gave him the opportunity to study under Coretta Scott King. Rasheed credits his teaching philosophy to this experience.

"It taught me how to put a method to the madness," he said. "Communi-



JULIO VEGA/THE ET CETERA

Sociology professor and CEO of the Ellis County African American Hall of Fame Jamal Rasheed believes America should be doing more to educate students about black history. He's starting with his museum, with features like the "Pioneers of Freedom" wall, and involvement in academia.

cate with the folks you're having a problem with, and at the end come up with a common bond."

That common bond is something librarian Megan Horlander said Rasheed's museum helps people find common ground in a community steeped in racial tensions.

"It's amazing, for a small town ... to have something like that. It's just amazing," Horlander said. "There's so much negativity toward race relations and to have that is a real branch to making the community a stronger place for everyone."

Rasheed was inspired to pursue a degree in sociology by civil rights activists like W.E.B. Du Bois and Martin Luther King Jr.

"In order to make a difference, you've got to be a part of the solution and not the problem," Rasheed said. "And you have to constantly identify what it's going to take to make a change."

Rasheed tries to convey this message in his lectures.

Lucaya Linwood, a student in Rasheed's sociology class, said the way he teaches is engaging and his stories, which he tells whenever asked, add to his ability as a teacher.

"The way he talks and gives us information, it's not like a typical lecture where he just sits us down and says 'memorize this and memorize this,'" Linwood said.

Rasheed said he believes young people are one of the strongest assets



JULIO VEGA/THE ET CETERA

A visitor at the Hall of Fame examines the "African Kings and Queens" wall, dedicated to prominent African historical figures.

to a civil rights movement.

He said modern racial equality movements simply aren't enough.

The problem with the Black Lives Matter movement, he said, is rooted in the fact that it began as a slogan rather than by a leader. Absent a leader, the phrase is left to everyone else to define, which Rasheed points to as the cause of the confusion surrounding the campaign.

Black lives are being lost not only to violent deaths by police, but to lack of access to services, Rasheed said.

"Black Lives Matter should be saying black lives matter in education," he said. "Black lives matter in employment, black lives matter in health and human services."

Looking back on the civil rights

movement, Rasheed explained that protests, sit-ins and boycotts were inciting change, whereas now people protest to vent and then they fall back into the status quo.

What encourages change through legislation, he said, is to affect the economy. Birmingham activists put Alabama at the forefront of efforts to integrate by refusing to use public transportation. This coordinated effort caused a large upset that local politicians couldn't ignore.

Rasheed thinks African-American history should be expanded in K-12 education, not just celebrated one month a year.

"If you're going to tell history, tell the truth," he said. "And [mention] everyone that was involved."