

Boston bomber put on trial

by Olivia Pla
People Editor

The Boston Marathon bombing trial began the week of March 4, almost two years after the April 15 attack in 2013. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is charged with 30 counts stemming from the bombing and a police shootout three days later, 17 of which are punishable by the death penalty. Tsarnaev carried out the bombing with his older brother, Tamerlan, who was responsible for one of the two bombs that went off. Tamerlan died in the same police shootout three days later. The younger Tsarnaev fled the scene after the shootout and was found a few hours later hiding out and bleeding from gun wounds in a boat.

On the boat, Tsarnaev wrote an anti-American message and for the first time on March 10 an image of this full message was released by the prosecution during the trial. He wrote, "God has a plan for each person. Mine was to hide in his boat and shed some light on our actions." In summary, his message is about how his path in life under Allah led him to commit the attack. Since he was discovered in the boat, Tsarnaev has been kept in the Federal Medical Center in Devens, Massachusetts until his trial.

The two-month jury selection process ended on March 3 with the selection of ten women and eight men. On the first day of the trial, Tsarnaev pleaded not guilty to all of the charges against

him, making it the responsibility of the prosecution to prove each charge "beyond a reasonable doubt." If the jury convicts Tsarnaev, they will have to reconvene to determine his punishment. At this point, the defense will attempt to prevent him from receiving the death penalty by emphasizing that he had a hard early life, was young when he committed the crime, and was heavily influenced by his older brother. It is possible that the jury will convict Tsarnaev since recent footage of him depositing a backpack and walking away has surfaced, as well as the photo of his writing on the boat.

The first few days of the trial included several testimonies from victims, witnesses, and responders. William Richard testified about his son, Martin, who died at age eight in the bombing. His daughter lost her left leg and his wife was partially blinded. Karen McWatters also testified about her friend, Lingzi Lu, who was one of the three that died in the attack.

After the testimonies, the trial will take a more technical course as investigators will use witness testimonies to determine the nature of the bombs. This information about the origin and structure of the bombs is necessary to show the jury. The investigation is greatly aided by, and relies on, detailed information from witnesses, like what they smelled, heard, and saw that day. As the trial continues and more incriminating evidence arises, it is apparent that the biggest argument will be over Tsarnaev's punishment if he is convicted.

(Sources: Washington Post, NBC news, The New York Times)

UO Fraternity dissolved

by Liat Rubin
Editor-in-Chief

On March 8, a chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) at the University of Oklahoma was dissolved after a video was released of several members singing a racist chant. The incident has since led to the expulsion of two SAE members and the fraternity's new diversity initiative.

The chant, which went "There will never be a ni**er at SAE, you can hang him from a tree but he'll never sign with me. There will never be a ni**er at SAE," sparked outcry across Oklahoma's campus and widespread coverage on national news. Many were outraged at the obvious racism evident in the chant and led marches across campus. Marquis Ard, 23, an African-American senior who is a member of the black fraternity

Alpha Phi Alpha and captain of the university's debate team, said "This is reflective of a larger issue. If they're doing that on a charter bus, what are they doing in the library, at football games?"

University President David L. Boren, as well as the fraternity's national headquarters in Illinois, shut down the Oklahoma chapter after the video appeared March 8, and university officials severed all ties to it on March 9. Boren took further action, expelling two of the students,

saying that they had played a leading a role in the singing of the chant and "created a hostile learning environment for others."

SAE responded, stressing that "Sigma Alpha Epsilon is not a racist, sexist or bigoted fraternity" and that it provides its members with anti-discrimination education and training. They also released a statement, saying "several other incidents with chapters or members have been brought to the attention of the headquarters staff and leaders, and each of those instances will be investigated for further action."

In an announcement on March 18, national executive director Blaine Ayers apologized for "the pain this situation has caused." He continued to unveil the fraternity's new diversity initiative. The organization will hire a director of diversity and inclusion, which according to Ayers, makes SAE the first major North American Greek organization to include such a role. SAE will also make mandatory diversity education for all members and staff, set up a national advisory committee on diversity and inclusion, and set up an anonymous tip line so that members can report any inappropriate behavior and receive a quick and thorough response, Ayers said.

(Sources: Time, New York Times, Huffington Post, MSNBC)

Σ A E

R. van Miltenburg

Brian Williams embellishes story, threatening his job

by Hyuntae Byun
World Editor

Recently, NBC's Brian Williams was forced to recant a story about being shot at while he was covering the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003. After Williams admitted that the story was fabricated, NBC suspended him for six months without pay.

During the past decade, Williams has sporadically told a story about how he was on a military helicopter in Iraq when it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade during the beginning of the US invasion. Williams' suspension was directly precipitated by an on-air statement during an interview with a soldier who had provided security to Williams during the Iraq invasion in 2003. During the interview, Williams said that he had been in one of two Chinook helicopters that were downed by RPGs.

Following the broadcast, several veterans challenged his account on Facebook and Twitter, and crew members of the 159th Aviation Regiment who were on the felled helicopter testified during an interview with military magazine Stars and Stripes that Williams was nowhere near the helicopter when it was struck. Instead, crew members stated that Williams arrived in a different helicopter about an hour after the incident.

Following these allegations, Williams apologized for embellishing his story during the interview with the soldier, although he did not



courtesy wikimedia commons

CAUGHT IN THE ACT: Williams is under fire for embellishing a story from 2003.

comment about previous exaggerations. Williams has repeatedly told his story in the past. For example, in an interview with David Letterman in 2013, Williams stated that he was in a helicopter that was in formation with three other helicopters when the helicopters were forced to land due to heavy RPG fire.

Williams sent a prepared apology to the Stars and Stripes and posted it to Facebook, and also delivered an apology on air. Following Williams' apology, NBC launched an investigation into Williams' career and created a team to handle the situation. NBC Universal's chief executive Stephen B. Burke headed the team, and ordered Williams to go off air until further notice. Williams has been replaced by Lester Holt, anchor for "Dateline." As the investigation revealed that Williams had exaggerated the story, Burke and a board of company executives decided to suspend Williams. Following the suspension, NBC changed the name of its evening news program from NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams to NBC Nightly News.

Williams started anchoring the evening news for NBC in 2004 and quickly rose to prominence. Before his suspension, Williams averaged an audience of 10 million viewers, making him the most-watched news anchor in the United States. Last December before the investigation on his legitimacy, Williams reportedly signed a new contract with NBC that increased his annual salary to \$10 million.

(Sources: NY Times, CNN, LA Times)

Apple reveals its first watch

by Danika Lyle
News Editor

For more than a decade, Apple has been dominating the technology industry with products like the Macintosh, the iPod, and the iPhone.

Back in September 2014, Apple not only announced the arrival of the iPhone 6 and 6 plus, but also showed sneak peaks of the Apple Watch.

The Apple Watch, scheduled to release on April 24, is a smart watch that combines the user friendly design of the iPhone with the accessibility of the wrist watch. Many people have already tested the watch and remarks have been generally positive regarding its design and usability. Some of the product's key features include Digital Touch, which allows consumers to communicate with friends through sketches, messages, and drawings. The watch also includes the Activity App which is catered to fitness needs. It allows people to monitor their movement, burned calories, and



courtesy wikimedia commons

watches this late in the game is quite unusual for them as they are usually at the forefront of technology. Smart watches have already been developed by several companies such as Nike, but Apple says that their watch will focus more on communication rather than fitness.

Many people have been talking about the gold Apple Watch's insane price tag of \$10,000. This is because the gold watch will be made of 18 karat gold. Other watches will range from \$350 to \$1,050. Watches come in a variety of different styles- Watch, Watch Sport, or Watch Edition (the gold watch). The Watch is the original, basic watch that is aimed at the average customer. The Watch Sport has a lightweight feel and a fluoroelastomer band. Watch Edition is the most luxurious of the watches, coming in either gold or rose gold.

All of the Watches have a variety of bands to choose from, ranging from the elegant Link Bracelet to the casual Modern Buckle style.

No matter what purpose you wish to use it for - business, luxury, or fitness - the Apple Watch is shaping up to be one of the "Don't Miss" products of 2015 and is sure to prove useful for any consumer. (Sources: Apple, cnet.com)

Birth tourism trend rises

by Antonia Salisbury
Opinion Editor

On March 3 federal agents uncovered and disbanded dozens of Chinese "maternity tourism" rings throughout Southern California. The "maternity" or "birthing tourism" trend, in which mothers travel to the US to give birth in order to get US citizenship, has been on the rise in recent years. Officials found and infiltrated operations in Irvine and other undisclosed locations.

While no one was arrested because birth tourism is not illegal, the heads of the operations are being interrogated and several other crimes have been discovered including lying on visa applications, defrauding hospitals, and, in some cases, forging illegal passports.

The birthing tourism industry was constructed around the provision of the 14th amendment which states that all people born in the US are automatically entitled to US citizenship. This law, which was originally created with the intent to enable former slaves to gain citizenship, is frequently taken advantage of by illegal immigrants. Technically, people who take part in birthing tourism are not committing a crime, but there are many other legal breaches at work within the maternity tourism industry.

Women who come into the country via maternity tourism use fake passports and apply for their visas under using false identities. Women often say that they have won a

trip to the US on a Chinese radio show; this is the most common excuse for a temporary visa that maternity tourism women use. The other main offense committed by the maternity tourism industry is defrauding hospitals. Women and the heads of maternity tourism industries travel to local hospitals once labor begins. After staying at the hospital the women often do not pay their hospital bills. LA hospitals have lost several hundreds of thousands of dollars to the birthing tourism industry and are unable to track down the women with unpaid bills because of their false identities.

Police records show that many clients who neglected to pay hospital bills did so by choice, not because of poverty. One woman apprehended in the recent bust was 30,000 dollars in medical bill debt, but she had spent 28,000 dollars at LA designer stores during her stay in the US. Women who travel for maternity tourism generally have middle class to upper class status in their home countries, which makes sense considering that a maternity tourism trip usually costs around 40,000 dollars.

Maternity tourism in the US continues to grow. Homeland Security estimates that any number of children, ranging from 40,000 to 300,000, are "the product of birthing tourism" every year.

(Sources: USA Today, Daily Caller, LA Times, NY Daily News)