

The On-Going Rape Culture Of Frat House Silicon Valley Tech Executives

Edition 4

- The cover-ups and wink-wink-nudge-nudge square jawed frat boy misogyny of Silicon Valley is exacerbated by white washing from the San Jose Mercury News, CBS 5 Bay Area, The SF Chronicle, Town and Country Magazine, Google, Facebook and other white male media facades.
- What is the “Omerta” club on University Avenue in Palo Alto, California that keeps the vow of silence alive?
- Do Stanford University executives look the other way, and supply young girls as “interns”, in order to keep the endowment cash coming in from the male patriarchs of rich families?
- Are the reception areas on SandHill Road just one “big grab bag of naive interns offering free sex for tech CEO’s” as one Google executive said?
- The tech execs have created an insulated bubble where crime has no punishment, woman are either trophies or “baby ovens” and ego is god!

I'll 'make their life miserable': tech CEO bullies low-income vendors by his home

The comments mark the latest example of a male tech CEO making aggressive, insensitive and tone-deaf remarks about people less fortunate than them



[Sam Levin](#) in San Francisco

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A [Silicon Valley](#) tech CEO has sparked backlash for comments slamming local fruit vendors, saying he would “make their life miserable” and “destroy” their produce if they were stationed near his house – making him the latest wealthy Californian entrepreneur to publicly rail against low-income people.

Mark Woodward, CEO of software company Invoca, [published](#) – and later deleted – a Facebook post saying that he would have no qualms about aggressively harassing unauthorized fruit sellers in his neighborhood if they got near his home.

I would go out there and make their life miserable. I would do whatever it took to make them leave. If that meant destroying some of their produce, or standing out there with signs to chase everyone away, Or just making them very uncomfortable, I would do that in a heartbeat.”

The comments were published on a public San Jose real estate page called [Willow Glen Charm](#) in response to an [anonymous post](#) complaining about fruit sellers. They mark only the latest example of a male tech CEO making aggressive, insensitive and tone-deaf remarks about people less fortunate than them.



— Ted (@Galaxy_19) [April 29, 2016](#)

Invoca CEO Mark Woodward in hot water for insensitive comments

<https://t.co/odeg3POOwp> <pic.twitter.com/Zm7ALbE9PR>

Asked for comment on Monday, Woodward declined to apologize. “There were some other incidents leading up to this that led to my emotional reaction,” he said in a statement, sent by a spokeswoman.

“I removed the statements because I realized bringing a nuanced conversation to a social forum where it could be taken out of context was not the best way to bring resolution to a serious, multi-faceted issue.”

Woodward’s comments come at a time when experts have increasingly raised concerns about the way [tech firms have exacerbated income inequality](#), with low-income workers and people of color increasingly [struggling to make ends meet](#) in the northern California communities that are home to some of the wealthiest companies in the world.

In February, tech entrepreneur and startup founder Justin Keller [wrote an open letter](#) to the mayor and police chief of San Francisco, complaining that “wealthy working people have earned their right to live in the city” without passing by homeless people on a regular basis. “I shouldn’t have to see the pain, struggle, and despair of homeless people to and from my way to work,” he wrote.

In 2015, startup CEO Greg Gopman landed in hot water after he [ranted](#) about the homeless, calling them “the lower part of society”, a “burden and liability” and “degenerates” who “gather like hyenas”.

Startup founder Peter Shih was forced to delete a Medium post he wrote in 2013 called [10 Things I Hate About You: San Francisco Edition](#), in which he complained about San Francisco having “some of the craziest homeless people” who don’t deserve money.

In the wake of immediate firestorms and ensuing PR disasters, Keller, Gopman and Shih all apologized for their remarks.

The San Francisco Examiner [first reported on the Facebook screed](#), noting that, before he deleted his comments, Woodward defended his stance in response to critical neighbors, writing: “I had a family, not from our neighborhood who was constantly digging through the recycle bins in our neighborhood illegally. I confronted them rather aggressively and they have never been back.”

Woodward recently noted on his [LinkedIn page](#) that Invoca has raised \$30m. The company, which specializes in marketing and phone data, [advertises](#) its leadership team as the “big brains and small egos creating amazing technology”.

The original commenter on the Facebook thread called the fruit vendors “complete strangers”, complaining that they were “watching our homes, knowing what time we leave for work, what time our kids leave for school and what packages arrive from FedEx or UPS”.

Other commenters on the Facebook page expressed outrage at those criticizing the fruit sellers, noting that many of them were Latino residents who cause no disturbances and “struggle every day to make ends meet”.

If you have information about this story contact: sam.levin@theguardian.com

Horrific Google Anal Sex Slave Case Uncovers Twisted Perversions Of Google Executives

By Samantha Conners - APT

Michael Goguen, Google's married senior investor, “sexually and physically” abused Amber Laurel Baptiste with constant anal sex over more than 13 years after picking her up at a Texas strip club. His company: Sequoia Capital, has had other run-ins with cheating married executives, escorts and tax evasion schemes, per legal filings.

Eric Schmidt, the head of Google, proclaimed that he would have a “open marriage” where he could have sex any time, with anybody, and is documented in a ream of news articles and video regarding his fifteen million dollar “sex penthouse” in New York.

Sergey Brin, another head of Google, is featured in numerous news articles for his “three way sex romp” with multiple Google employees forcing one employee to move to China to escape him.

A married Google senior executive named Hayes, who helped rig Google's searches for political clients, was murdered on his “sex yacht” by his prostitute, which other Google executives had used.

Ravi Kumar, another VC associated with Google Executives, was also murdered by a pack of hookers and pimps that frequented his Silicon Valley home.

Valley Girls was a private escort service that used Stanford Co-eds to service the sexual kinks of Google executives.

Ellen Pao famously sued Google founding investor John Doerr, and his company Kleiner Perkins, for sexual abuse.

Google employee divorce filings hold the Silicon Valley record for use of the word “abuse” as one of the reasons given in the legal papers filed to initiate the divorce.

The list of kinky, twisted, bizarre sexual antics of Google executives, and their investors, goes on for pages and pages...

Google seems to attract the most twisted, perverted, morally decrepit men in the world.

One has to wonder why, of all the large companies on Earth, only Google got to place the majority of it's people in the White House? That's right, Nike doesn't have it's people in the White House. Macy's doesn't either. Neither does Chevron, or John Deere tractor or any other company on Earth.

Only Google, exclusively and uniquely, had all of their people placed in the White House and top federal agency lead positions. What's up with that? Were they selected because of their technical skills or their ability to make people bend over?

An addiction to dirty sexual perversions are not the only illicit trends that Google folks display. The Google investors are members of a financing cartel called the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA). This group of frat boy elitists got busted for running the “Angelgate” scandal in which they

were documented rigging, colluding, black-listing and contriving the whole Silicon Valley start-up industry.

Then they were caught again when Eric Schmidt, Mr. “Sex Penthouse” and the head of Google, wrote emails ordering a conspiracy against Silicon Valley engineers. This “No Poaching” conspiracy got the Silicon Valley VC's sued in a class-action lawsuit, which the VC's lost. The Google founder's best friend: Jacques Littlefield, kept the world's largest private fully functional military tank squadron, in fully operational status, hidden in vast warehouses in his Silicon Valley estate in Woodside, California. He said he had this arsenal: “just in case”. Does Google make white frat house men insane or does it draw the crazy ones to it?

The FBI is finally crunching down on these people. After so many years of the White House ordering the FBI to leave the Google VC's and Silicon Valley perverts alone, it was just getting plain embarrassing for the FBI. The audacious impunity with which Google, and it's friends, engaged in tax evasion, importing hookers, bribery, stock market rigging, anti-trust schemes and other crimes has become so overt, in the media, that it was created a spotlight on federal law enforcements avoidance of prosecution of the shenanigans of the Google crowd.



What Silicon Valley Thinks of Women

BY NINA BURLEIGH / JANUARY 28, 2015 5:41 PM EST

As the World Deflates / The End of Childhood

Newsweek.

02.06.2015

**What
Silicon
Valley
Thinks
of Women**



THE HUNTING GROUND exposes how Silicon Valley Elite families order colleges to cover-up Frat House rapes.

THE HUNTING GROUND tackles sexual assault on college campuses, institutional cover-ups and the rise of a new student movement. Weaving together vérité footage and first-person testimonies, **THE HUNTING GROUND** follows survivors as they pursue their education while fighting for justice — despite harsh retaliation, endless harassment and pushback at every level.

THE HUNTING GROUND is written and directed by Kirby Dick and produced by Amy Ziering. It features the original song "Til It Happens To You" written by Diane Warren and Lady Gaga, performed by Lady Gaga.

Kleiner Perkins and the Rape Culture of Silicon Valley

<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2015/10/25/18779254.php>

Much has been written about Silicon Valley's "Rape Culture" but what does that term mean?

It refers to rich white men who were raised to believe that they had special social privileges because their parents, and fraternity houses, trained them to think that they existed in order to use others to meet their needs for pleasure, power and money.

This concept of "White Elitist Privilege" is a passed-on concept of land-owner and factory-owner control created in the feudal times of old Europe.

The people who owned the land, and resources, acquired by organized European murder fests called: "land wars"; created a mythos which sought to trick those who did not own those things into thinking that the rich owners had special powers, or special wisdom, due to some magic in their "blood-lines".

In fact, due to the rape of servants, cousins, townspeople and siblings, almost no "blood-lines" remained pure for long in the "nobility".

One might suggest that, ***"if the townspeople were stupid enough to believe that some guy named Smith had super-powers because he was named Smith, then they deserved all of the use-and abuse that they were subjected to"***. This would be a Machiavellian, and harsh, assumption about people who were, essentially, brainwashed, from birth, to believe that the feudal Lord was better than them. As the CIA, and Google, have proven, it only takes a month of repetitive information iteration to brainwash the political, social or moral beliefs of any population.

In Silicon Valley the Joe Lonsdale rape case, the Ellen Pao Sex abuse case, The Ravi Kumar and Forrest Hayes Sex murder cases, The Stanford Frat house rape cover-ups, the Intern sex abuse scandals, The Stanford Professor's Sex scandals, The Silicon Valley Hooker parties, The Rosewood Hotel Thursday Night Sex Pick-up parties and hundreds of other twisted perversions, which involve a Silicon Valley VC, or Tech exec, abusing a lower income person are flowing like water down the tainted white water rapids of technology deviancy.

While being an intern, Stanford co-ed, or blonde divorcée, in Palo Alto, pretty much guarantees that you will face a gauntlet of high-tech date rape drugs, extortion, moral compromise and VC sexual exploitation, the rapes and social abuse do not end with the sex. All of the fraternity houses that the Silicon Valley VC's came from have now been charged with "rape factory" abuses. These men were raised as, and trained as, abusive animals, on every level.

BUT, Imagine having your brain raped!

The VC's buy the politicians, tax investigators, SEC officers and law enforcement agents that are supposed to stop them from doing their crimes.

These VC's have paid billions of dollars to Presidential, Senate, Gubernatorial, Attorney General and Mayoral campaigns, as bribes, in order to buy their way out of any law enforcement attention. The FBI should be stringing them up, but...for some special reason: they don't. This is the rape of America's

political system. It is a rape of the public trust of over 300 million citizens. Their bribes, to allow over a trillion of their tax dollars to be hidden overseas, rapes our schools of our teachers and rapes our streets of pot-hole repair. Are your local services being cut? Thank John Doerr and Eric Schmidt.

The Silicon Valley VC's have also formed a Mafia-like Cartel. This dark and spooky men's club came from the Skull and Bones, Bohemian Club concept of Omerta secrecy rich boys who sought to control things by only doing business with each other in order to commercialize the commercialization of monopoly creation. They do everything you saw in the Francis Ford Coppola "Godfather" movies except they wear more khaki and drive Tesla's instead of Cadillacs.

There is no other region, in all of America, which holds the title of misogyny, prostitution and sexual extortion capital of the nation. This fact is proven by the tens of thousands of articles, and complaints published about Silicon Valley's abuses; and about no other city in The Nation.

Ever since HP created Sandhill road, the Cartel was just white boys. Because those white boys made their profits out of flying clever, cheap Indians over from India, getting their ideas, then shipping them back to India, before they could make any stock claims, a few Indian VC's created a sub-Cartel. While they tried to play off their cultural "robes and temples" crunchy granola marketing, few missed the reality that India is the organized rape capital of the world. The Indian VC's turned out to rape even more than the White Frat Boy VC's.

The brains of the Silicon Valley rapist VC's have one big problem...

They have had decades of programming and training to run spreadsheets out to the smallest decimal point but they can't invent a good, creative, idea to save their souls. They are financial experts and ideation idiots.

To get the things that their Cartel wants to exploit, they usually steal their ideas. They rape the brains of others, often without paying for it.

They invite the idea people in for a chat, under the guise and pretense of: ***"we are thinking about investing in your idea.."*** In most cases, this come-on line is total ***horsesh*t***.

They are inviting you in to get you to give them a free data dump, your "pitch meeting" at their offices is their fishing expedition to see what they want to steal from you.

The odds are small that you will be wearing the IZOD shirt, khaki pants, short greased haircut and have the perfectly symmetrical square jawed Aryan look that the VC's have. They will hate you the moment they see you. You have been excluded from their club the second you walked through their door. You don't have the look. You didn't pass the ivy league "one-of-us" sniff test.

But you still have some power, you have the idea and the technology...for the last few minutes before you open your mouth.

They will say: ***"...now; we are all friends here. Tell us everything. We don't sign non-disclosure agreements but we won't steal your idea..ha, ha.. if we stole ideas, how could we still be in business.. ha, ha.."***

You just bent over and spread your cheeks for them.

They will, then, listen carefully to your idea, take notes, argue a few points to try to get you to do more of their homework and then thank you and tell you they will “*discuss it internally*”, which means they will immediately start organizing a thieving party if your idea had any interest for them.

All of the VC's on SandHill road, in Palo Alto, know each other and conspire and collude together, as proven in the “AngelGate”, “No Poaching”, “The Chieky Attack”, “Sony Hack”, “HSBC Hack” and other scandals.

One VC steals the idea and passes it to another to copy it, rename it and launch it via one of their friends. YouTube, Google, Facebook, Ebay and many other famous companies were created this way. That is why the VC's poured billions into trying to bribe Congress to overthrow the patent laws. The VC's live in fear of paying the creators they stole from.

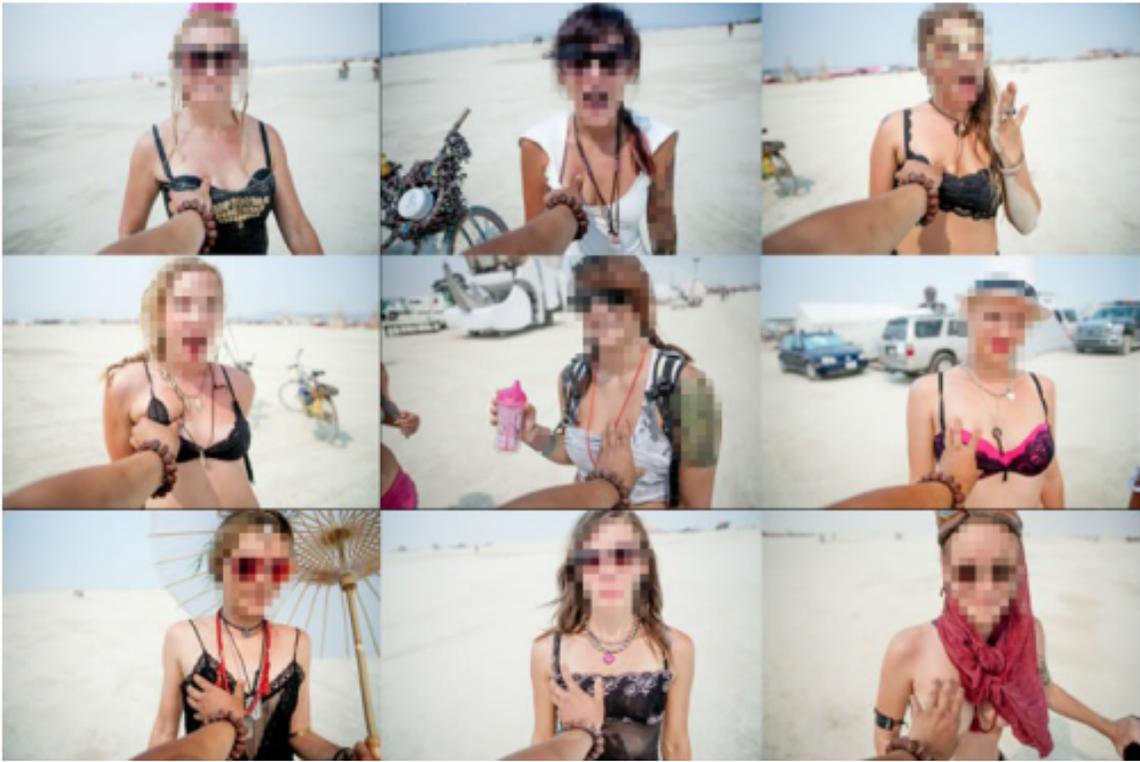
When they see a great idea that they want to steal, they hire their buddies at Wired, Tech Crunch, Gawker Media or Hearst Publications to write a hatchet job article, or series of blog postings that defame and character assassinate you, while denigrating your technology and saying that it is impossible for your technology to work. They do this to prevent any possibility of non-Cartel VC's from their Silicon Valley Cartel or the NVCA (essentially the same thing) from funding you and competing with their theft scheme.

Ironically, their total clone copycat version of your technology, that they deliver, works fine. Even though they said, in their slam articles, that it was impossible for it to work.

So they raped you, thieved you, used you and shut you down. Isn't Silicon Valley lovely?

In the Kleiner Perkins sex abuse law suit, the Tom Perkins “Nazi Scandal”, The Ray Lane tax evasion investigation, Kleiner's Vinohd Khosla beach lawsuit, the Steven Chu Cleantech Crash and Solyndra crimes, AngelGate, The Eric Schmidt Sex Penthouse and White House manipulation investigation, The In-Q-Tel funds and an army of other scandals; one thing is clear: Silicon Valley VC's have no respect for morality or the law.

Voters must demand that the state and federal government bring crushing investigations, and penalties, to these VC's and tech responsibility-dodgers because their crimes affect every single citizen.



(SILICON VALLEY'S BURNING MAN FESTIVAL INVOLVES TECH MEN FREELY GROPING YOUNG GIRLS IN THE NEVADA DESERT)

Ex-stripper describes 13-year nightmare as tech titan's sex slave

By [Joe Tacopino](#)

Michael Goguen Photo: AP

A Silicon Valley venture capitalist has been sued for \$40 million by a woman who claims he used her as a virtual sex slave for 13 years.



Modal Trigger

Michael Goguen, who had worked for a firm that funded Google and Paypal, “sexually and physically” abused Amber Laurel Baptiste over more than 13 years after picking her up at a Texas strip club, her lawsuit alleges.

Baptiste, who claims she was brought to the United States from Canada by human traffickers at 15, said she endured “countless hours of forced sodomy” from the tech titan.

The former stripper said Goguen made her endure demeaning sexual acts, sodomized her for “six hours at a time,” and forced her to call him “king” and “emperor.”

Filed in San Mateo County, Calif., on March 8, her suit details a life of torture and servitude as she was jetting around the globe to serve as the millionaire’s plaything.

She claims Goguen had promised to save her from human trafficking but instead became an even worse predator himself.



Modal Trigger

Photo: FilmMagic

Goguen, who was forced to step down from his position at Sequoia Capital, did not deny that the two had a sexual relationship but insisted the sex was consensual.

He filed a countersuit against Baptiste claiming she is an “exotic dancer . . . looking for a payday.”

The venture capitalist said Baptiste was obsessed with him and sought to extort him because she was jealous of his wife.



Modal Trigger

In his countersuit, Goguen provides pages of texts and emails in which she apparently refers to him as “Prince Charming,” “My Beautiful Love” and “the sweetest man in the world.”

The suit includes Baptiste’s descriptions of the “amazing sex” the two had together and photos that she allegedly sent him in which she is seen playfully posing in her underwear.

Baptiste is demanding \$40 million, saying the two agreed on the amount to compensate her for the horrors she had suffered.

Goguen, who has already paid her \$10 million, said she is “a woman scorned” and a victim “of her own delusions.”

He claims that when he tried to end their relationship, Baptiste became bent on vengeance, threatening to ruin his life and reputation.

He said that he had no choice but to pay her the \$10 million, but that she refused to relent and demanded more money.

Sequoia Capital released a statement that called Goguen’s departure from the firm the “appropriate course of action.”

A philanthropist, Goguen was lauded for donating \$2 million to fight online child pornography and sex trafficking where he lives in Montana.

Goguen is not the only business leader who's faced backlash over sexually inappropriate behavior.

[Daily Intelligencer](#) [horrible things](#)

The Sickening Rape Allegations Against a Silicon Valley Mogul

By [Jessica Roy](#)



Photo: Brian Ach/Getty Images

Last week, 24-year-old Elise Clougherty, a Stanford neuro-engineering graduate and former Ford print model, [filed a lawsuit](#) against Joseph Lonsdale, a powerful Silicon Valley entrepreneur who, along with Peter Thiel, co-founded the secretive data-mining company Palantir Technologies. The graphic suit alleges that from February 2012 to February 2013, Lonsdale took advantage of his position as Clougherty's mentor in a Stanford mentorship program to physically, emotionally, and sexually abuse her.

Less than two days after Clougherty's suit was made public, Lonsdale set up a defense [website](#) featuring a long letter that framed Clougherty as a vindictive ex-girlfriend with mental issues whose overbearing mother was intimately involved in her life. He then filed his own defamation [countersuit](#), claiming their relationship was consensual and furnishing email

correspondences and a signed statement from one of Clougherty's close friends to discredit her allegations.

Lonsdale doesn't come with the mysterious mythology that surrounds Peter Thiel or have the name recognition of Mark Zuckerberg, but despite being only 32 years old, he's well established among Silicon Valley's elite. A Stanford grad himself, Lonsdale co-founded Palantir in 2004 and served as the co-head of product before leaving in 2009 to found Addepar, a financial software company. In 2013, he launched Formation 8, a venture capital firm that is also named in Clougherty's lawsuit. An outspoken libertarian, Lonsdale has been [named](#) as a member of Rand Paul's "nascent finance team" and has hosted fund-raising events for the potential presidential candidate. Largely considered one of Thiel's protégés, he's also a proponent of seasteading and [served](#) as chairman of the Seasteading Institute.

Clougherty, who is currently pursuing a masters in data science at UVA as well as working as a gender violence activist, alleges in the suit that after meeting through mutual friends and maintaining a professional and sporadic email correspondence, Lonsdale specifically sought her out as a mentee in Stanford's technology entrepreneurship mentor program. Though Clougherty had already been assigned two mentors, Lonsdale allegedly convinced the professor running the program, a friend, to reassign Clougherty to be his mentee. He arranged an internship for Clougherty at Formation 8 in the summer of 2012, where he served as her direct boss.

"Mr. Lonsdale took advantage of his position of power and Ms. Clougherty's youth and trusting personality to draw her into a highly deviant, abusive, and controlling relationship during which he perpetrated hundreds of non-consensual, and often violent, sexual acts upon her," reads the suit.

When Clougherty attempted to confront her mentor about his abuse, he would react violently to keep her from protesting; on occasion, he would admit to his abuse, "but claimed that he had a sickness, that he could not control himself, and that he needed her help to change."

Clougherty's civil suit, which seeks at least \$75,000 in damages, details graphic and upsetting claims of abuse stretching across the U.S. and Europe. Among those [claims](#):

- "On the night of their first sexual encounter, Ms. Clougherty believed that Mr. Lonsdale was picking her up from campus to go to dinner in Palo Alto to discuss her team's project. Instead, Mr. Lonsdale drove her back to his home in Los Altos Hills. Shortly after arriving at his house, he started to kiss her aggressively and to try to take off her pants. Despite Ms. Clougherty trying to avoid him and pushing his hands away from her crotch at least a half dozen times, Mr. Lonsdale persisted. Mr. Lonsdale then pulled Ms. Clougherty into a bedroom where he took off her clothes and his pants, and began to penetrate her with his flaccid penis. During this episode, Mr. Lonsdale acted as though he were not doing anything wrong and made comments insinuating that Ms. Clougherty had wanted the sexual contact."
- "In the following weeks, Mr. Lonsdale repeatedly continued to force Ms. Clougherty to have sexual contact with him without her consent. From very early on, Mr. Lonsdale repeatedly told Ms. Clougherty that it was women's nature to enjoy being raped, especially if they are raped by a man with greater means."

- "Before [a trip to London], Mr. Lonsdale told Ms. Clougherty that he had booked two hotel rooms — one for him, and one for her. When Ms. Clougherty arrived in London to meet him, she discovered that he had booked only one room. In London, Mr. Lonsdale continued to force her to have sexual contact with him without her consent. Throughout the trip, Mr. Lonsdale deprived her of both food and sleep by scheduling late night and early morning activities, delaying meals, not ordering her enough food, and other such tactics."
- "On the last evening of [a trip to] Rome, Mr. Lonsdale forcibly raped Ms. Clougherty. In their hotel room, Mr. Lonsdale penetrated her with several fingers, and then abruptly started penetrating her with his erect penis. She immediately pulled away from him. He then grabbed her and penetrated her again. She immediately pulled away a second time and ran into the bathroom, where she locked the door and cried for several hours."
- "To control Ms. Clougherty, Mr. Lonsdale employed many forms of psychological manipulation and control on her, including but not limited to 'positive intermittent reinforcement,' 'gaslighting,' isolation, sleep deprivation, food deprivation, anger, embarrassment, and guilt."
- "Mr. Lonsdale repeatedly commented to Ms. Clougherty that women needed to be raped to learn to be loyal and that they really enjoyed being raped more than they let on."
- "During intercourse, he would regularly shake Ms. Clougherty violently and would not stop, despite her protests, until she promised she would always 'listen to her master.' In addition to shaking her violently during sexual assaults, he also began strangling her, slapping her, scratching her, yanking her by the hair so hard that he would lift her torso off the bed, and slamming her body against the walls and bedboards. He would growl and yell derogatory comments at her. He frequently covered her face with a pillow or pushed her face to the side so that she could not look at him. Mr. Lonsdale also often treated Ms. Clougherty's body like an object — for example, grabbing her head and using it to push open a shower door."
- "Mr. Lonsdale typically forced Ms. Clougherty to have sex several times a day — on some occasions, as many as ten or more times a day. When Ms. Clougherty was on her period, Mr. Lonsdale's attacks were especially frequent. He often would not let her buy tampons and seemed to relish getting her blood everywhere — on her clothing, bed sheets, hotel furniture, car and bus seats, and elsewhere. He would not let her clean up the blood, and would get very angry with her if she tried to clean it up. On one occasion, in a hotel room, he even picked up her naked body and made her sit on the hotel furniture so as to smear her blood all over it."

The relationship ended in February 2013 when Clougherty's mother found out about the alleged abuse and they decided to report it to Stanford. The school hired an outside investigator to delve into her claims. The investigation found that Lonsdale had likely violated Title IX and that it was "more likely than not that [Ms. Clougherty] expressed to [Mr. Lonsdale] that she did not want to engage in the sexual conduct in question, but that [Mr. Lonsdale] did not comply with [her] request."

Lonsdale, for his part, categorically denies all of the claims in Clougherty's lawsuit. "This is a malicious attempt to destroy me, pure and simple," he [wrote](#) on his website. "The facts and the evidence refute every allegation, however, and I will not allow my name and reputation to be tarnished

any further." His [counterclaim](#), filed on January 30, states that Clougherty is capitalizing on the brewing discussion of campus sexual assault in order to discredit him.

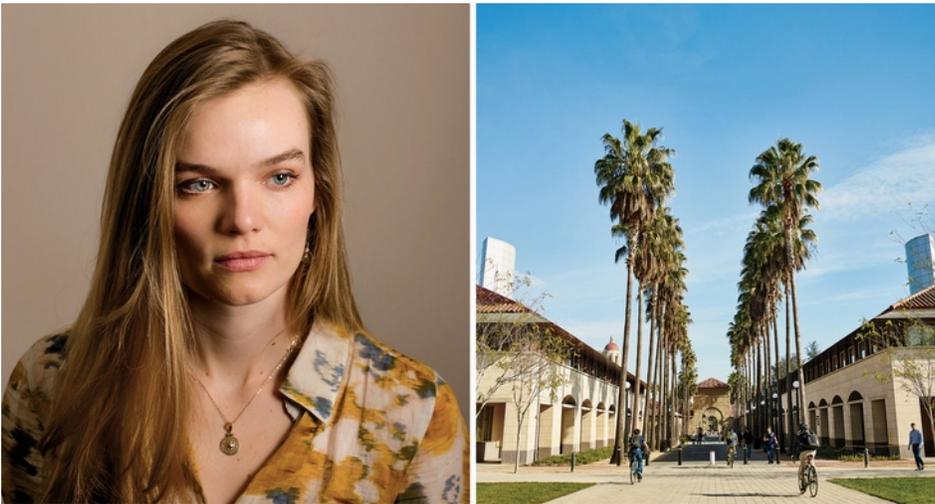
After ending the relationship, the suit states that Clougherty was forced to undergo medical leave from Stanford so she could be treated for her resulting PTSD, but graduated in 2013 after completing her treatment.

Update: Formation 8 said in a statement: "These allegations are inconsistent with the partner we have come to know over the past few years. Moreover, we have very clear employment procedures at Formation 8, and Ms. Clougherty was never an employee of Formation 8."

The Stanford Undergraduate and the Mentor

By EMILY BAZELON

Photo



Credit Left, Elinor Carucci for The New York Times; Ian Allen for The New York Times

On a weekend in March almost three years ago, Ellie Clougherty flew from London to Rome with Joe Lonsdale. She was a 21-year-old junior at Stanford University, and it was her first trip to Italy. Lonsdale, then 29, was a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, and he booked a room for them for two nights in a luxury hotel — a converted Renaissance mansion in the shadow of the Pantheon — and arranged a special excursion, with a friend of his who is an architect, to an archaeological site amid the ruins of the Golden House on Palatine Hill, overlooking the Colosseum. Under a light gray sky, they stood on plexiglass bridges and looked down at the uncovered remains of what is thought to be a fabled [rotating dining room](#) that the Emperor Nero built for extravagant banquets. Lonsdale is a Roman-history buff, and he told Clougherty about the emperors, praising their civilization and engineering feats.

The couple also went with Lonsdale's friend to the Vatican. Clougherty, who is Catholic, was wearing a short dress and a light cardigan. For modesty's sake, she draped Lonsdale's sport coat over her shoulders and tied her sweater around her waist. As she walked with reverence in St. Peter's Basilica,

she recalls, she touched the foot of a bronze statue of St. Peter and, as many believers do, made a wish. “I asked if God would help me with whatever was happening between me and Joe,” she said, in one of many conversations we had over the past seven months. “It was like, ‘I don’t quite understand what this is, but please help.’ ”

Clougherty and Lonsdale had been dating over the previous couple of weeks, while he was her assigned mentor for an undergraduate course at Stanford called Technology Entrepreneurship, Engineering 145. The limited-enrollment class offered a combination of academics, business skills and access to Silicon Valley that has made Stanford the [most-sought-after university in the country](#), with the [most competitive undergraduate admissions](#) and [among the highest donations](#). More than any other school, Stanford is the gateway to the tech world, and computer science is the most popular major. Each year, new young multimillionaires are minted, some just months after graduation.

Lonsdale, who also went to Stanford, made much of his fortune by helping to start Palantir Technologies, a major data-mining company. He was among the “top entrepreneurs and venture capitalists,” according to the [course description](#), many of them alumni, who came to campus as mentors for E145. “Students will learn how to tell the difference between a good idea in the dorm and a great scalable business opportunity,” the E145 handbook for mentors says. “Guide them and challenge them.” Stanford students are well aware of how valuable these contacts are. Around the time Clougherty took E145, another student’s project, a virtual-payment app, [attracted an investment](#) from a Google board member who was a guest speaker in the course. It became the start-up Clinkle, with [initial financing of \\$25 million](#).

After sightseeing in Rome, Lonsdale and Clougherty were together in the hotel room they were sharing when she started dressing for evening Mass. Lonsdale came up behind her and kissed her, touching her neck and hair and telling her she was beautiful. She had told him she was a virgin. Both agree they had sex. But what actually went on between them that night, and throughout their yearlong relationship, would become highly contested. After the relationship ended, Clougherty accused Lonsdale of sexual assault. Stanford investigated whether he broke the university’s rule against “consensual sexual and romantic relationships” between students and their mentors and, later, whether he raped her. The findings from the investigations have sparked a war of allegations and interpretations, culminating last month with dueling lawsuits, filled with damaging accusations. This case, which has been [picked up by the media](#), does not fit neatly into the narratives that have fueled an ongoing national conversation about sexual assault of students on campus. But it exposes the risks of Stanford’s open door to Silicon Valley and the pressure that universities are under to do more for students who say they’ve been raped. It also reveals the complexity of trying to determine the truth in a high-stakes case like this one.

Growing up in the suburbs of Fairfax County, Virginia, Clougherty thought at one point about becoming a nun. She set that idea aside by age 15 as she became interested in neuroscience. By then she was also a professional model. Clougherty is 5-foot-10, lithe and blond, with an open, “almost luminous” presence, as one of her professors put it. Traveling to catalog shoots for companies like Target and Kohl’s, she missed a lot of school. Her closest relationship was with her mother, Anne, a former systems engineer who sold a software company in 2000 that she started with her brothers and

then continued to work for part time. She accompanied her daughter when she modeled, while her husband, an anesthesiologist, stayed home with her three younger brothers.

Anne took care to protect her daughter from unwanted attention from men. When Clougherty was 10, her family says, a man accosted her in a restaurant on her way to the bathroom. As a teenager trying out for modeling jobs, she would put on heels and makeup for casting calls. “I looked so much older than I was,” Clougherty said. “There were always just a lot of men, complete strangers, on the subways and in the streets, blocking me off or following me, touching my breasts, grabbing my arm. I’d have to walk through them.”

Arriving at Stanford in 2009, Clougherty reveled in the spacious bounty of the California campus. “Everything was literally amazing,” she said. Like a lot of her peers, she felt drawn to the powerful industry next door but also anxious about how to find a footing. To network, she frequently went to tech events and mixers, collecting business cards from alumni and others who came to mingle with students.

Men hold [60 to 70 percent of the jobs](#) at major tech firms, and almost half of tech companies have [no female executives at all](#). Even more than in older, button-down industries, sexual-power dynamics can affect who advances. Many women told me that because they are in the minority, they often find themselves in the role of supplicant when trying to get a job or funding and that men often see professional interactions as sexual opportunities. One Stanford student told me about a male friend who dropped out to start a company and expressed interest in her programming skills. She felt pleased and then realized he saw her only as a datable girl. Another woman, who founded a start-up, described a similar situation. A male executive introduced her to another more powerful man, at a mostly male conference, which she appreciated until it slowly became clear that “he was trying to become friends with this very successful entrepreneur by delivering me,” she said.

At the tech events that Clougherty went to, she was one of few women, and when men pursued her, she often felt overwhelmed and intimidated. She told her mother about it and could feel Anne’s concern radiating through their daily texts and phone calls. In the winter of her sophomore year, Clougherty developed an eating disorder. “I wanted to be invisible,” she told me. Alarmed, Anne flew from Virginia and spent two weeks on campus trying to get her daughter back on track.

But Clougherty was struggling, and she withdrew from her classes and went home for therapy for her eating disorder, including eight days of inpatient treatment. That spring, she took a trip with her mother to New York, where a photographer they had met through her modeling work introduced her to a friend of his from the tech world: Joe Lonsdale.

Photo



At Stanford, a complex relationship between a student and a Silicon Valley entrepreneur is under scrutiny. Credit Ian Allen for The New York Times

Lonsdale has blue eyes and a wide smile. He grew up in middle-class Fremont, Calif., surrounded by his father's large extended Irish-Catholic family. He was raised Jewish by his mother, who died when he was 25. At Lonsdale's elementary school, his father started a chess team that became one of the most successful in California, and the son memorized hundreds of the sequences of moves played by 19th-century masters on his way to becoming a Scholastic chess champion. He learned to code in junior high school and spent most of his time in front of the computer or hanging out in dens and basements with other boys.

As a Stanford student, he edited the conservative Stanford Review, where he encountered [Peter Thiel](#), its co-founder. Lonsdale advanced in a group of male libertarians who [saw the valley as a meritocracy built on pure talent](#). When Lonsdale graduated in 2004 with a degree in computer science, he went to work for Thiel, who created PayPal. Helping the company fight hackers, Lonsdale learned about weaknesses in the government's surveillance systems and saw a business opportunity. "In the valley, people thought we were crazy, because you're not supposed to build a business based on deals with the government," he told me. "We had this very divergent big mission."

With early funding from the C.I.A., Lonsdale helped Thiel and others start Palantir. [Named for the "seeing stones" in "The Lord of the Rings."](#) the company developed powerful data-mining software for surveillance and won [contracts](#) with hundreds of law-enforcement agencies, including the National Security Agency and the Defense Department. In 2009, Lonsdale went on to other ventures but retained a stake in Palantir, whose value would climb to more than [\\$9 billion](#). In 2011, with a small group of partners, some of whom had close ties to Asia, Lonsdale started the venture-capital fund [Formation 8, named for a lucky number in China](#). Along with starting and financing companies, he has continued to embrace libertarian causes and recently [joined](#) the finance team for Senator Rand Paul's possible Republican presidential campaign. And he sometimes can't resist showing off his newfound wealth: For a [viewing party](#) of HBO's "Game of Thrones" last year, Lonsdale bought a \$30,000 replica of the show's iron throne, posing on it like the show's line of blustering and sadistic kings.

After meeting in New York, Clougherty and Lonsdale struck up an intermittent, bantering email correspondence. Lonsdale mentioned that he had a serious girlfriend. But when Clougherty went back to Stanford in the fall of 2011 for her junior year, he asked her to meet him at a Palo Alto bar for a drink. "I'd love to get together and learn more about your ambitions," he wrote.

The following January, Clougherty started E145, which was part of her self-designed major in management science and neuroengineering. She imagined some day starting a company that would find a socially responsible application of neurological research. The E145 professor matched Clougherty's team of four students with two mentors. Then Clougherty got an email from Lonsdale. "Ellie — is this the class you're in/do you require mentorship? haha," he wrote, forwarding a general query the teacher had sent him about mentoring for the course, which Lonsdale had done previously. Later that day, Lonsdale was switched onto Clougherty's team. In the first weeks of the course, Clougherty and Lonsdale met with other students on the team, and also met alone.

Late at night on Feb. 7, 2012, Clougherty texted her mother:

"Joe really really really seriously likes me."

"Yikes," Anne wrote back. "How does this keep happening :)"

"I've stopped questioning it," Clougherty answered. "There's nothing I can do at this point; thought I could control it once but no, nope, can't, it's now officially inevitable." Emailing a few days later, Clougherty and Lonsdale discovered they were each going to Europe for spring break, and Lonsdale invited her to Rome. "You are darling," he wrote when she asked a question about how personalities can interfere with work in the tech field.

severely unique and an incredible thing to witness.” Lonsdale was smitten. He told me that toward the end of his two-year relationship with his previous girlfriend, who was closer to his age, he would feel like “I was in trouble all the time” for working obsessively. But Clougherty was “this amazing young woman, so energetic and positive. She made me feel like everything I was doing was special.”

Anne was impressed by Lonsdale’s professional accomplishments, but as we drove through Virginia in October, she said she initially wondered what he saw in her college-age daughter. Anne is a tall, attractive and forceful presence, and she said that at the end of February, she flew to California for parents’ weekend at Stanford, and Clougherty arranged a dinner with Lonsdale. At first, Anne found him awkward. He had a hard time making eye contact, and she noticed his facial tic. (He cuffs his chin with his fist and grimaces.) But her doubts melted, she says, when he promised to guard her daughter from the valley’s wolfish atmosphere. Lonsdale says that the subject did not come up then, but that later he tried to shield Clougherty from other men. “She said guys were coming after her, and it got me angry,” he told me. “She’s very beautiful, and you want to protect her.”

A week later, Lonsdale gave Clougherty a dozen roses and took her on a picnic with caviar, crème fraîche and sparkling wine in a basket packed by his assistant. Instead of studying at the campus library, Clougherty sat by his fireplace to write her business plan for class. On Lonsdale’s bed, she found a gift of silk pajamas, which she reported to her mother with an “:O,” for open-mouthed. A couple of weeks later, he gave her a book about Julius Caesar, with the inscription “To Ellie — who helps me see the world with a new sense of wonder. Let’s explore and conquer together.” Because Clougherty already had plane tickets for her trip to Europe, her mother emailed with Lonsdale’s assistant about rearranging her daughter’s itinerary. Lonsdale and Clougherty planned to meet in London, and he bought her a ticket for his flight to Rome.

When Clougherty got back to campus in April, she had a newly glamorous life. Lonsdale sent cars to pick her up at her dorm so she could meet him in San Francisco. They saw each other regularly, carving out time between her classes and his fund-raising trips for Formation 8. One friend of Clougherty’s told me that she occasionally went out with the couple to extravagant events: “It was a cool life to be living — I thought she was experiencing a lot.” But Jane, another friend of Clougherty’s, whom she had known since freshman year, was more skeptical. She said she thought that Lonsdale was too old for Clougherty and told her so. After the Rome trip, it took Clougherty a few weeks to tell Jane, who asked me to use her nickname, that she had lost her virginity. “Before that, she’d said that as a Catholic, she wanted to wait for marriage, so she didn’t want to admit it,” Jane said. “But when she did tell me, she made being with Joe sound romantic.”

At the tech events, Clougherty was one of few women, and when men pursued her, she often felt overwhelmed and intimidated.

Late in April, Lonsdale and Clougherty flew to New York, where they met her mother. He got the three of them on the list for a posh event on the top of the Standard Hotel for the Tribeca Film Festival. Anne began to ask Lonsdale for his advice about business ventures, including one to rebrand Haitian products

like coffee and chocolate. “If you could give me an introduction,” she wrote in an email after seeing him in New York, “that would be great.”

Clougherty and Lonsdale started talking about a summer project she could do for Formation 8. They settled on a survey of “disruptive” technology, and Clougherty invited a friend from high school, Rachel, to come to California and work on it with her. Anne found them an apartment in Palo Alto. Lonsdale paid the rent. “It was a very weird summer,” Rachel told me over Skype. Lonsdale flew her and Clougherty to New York in July for a swank networking event and put them up at the St. Regis. But the survey they were supposed to complete went unfunded and unfinished. Spending evenings with Lonsdale and Clougherty, Rachel felt like a third wheel. She also found Lonsdale condescending. When Lonsdale hosted dinners at his house with other executives, Rachel said, she and Clougherty were sometimes the only women, and Rachel felt they were belittled. Sometimes Clougherty would sit on his lap. “It was like she was the pretty wallpaper,” Rachel said. He talked about marrying Clougherty and made jokes like, “ ‘I have no power with you — I’m a powerful man but I’m at your mercy,’ ” Rachel said. Clougherty told me that she wanted to believe she and Lonsdale could eventually be equals, using their joint influence for good. “I thought it would be so nice to have the chance to have an impact,” she said. “There are respectable women married to respectable guys in the valley. I wanted to think, I could be happy like that, too.”

In emails Clougherty wrote at the time, she told Lonsdale that she found him attractive. “Kiss kiss kiss, you are super handsome,” she wrote in June, and later, “You are a sexy man” and “It was so nice sleeping with you.” But around the same time, she also told Rachel that she never wanted to have sex with Lonsdale, beginning in Rome. “She said, ‘I don’t want to be having sex, but he’s not listening to me,’ ” Rachel said.

Rachel said she thought Lonsdale was manipulating Clougherty into spending the night at his house. “I could see on her face that she didn’t want to go, and then he’d start his trick. ‘You don’t want to spend time with me?’ ” Rachel talked about her concerns with Anne. Together they counseled Clougherty to explain to Lonsdale that she did not want to be spending nights with him. She said she did, but the nights together continued. “They had sex again, and she was upset about it, clearly,” Rachel said. “I reacted strongly. I said, ‘This is your decision.’ Her mom was there too. Then I realized Ellie felt a little upset. She felt we were judging her.”

Around the same time, Anne was emailing with Lonsdale about his plans to buy a new house. During that summer, she came out to look at real estate with the couple and attended the wedding of Lonsdale’s father. Lonsdale’s younger brother and other relatives complained that Anne was inserting herself into every corner of his life, and worried that she and Clougherty were after his wealth. But he brushed them off. “They thought I was a naïve guy screwing up, but I was in love,” he said.

In August, Lonsdale took Clougherty on a 10-day trip to raise money for Formation 8 in Hong Kong, Beijing and Seoul. Clougherty had no official role, but she was thrilled to be included in high-level meetings, with industry leaders like the chief executive of the Internet giant Baidu, and prided herself on helping Lonsdale. “I was on high alert to absorb everything I could, so I could be socially aware for him,” she said. “Like if he wasn’t fully listening to someone, I would say a few lines to cover.” At the

end of the trip, she expressed gratitude, writing to Lonsdale, “I love how much you trust me to bring me to all your meetings bc I literally couldn’t imagine a more awesome thing I’d rather do!”

But the trip also had difficult patches. In an email Lonsdale wrote to Clougherty after they returned, he acknowledged that she complained about not eating regularly and that they argued about religion. After they got home, she found old copies of Playboy magazine in his bureau drawer and became furious. Lonsdale told her she was overreacting. “I am really scared by how you are super positive about me one day — too much so — and then super negative the next,” he emailed. “This binary swinging between things is hurtful, and it’s also very immature.” She apologized in a long letter that described her struggle to recover from her eating disorder the previous year, including the inpatient treatment, which she had found terrifying. “Sometimes I think it would have been so much better had you met me a year from now, when I’m fully healed,” she wrote. Lonsdale thanked her for being open. “I think you will be all healed soon, and I hope I can help,” he wrote.

At the end of September, Lonsdale rented out the Hearst Castle, on the California coast, for a [lavish 30th-birthday party](#) with hundreds of guests. He was also celebrating the third anniversary of Addepar, a data-based platform for wealth management that he co-founded. The company’s logo, lit from behind, loomed above an outdoor pool at the castle. Clougherty’s parents flew out for the occasion, taking to the dance floor while their daughter circulated as hostess, wearing an embroidered cream-colored gown by Sue Wong that she and her mother shopped for. “It was like being a princess at a ball,” she told me. “It seemed magical on the surface.” At the end of the evening, Lonsdale broke the castle rules by jumping into one of the pools.

But over the autumn and winter, their relationship frayed. Lonsdale hit a crucial period of fund-raising for Formation 8, and Clougherty expressed resentment when he would ask her to come over late at night. He responded impatiently. “I don’t know what analogy makes sense to you, and Odysseus is probably not the right one,” he wrote in the fall. “But I am on a really big, difficult, critical mission the next several weeks.” It would be hard for the relationship to work, he warned, “if my darling is actually just sort of annoyed at me and isn’t in a position where of course she is eager to see me anytime I can.”

In December 2012, Lonsdale wrote Clougherty a long email. “We are dealing with serious relationship dysfunction,” he began, and laid out a list of examples in bullet points. The first read: “Sometimes I feel it’s very clear you are eager to engage sexually, but other times you will talk about me taking advantage of you and forcing myself on you as if there is this dirty old man/young innocent student dynamic, and I should feel badly about it. We will do something and then just a bit later you’ll talk as if ‘how can I stop you from making me do that?’ and yet earlier I honestly thought you wanted to.”

Lonsdale spent Christmas with Clougherty at her family’s home. They fought about a number of things, including the fact that he didn’t bring her a Christmas present. When he got home, Lonsdale broke up with her over email. When she returned to Stanford in the beginning of January, they started seeing each other again for what they called a trial period. Jane told Clougherty that she thought it was a bad idea for them to get back together. She says Clougherty told her that Lonsdale wanted to have sex “all the time” and that during it, he would put his hand on her throat. She didn’t think her friend was ready for the sexual relationship that Clougherty said Lonsdale wanted.

Photo



Joe Lonsdale and Ellie Clougherty in Rome, March 2012. Credit Photograph from Joe Lonsdale

On Jan. 7, she texted Anne: “I’m scared for Ellie. I don’t want her with Joe at all. In fact, I worry about her safety. The guy is a jackass. What’s going on there? I feel like I may be the only one at school who can look out for her.”

“I think you r the only one who looks out for her,” Anne said.

“But what is she thinking?” Jane replied. “From what I’ve heard it sounds horrific and the guy is a psycho. I feel like I’ve failed her because she doesn’t realize she doesn’t have to put up with someone like that. There are so many other unbroken people out there. Anne, I hate to say this but this guy definitely seems like the type who would abuse her.”

“Hmm,” Anne responded. “I don’t think he is that aggressive. More like a little clueless.”

But in a mid-February phone call, Clougherty told her mother that she was having a hard time making it to class, was not eating and was spending hours in her dorm room alone. Anne was worried. “I was saying, ‘Why can’t you just not be with him, why can’t you go to class, why can’t you go to the cafeteria, why can’t you be in control of your life?’ ” Anne said. “Over the phone, there were just these long silences. I thought, Something is dramatically wrong with her.”

Clougherty’s fragility reminded Anne of the state her daughter was in when she had to leave school more than a year earlier. She decided to go to California again. On the flight, she read a book suggested by a friend who had been in an abusive relationship called [“Why Does He Do That?: Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men.”](#) by a domestic-violence counselor, Lundy Bancroft. The book riveted Anne. She saw Lonsdale in the descriptions of an abuser and she saw Clougherty in the role of a victim

in denial. Anne got to Stanford bent on an urgent rescue. “I was bringing my daughter home no matter what,” she said.

Anne took her daughter to a hotel and gave her Bancroft’s book. Clougherty stayed up late reading and writing, going back and forth between the book and her computer. The next morning, sitting up in bed, she typed furiously on her laptop: “If I said no, he would slowly convince me/make it look like he was going to die if I didn’t climb on top of him. He would freak out when I mentioned I wanted to slow things down, even if it meant having sex only once each time I would see him. One time I cried hysterically because it freaked me out and he wouldn’t listen to me but he would then immediately start crying way harder than me saying he felt like a creepy old man and didn’t want to feel that way. I felt compelled to comfort him even though I was the one who felt violated.”

Clougherty decided she wanted to “escape.” She met Lonsdale in a Palo Alto park in late February, and they broke up while Anne and Jane waited for her in a nearby wine bar. When Anne went home a few days later, Jane tried to help Clougherty by deleting Lonsdale from her Facebook account and taking her out bowling and for ice cream.

“There has to be zero contact,” Jane texted Anne.

On March 1, Clougherty went to Stanford’s counseling center. She said that Lonsdale had forced her to have sex when she didn’t want to and also talked about the man who accosted her in the restaurant bathroom when she was 10. The university psychologist noted in a report that she “seems to have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder from current and past trauma.” Clougherty went home to Virginia and spent days crying and rocking in a corner of her family’s living room. Clougherty embarked on therapy twice a week with Keith Saylor, a clinical psychologist who treated her eating disorder. He used prolonged-exposure therapy, a [treatment developed for combat-related disorders](#), in which a therapist prompts a patient to describe deeply traumatic events. Later, patients listen to tapes of their sessions at home every day in an attempt to drain the memories of their power.

With Clougherty’s permission, I listened to tapes of their 90-minute sessions. As he typically does when conducting prolonged-exposure therapy, Saylor reflected back Clougherty’s account, saying that she had experienced “multiple traumas over a prolonged period of time that did repeated damage.” In one session, he told Clougherty, repeating her words, that Lonsdale “held you captive,” continuing, “You were essentially brainwashed over a year.”

On the tapes, Clougherty swallows sobs and speaks in a thin, small voice. She described particular sexual acts that she didn’t want to take part in and how Lonsdale cajoled, begged and insisted until she gave in. She also said that during sex he slapped and shoved her and put his hands around her neck. “It was rape in a sadomasochist way nine times a day,” she said. In a later session, Saylor again mirrored what she told him: “You didn’t have personal agency, you didn’t have personal choice, all of those things had been robbed from you.”

Initially, Clougherty told Saylor, as she had said to her friends, that she had sex for the first time with Lonsdale in Rome. Weeks into therapy, Clougherty said that early in the mentorship for E145, Lonsdale picked her up around 10 p.m. near campus for what she thought would be a quick dinner nearby so they

could talk about the class project. Without asking, she said, he took the highway south to his house in the Los Altos hills. When they went inside for dinner, Clougherty said, he surprised her by yanking her into a bedroom located off the kitchen and throwing her down on a king-size bed covered with a fur spread. He raped her, she said. Lonsdale denies that he drove her to his house without inviting her first and says he never raped her.

Before she went into therapy, Clougherty told me, she didn't want to admit even to herself that she had been raped. She wanted to believe that the relationship was loving, and she also felt she had a lot to lose. "It was like I could call him a rapist, and I could get judged and get in big trouble and not know how to handle it or I could say, 'He's great, look at these emails, I want to date that person,' " she said. "Trauma therapy was the first time I felt allowed to talk about how I felt."

Photo



The Center for Engineering Management, where Ellie Clougherty had Joe Lonsdale as a mentor. Credit Ian Allen for The New York Times

In the course of the therapy, Clougherty came to reject the term “relationship,” or even “abusive relationship,” to characterize her year with Lonsdale. She now calls it a “psychological kidnapping,” a term she came up with after watching a video about domestic abuse on the Internet, and she says she was raped every time she and Lonsdale had sex. Saylor, who agreed to speak with me at Clougherty’s request, said, “People in these kinds of dramatic circumstances sometimes don’t tell anyone.” He also said that prolonged-exposure therapy doesn’t “encourage perspective-taking” and that Lonsdale might have an entirely different view of the relationship. “My role is not to question her veracity but to help her get well.”

Clougherty finished her coursework for Stanford online when she was at home. During that time she decided she wanted Stanford to intervene. In May 2013, she and her parents went back to campus to ask the university to investigate Lonsdale's conduct. Her friend Jane saw this as a setback for Clougherty: "I said, 'Oh, no, you should move on.' "

Meanwhile on campuses throughout the country, a movement was taking shape. A growing number of students were coming forward to criticize their universities for the handling of sexual-assault cases. They had support from the government. In 2011, the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education sent a [letter](#) to every college and university in the country that receives federal funding, as almost all do, clarifying that under Title IX, the federal law passed in 1972 to prevent sex discrimination in education, colleges and universities had an obligation to prevent and respond to sexual violence and harassment. "Once a school knows or reasonably should know of possible sexual violence, it must take immediate and appropriate action to investigate or otherwise determine what occurred," the letter from the Office of Civil Rights warned.

The government also instructed schools to adopt a new standard for determining the outcome of a sexual-harassment or violence case. At the time, many schools used the standard of "clear and convincing" evidence, meaning that the adjudicators (usually a panel of administrators or faculty) believed that it was substantially more likely than not, or roughly 75 percent likely, that the accused had committed the offense. The letter from the civil rights office demanded that schools switch to a lower standard of proof, a "preponderance" of evidence, meaning that it was more likely than not — above 50.01 percent — that the offense was committed. The office noted that preponderance is the standard that courts use to decide civil suits for sexual harassment. A few schools, including [Princeton](#) and [Harvard](#), initially refused the new standard and then found themselves under investigation for suspected Title IX violations.

Stanford quickly followed the mandate by [adopting the preponderance standard](#). The university also adopted a policy requiring full investigations when students reported sexual harassment and assault. In May 2013, Clougherty submitted to Stanford a written account of her sexual-assault and harassment allegations, including selected texts and emails. The university appears to have initially investigated only whether Lonsdale broke the rules against consensual relationships between mentors and mentees, which the university treats as "inherently unequal," like relationships between teachers and students. Stanford said it cannot comment on any sexual-assault case unless a student waives his or her privacy protections under federal law. But Lisa Lapin, a spokeswoman for the university, wrote in an email that in light of these constraints "when unhappy parties tell their version of the stories to the press, it's no wonder that in virtually every case, the university ends up being portrayed in a highly negative light."

Marcia Pope, an outside investigator hired by the university, from the law firm Pillsbury, interviewed Lonsdale without a lawyer. He said that he didn't know about the rule against consensual relationships between mentors and mentees, which is posted on the university's website but was not included in the mentor handbook for E145. In June, Stanford found that Lonsdale had violated this rule and said he could not mentor undergraduates for 10 years.

Lonsdale was unhappy with the decision, but to Clougherty and her mother, the penalty seemed negligible. They were confused about why Stanford hadn't looked into her sexual-assault allegations. In November 2013, they attended a conference on gender-based violence at Harvard and heard a talk given by Diane Rosenfeld, a Harvard lecturer and lawyer. "Diane said, 'You have these rights in Title IX,' and that's when it clicked," Anne said. "I chased her into the bathroom and said: 'You have to meet my daughter. We need your help.' "

Rosenfeld agreed to represent Clougherty in negotiations with Stanford and Lonsdale over her allegations of sexual harassment and assault and gave her a refrigerator magnet with the slogan "You Are Pure Potential." The next month, Stanford, Clougherty, Lonsdale and their lawyers met for a daylong mediation. Before the meeting Clougherty texted Jane: "Totally joe take down scheme!" (Clougherty says "scheme" wasn't a good choice of words; she meant she was "taking down a rapist.") Clougherty settled with the university for an undisclosed amount. A few days later, Clougherty received a settlement proposal from Lonsdale. It contained a blanket nondisclosure provision that Clougherty did not want to sign and the deal fell through. Lonsdale vehemently denies making a settlement offer.

Around the same time, Jane texted Clougherty: "Dude just settle so you can move on. This is going to become your life."

Shortly after that, Stanford opened a new investigation into Clougherty's sexual-harassment and assault allegations. Stanford had learned that Lonsdale had dated another student after he and Clougherty broke up. Pope, the outside investigator, started contacting witnesses. She talked to Clougherty's friend Rachel, who described the troubling sexual dynamic she felt she had seen between Lonsdale and Clougherty over the summer. Pope also spoke to the second Stanford student that Lonsdale dated. Clougherty knew her and was convinced that she had also been abused. But the woman told Pope that her relationship with Lonsdale was consensual and not abusive. When I got in touch with her, she declined to comment.

At the time Stanford was examining Clougherty's allegation, the school was also addressing fallout from another investigation. Three female students were privately confronting administrators after realizing that they all reported sexual violence, including choking, involving the same male student over three years. According to university documents, the man didn't deny the choking when Stanford questioned him in 2012 and was allowed to remain on campus. Then last June another case came to the surface. Public protests [erupted](#) after Leah Francis, a senior, spoke out when Stanford refused to expel a male student after the university found he had sexually assaulted her. ([Since 1997](#), 25 sexual-harassment and sexual-assault cases have gone through Stanford's disciplinary process. Ten students have been found culpable; only one was expelled.)

A friend tried to help Clougherty by deleting Lonsdale from her Facebook account and taking her out bowling and for ice cream.

Two weeks later, the university reached a new decision regarding Lonsdale. Stanford now found that he had engaged in sexual misconduct and harassment during his relationship with Clougherty and banned

him from campus “for any purpose.” After 10 years, he could apply to return; Stanford “strongly encouraged” him to seek counseling for sexual misconduct and relationship violence.

“When we ask someone to stay away from campus, it’s because we have a concern about that person’s impact on the community and certainly on students,” a senior university counsel, Lauren Schoenthaler, told me. Yet since the ban was imposed last June, Lonsdale has been invited to campus for a private lunch, which he attended with the university’s permission. (Stanford says it declined other requests from Lonsdale to come to campus.) He was also featured on Stanford’s website as a mentor for [StartX](#), a business accelerator that supports companies founded by students. When I asked Schoenthaler in December about Lonsdale’s online university presence, she said StartX would move off Stanford’s website. As of Feb. 6, it was still there.

Stanford Confidential: Sex, Lies And Loathing At The World’s No. 1 B-School



by Ethan Baron



Stanford Graduate School of Business Dean Garth Saloner on campus

“Knife. Penis. Town square. Got it.”

Those six words don't yet mean anything to the 400 MBAs-to-be of storied Stanford Graduate School of Business's incoming class who rightly believe they have grasped a platinum ticket to the top. But that will change fast as they struggle to understand why Garth Saloner stepped down today as dean of what is widely regarded as the best business school in the world.

In a statement Saloner said: "As many of you know, the university and I have been vigorously defending a baseless and protracted lawsuit related to a contentious divorce between a current and former member of our faculty. I have become increasingly concerned that the ongoing litigation and growing media interest will distract all of you from the important work that you are doing and unfairly impact this stellar school's deserved reputation."...

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by Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt for \$14.6 million, now serves exclusively as Schmidt's sex penthouse. Because of course it does.

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A California prostitute pleaded guilty on Tuesday to manslaughter in ... Google executive Forrest Hayes, 51, died of a heroin overdose by administered by a ... Vazquez defended prosecutors' decision not to file murder charges, ...

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Google CEO Eric Schmidt, the guy you entrust your online privacy to, is clearly a man of passion. Among his interests, the 58-year-old's ...

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