

Gaines Shares Her Story

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And, she has moonlighted as a commentator on the National Public Radio news program "All Things Considered."

Before achieving success, however, Gaines endured a seemingly incomparable amount of personal suffering and pain.

During her junior year of high school, Gaines' former boyfriend, Ben, introduced her to heroin and she began to abuse the drug regularly.

By the time graduation rolled around, she was trying desperately to conceal her unwanted pregnancy from her parents who were overjoyed that she was graduating.

Shortly after receiving her diploma, Gaines was convicted of intent to deliver heroin and was sentenced to five years in a North Carolina prison.

While serving her sentence, Gaines said she constantly thought about how she had disappointed her parents, both of whom have since died.

Despite her unshakeable addiction, she yearned to restore their once healthy relationship.

"Sitting in the jail cell and thinking about it was not going to remedy the situation," Gaines said, "I knew that I needed to change personally."

After being released from jail, Gaines started taking general courses in typing and shorthand at a local institute. A friend referred her to a journalism program offered at the University of California at Berkeley.

She decided to apply and was accepted immediately. Gaines said that her acceptance was primarily based a chilling essay that she had written about her troubled past to the department.

"The experience healed me and in turn, I learned how to help others become healed spiritually," Gaines recalled.

The college offered a newspaper placement program and she was granted a position as a research writer at the *Miami News* in 1978.

She worked for that publication until 1981 when she transferred to the now-defunct

Washington Star. In 1985, Gaines moved across town and became a staff writer at the *Post*.

Despite her apparent success, life as an ex-convict would soon make matters worse for Gaines in her new job.

In 1988, she along with several other reporters, filed a lawsuit against the newspaper demanding higher salaries.

Before the trial, lawyers interviewed each person about their employment history. Gaines, who had failed to indicate on her employment application that she is an ex-convict, feared being fired.

Post management soon learned that she had lied. Gaines was certain that her career at the *Post* was over.

"The incident really made me think 'who am I' and that's when I discovered my real sense of identity," she said.

According to Gaines, managing editor Ben Bradlee decided to keep her on staff because he said "she was so damn talented."

At that point, Patrice had lost both of her parents, her confidence was shattered, and she heavily contemplated going back to using heroin.

Even though they have passed away, her parents' legacy still greatly impacts her daily life.

"My father is still a silent partner. Hardly can I forget the values he instilled in me and the confidence he bestowed upon me," she said, as she recalled sharing a Sunday morning breakfast with her father three months before his untimely death.

Today, along with her lecture tour, Gaines is busy completing a third book on a D.C. murder trial that will debut next month.

In the future, she hopes to do some painting and mixed media art work. She said that her personal experiences have enabled her to help others become stronger people.

"As human beings, we are imbued with incredible abilities and talents that are unmatched. We are capable of doing incredible things. Success begins when you believe that it can happen to you and you work toward it."

Sitting in the jail cell and thinking about it was not going to remedy the situation. I knew that I needed to change personally.
-- Patrice Gaines

CAMPUS POLICE REPORT

By Matthew McKeown

Capital Times Editor

March 11, 2000

12:08 a.m.: Observed suspicious vehicle parked on grass by the ballfield.

6:02 a.m.: Assisted Lower Swatara P.D. with a traffic stop on campus at First Street.

2:00 p.m.: Officer visited local elementary school for workshop entitled: "Obeying the law is fun."

10:59 p.m.: Provided security for the Harrisburg Horizons basketball game in the CUB.

March 12, 2000

2:30 a.m.: There was an argument involving a male and a female at a Weaver Avenue residence. No arrests were made.

March 13, 2000

11:26 a.m.: An employee was struck on the shoulder by a pole being lifted with a backhoe. The employee was transported to Hershey Medical Center.

7:20 p.m.: A report of a domestic dispute at a residence on Jones Street. Issac Miller of Harrisburg was charged with harassment. A victim rights form was given.

March 14, 2000

11:55 a.m.: A vehicle parked in the entrance to the loading dock at the library. A ticket was issued.

2:15 p.m.: There was a report of students stuck in the elevator in the library. Upon arrival, the students had crawled out. The power was shut off and the contractor was contacted.

2:40 p.m.: An employee's hand was cut on a plaster wall wire. The injury was cleaned and bandaged.

3 p.m.: The police bike was picked up from In-Gear in Hummelstown. There was no charge for the service.

3:30 p.m.: Report of unconscious man clad only in Batman costume in Olmsted basement. Suspect taken into custody.

March 15, 2000

3:22 p.m.: A report of a group of

smokers at the front entrance of the Olmsted Building. They were gone on arrival.

3:50 p.m.: Disbursed a group of smokers from the front steps of the Olmsted Building. A verbal warning was given.

4:10 p.m.: Disbursed two juveniles who were skateboarding at the CUB. A verbal warning was given.

March 16, 2000

6:44 a.m.: A citation was given for a moving violation on College Avenue.

9:25 a.m.: A staff member was stuck in the elevator in the library. Responded to find the situation was resolved. The elevator mechanics were in the area and they were notified of the problem.

7:33 p.m.: Disbursed a group of Hessians in front of the Olmsted Building. A verbal warning was given.

11:44 p.m.: Received a report of loud music and people yelling on Nelson Drive. Contacted residents, the music was turned off and a warning was given.

March 17, 2000

9:30 a.m.: Police vehicle waxed. Two coats applied.

10:44 a.m.: Issued a citation for a moving violation on College Avenue.

12:01 p.m.: Received a report of rollerbladers jumping the steps at the CUB. They were gone on arrival.

12:34 p.m.: Disbursed a group of smokers at the Olmsted Building. A verbal warning was given.

1:40 p.m.: Received a report of a student with a dislocated knee at the athletic field. The student was transported to the hospital.

March 18, 2000

6:30 p.m.: PSU police services provided security for the board of trustees who were meeting at the Hershey Medical Center.

6:35 p.m.: Received a report of a missing juvenile who ran

away after an argument on Kirkland Avenue.

March 19, 2000

1 a.m.: Received a call that the runaway juvenile returned home.

1:40 a.m.: Marmot found in trap outside EAB. Marmot destroyed.

6 p.m.: Received a request to assist Highspire P.D. with disorderly persons on Willow Street. The situation was cleared without incident.

11:30 p.m.: Received a report of two students entering E334 Olmsted Building. Their IDs were verified and the students were removed from the area.

March 20, 2000

12:40 p.m.: Received a report of a suspicious person who followed a student at the library. Student confronted; no problems.

March 21, 2000

2:15 p.m.: Received a report of a vehicle driving in mud. Found two vehicles stuck in mud on Jones Street.

March 22, 2000

6:55 a.m.: Received a report from an employee who found a crack in the employees windshield. Not sure if damage incurred while on university premises.

8:00 a.m.: Assisted CIA in pursuit of futuristic killer-robot spotted behind the Swatara Building.

10:30 a.m.: Received a report of a minor, non-reportable accident on College Avenue. The drivers exchanged information.

1:25 p.m.: Received a report of a suspicious white male in a green coat who approached faculty in their rooms in the Olmsted Building in order to buy books. He was gone on arrival.

8:51 p.m.: A tractor-trailer attempted to turn around at the intersection of University and Alumni and caused damage to the landscaping. The driver's information was obtained.