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A CLIMATE OF FEAR

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We've received a lot of threats and fear has been instilled in our building and hearts. Why is it every time someone yells out "DPS is on the way!" or "OHMY-GODITSTHEDCPOLICECOMINGTOARRESTUS-RUNFORYOURLIVES," we all immediately feel fear and do what we're supposed to do? Remember: DC police: go to the Atrium, stay calm and stay with the others while sitting in a circle. DPS police: block and screw them!

I wrist-pulsed various people at Hall Memorial Building (HMB) and received various reactions as to what is our climate of fear. Junior Jonathan Kessel says, "I know I have everyone's back for me here in HMB and we will fight for our rights, and we will win. That is a promise that can't be broken!"

Senior Andy Choate agrees, "I am confident and know that nothing, not even DPS or DC police, can faze us. They can't control or stop our unity."

Head Security man Tom O'Grady feels safe, "because we have each other, and we did nothing wrong here."

Sophomore Gabe Green, better known as G2, feels okay because, "it's evidence we have, and that will protect us. We have nothing to be scared of." Senior Jesse Thomas says, "I am afraid of bodily harm from DPS/DC police, but I'm not afraid to stand up for my rights against them."

"Nah, because I know DPS/Cops can't really do anything to us when we're completely innocent! But you do know what Gallaudet administration is like, so who knows what they'll do?" says senior Brian Morrison. In another perspective, graduate student Erin Moran adds, "It's sad the Gallaudet administration makes their students think like that. They are making an environment not for learning because they're instilling fear in us."

Several people have concerns, people like sophomore Sigga Jonsson, who said, "I do feel fear because they could arrest us and not every one of us has someone to bail us out. But I feel it's ok because I know they have no reason to arrest us."

When Mallory Malzkuhn sees DPS outside, she feels scared because, "[she doesn't] trust them to be in charge of protection for this campus after what they did here at HMB."

"With DPS, I'm fine and don't care, but with DC police, I know we can't mess with them because they could arrest us. So once they raid us, I fear that everyone could get arrested in this building. If so, I wouldn't want to be here when that happens," says freshman Victoria Flis.

One of the most fascinating things is that some people are actually begging for action with good intentions. Sophomore Leala Holcomb commented: "When DPS is around, I get excited because it means that they are reacting to the protest. That is what we have been waiting for, a reaction of some kind from the Board of Trustees and Administrators. They didn't show any reaction until we locked down HMB."

Freshman Tim Terpak says that, "[he is] highly alert and [has] to be cautious around the building and make sure everyone is OK." Tim Trotto feels like home here. Not like when it began. "HMB isn't Hall Memorial Building, it is Home Many Be-ourselves. I started the idea for lockdown of College Hall but we voted for HMB and I accept their social preference. I am proud of democracy. Now I feel HMB is my home and they can't come here."

Wes Singleton feels scared, but thinks we should not continue this fear, because the DPS and DC police warnings have gotten old. "But what if it's like the boy who cried wolf? We have to keep on doing what we have been doing to protect ourselves." On the lighter side, Chase Whitten thinks that, "It's good because the drills keep us awake. Drills are the key for when the time comes."

Senior Patrick Conway expects them to come and attempt to evict us before they negotiate with us because their behavior to this point reflects that attitude on their part. "By the way, I heard jail food's better than the cafeteria's food."

There were a lot of great answers from great people here in HMB. Out of all the people I met, nobody put it as perfectly as Ricky Rose. "Here I can see the people react. One guy was sleeping and I told him, 'DPS is here,' and he woke up and was very concerned and his eyes were wide and full of fear, and he ran for help. He was traumatized. I've been here before, so it's no surprise. But his eyes showed me fear and that hit me. But it's SO fun being here!"