

# The Conversation

## What's on Our Minds This Very Minute

Three news legends, a campus-rape revelation, and wise words on the “perfect time”

### Life Lessons From the Anchor Desk

For her new book *The News Sorority*, author Sheila Weller spent five years examining the groundbreaking careers of newswomen Katie Couric, Diane Sawyer, and CNN's Christiane Amanpour. *Glamour* got the inside story:

**GLAMOUR:** What shared trait helped these three excel in a difficult field?  
**SHEILA WELLER:** They confounded their stereotypes: Katie was underestimated as the “perky” girl, so she'd zap subjects with questions that left them gob-smacked. Diane was a glamour girl—everyone had a crush on her—so she worked like a motherf--ker.

**GLAMOUR:** You spoke to over 100 inside sources. What's the biggest gender difference you found in newsrooms?

**SW:** If you're a guy, you can have a temper and



not be punished for it. I talked to two men and a woman, all talented, with big tempers—the men kept getting jobs; the woman got a reputation that [held her back].

**GLAMOUR:** Diane and Katie anchored the evening news for ABC and CBS, respectively.

**SW:** There's still a glass

ceiling—there's only one female head of a [U.S.] network news department—but more female producers are getting promoted. The audience who wants that mainstream male anchor is aging and dwindling. That's why the evening news has so many Viagra ads.

—Megan Angelo



### the freshman 15

If that phrase means “college weight gain” to you, one leading expert on campus rape has a more chilling definition to consider: “Evidence suggests the first 15 weeks of college is the most vulnerable time for new sexual assault incidents,” says Casey Corcoran, a program director at Futures Without Violence. Why? “We

expect freshmen to act like adults, but they were kids living at home a few days ago. There are new freedoms, and people take advantage of your trust.” Women, he says, may feel overly safe since incidents are underreported: While the National Institute of Justice suggests one in five female students is assaulted, almost half of schools report zero rapes—numbers that don't add up. “Brave women who've come forward have forced people to pay attention,” he says. “We need to encourage people to open up.”  
 —Ashley Mateo

SAWYER: IDA MAE ASTUTE/ABC; SAILING: RICK TOMLINSON/TEAM SCA; ALEXANDER: ONOMONOMEDIA; BOOK STILL: CATHY CRAWFORD; STYLIST: JODY COOK



Meet the crew: from right, Sophie Ciszek, Annie Lush, and Liz Wardley.

### 11 BADASS WOMEN, ONE AMAZING RACE

It's known as the Everest of sailing: The Volvo Ocean Race requires teams to sail around the globe, through brutal storms and hurricane-force winds. This year, for the first time in over a decade, an all-woman team—including American stars Sara Hastreiter, 30, and Sally Barkow, 34—will compete against six male crews. “It's *demanding*: You sleep one or two hours at a time; you're away from family and friends,” says Hastreiter. “It's the be-all, end-all, and a pretty wild ride.” The eight-month contest begins October 4; see it go down at [volvooceanrace.com](http://volvooceanrace.com). —Rebecca Webber



“We should never put off what we really, really want in life. I know I can't.... I have seen so many people waiting for the ‘perfect time’ to do something that they want so badly—have a baby, switch jobs, leave a relationship. But the time is now.”

—Rebecca Alexander, 34, in her moving new memoir, *Not Fade Away*. Alexander, far left (with friend Caroline Kaczor), has Usher syndrome type III, a disease that's gradually taking her sight and hearing.

