

As a former participant in the faculty colloquium series, I think it's important that we understand who tonight's speaker is.

Michael Shermer is someone who has been accused of sexual harassment and sexual assault (rape) by multiple women. Although the police did not bring formal charges against him, there have been many witnesses that have publicly corroborated the stories of the victims. At one point, the organization he worked for even admitted they knew what Shermer had been doing and that they did nothing.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/daylightatheism/2014/09/the-shermer-affair-erupts/>
https://www.buzzfeed.com/markoppenheimer/will-misogyny-bring-down-the-atheist-movement?utm_term=.ba20oxJXG#.wc8d5nmqV
<https://the-orbit.net/almostdiamonds/2014/09/13/dawkins-tries-again/>

We all know that he still has the right to free speech, so I'm not saying we should stop him from speaking, but I am using this platform to warn the women attending the talk that they should be careful not to be alone with him or hang around late on campus after the talk is over. I am also using this platform to highlight this information to faculty and staff so that you can choose whether or not you will support this event.

Perhaps we weren't aware of this when he was invited. We are all aware now.

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