A University of South Carolina student was allegedly murdered by a man she thought was her Uber driver. For some Chapman students, feeling uneasy in a rideshare is nothing new.
Students advocate to remove of controversial film poster from Dodge

"The Birth of a Nation" is a racist film, it is a racist poster, it is hate speech. There is absolutely no way around it," said Arri Caviness, a first-year graduate student, who posted a photo of her film, it is a racist poster, it is hate speech. There is absolutely no way around it, said Arri Caviness, a film historian and furthered technique, according to "Time" and furthered innovations.

"It's easy to spot the collection of film posters and artwork hanging on the walls of Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. The artwork, donated by renowned filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille's estate, includes the original posters promoting D.W. Griffith's 1915 silent epic drama, "The Birth of a Nation," a controversial film that many believe inspired the Ku Klux Klan revival in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Arri Caviness, a first-year film production graduate student, decided to draw attention to the poster. On March 29, Caviness tweeted a photo of herself and five others next to the poster with the caption "Why does Dodge College, @THR's (The Hollywood Reporter) 6th best US film school, still condone the celebration of white supremacy?"

It took the school five days to respond on Twitter. "The Birth of a Nation" is a racist film, it is a racist poster, it is hate speech. There is absolutely no way around it," Caviness told The Panther. "This poster is a daily reminder of the casual, violent racism that was commonplace in the early 1900s and remains commonplace to this day."

The movie, which is historical fiction, depicts the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the relationship of two families during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. The film has been widely criticized for what many say is a glorification of the Confederacy, but some in the film industry continue to praise it for its innovations.

The film was "astounding in its time" and furthered filmmaking technique, according to "The Parade's Gone By," a book by film historian Kevin Brownlow. It was the first time that "dramatic close-ups, tracking shots, and other expressive camera movements" were introduced. "These so-called merits do not erase the simple fact that this film is undeniably racist," Caviness said. "A film that dehumanizes black people, celebrates lynching and is, in no small part, responsible for the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, is not worthy of our praise.

On April 2, an account associated with Dodge College tweeted back saying, "We hear you. We are currently having discussions with senior staff about these posters."

Phumi Morare, a film production major and one of the students in the posted picture, responded to Dodge's tweet that same day. Morare's tweet thanked Dodge College for its response and said that students had already talked to Dodge staff.

"We understand these discussions have been happening for years without any action," she wrote, before asking for more a more concrete response.

Although the Dodge College Twitter account responded to Caviness's original Tweet, some students aren't sure how seriously the poster's presence is being taken.

"Actions speak louder than words and I hope it's not swept under the rug," said Danielle Gibson, a film production major who was also in the picture with Caviness. "To me, it's like seeing a Confederate flag or a statue of a Confederate figure. Its presence is intimidating."

Bob Bassett, dean of Dodge College, declined to provide a statement to The Panther unless it was published in full. In a phone interview, President Daniele Struppa said that while he has not seen the film, its induction into the Library of Congress' National Film Registry means it's "not just any movie."

"It would seem strange that as a university, we would obfuscate that," Struppa said, adding that he believes censorship in any form is bad, even when done with the best intentions. "That's not the way we learn. Instead of erasing, we remember and we criticize and discuss and educate."

Struppa wants to hold a student-led discussion about why the movie is problematic, he said, and what can be learned from it, "rather than taking down the poster as if it never existed."

Caviness' post has been retweeted by 31 people, including Oscar-winning writer Charlie Wachtel, the cowriter and coproducer of the 2018 film "BlacKkKlansman."

Wachtel and his "BlacKkKlansman" cowriter, David Rabinowitz, attended a screening of the film at Dodge College in March 7. "I'll admit it was a little uncomfortable seeing this poster on campus the same day we did a Q&A for blackkklansman (sic)," Wachtel wrote in his retweet.

In the Q&A that followed the screening, Caviness asked what the writers thought about "The Birth of a Nation" and how universities should address the legacy of the film. Rabinowitz responded that he thinks "it's a pretty good thing" if "BlacKkKlansman" helps remove similar films from a pedestal.

"There are a lot of well-edited films that aren't 'The Birth of a Nation,'" Rabinowitz said.

Richard Brody, a film writer for The New Yorker, wrote that the worst thing about "The Birth of a Nation" is "how good it is," though its pro-Confederacy sentiments are "grossly apparent."

"I don't think they have it up because of its significance in film history, but it's put up without context to how ridiculous and racist it is," Gibson said. "It would make more sense in a museum or in a textbook, or at the very least, with a disclaimer about it." Caviness and Gibson are part of a group of students who have been coordinating efforts to have the poster removed. They have had discussions with Dodge faculty members and are drafting an open letter to Bassett.

"Our goal isn't to erase the film from history, but the film should be acknowledged for what it is because of how blatantly awful it is toward people of color," Gibson said.

The burden to advocate for the poster's removal should not fall on black students alone, Gibson said.

"To ignore its blatant hatred is to condone the idea of white supremacy in media. I believe Dodge is better than that, and hopefully they can prove that to me," she said.

Satvi Sunkara | Staff Writer
In an act of solidarity for survivors of sexual assault and interpersonal violence, about 150 students and faculty walked from the Fish Interfaith Center around Chapman’s campus April 2, holding candles in hand. The walk was the culmination of the annual “Take Back The Night,” hosted by Chapman’s Creating A Rape-Free Environment for Students (C.A.R.E.S.) organization.

“Interpersonal violence affects all of us: it changes people forever,” said Dani Smith, Chapman’s rape crisis counselor and coordinator for C.A.R.E.S. during the event. “It is a crime that few people talk about.” Smith has participated every “Take Back The Night” since it first took place on Chapman’s campus in 1998, she said. She has had an integral role in Chapman’s approach toward campus sexual assault, writing the university’s first-ever sexual misconduct policy in 1997.

Smith wrote and compiled the program for the event, sharing a testimony from a Chapman student and survivor of sexual assault. “One Chapman student put it like this,” she said. “‘I share my experience to let you know that it is not your fault. Your experience must have been overwhelming, but you have nothing to be ashamed of.’”

The evening was comprised of the retelling of students’ experiences with sexual violence and performances were made by student vocalist Cassandra Thibeault and student a cappella group Simply Vocale. Simply Vocale sang “Kinder,” originally performed by female vocal group Copper Wimmin. Simply Vocale president Erica Marfo told The Panther that performing at the event two years in a row is an “honor.” “Each year, we find new meaning,” she said. “(Kinder) talks about deciding to let go of demons, of all the pain and deciding to be happy, which we thought fit the purpose of the evening.”

A short video made by Jenna Perry, a sophomore broadcast journalism and political science double major, was played for the audience, showing interviews with several Chapman students about interpersonal violence and assault on college campuses.

Perry made an “intentional” choice to play “Til It Happens To You,” a song by Lady Gaga written for the documentary “The Hunting Ground,” over the footage. The “power” of the song made it an appropriate choice, she said.

At one point during the program, audience members were told to close their eyes. “Think of four women you know,” said Connor Kennedy, a junior C.A.R.E.S. member, at the event. “Statistically, one of them will be a victim of sexual assault in their lifetime. If you think of five college women you know, one of them has been sexually assaulted already, or will be before they leave Chapman.”

Audience members opened their eyes. Sabrina Dworkin, a junior public relations and advertising major and C.A.R.E.S. member, took the podium. “These aren’t statistics, these are people,” she said. “How can we remain silent?”
Black Student Union to remain active despite low attendance

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

Despite low meeting attendance and student involvement this semester, Chapman’s Black Student Union (BSU) will likely remain active for the next academic year.

“There are problems within the foundation of the school from an administrative perspective,” said Naidine Conde, president of BSU. “It is not our job as students to pinpoint the problems of diversity on campus; it all starts with the school.”

BSU met April 1 for a closed meeting to discuss the future of the organization.

“Attendance is so low that there probably won’t be a BSU next year if not enough people are willing to help keep it going,” read a March 31 email sent to BSU members that was provided to The Panther. “For any of you thinking this is an April fools (sic) joke, it’s not, but we wish it was."

The future of the club, Conde said, was dependent on how many students came to the meeting that night.

“If not enough people came, that was going to be it for BSU,” she said. “As a senior, there will always be that fear of the unknown, but I am hopeful after this evening.”

Though spring semester can bring a lull in student involvement for BSU due to students’ academic and social commitments, Conde said, the lack of a consistent adviser has been a challenge for the club.

“There is not a strong presence of black faculty on campus, there is a gap in that demographic,” she said, noting that while the club has had an adviser in the past, it has been operating without one since spring 2018. About 1.4 percent of Chapman’s faculty is black.

An adviser would help facilitate administrative discussions, a role that BSU executive board members are now filling themselves.

Administrators like Dean of Students Jerry Price work to fix problems that arise within BSU, Conde said, but the limited numbers of black students on campus is a constant challenge.

“Students’ needs change with the time, it’s an opportunity for BSU to reflect,” Price said. “At the same time, it offers us in administration a chance to think about if there are other things we can be doing to support black students in their transition through Chapman.”

Price acknowledged that Chapman’s lack of black faculty is an “obvious setback.”

“We do have experience of working with black students that is applicable, even if we can’t identify in the same way,” she said. “I would like to talk with (BSU). I don’t want them to think that everything related to supporting or orienting black students into Chapman falls on BSU.”

Conde told The Panther that the numbers have to be considered, as there are about 100 black students at Chapman.

“We don’t have a lot of numbers to start with, but the numbers will not get better without a club like this,” she said.

Some members of BSU did not comment after the meeting.

Black undergraduate students make up less than 2 percent of the student body at Chapman, while Loyola Marymount University, a private school similar in size to Chapman, has a black undergraduate population of 6.3 percent.

The closed meeting had more underclassmen present than upperclassmen, Conde said, a ratio she believes is promising.

“There are freshmen stepping up, there are sophomores and juniors who are getting more involved,” she said. “People are rallying for personal reasons, but also so that BSU continues to be here for other students.”

‘Pick your gun’: Conservative organization tables in Piazza

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

If you walked into the Attallah Piazza April 2, you might have seen a poster with an AR-15 rifle, a pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun on it.

“I’m pro choice (sic),” the sign read. “Pick your gun.”

National conservative organization Turning Point USA, which displayed the sign and tabled in the Piazza April 2 and 3, is not registered among Chapman’s student organizations, said Dean of Students Jerry Price, though The Panther located a club page appearing to belong to the club. The organization’s table was not officially scheduled through booking service 25Live, used by student organizations to book talking space and classrooms.

“Turning Point is one of those that ebbs and flows greatly, more ebbing than flowing. I’m unaware that they’re even active; we have no record of Turning Point USA scheduling a table for the Piazza,” Price said. “Either they didn’t schedule it, or somebody else from Turning Point USA set up a table other than students.”

The club officers listed on Turning Point USA’s Chapman club page, which may not be current, are Hannah Shothkoski and Abby Paine, who did not respond to a request for comment.

The club’s tabling focused around pro-Second Amendment and free speech conversations.

For students who approached the table, a large board with the question “What do you think of guns?” written across the top allowed students to write their thoughts on the topic.

One student wrote, “(Expletive) guns,” another wrote, “Gun control is somewhat necessary.” Another wrote, “Guns give us the ability to protect our rights.”

Wyatt Logan, a Turning Point USA field representative who is helping establish the club on Chapman’s campus, told The Panther that the club’s goal is to foster conversation.

Logan is not a Chapman student or graduate.

“It’s not about guns; it’s about people and morality,” he said.

Price told The Panther that he believes the club’s leaders are freshmen, and although he supports the involvement of a national organization, he hopes that the club will be fully student-run.

“We have a lot of groups that are affiliated with national organizations, but we don’t represent the national organizations, we represent and support the students,” Price said. “We don’t want the national groups coming in and representing our students. The whole point of student orgs is to develop leadership.”

Shaelan Kelly, an undeclared freshman who tabled for Turning Point USA April 2 and 3, declined questions, referring media inquiries to Logan.

When asked whether he was concerned about some students finding the poster of guns on campus jarring, Logan said that unless the poster was calling for “violent action,” himself and the organization could say “whatever (they) wanted.”

“If (a student) is not willing to approach the table, that’s their own fault,” Logan said, adding that it is on campus, there is pressure to learn about topics like the Second Amendment and free speech.

Price said Chapman’s administration works to encourage students to value free speech, but to focus on “the speech that is being said,” rather than whether students have the right to say it.

“Unless a speech is a threat, or pervasive and harassing an individual, or is preventing someone from exercising their right to speak, then we’re going to permit it,” Price said.
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After woman allegedly murdered by fake Uber, students are cautious

Sierra DevWalt | Staff Writer

Hannah and Kaitlyn Schmidt banter about who does more cleaning, like typical roommates. But Hannah and Kaitlyn are more than roommates: they are college roommates living together as twins. As twins, they’ve done it their entire lives.

“We’ve gone to college with each other the last four years, so we don’t know any different,” Hannah Schmidt said.

Despite being around one another almost every day, the twins said that going to college together hasn’t worn on their relationship.

“It has made (college) easier for us,” Hannah Schmidt said. “Leaving for college was very scary, but we were very lucky in the sense that both of us could pursue both business and art history major, chose to attend a different university than her twin sister Krista, who studies biomedical engineering at Santiago Canyon College in Orange, California.

For Kaitlyn Schmidt, it’s important that the person she’s dating gets along with her twin. “If you don’t accept the twin sister, then you can’t date us,” Kaitlyn Schmidt said.

With the March 29 murder of a young student in South Carolina who entered what she thought was her Uber, the experiences Chapman students have had add to public concern.

“We asked her how her night was going and she told us that the last passenger she drove had assaulted her, and kept touching her inappropriately the entire ride,” Gaitley said. “She said she called her parents and boyfriend right after, and that we were her last ride of the night because she needed to go home after that. I felt so bad.

In efforts to promote safety, students are cautious—both before entering the car and leaving. Gaitley described an Uber incident she once encountered where her female driver was staring her down in the back seat while they were seated together.

“Looking for college was very scary, but we were very lucky in the sense that both of us could be there together,” Kaitlyn Schmidt said.

While having each other as a support system works for the Schmidts, not all twins share this sentiment. Alex Faber, a freshman psychology major, has experienced multiple strange encounters. One incident involved her getting into an Uber she called that made her get out because she slammed the door too hard. But before she could call a new one, another car appeared to the left. The driver knew her name and said she was her Uber.

Gaitley thought it was suspicious, but didn’t say anything because the driver did know her name.

“We went down the block, and I see the car I got out of pulled over to the side. After we pass him, he follows us for my 15-minute drive,” she said. “As I get out of his car, the (first car) came up behind him and got out of his car and I just ran to where I was going. I had no idea if they were working together.”

Uncomfortable and negative Uber experiences can easily have profound effects on a student’s daily life, said Dean of Students Jerry Price. “I hear about (driver assault incidents) maybe once or twice a year here (at Chapman),” Price said. “One student who has an incident that we would, on a scale of 10, call an eight, may in a few days or weeks get over it. Someone else who has one that’s a two or three may still bother them months later. It’s really difficult to know.

The company has improved its Uber safety, Burba said, but he also emphasized looking out for yourself and others constantly.

“My goal for Chapman students, whether it’s Uber or their personal safety, is to not be complacent and have a neighborhood watch mentality. If there’s five Public Safety officers on duty driving around and walking, that’s 10 eyes looking out for everybody,” he said. “If every Chapman student, faculty, and staff looks, sees, says something or calls in anything suspicious, that’s 10,000 eyes.

It’s not just passengers who have negative Uber experiences. Gaitley described an Uber incident she once encountered where her female driver had just been sexually assaulted by a previous passenger.

Hannah Schmidt and Kaitlyn Schmidt, above, are some of many siblings who chose to attend the same university. While most Chapman students claim having their sibling with them is beneficial, some discussed with The Panther about its drawbacks as well.

Isabella Fangary, a freshman psychology major, has experienced multiple strange encounters. One incident involved her getting into an Uber with a hat-obsessed driver.

“They’re on the dashboard, the back, on the seats, and we are just sitting there, but he wouldn’t let us touch his hats,” Gaitley said. “He would put one on and start speaking in whatever accent that hat represents, and puts on this whole persona.”

Chief of Public Safety Randy Burba said the buddy system is crucial when Ubering, just like walking somewhere at night.

“We tell people don’t walk alone, walk in groups. Because it’s safer in groups. The same thing applies to a Lyft or Uber ride,” Burba said. “If you’re out partying with friends, and you decide someone’s had too much drink, someone from the group should go with them.”

The buddy system is a support system works for the Schmidts, and others constantly.

“We tell people don’t walk alone, walk in groups,” Burba said. “If you’re out partying with friends, and you decide someone’s had too much drink, someone from the group should go with them.”

Branching out and going to different colleges was the right decision, Alex Faber said, because they want to be involved in different career fields.

“Chapman wouldn’t be a good fit because of her major: engineering,” Alex Faber said. “Although Chapman has many resources that (she) would love to take advantage of, a school that offers a better program for engineering is a better fit for her.”

Some siblings, like Franchesca and Isabella Fangary, find Chapman to be a good fit despite having different majors. While junior Franchesca Fangary has been on Chapman’s campus for two years longer than her younger sister Isabella, a freshman business administration major, came to Chapman because it was one of the only schools where she could pursue both business and film.

“I was so excited when she decided to apply to Chapman, and I definitely wanted her to come here,” said Franchesca Fangary, a screenwriting and public relations and advertising double major. “We’re not always at the same places, but we do try to grab lunch together at least once a week.

But being a twin or sister is not without drawbacks. Hannah Schmidt and Kaitlyn Schmidt said that certain aspects of social life can get in the way of making friends.

“Sometimes people don’t even care to take the time to get to know us or figure out the difference,” Kaitlyn Schmidt said. “After we’ve known you for some time, it does get annoying if you don’t take the time to really find out the difference.”

Another part of social life that can become a complication for the two is dating.

“It’s more of a mental aspect for me because she’s always started dating the guys before me, so I kind of (think), ‘Why don’t they like me? I’m just as cool as she is. I’m just as pretty as she is. We look the same,’” Hannah Schmidt said.

For Kaitlyn Schmidt, it’s important that the person she’s dating gets along with her twin. The two have told each other that if one of them doesn’t like the person the other twin is dating, it’s “a deal-breaker.”

“Whoever we’re seeing has to also be accepting of the twin sister, because if you don’t accept the twin sister, then you can’t date us,” Kaitlyn Schmidt said.

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Eilish brings new meaning to mainstream music

Jasmin Sani | Managing Editor

Billie Eilish is known for being eccentric. Her style seems to appeal to a “sad girl” stereotype. With melodramatic songs like “when the party’s over” and “idontwannabeyouanymore” – which I listen to almost on a daily basis – she seems to have given off the idea that she and her older brother, and cowriter, Finneas O’Connell can only write tunes that make you want to hide under your covers and have a good cry.

Listening to Eilish’s new album “WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO,” it’s so easy for me to say that I was taken aback when I first heard the 14-track masterpiece – which was released on March 29. From the heavenly layered vocals in “goodbye,” the hilarious sound bites Eilish pulled from “The Office” in “my strange addiction” and the perfectly placed bass drops and bridge transitions in “sunny” and “bad guy,” this album has great vocals, quality beats and a sprinkle of comedic references.

And if you think the allusion to “The Office” isn’t enough, just listen to her opening track “!!!!!!” and reminisce in the short 13-second tale that jokes about the inconveniences those with Invisalign, including me, have.

With that track alone, it’s easy to see that Eilish doesn’t care about what people think of her. She might appear to others as a flashy, trendy teen with oversized, neon-colored pullovers and a pair of patterned pants to match, but in reality, she’s not trying to be relevant or follow mainstream pop culture. Just name another artist willing to put a tarantula in his or her mouth as more crawl over that person’s body just to add shock factor to a music video (It’s called “you should see me in a crown,” if you’re curious).

I don’t believe Eilish tries to be an edgy attention-seeker. She’s genuinely passionate about her music and has a compelling, thought-provoking visual presentation to match. She sticks to her roots and follows the haunting, somber themes she established in her first 2016 single, “Six Feet Under.” Eilish continues to surprise me with songs like “listen before i go” and “i love you,” not because they are sad and depressing, but because they are relatable and authentic. The melancholy is hard to listen to; it draws you to the lyrics that reflect and mimic feelings of hopelessness and raw emotion. But they are real, and they are honest.

Give her entire album a listen before saying things like, “She’s so overrated,” “Where’s the talent in talking to a mic?” or my personal favorite, “She has to cut herself before she can even write a decent song.” Everyone has an extreme, polarized opinion on Eilish; you either love or hate her. There’s no in-between. And I totally get that. With things like Twitter’s stan culture commodifying the idea that being sad is cool or something to strive for, I don’t blame those who don’t like Eilish. I also have a love-hate relationship with her fan base. But the fault shouldn’t be placed on Eilish for making music; it should be on the young teenagers exposed to it who hyperbolize her already artistically exaggerated, dark imagery.

And please, ignore social media users who obviously have too much time on their hands and post 14 times an hour with their caps-lock button seemingly broken. Do yourself a favor and listen to her new album with no distractions. Then we can talk.
The one downside to springtime

Ah, springtime. The days are longer, the sun is (usually) shining, the flowers are blooming and...no one has any motivation left. Students and professors alike walk around campus with their heads down and a dazed look in their eyes. It seems like every person I know has been having an “off” week for the past few weeks. I’ve seen Snapchat stories of people just shaking their heads and finsta posts describing procrastination habits and breakdowns.

Now that the tans are fading and the tease known as spring break is behind us, reality has started to set back in. Final projects with due dates that once seemed to be far away are coming up much too quickly.

It took me well over an hour to build up the motivation to write this column, and column-writing is something actually I enjoy. I showered, perused through some clothing websites and started a load of laundry, all in the name of being productive – while still managing to avoid what I actually have to get done.

I’ve already opened Instagram four times and I don’t even have 200 words written, so you can only imagine how difficult it is for me to get myself motivated to do something I don’t normally enjoy – like homework or cleaning.

During the rest of the school year, I pride in with being on top of my assignments and obligations, but as summer inches closer and my lack of sleep begins to catch up with me, I find myself spending most of my time procrastinating. I’ve even caught myself, on a few occasions, procrastinating by looking up ways to avoid procrastination (like by setting a deadline and getting rid of distractions) and reasons why people procrastinate (like a lack of structure).

I’m sure I’m not wrong in assuming that many college students can relate when I say that I continue to act this way because deep down, I know that panic will set in and eventually, I’ll get it together and finish the task on time.

I have to be ready to leave and go somewhere in an hour? All right, I’ll lie in my bed doing nothing for 40 minutes and then rush through my routine in 20. In the moment, it can be stressful, but the end result is the same. I see it as a different take on time management.

Trust me, I know that this is certainly not the most effective way to go about a task, but it’s just where I am right now. By the time I’m working this summer and then when school starts back up in the fall, I’ll be back to my old ways of handling things in a timely manner. But with the prospect of a break from my hectic schedule and the idea of warm weather on my mind, I’m a bit distracted.

I understand that it’s much easier to just do nothing, but we all have something we need to do. From what I can see, it seems pretty normal to go through a rough patch this time of year. I have faith that the “off week” phase will pass soon enough and life will return to normal for everyone.

But for now, I’ve gotten on Instagram so many times while trying to write this that my phone is dying – I need to take a minute or two so I can gather up the strength to walk over to my charger and plug it in.
I have been single for about eight months now. If I were completely honest, I love it. There is no moody man waiting for me or paying attention to him, or enacting a 1950s housewife policy and guilting me into cooking his breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Right after my breakup, I realized that the beauty of being single is that I can do anything I want. Well, mostly. I come and go when I please and I don’t have anyone I have to be constantly in communication with. But there is one thing I’ve noticed. The men I have been involved with here and there in my post-breakup bender have all had one thing in common: neediness. Full disclosure: I am a fiercely independent person. And every man that I’ve had conversations with or gotten involved with has latched onto the idea of “needling” me. With my job and school commitments, I am incredibly busy. I’m a terrible texter, I take forever to respond and at times, cannot seem to come up with the simplest reply. In the last couple months, I have seen my phone blow up with messages after message from whatever guy I was involved with at the time, I couldn’t help but feel like my world had been invaded. I was talking with a friend about the dating app Hinge. One of the latest trends in millennial hook-up culture. She turned to me and said something horrifically poignant. “I think men pretend to be needy but are actually just trying to assert control?” she asked. I was a bit taken aback at first, but then the truth of her statement hit me. Over the course of my dating life, I’ve been involved in flings and casual dating. I have been in committed relationships, toxic relationships and one-sided situations. The relationships I’ve had in my life have varied significantly, but they all have centered on controlling behavior. It was only when this was pointed out to me that I acknowledged it for the first time. There have been times in my life where the idea of someone needing me has been desirable. But with age, I have come to realize that what we require from someone else’s presence and actions are often things we can’t provide for ourselves. I think that the act of “needling” another person says a lot about the holes and gray spots in our relationships with ourselves. I haven’t seriously dated anyone in a while, but when I do, I hope that when they think they have a whole person, that they can be an individual and that we can be two whole people together. The thought that someone’s stability relies on another person is a little scary to me. I wish I had realized that sooner.

The club was scheduled to meet at 10 p.m. in Argyros until I arrived at what I was counting down to. There’s a lot I looked forward to about growing into what I like to call a “certified adult,” of growing into the future of our legacy lives on. Our legacy lives on. Some of my closest relationships at Chapman started at BSU. There’s a special sense of community I always feel when I walk into a BSU meeting. It’s comforting to start the week off with a group of people who understand exactly what you’re going through. We often talk about serious topics, but ultimately, it’s seeing friendly faces that recharge me for the week. I have to admit, after my four years of involvement in the club – including holding several positions on the executive board – I became somewhat of an infrequently attending member this year. Senior year is such a busy time and BSU just wasn’t a priority. Part of me felt responsible for the decline in attendance. But the truth is, I was conflicted. I felt angry. BSU has been on Chapman’s campus for more than 50 years, according to The Orange County Register. Why should we allow legacy to die? I have firsthand experience, so I understand that running a club like the BSU is a difficult task. But how can I do it when I don’t give Black students, especially freshmen, a place to call home? This club has had such an impact and influence on Chapman students that are marginalized due to race and often share similar experiences.

Don’t wish away your college experience

I'm graduating in about a month and a half. Soon. I'll walk off this campus and won't come back, leaving behind what's effective become my world for the past four years. College is a weirdly forceful time. You strut onto campus at 18 thinking that you know just about everything there is to know about the world – and over the next eight semesters, you learn that, well, you don’t.

If BSU ceased to exist at Chapman, in essence, so would the Black population. I already know students who have left Chapman because people come here and begin to feel like they don’t belong, that they are too apathetic about racial issues. When BSU met April 1 to discuss the future of the club, it was by no means the greatest turnout I’ve ever seen, but it was comforting to see that some people really do care about the future of this club. I’m happy to see that it will be in good hands next year.

The truth is, it’s not the responsibility of Black students to feel threatened or that Chapman is too apathetic about racial issues. BSU is something we created as a means of survival, and while the work may be mentally and emotionally difficult at times, it is important that our legacy lives on.

As a columnist, I have chosen to capitalize Black despite the AP Style rule because in this case, Black is a globally recognized group of people that are marginalized due to race and often share similar experiences.

Oliveia Harden, features editor

The Black population at Chapman University makes up about 1.7 percent of students, with little growth in the four years that I’ve been here. I wasn’t aware of how much that would impact me until I arrived at Chapman in 2015. The then-president and vice president of Chapman’s Black Student Union (BSU), Summer Blair and Aspen Spellman, sent an email announcing that the club was scheduled to meet at 10 p.m. in Argyros Forum 206C. It was there that I would find my family. It was there I would find a home.

Here’s why Chapman needs its Black Student Union

Oliveia Harden, features editor

I'm graduating in about a month and a half. Soon. I'll walk off this campus and won't come back, leaving behind what's effective become my world for the past four years.

The Black Student Union (BSU) has had such an impact and influence on Chapman’s campus, especially freshmen, a place to call home? This club has had such an impact and influence on Chapman students that are marginalized due to race and often share similar experiences.

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Rebecca Glaser, editor-in-chief

I don’t wish away your college experience

This is the column my professor had me read. It’s called ‘Don’t wish away your college experience’ and it’s written by Rebecca Glaser, editor-in-chief. It’s about how college is important and how you should not wish away your college experience.
Chapman's lacrosse team tore onto its home ground at Wilson Field March 31, ready to defeat the team's long-standing rivals, the Concordia University Irvine Eagles. Fueled by the crowd of friends and fans cheering on from the stands, the Panthers were "fired up" in the locker room and ready to play, said junior Wiley Bonham, an attacker on the team and business administration major.

Despite the heated competition, the Panthers ended up winning the game 14-9. This marked the team's eighth consecutive win so far in the season, which Bonham said puts the team on track for the Southwestern Lacrosse Conference (SLC) divisional playoffs and eventually, the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) National Championships.

Despite the team's recent wins, the Panthers' season started with two consecutive losses in their second and third games. Chapman lost 15-14 to University of California, Berkeley Feb. 16 and lost 12-11 to George Institute of Technology Feb. 22. Senior goal-keeper Daniel Aguilar, a strategic and corporate communication major, said that the team's early losses might be due to a lack of cohesiveness among teammates.

"We were shooting ourselves in the foot. We were being pretty sloppy," Aguilar said. "It killed our confidence a lot and we were doubting our team for a little bit."

Even though those early losses were "discouraging," junior Jack Phillips, a midfielder and strategic and corporate communication major, said he viewed them as a lesson.

"Those two losses really humbled us and brought perspective to this year," Phillips said. "It made us come together as a team."

Sophomore Ethan Smith, a midfielder and business administration major, said the team began practicing more seriously after its losses. Following that training period, the Panthers made a strong comeback in a next game against Michigan State University March 3, winning 11-9. Bonham said this was the "most satisfying" win of the season — the Panthers lost to Michigan State in the national championship game in 2018.

"After two losses, this game was a do or die for us. It was a must-win," Bonham said.

And it was a turning point for the team. The Panthers have not lost a game since.

"That game was a statement to let everyone know that we're still here and we're not backing down," Phillips said.

Sophomore George McGuirk, an attacker and public relations and advertising major, said the key to the team's success has been its teamwork.

"We play as a team. We're not focused on one person scoring or making all the plays," McGuirk said.

With a 10-game winning streak and only two games left in the season, the Panthers feel primed to make it to both the SLC playoffs and the MCLA National Championships.

But despite the team's record, Phillips said it's "crunch time" for the Panthers.

"We play as a team. We're not focused on one person scoring or making all the plays."

- George McGuirk, sophomore lacrosse attacker
Setting goals to score them: Zahn closes out lacrosse career

Luca Evans | Staff Writer

There’s a certain amount of motivation required to tally 100 career goals as a college lacrosse player. A target like that appears even more unattainable when trying to balance working in a research lab and at an internship, conducting research for a senior capstone and being a psychology peer advisor – all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

But senior psychology major and women's lacrosse midfielder Danielle Zahn is just restless enough to chase after that achievement.

"I'm one of those people when if I have some free time or nothing to do, I don't know what to fill it with, so I like having things that I need to do," Zahn said.

Zahn sets goals; an action she and Dan Kirkpatrick, Chapman's women's lacrosse head coach, acknowledge brings success.

"We've done goals and individual goals, and we've gone over them. And, for some players, it's an exercise (that) helps focus," Kirkpatrick said. "It's just what she does."

During her sophomore year, Zahn came up with another objective, this one off the field.

"I realized, Hey, I still have my 4.0 GPA. Maybe I can actually pull this off," Zahn said. "I didn't want my lacrosse performance to slip, so it's been quite the motivating balancing act."

Zahn came into her senior year with a specific goal – to make 100 goals before she walks at graduation. With 94 in her Chapman career coming into a March 23 victory over the University of Redlands, she scored seven goals to tie the single-game school record – not only reaching 100, but adding one more for good measure.

"I was relieved ... I just knew that was floating in the back of my mind," Zahn said. "I didn't think I would hit it that game."

With that accomplishment, Zahn didn't slow down. In Chapman's next game against Kalamazoo College March 26, she scored another seven goals.

"Doing that two games in a row was just luck," Zahn said. "We've been running the same plays all season, the same things against every team, so I honestly have no clue what was different."

But Kirkpatrick said Zahn's success is due to her hard work and determination.

"Those 100 goals (aren’t) because Dani showed up to game days and decided to go hard. Those 100 goals are because Dani goes hard at practice," Kirkpatrick said.

With about a month left in her lacrosse career, Zahn has one final aim: for the team to achieve a high seed in the conference tournament in early May. So far, Zahn's two for two on both of her accomplished objectives. And, Kirkpatrick said, she typically achieves her goals.

"Our entire season is in front of us," Kirkpatrick said. "Everything that we want, everything that we’ve been fighting for is still there."

An ‘amazing’ addiction: Senior baseball pitcher talks lifting, fitness

Nathanyal Leyba | Staff Writer

About 20 miles from Oracle Park, home of the San Francisco Giants, senior business administration major and right-handed pitcher Mason Collins and his father used to practice pitching in front of their house. They would play long toss before moving on to snagging grounders and catching fly balls and one-hoppers.

"My dad started teaching me when I was five ... From that point on, I loved it and it became an integral part of my life," Collins said.

Most of Collins' time growing up in Mill Valley, California, was devoted to sports, family and music. When he wasn't throwing with his father, or lining up house items to drum to the beat he found a way to always be active. He played basketball as a shooting and point guard at Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley, California. After his sophomore year, focused his attention to the baseball field, where he was one of the Red-Tailed Hawks’ pitchers.

"I was our No. 1 pitcher, but when I wasn’t pitching, I played third or short stop as well," Collins said. "I hit second or third in our lineup."

After high school athletics, during which he received All-League baseball awards his junior and senior year, Mason tried out for the Chapman baseball team.

So far in his career, Collins has pitched an average of 41.4 innings per season, with an average of 33.25 strikeouts and an average of 7.05 strikeouts every nine innings. Collins never allows the love of games to bring down his attitude, he said.

"I feel great up on the mound. I love starting and getting into a rhythm as I go deeper into the game," Collins said. "I love the moves that are super weird and very hard."

Collins also helps train his team mates, like fellow senior pitcher and business administrations major, Tyler Peck. Peck said fitness drives the competition between him and Collins.

"We both want to get that extra rep or move quicker through agility drills. It translates onto the field too," Peck said. "I strike out 10 in the first game and Mason will do everything he can to strike out 11 in the next game."

Collins is working toward graduating in May 2019 and getting his masters in business administration at Chapman the following school year. His interests vary, but he said he will always have a passion for fitness. It's like satisfying a craving for him.

"It's one addiction that people support; it's an amazing one to have," Collins said. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity (fitness) has given me to make it a huge part of my life."
Chapman’s hockey team is 0-10, but aspirations are still high

Pri Jain | Staff Writer

This season, the Chapman hockey team didn’t win a game. Despite its record of 0-10, coach and 2016 alumnus Tradon Reid said he still aims for the club team to be recognized by the NCAA as an official ice hockey team.

To achieve this goal, Reid said he started rebranding Chapman’s hockey culture last month to create an attractive destination for top hockey players in the West Coast.

“We’re only letting go of two seniors this year and we have a young squad that’s ready to play,” Reid said.

During Chapman’s 2017-2018 season, the team’s record was 0-11. Reid said a major aspect of rebranding the hockey culture at Chapman is increasing its campus exposure.

“(The players have to) let people know that they have games coming up that week or the next week,” Reid said. “Just getting people talking about the team will increase attendance at the games, and it just snowballs from there.”

Reid said when he played for Chapman’s hockey team in 2016, there was much more fan support, which made the game more entertaining for the players and the university. Freshman center Harrison Lowe said he also advocates for working to engage Chapman students in the hockey games.

One frustration the hockey team faced was the fact that some of their games were cancelled this season. Reid said the decision was made because of the lack of players on campus around interterm.

“For safety issues, we didn’t want to put them in harm’s way with no numbers on the ice with six players against a team of twenty-five,” Reid said.

Players like Lowe understand the critical position the hockey team is in. In order to break through the barriers holding them back, Reid and Lowe both understand the team’s practices need to be adjusted.

“This year we’ll have more commitment to preparation,” Lowe said. “During the off-season, we’re expected to work out and, later in the year, we’ll have more required workouts.”

Despite the challenges the team has faced, Lowe said he still aims for success.

“Last season was a terrible season for us in terms of our record, but we have so much potential,” Lowe said. “I am definitely more committed for this dynamic of the team.”

Chapman’s hockey team lost 10 games this season. With no wins, the team is looking to rework its training techniques and practices during the off season.