

## OC flu outbreak

Orange County saw a large increase in flu cases this season, and 144 students have visited Chapman's Health Center with flu-like symptoms.

News, Page 2

## The Dating Game

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## Playoffs in reach

The men's basketball team's 77-74 win over Whittier College Feb. 7 gives the Panthers a chance at a playoff spot if they win their next two games.

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# 'Money does not buy my opinion'



Illustration by KALI HOFFMAN **Features Editor**

President Emeritus Jim Doti testified in defense of Chapman Board of Trustees Vice Chair Jim Mazzo Feb. 7. Mazzo is on trial for insider trading charges for the second time, after a mistrial last year. Doti said last spring that he was unsure if Mazzo would be removed from the board if convicted.

## Doti testifies in insider trading trial of board member

**Rebecca Glaser** | Managing Editor  
**Jack Eckert** | Staff Writer

President Emeritus Jim Doti testified Feb. 7 in defense of Chapman Board of Trustees Vice Chair and donor Jim Mazzo, who is on trial for insider trading charges. Mazzo was tried last spring for 13 counts of insider trading charges, but a hung jury resulted in a mistrial in May. The jury had voted 8-4 in favor of Mazzo's guilt, but could not deliver a unanimous verdict.

In the new trial, prosecutors

added four counts of lying in court charges, according to court documents. The charges pertain to Mazzo denying in the first trial that he provided former Angels player Doug DeCinces with insider information about his company.

DeCinces was convicted of felony insider trading charges in last year's trial and testified in January that he received insider information from Mazzo, according to the Orange County Register, which caused DeCinces to profit by more than \$1 million.

Mazzo's attorneys tried to

dismiss the new charges against him Jan. 11, citing a court restriction of references to the previous trial. The documents say that this violation "prejudices" Mazzo. But according to court documents dated Feb. 8, those counts are still included in the charges against him.

Insider trading is the illegal use of information that is available only to insiders of a company, shared with outside investors in order to make a profit in financial trading.

"(Mazzo handled confidential information) with integrity," Doti

said during his testimony Feb. 7. "Money does not buy my opinion."

Mazzo, who has donated \$500,000 to Chapman, was unanimously selected as vice chair in 2016, and everyone on the board was aware of the allegations against him at that time, Doti said in his Feb. 7 testimony. When Doti testified in Mazzo's defense the first time last spring, he said that he was not sure if Mazzo would be removed from the board if convicted.

Story continued on Page 2



# Trustee trial

Story continued from Page 1

University President Daniele Struppa confirmed to The Panther in January that Mazzo is still serving as a vice chair.

Mazzo was the CEO of Advanced Medical Optics Inc., a Santa Ana-based vision care company, from 2002 to 2009, according to an FBI press release from 2014.

He is accused of providing information to DeCinces, a close friend at the time, about the rising stock prices of his company before an acquisition by a larger medical company. This caused DeCinces to profit by \$1.3 million, said prosecuting attorney Jennifer Waier during the 2017 trial.

DeCinces was convicted of 14 counts of felony insider trading charges in last year's trial, and each count carries a potential maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison, according to the Orange County Register.

DeCinces testified against Mazzo Jan. 16 and 17 and said that Mazzo informed him of an Advanced Medical Optics merger talks with Abbott, a global healthcare company,

before the deal was publicized, according to the Orange County Register.

Both Doti and Struppa know Mazzo personally, and Doti was a shareholder in Mazzo's company.

“  
**Money does not buy my opinion**

- Jim Doti

”

Doti's testimony asserts that he never received nonpublic information about the company from Mazzo.

“There is one more thing I know that I am certain of: Jim Mazzo is not guilty of insider trading,” Doti told The Panther in April. “That is something he would never do.”

During the testimony Feb. 7, a prosecutor asked Doti if there were

any convicted felons serving on Chapman's board. Doti said no.

Mazzo is being tried at the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and U.S.

Courthouse in Santa Ana.

To see court documents of the ongoing trial, go to [thepantheronline.com](http://thepantheronline.com).



Jim Mazzo



Jim Doti

# Orange County sees 355 percent flu increase

About 140 Chapman students visit health center with symptoms

Alya Hijazi | Staff Writer

Orange County has seen a 355 percent increase in cases of the flu this year, with about 4,600 cases of the flu from October to January, said Matt Zahn, a medical director for the Orange County Health Care Agency.

“We've seen a spike in flu reports countywide in the last two to three weeks. The increase is earlier than usual,” Zahn said. “We've had more reports of flu this year than any year since 2009.”

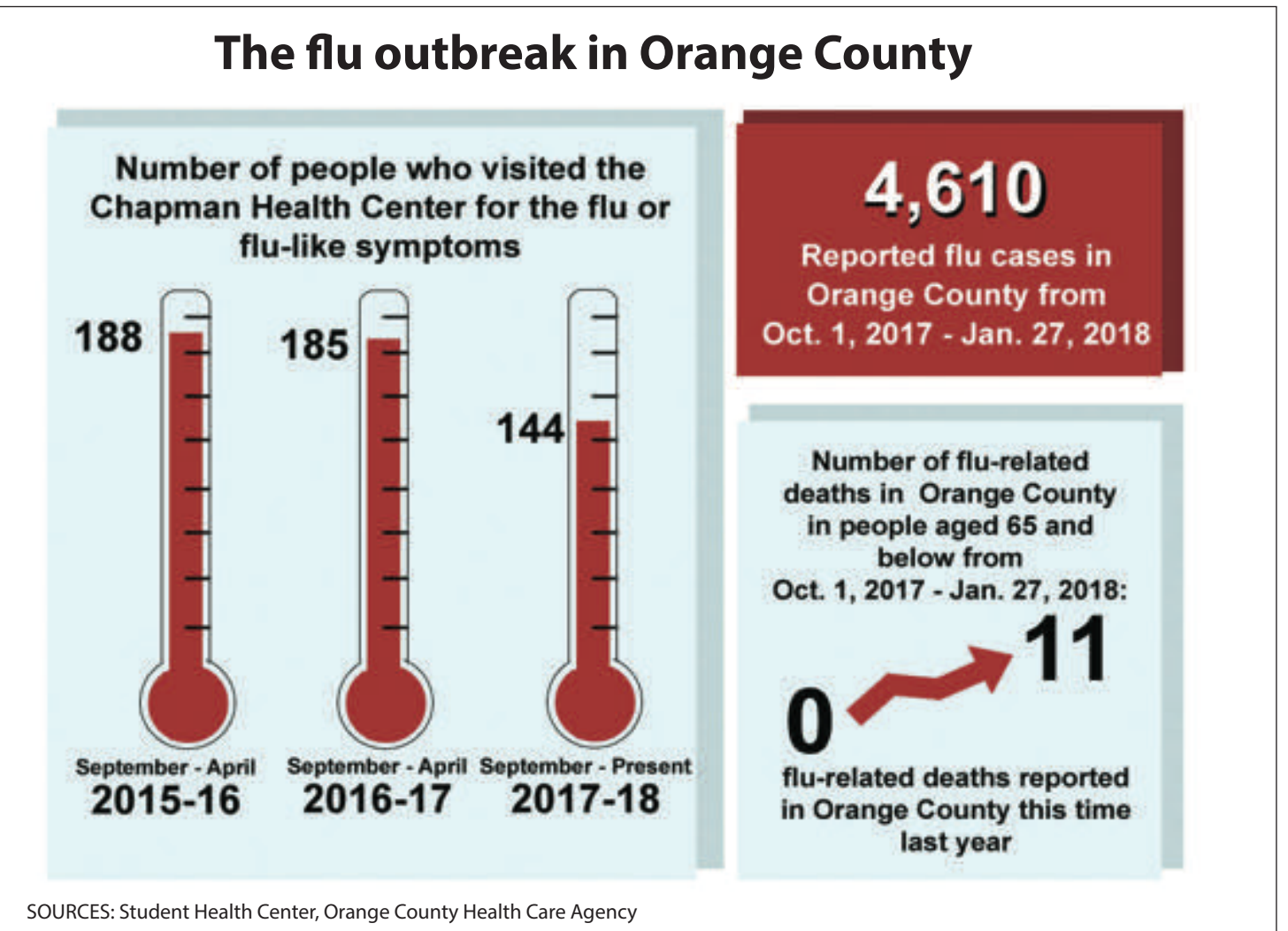
At Chapman, 144 students have visited the Student Health Center since September due to flu-like symptoms. In 2016 and 2017, from September to April, 188 and 185 students with flu-like symptoms visited the center, said Director of Student Health Jacqueline Deats.

Symptoms can include fever, cough, a sore throat, body aches, chills and fatigue, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Deats said that, when students come in with flu symptoms, the center can provide prescriptions for Tamiflu, an antiviral medication that can shorten the flu's duration when taken within 48 hours of symptoms first appearing.

“Get a yearly flu vaccine, wash your hands often, keep in good health, don't smoke, stay away from sick people and keep your hands off your face,” she said.

She also suggested that students with the flu stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours, but this may require missing classes. The university allows professors to determine their own attendance policies, but recommends that students who are absent for 20 percent of the



Graphic by EMMA STESSMAN Art Director

About 140 students have visited the Chapman Health Center for the flu so far during flu season, which ends in April.

course fail the course.

“It depends on the class and how sick (students) are,” said freshman business administration major Jacqueline Zhao. “If they are contagious they shouldn't go, especially if there's no test. But ultimately, I understand why students would still attend.”

Nationwide outpatient visits to health care providers for the flu are up by 5 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report.

According to the Orange County Public Health Laboratory, the most identified virus in this year's flu sea-

son has been influenza A. Because of the intensity of the influenza A strain, the flu can turn into pneumonia or sepsis, according to the Sepsis Alliance.

Chapman sophomore Jonathan Whitney, a business administration major, suffered from sepsis and pneumonia that was the result of the flu, according to Facebook posts by a friend and his former high school. Whitney's family did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

He was removed from life support Feb. 3, and is now at the Sutter Rehabilitation Institute for physical therapy in Northern California,

according to a CaringBridge account made to update family and friends on his condition.

At this time last year, the Orange County Health Care Agency reported zero deaths in the county. With this season's flu, there have been 11 deaths in people under the age of 65, Zahn said.

“It's not too late, you should still get vaccinated if you have not already,” he said.

Deats said students can get flu shots for free at the Student Health Center while supplies last.



# Hooves transfers ownership 3 times in 12 years

Jack Belisle | Staff Writer

*Names in this story have been changed to protect the identity of underage students or students who committed illegal acts when they were underage.*

Hooves Liquor, a popular establishment among Chapman students, located on the corner of Glassell Street and East Walnut Avenue, has had new owners since December – its third ownership transfer in the past 12 years.

New owners Hussan Abdulnour and Essam Salameh hired Robert Rashid, who moved to California from Homs, Syria, in 1988, as the new manager. Rashid and his wife, Lamis, have been working there since December and have learned to combat license violations concerning underage alcohol purchases, Lamis Rashid said.

Since 2008, Hooves has received two disciplinary suspensions under two different owners, according to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

“I used my fake at Hooves all the time,” said Anna, a senior at Chapman who spoke under the condition of anonymity. “(It was) no problem.”

The new managers, however, are taking steps to ensure anyone who buys alcohol is the legal age.

“Robert has been (working at liquor stores) for 30 years,” said Lamis Rashid. “He has a lot of experience figuring out if people are underage. We first look to see if they look under 21, then we ask for ID, have a scanning device and use it. It’s tricky, but we have to do our best and be very careful because we just started here. You have to look for IDs all the time.”

Adam, an underage student from outside of the U.S., who spoke under the condition of anonymity, said that buying alcohol with his fake ID is “pretty easy.”

“Coming from out of the country, where I used to be able to buy it before, (and) going to a store just felt pretty normal to me,” Adam said. “I don’t go to Hooves because I’ve heard stories of undercover police, so I try



BONNIE CASH Photo Editor

According to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the first owner of Hooves Liquor purchased the land in 1985. The store has seen eight ownership transfers since.

not to go around there.”

He also said that teenagers and people under 21 in the U.S. drink as much as people from his country, where consuming alcohol under 21 is legal.

“At the end of the day, whether it’s legal or not, it’s all up to the kid and how responsible he is if he’s going to get alcohol legally or illegally,” Adam said. “As long as the kids are taught how to handle alcohol and what to do and everything, that’s all that matters to save lives.”

Although the business has changed ownership frequently over the years, it’s unlikely that the land it sits on will be sold.

The past years have seen Chapman expand at a rapid rate, with three current major expansion projects in the works: the Keck Center for Science and Engineering, the Villa Park Orchards Residence Hall and the Chapman Grand apartments in Anaheim.

Harold Hewitt, Chapman’s chief operating officer, oversees these projects. During the planning for the Musco Center for the Arts, Hewitt said Chapman attempted to purchase every property facing Glassell between

East Walnut and West Sycamore Street to clear room for the project. In 2011, the university sent letters to the owner of Hooves indicating that it wanted to purchase the property.

“They completely refused,” Hewitt said. “We never entered into discussions with Hooves and never offered a price for Hooves because the owner made it very clear he wasn’t interested in selling. We never talked to them again.”

Robert Rashid said that the expansion is “good for the town.”

“However, (Chapman needs) to know one thing: Don’t force people out of their businesses to achieve their goal,” he said.

Though surrounded by an expanding university on its street, Hooves has remained steadfast and still attracts both Chapman students and Orange locals.

“I’ve never seen more prime real estate,” said Alexander Barrett, a junior film production major. “It’s a really convenient place to pick up anything you need. And it’s open late.”

*Jasmin Sani contributed to this report.*

## Senate updates

Feb. 9 meeting

### Chapman on Broadway funding request

The student-run musical theater organization, Chapman on Broadway, requested up to \$1,000 from student government to obtain the rights for its current project, “Heathers: The Musical.” Chapman on Broadway did not want to charge for tickets, but student government said if the organization wanted funding, they would have to charge for tickets. The organization agreed and student government voted to fund the request in full.

### Community relations

The Office of Community Relations wants to hold the second Chapman Dog Day on April 28. The office wants to bring vendors and student performers to the event and is trying to invite the Orange Police Department to bring some of its K-9 units.

### All A Cappella Concert funding request

Five a cappella groups on campus want to hold a concert event Feb. 22. Senator Wil Harris commented on the lack of discussion about how ticket sales would impact the budget when he was reviewing it for allocations. The groups are paying \$750 for a sound technician to travel from North Carolina. Student government was concerned about an unnamed Chapman student charging a fee to record the event. The concert will be the debut show for Queercapella, and student government voted to fund in full.

### Alpha Epsilon Pi funding request

The Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity wanted to go to Arizona State University for a conference on a Saturday morning instead of a Friday night – when the conference begins – because of a scheduling conflict. This was a one-time funding request for airfare. The director of finance, who is also a member of the fraternity, asked to testify for transparency. Student government voted to fund in full.

### Announcements

Starting in fall 2018, an accepted pass/no pass grade will officially be a “C-” in contrast to the current grade of a “C.”

*Read the full senate updates at thepantheronline.com.*

*Compiled by Jack Eckert*

# Safe Walk passed to address on-campus safety

Jack Eckert | Staff Writer

Student Organization Senator Jackie Palacios was in the Lastinger Parking Structure at around midnight in September when a car began to follow her as she walked back from the gym, she said. After reporting the incident to Public Safety, Palacios decided to propose Safe Walk, a buddy system available Monday through Thursday for students walking around campus late at night.

“I think there’s that feeling of familiarity of student-to-student. It’s a casual encounter, rather than having a figure of authority doing it,” Palacios said.

Her idea was to create a “grassroots” community program made up of paid Chapman students, who would escort other students from class or the library on campus and back to their dorms late at night. Palacios was inspired by similar programs at other schools, such as one at the University of Texas at Austin called Sure Walk. Palacios said that Wil Harris, who is also a student organization senator and was the main senator supporting the initiative, also looked at a similar-minded program at UCLA called Evening Escorts.

Public Safety’s Operation Saferide, which provides transport to students,



Photo illustration by RIANI ASTUTI Staff Photographer  
Student employees working under Public Safety will escort students across campus.

staff and faculty from the evening until the early hours of the morning, is a similar program. However, Underclassman Senator Saba Amid said that, while Saferide is intended for late-night, weekend drives to student residences, Safe Walk is primarily concentrated on campus.

Harris said that student government worked with Public Safety to get the program approved, and that it falls under the department’s jurisdiction

because it involves student wellbeing.

Harris said that after he and President Mitchell Rosenberg reached out to Public Safety Chief Randy Burba to discuss the program’s potential, they showed him model examples of similar programs at other institutions to incorporate at Chapman.

“Public Safety approved it, but then we had to schedule meetings with human resources (to address liability concerns) and financial services, after which the program was formally approved and given funding,” Harris said.

Safe Walk also increases student employment. Harris said that Public Safety did all of the hiring for the program over interterm and that the job postings are no longer available. Public Safety declined to release how much students will be paid.

In its infancy, the program seems to be well received by the student body.

“As a whole, Chapman is actually one of the safer campuses I’ve been on, so I’m glad they keep taking more initiatives to make it even better and better,” said Josh Best, a freshman news and documentary major.

*Jasmin Sani contributed to this report.*

## INCIDENT LOG

**Feb. 1**  
Subjects were in possession of marijuana and alcohol.

**Feb. 3**  
A Public Safety officer located graffiti at the Barrera Parking Structure.

**Feb. 6**  
A person was observed sitting in a parked car engaging in lewd conduct. They returned at a later time and were arrested by Public Safety and Orange police.

*Compiled by Olivia Harden from the Public Safety daily crime log*



# Virtual/augmented reality minor added in Dodge

Lexi Freund | Staff Writer

The virtual world is becoming a reality at Chapman this fall, as a new virtual reality and augmented reality minor will join the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts next semester.

"This is going to be a gigantic market," said Bill Kroyer, the director of Dodge's digital arts program.

Based on the revenue estimates from industry analyst company Digi-Capital, the augmented and virtual reality market is projected to make up to \$110 billion in new businesses in the next three years, Kroyer said. Virtual reality is a computer-generated experience, while augmented reality incorporates digital images into a user's view of the real world.

"Our visual effects grads are making in the \$70,000 range to start," Kroyer said. "It's going to affect every industry and the way we do almost everything."

The minor will be a part of the Institute for Creative Reality (ICR), which was founded by Kroyer and professors Dan Leonard, Eric Young, Roy Finch and Madeline Warren.

Warren first introduced the idea for the new minor last year because digital art students wanted to learn more about virtual and augmented reality, Kroyer said.

The minor was developed with consultation from Michael Fahy, associate dean and chief technology officer, and Roy Taylor, the corporate vice president of Radeon Technologies, a company



Courtesy of Sam Wickert

SoKrispyMedia, the company of former Virtual Reality Club President Sam Wickert, posted "Chalk Warfare 3.0" on YouTube. The video has accrued more than 22 million views in the past four years.

that develops high-speed graphics processing units for use in virtual reality and video game creation.

Seven courses will be offered, including visual programming, spatial audio design, immersive cinematography, the landscape of emerging media, and introduction to entrepreneurship. The application deadline for the new minor is March 1 and can be found on the Dodge College website.

Kroyer says there is no definite salary estimate for those working to complete the minor since it is new.

"(Virtual and augmented reality are) clearly a booming part of the industry and a place that content is increasingly being produced in," said Brandon Ptasznik, a freshman

creative producing major. "It's comforting to know that Dodge is trying to stay at the forefront of this ever-changing industry."

The interest in finding employees with virtual reality experience has increased exponentially, just in the past year alone.

More virtual reality jobs were posted in the first quarter of 2016 than in all of 2015, according to a 2016 article from Forbes. Companies that tend to have open positions for virtual reality jobs include Samsung, Google, IBM, Facebook and Apple.

Sam Wickert, the former president of Chapman's Virtual Reality Club and a student in the digital arts program at Dodge, has been on leave from school for the past year to

pursue his passion in virtual reality.

Wickert works full time on three virtual reality projects with Google through his company, SoKrispyMedia, and producing partner Madison Wells Media.

"The minor will be great for students interested in the field of virtual and augmented reality, including people interested in real-time rendering," Wickert said. "I hope to see the new minor inspire any new students interested in (virtual and augmented reality) and provide them with a unique set of classes to test and learn more about the new digital space."

*Jasmin Sani contributed to this report.*

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# Table for five: a polyamorous Valentine's Day

Jade Michaels | Staff Writer

Some people stress about finding the perfect gift or the right restaurant reservations for Valentine's Day, but for Rachel Yi, a sophomore film production major, the real challenge is balancing all of her dates without letting jealousy interfere.

Yi wanted to set her own terms for dating polyamorously, when it seemed to her like monogamy was only advantageous for men "to acquire women like property."

"I just didn't like the idea of 'I complete you and you complete me,' like we aren't truly ourselves and complete without a partner," said Yi, who has multiple partners.

Polyamory is the practice of having multiple romantic relationships – with all the same qualities of a monogamous relationship – at one time. Although there may be more than two romantic partners involved in polyamorous relationships, that does not guarantee that each partner is also polyamorous. For example, there may be a group of three monogamous men each dating the same polyamorous woman.

Michaela Hook, a senior creative writing major, entered a relationship believing it would be monogamous, but later discovered that her partner was polyamorous.

"I know it's not for everyone. I'm a monogamist myself, but I wouldn't change my girlfriend for the world and will stand with her if she ever decides to pursue another partner," Hook said. "We both had this preconceived notion of monogamy, so when she started realizing that she could possibly have feelings for



Photo illustration by JACKIE COHEN **Web Editor**

Polyamory is the practice of having multiple romantic relationships at the same time.

someone else while still feel the same way about me, she felt extremely guilty and ashamed."

Though she personally doesn't want to date multiple people, Hook supports her girlfriend by exploring and overcoming any jealousy, and by setting her own guidelines for comfort.

"(My girlfriend) emphasized that, no matter who she has feelings for, I come first, because we're a team and she doesn't want to be with another person if I am not OK with it," Hook said.

In Hook's relationship, she is the primary significant other. For now, her Valentine's Day will be shared solely between her and her girlfriend, but she is willing to discuss and adapt to her girlfriend's needs. However, not all polyamorous relationships function this way. For Yi, all her significant others

are equal, and each member communicates and respects the desires of the other. This makes Valentine's Day difficult, so she opts out of it all together to allow everyone involved in the relationship a peace of mind.

"When I am dating polyamorously, I try to set up certain dates and times to meet up with my significant others, but ever since one of my exes got jealous when I didn't spend time with them on Valentine's Day, I've just decided not to spend physical time with anyone on that day," Yi said.

Though jealousy can be a primary stressor in polyamorous relationships, Hook and Yi stress that it is not a form of cheating, but rather a complicated lifestyle in which one must set clear boundaries and communicate with all of their partners.

"I just want there to be more education and dialogue on the matter because I still hear the craziest preconceived notions about polyamory. I hear, 'Isn't polyamory just cheating?' a lot," Yi said.

Chapman professor Cheryl Crippen, who has studied LGBTQIA+ psychology for years, believes many people attach a negative connotation to polyamory because of its misrepresentation in popular western culture.

"(In the U.S.), monogamous relationships are privileged and other relationship structures are considered deviant. Polyamorous relationships are predicated on trust, honesty, transparency and commitment between those in the relationship," Crippen said.

She believes that, despite having multiple partners, polyamorous couples do not encounter any more problems than monogamous couples do. In fact, she believes the structure of a polyamorous relationship can actually promote stronger flexibility and communication between partners.

"Individuals who thrive in poly relationships tend to have a well-defined sense of self, are secure in their relationships with their partners, and are assertive in communicating their needs," Crippen said.

Hook added that polyamory may be out of the "societal norm," but is just as meaningful as monogamy.

"Just try to have an open mind, let love be love, and if you are confused or offended, try to educate yourself and be kind. Polyamorous people are just living their lives loving people in their own way," she said.

## Romance (and breakups) across political lines

Hayley Nelson | Staff Writer

When Ellie Leonhardt, a self-identified liberal, started dating a conservative man while studying abroad, she expected their biggest problem to be cultural differences. Now, looking back, she believes the reason their relationship ended wasn't cultural – it was political.

"I learned a lot of things. Issues I associated with Republicans are not limited to the party – it's related to the way people think and how they understand every issue around the world," said Leonhardt, a senior political science major. "It's not impossible (to date someone with opposing political views), but it is one of those things that you have to agree to disagree. But it's hard to when it comes to moral issues."

Political polarization in the U.S. has more than doubled since 1994, according to the Pew Research Center. Alongside the widening ideological gap between liberals and conservatives, people tend to look for partners who share their political identities and level of political engagement, according to a study conducted at Yale.

Leonhardt's ex-boyfriend ended their relationship because of "lifestyle" differences, which she believes their lifestyles were caused by the different ways they viewed the world. While she had left-leaning beliefs and no religious affiliation, he was a Muslim and a conservative. Their disagreements were too much for him, and his friends also shared his political beliefs, Leonhardt said.

"It's easier for people with the same political views to make (dating) work, but for those with different beliefs, it's not impossible," said



Photo illustration by MAYA JUBRAN **Staff Photographer**

Politics have become "dramatically" polarized in the last two decades, according to the Pew Research Center.

Sam Mazo, a freshman business administration major.

Despite his conservative and libertarian beliefs, Mazo said he would be open to dating a liberal because politics are not the "centerpiece" of his life. For him, religious and moral compatibility take the forefront.

"I'd have more of a disagreement with a person who dislikes animals than with someone who dislikes (President Donald) Trump," Mazo said.

For freshman biology major Reed Posey, having different political views than his ex-girlfriend was a challenge, but not a deal breaker. Though she was socially liberal, her fiscally and environmentally conservative opinions bothered him.

"It was frustrating because she

didn't seem to care the way I did, but it wasn't enough to call it off," Posey said. "I think if you love someone ... if their heart is in the right place, you can look past it."

For others, separating politics and morality when it comes to dating isn't so simple. Grace Bell, a sophomore English major, dated someone with different political views and believes it added strain to their relationship. Though their differing opinions didn't end their relationship, Bell said that there are now certain political opinions she deems necessary in a romantic partner. She believes that some issues, such as reproductive rights and the Black Lives Matter movement, are more important than others.

"I don't really identify with either

political party ... (but politics) affects my everyday life and I think it affects many people's everyday lives. So I don't think it's really something you can put in a box and go, 'Oh well, we have different opinions on this, so let's not talk about it,'" Bell said.

While Leonhardt wants a partner who shares her political views, she wouldn't date someone to change opinions, she said.

"I do know people who had started dating someone and their views have not only shifted, but the depth of their views have grown. I don't think I have that power, but I'm sure there's also people out there," Leonhardt said.

*Kali Hoffman contributed to this report.*



# Personal and political: reflections after the #MeToo movement

Rebecca Maehara | Staff Writer

With two words and a hashtag, an outpour of solidarity for sexual abuse survivors has flooded the feeds of social media users.

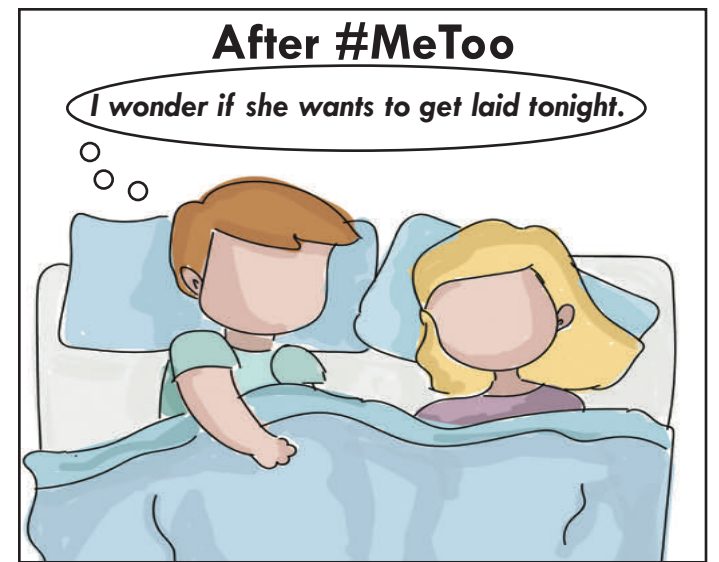
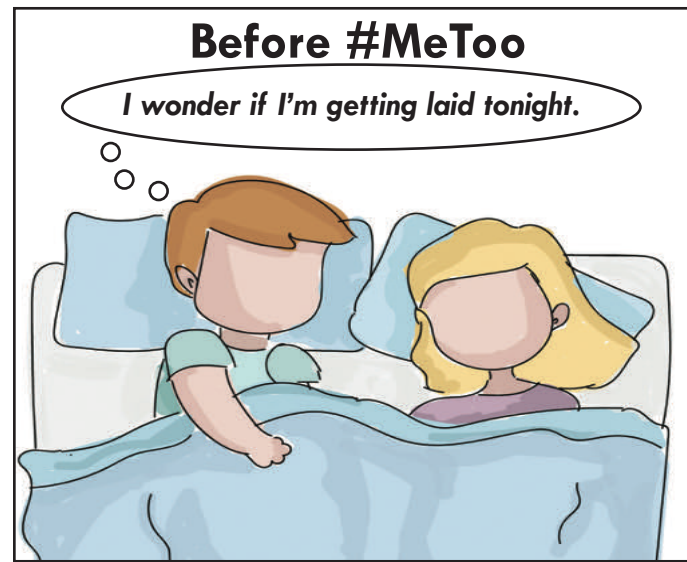
In light of this movement and stories about sexual harassment, dating has taken on a new connotation for some people across the nation.

A research survey conducted by MTV in December found that 55 percent of respondents between the ages of 18-25 said that the #MeToo movement has encouraged them to have conversations about sexual harassment. 40 percent of young men said that the movement has changed the way they interact in potential romantic relationships.

“Maybe this movement will really awaken people to realize that this is not an anomalous, random thing, but it is extremely pervasive,” said CK Magliola, director of the women’s studies minor at Chapman. “What we need is cultural change and to hold people immediately accountable. Hopefully this will be a key moment, a key turning point.”

Madison Magurksy, a freshman piano performance major, said that she and her boyfriend have no problem discussing issues of respect and consent, others have struggled to approach the topic with their significant others.

“I used to try and talk to my ex about sex scandals and I felt like he would brush it off,” said Rachael Kelly, a freshman theater performance major. “I think some people get uncomfortable and then make jokes to avoid talking about it, but in dating, you need to be



Illustrated by EMMA STESSMAN Art Director

hypervigilant.”

While some Chapman students have not had specific conversations about the #MeToo movement with their partners, the movement has helped others foster broader cultural conversations about consent and gender inequality.

“For women to come forward, they need to feel comfortable,” said Karen Cruz, a junior English literature major. “Society needs to be more understanding and realize that, just because you’re wearing something, does not mean you are inviting someone to harass you.”

Sophie Lee, a junior English and German double major, believes that dating politics seem to be changing in light of the open and honest dialogue, but there is still more work to be done.

“It goes to show how deep victim-blaming exists in our culture. We

internalize sexism to the point where suddenly, our gender becomes a problem or something that is our responsibility,” Lee said.

Some men believe the #MeToo movement has helped foster conversations about respect on campus.

“I’m in Greek life and I know we’ve made a point to talk about girls, and be conscious of our actions,” said Sterling Freeman, a junior business administration major. “(These conversations) definitely have always been a thing, but recently, they’ve increased.”

Because stories of sexual abuse, assault and harassment tend to be shared by women, some students believe that men need to be better engaged in these conversations moving forward.

“It really just comes down to being there for (women),” said junior

business administration major James Carling. “You don’t even have to say anything. Just sit there with open ears and listen. It can be extremely hard to listen to stuff like that. I totally understand how difficult it is to even hear about abuse or rape. It’s all too common nowadays, but it’s something that we have to listen to.”

Magliola said that people, particularly men, need to recognize “the human right to exist in a safe place.”

“Make a claim for the protection of others,” Magliola said. “If anyone says, ‘The #MeToo movement is just about getting attention,’ tell them you’re not going to hear it. Redirect it so that they’re thinking about it in a way that is more respectful.”

*Kali Hoffman contributed to this report.*

## REVIEW

### ‘Fifty Shades Freed’ squashes hopes for powerful women

Jamie Altman | Editor-in-Chief

Part of the appeal of the “Fifty Shades of Grey” trilogy is its portrayal of the defiance of a man’s power. Billionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) wants to exert his power over Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) – his sexual submissive turned girlfriend turned wife – both sexually and emotionally, and his ego gets bruised when she defies him.

“Fifty Shades Freed,” the third and final film with the cringeworthy slogan of “Don’t miss the climax,” begins with Christian testing Ana’s “love” for him. His feelings get hurt when she doesn’t change her last name at work after they get married. He doesn’t let her drive a sports car (which was an obnoxiously obvious product placement for Audi). He buys a house without asking her first.

The films have drawn criticism for promoting domestic violence; some students at Chapman even confronted director James Foley at a screening of “Fifty Shades Darker” on campus last year, accusing him of promoting abuse in the media. But Ana stands up to Christian. She fights back. She defends herself. And as the movie goes on, you start to think that maybe the trilogy will end with a

female in power, instead of a male exerting his dominance.

But the film squashes all hopes of seeing a powerful woman on screen.

“Fifty Shades Freed” begins with a fairytale wedding. The first thing we see on screen is a giant rock on Ana’s finger that’s so extravagant it pains your bank account to look at it. They board a private plane to their honeymoon in France. “You own this?” Ana asks, looking up at the plane with a childlike awe. “We own this,” Christian answers – as if we are supposed to believe she didn’t know he owned a plane before getting married.

Their first night back after their honeymoon – which contained many scenes with handcuffs I wish I could forget – Ana asks Christian if he wants to have kids. It becomes clear that this was a conversation they should have had before the wedding and the honeymoon in handcuffs.

The movie continues with little to no plot. Ana gets drinks with a friend after work even though Christian told her not to, so he gets revenge in the bedroom (trust me, you don’t want to know the details). Christian and Ana find themselves in a high-speed car chase, which is followed by a sex scene in a tiny sports car that really can only be described as fast and furious.



Courtesy of IMDB

“Fifty Shades Freed,” the trilogy’s final movie, was released in theaters Feb. 9.

Overall, the best part of the movie came when a sex scene got cut short and someone from the audience yelled, “more!” As if on cue, another scene commenced.

The “climax” of the movie comes when Ana must gather millions of dollars to save her sister-in-law, who is being held for ransom. We learn that Ana is actually pretty smart; all we had seen up until that point was her sitting in a fancy office for a job that Christian had secured for her. In this moment, Ana is brave and powerful. She comes to the rescue –

not Christian.

“Fifty Shades Freed” had so much potential. Finally, Ana was in charge. Finally, she was the hero. And then the movie ends with a text on Christian’s phone that reads, “Sir, I await your pleasure.” Cut to Ana sitting on the ground, half-naked and obedient, with Christian standing over her. End scene. End trilogy. End any semblance of hope for an ending that wasn’t completely predictable and didn’t feature a woman in a powerless position.



## Disneyland: the most commercialized place on Earth



Gracie Fleischman  
Opinions Editor

I have what may be one of the most unpopular opinions at Chapman: I dislike Disneyland.

The park's proximity is used as one of Chapman's main selling points, but the university's closeness to Disneyland actually concerned me when I first visited campus. Growing up in Orange County, I had long grown tired of the tourist attraction that so many people flocked to for vacations.

Now, after being a Panther for almost two years, I have only become more exasperated with my peers' over-the-top obsession with Disneyland. I am tired of seeing people's sappy posts about "the happiest place on Earth" and their multiple pairs of overpriced mouse ears. I pray for the day when I can scroll through Instagram without seeing one of those fancy mouse macarons or someone posing in front of that recognizable castle.

Imagine paying upwards of \$150 for a day of germ-ridden kiddie rides, taking photos with underpaid and exhausted teens inside a sweaty Goofy suit, spending ridiculous amounts of money for sugary food and waiting in hour-long lines to see Disney-themed shows made for children. Apparently, this is what some Chapman kids call a typical Wednesday afternoon.

No, thank you. I'd rather exist in the real world, instead of buying into toxic commercialization and being caught in an arrested development in which your childhood never ended.

I appreciate the strides Disney has made when it comes to representation, but the fact remains that Disneyland grew from a man whose own grandniece admitted he was an anti-Semite, a misogynist and a racist, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Just because Moana, a brave and independent Polynesian princess, exists now, it doesn't erase the toxic representations of young women like Ariel in "The Little Mermaid" and Cinderella. Embracing these characters long into adulthood and allowing your children to idolize them is unhealthy and odd.

I will admit that I have been to this infamous theme park and had fun. When I was in second grade, the crowds and the expense were of no concern to me. But now, going to the park once every year or two for maybe a couple hours at the most is enough to last me a while. But compared to the students who spend their hard-earned money on extravagant passes and seem to go every day or in between classes, I seem like the abnormal one.

Disneyland brings joy to many children and their parents, and even serves as some children's final wish for the Make a Wish Foundation. I totally respect that, but I think adults need to get ahold of themselves. Please grow up, save your money and leave the fantasy and magic to children.

### EDITORIAL



Illustrated by Gaby Fantone

## Take the pressure off Valentine's Day

The Panther Editorial Board

Remember the simple days back in elementary school, when Valentine's Day meant giving everyone in your class heart-shaped lollipops with a generic note? Your mom packed your lunch with chocolate and cookies and you counted all your valentines with your friends. Easy. Simple. Uncomplicated.

Fast-forward to college, and the February holiday now consists of navigating a weird minefield of awkwardness, relationship expectations and definitions.

College is stressful enough, from personal lives to classes and jobs. Then Valentine's Day comes around and there's the added pressure of figuring out how to show your love and affection for someone.

For college students, buying expensive flowers and gifts for a significant other can be out of reach. Some college students can barely afford a dinner out, let alone on Valentine's Day. In fact, many restaurants up-charge on the holiday with expensive prix fixe meals, knowing they'll make money off people who feel obligated to eat out that night.

For many couples, Valentine's Day can be a milestone in a relationship, and for others, a source of stress. When it's early in a couple's relationship, it can be difficult to decide how to celebrate the

romantic day. Are we eating in? Who is paying? Should we get one another gifts or just cards?

It is also common in college to be in an undefined relationship, which can add another awkward component if you're not sure whether you should be expecting a present – not to mention if one person gets a gift and the other doesn't.

February can be a time of irritating social media posts with couples gushing about their love for each other. For single people or those not in a defined relationship, these posts are annoying and can cause envy. If you are in a relationship, the pressure to post a picture-perfect representation of your love can be far too much for a person to handle.

So instead of worrying about defining relationships and spending ridiculous amounts of money to buy one another's love, what if we took the pressure off? What if Valentine's Day was just an excuse to spoil ourselves and our friends? Buy chocolates if you want, but give them to people who will eat them without wondering if there's a deeper meaning behind your gift.

Instead of going out to a fancy dinner, go on a cheap picnic in the park. If you feel lonely, have a night in with a friend to watch "The Bachelor" and snack on popcorn. Valentine's Day doesn't have to be stressful.

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Have a question, comment or idea? Contact us at [thepanthernewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:thepanthernewspaper@gmail.com).



## Dear white people



Arianna Ngnomire,  
junior screen acting major

Dear white people,

There is a stark contrast between how the Duffer Brothers, creators of “Stranger Things,” and Justin Simien, creator of “Dear White People” (the 2014 film and 2017 Netflix show) were treated after their respective successful Netflix series took off. The three students all graduated from the Dodge and yet, “Stranger Things” has received much

more support from Chapman.

One example can be seen when walking from the Digital Media Arts Center parking structure to the front entrance of Marion Knott Studios. There stands a larger-than-life “Stranger Things” billboard for all to see. On the other hand, in front of Dodge sits a recycling bin, with the 2014 “Dear White Peo-

ple” movie poster taped to the side. The poster is practically hidden and insinuates that the project is subordinate and likened to trash. Additionally, the poster isn’t even Simien’s most recent achievement. “Dear White People,” the Netflix series, was released in 2017.

On Nov. 4, the Duffer Brothers were invited back to Chapman to accept the Alumni Achievement in the Arts Award. Chapman Celebrates adhered to the “Stranger Things” style, themes and characters in one of the many Broadway-style performances that night. A day earlier, the brothers held a master class for film students to learn from them, which understandably sold out quickly.

Emails, flyers and word of mouth about Chapman alumni creating “Stranger Things” was spread all around campus. When searching Duffer Brothers on Chapman’s website, a multitude of blog posts immediately pop up. In contrast, when doing the same for Simien or “Dear White People,” a short, poorly written, poorly formatted post is Chapman’s primary article.

Perhaps it’s because of the impressive nominations and wins that “Stranger Things” nabbed last year. The fact that the “Dear White People” series wasn’t nominated for a single Emmy is laughable. Its first season gained a perfect 100 percent “fresh” rating on Rotten Tomatoes – meaning that every critic gave the season a positive review – despite its

measly \$1 million budget, according to The Daily Beast.

Over the years, there have been many discussions about Hollywood’s lack of diversity in television and film. When a film with black actors as main characters breaks out, it is categorized as a “black film” and other audiences are discouraged from viewing it. Chapman should encourage students to change and improve the Hollywood work environments. We should not be taught to tolerate the current situations. Tolerant is a cop-out.

Students who argue against social activism on campus like to quote the wise man Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech as a way to erase the race issues that are apparent on campus. On Dec. 10, 1961, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at then-Chapman College and voiced his opinion about the right way to impose change. He said that “the realist in the area of race relations seeks to combine the truths of two opposites (the optimist and the pessimist) while avoiding the extremes of both.”

Chapman loves to mention Martin Luther King Jr.’s historic visit, but simultaneously ignores the modern history from black alumni that’s been made since then. Celebrate the black history now.

Sincerely,  
Arianna Ngnomire

## Comedy doesn’t excuse misogyny



Michaela McLeod,  
senior film production major

“It’s OK because I was just kidding.”

The number of times I’ve heard this sentence in the past few years is impressive. Actually, people have gotten pretty good at it. Louis C.K. can joke about anything, so why can’t I? He’s just an edgy comedian who pushes boundaries. He talks about abortion all the time. He even opened a

Netflix comedy special with it. I can make jokes about racism, abortion and females in today’s society without any repercussions because I’m just kidding, right?

Right?

Here are a few sentences I’ve written down from the past two weeks from different conversations where I’ve promoted the topic of feminism:

“They don’t want equality for women and men,

they want to be above men.”

“They’re all hypocrites. Feminism is a joke.” This was followed by a laugh, then a nudge to another friend’s shoulder and a friendly, “Right?”

“They’re all psycho. Extremists. Insane.”

“Apparently the only way to be a feminist is to wear a shirt with a vagina on it.”

In my past, feminism has been a vague term. There are women I’ve come to know who are conscious of its weight, but have yet to take action. I’ve been that woman before. Others have been in marches, posted informative articles on social media and raised awareness, whether it be through a social platform or through word of mouth. And that’s admirable.

But my observations aren’t of those “inside,” but rather from those watching in on. I’ve heard feminism regarded as extremist, overzealous and worst of all, a “trend.”

A male coworker once told me that I’m “asking for it” by wearing a V-neck shirt. He told me that, when he invites a woman to his home, “sex should be expected.” A friend of mine was sexually assaulted, and she was told that she “should’ve just gotten up and left” if she “didn’t want to have sex.”

Another man told me that he wouldn’t feel responsible if a woman he slept with were to become pregnant, because, in his words, “If she didn’t want to risk having a kid, then she shouldn’t have had sex in the first place.” When I raised the argument

of birth control and the idea of a male contraceptive, rather than relying on female contraceptives only, he said that it wasn’t going to happen because “that’s not the way it is.” Yet, when a woman tries to raise awareness to change this perception, she’s regarded as an extremist.

Insane. Asking for it. A trend.

When a follow-up question inevitably came from these statements, and when these men realized the weight of their statements, all reactions were identical: “No, I was just kidding!”

Because that makes everything OK, right?

Right?

The movement within society right now doesn’t just boil down to activism. This movement – which is far, far overdue – is also a movement of knowledge, of not making a joke about gender, equality and rights. An uneducated and biased opinion is not justified under the vague impression of comedy. Comedy does not excuse misogyny.

“Just kidding” does not allow you to make these statements. “Just kidding” does not allow you to blame my body in an accusatory way for its functions. “Just kidding” does not allow you to sexualize me for the way I dress. And “just kidding” is not an acceptable outlet for ignorance, conversation or misogyny. I promise you that there are plenty of other words to choose from, but it’s time that we stop using “just kidding” as an explanation for ignorance.

## My first transphobic experience happened in an unexpected setting



Gianna Gravalese,  
sophomore news and  
documentary major

On the first day of my introduction to visual storytelling class this semester in the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, I was placed in an assigned group of three.

Our first project assignment was to pick someone interesting to interview, so I suggested my friend who also goes to Chapman and is a makeup artist. I explained that, along with her beauty talents, she

has an interesting story about being transgender.

One classmate seemed uneasy and asked to choose someone else. I asked why, and he explained that he didn’t like, “the whole transgender thing.” I didn’t know what to say. I felt a sense of anger and rage coming over me, so deep down that I wanted to scream and yell at him. Instead, I quickly closed my laptop and told him that he could figure the project out on his own.

“

**Your ability to be accepting, open-minded, and willing to work with anyone is what will lead you to success.**

”

I’ve always read about situations like this on social media, but never experienced them myself. I couldn’t believe that this happened at Chapman, which is known for being a place that welcomes anyone regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or belief. When I first toured the university, one of the things that stood out to me was the, “I am Chapman” campaign, in which students embrace what makes them unique.

As a film school, Dodge should be filled with students who aim to work toward eliminating all types of discrimination from the film industry, because it’s a prominent issue in Hollywood that needs to be resolved. This man is the only person I’ve met in my year and a half on campus that didn’t match these

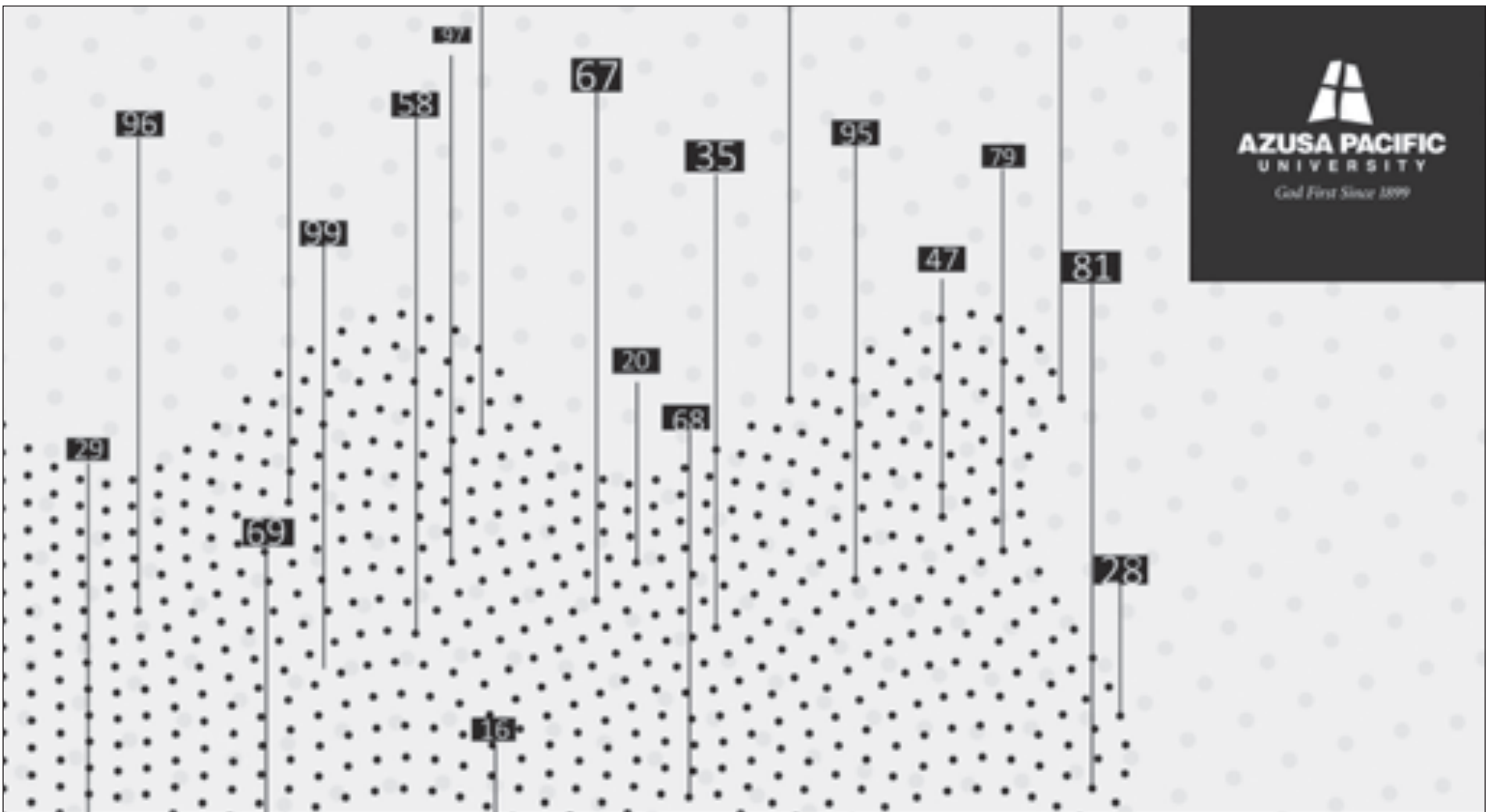
qualities of a Chapman student. Most students on campus have done a great job of embracing their differences and coming together, by joining clubs or participating in movements that emphasize that it’s OK to be who you are.

In reality, he’s not the only person in the Chapman community like this. It’s not Chapman itself that creates an exclusive environment – it’s certain students who fail to realize and accept the differences that make us unique. There are more values and beliefs than just the ones we learn growing up. We aren’t obligated to change other people’s ways of thinking, but we must be willing to accept and understand them to our best ability.

In class, before my classmate made that comment, we had just finished watching a documentary called “Last Men in Aleppo,” in which filmmakers follow a rescue group in Aleppo amid the Syrian civil war. The filmmakers put their lives at risk and created an emotional, captivating, informative film. In the film industry, you may be thrown into an uncomfortable situation, but your job is to take that situation, whatever it may be, and turn it into something great.

My point here isn’t to speak badly about my classmate, because I understand that everyone has their own opinions. We all believe certain things, we were all raised differently, we’re all different – and that’s OK. A word of advice to my peer: Your ability to be accepting, open-minded and willing to work with anyone under any circumstance is what will lead you to success in the film industry. Good luck.





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## Nudity. Assault. Theft. Suspensions.



Jacob Hutchinson  
Sports Editor

How dumb can college students be? Ask the men's track and field team of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

According to the Claremont colleges' student newspaper, The Student Life, six Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) track and field athletes, some naked, entered Pomona College's Rains Center for Sport and Recreation around 9 p.m. Feb. 3, stole a photo off the wall and assaulted a Pomona student who tried to stop them.

It sounds like a scene from "Animal House." But rather than fraternity hazing, this was likely a part of the hazing process for CMS track and field athletes.

For those unfamiliar with the track and field hierarchy of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, CMS is top-ranked. Both its men's and women's teams have finished first in the conference every year since the 2013-14 season.

Meanwhile, Pomona-Pitzer generally sits in the top half of the conference, but it suffers to CMS every year. The last time its women's team finished above CMS was in 1996, and the last time its men's team finished above CMS was in 1991.

That's less indicative of a rivalry and more of CMS's longstanding domination over Pomona-Pitzer, and its need to rub that in – apparently with alleged nude theft and assault.

The best part of this story is that these athletes essentially share a campus. The Claremont colleges – Pomona, Pitzer, Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd and Scripps Colleges – allow students to take classes at each of the five schools, which border one another.

These aren't rivals like the University of Redlands and Chapman, which are separated by an hour's drive. If you're a CMS athlete, you might have an academic class with your supposed rival at Pomona-Pitzer. It's easy to imagine the CMS athletes running into the Pomona student they allegedly assaulted on campus – assuming they aren't expelled.

The stupidity of this is astounding, and aside from the fact that these athletes allegedly assaulted another student, it's hard not to laugh at the thought process.

These athletes had to plan out the logistics of this alleged nude theft and then decide that it was such an important task that they needed to assault another student to pull it off. And all this to prove what? That CMS is really, really good at track and field?

This is Division III track and field, not exactly the paragon of athletic competition.

On Feb. 8, both the men's and women's track and field teams were initially suspended. However, the women's track and field team has been allowed to resume team activities.

It's a reminder that even at the highest levels of education, you can aspire to be as dumb as some of the greatest professional athletes. Why be cliché like wide receiver Plaxico Burress, who shot himself in the leg in a nightclub and tanked his NFL career; or choke and punch your coach in the face like NBA icon Latrell Sprewell?

Instead, you can allegedly streak nude through a neighboring campus and hold down a student while you steal a picture from your "rival." It's an ingenious way to potentially ruin your future.

There's an adage that goes something like, "If you catch your babysitter of 15 years stealing from you for the first time, what do you do?" You fire them, because it's not the first time they've stolen from you – it's the first time you've caught them.

It's probably not the first time the CMS track and field teams have hazed – it's probably just the first time they've been caught.

## From chicken wings to poke bowls

Freshman center Reed Smith adapts to life in Southern California after growing up in Tennessee

Emmie Farber | Staff Writer

Listed at 6'6" and 218 pounds, Reed Smith is a commanding, physical presence. In his first season, the freshman center has proven himself to be invaluable to the men's basketball team. Smith has started all 23 games, is second in both points and rebounds, and has helped Chapman to a playoff berth after the team missed the playoffs for the first time in four years last season.

Despite his stature, Smith is soft-spoken and has an easygoing nature. The youngest of four kids, he is from the Nashville suburb of Brentwood, Tennessee.

"Family time is really important to me. With my brother living in Washington, D.C., and one of my sisters living in Texas, it's hard, and we get together maybe three days a year," Smith said. "Fortunately, my parents made it out here for a full two weeks to be with me and watch my games."

The transition from Tennessee to Southern California has been challenging, Smith said.

"It's been pretty tough," he said. "The way people talk and act here is much different from where I am from."

Smith misses the wildlife, the nature, but most of all the food in Tennessee, he said. Back home, he



DIANO PACHOTE Staff Photographer

Freshman center Reed Smith dunks the ball in practice Feb. 6. Smith is second in both points and rebounds for Chapman.

was accustomed to Zaxby's chicken wings and waffle houses.

His process of adapting to Southern California's cuisine has introduced him to sushi and poke, which is a raw fish salad often

served over rice.

"There's only one sushi place in Tennessee near me and everyone stays away from it," Smith said. "Now, I love sushi."

For Smith, Chapman made the move from Tennessee to California worth it. A basketball fanatic since age 3, and a lover of filmmaking, Chapman checked every box: the chance to play college basketball and study at the No. 6 film school in the U.S.

Smith, a news and documentary major, has had an interest in film since middle school. Commercials, short films, news stories and trailers were constant focuses for Smith throughout his time at home, and he knew he wanted to pursue filmmaking at the collegiate level.

Smith's bond with the basketball team has helped him adjust to Southern California, he said.

"(Smith) doesn't shy away from being far away, and his teammates embrace the fact that he is able to cope with being miles from home," said assistant coach Dan Krikorian.

Junior guard Reed Nakakihara said that despite being a freshman, Smith has a noticeable maturity.

"(Smith) is always the first one in the locker room getting prepared for game day," Nakakihara said. "The coolest thing about (Smith) is that he has a great amount of knowledge – us older players always ask him about things."

The team has two regular season games before the playoffs, the next one at Occidental College Feb. 14.

So far, Smith has no complaints. "I really enjoy being here," Smith said. "I couldn't have made a better choice."

## Sports photo of the week: men's basketball



DIANO PACHOTE Staff Photographer

Senior guard Luke Selway elevates and sinks a contested jumper in the first half of Chapman's 77-74 win against Whittier College Feb. 7. The win against Whittier gave No. 3 Chapman a two-game lead over Whittier with three regular season games remaining. Chapman won its next game against the University of La Verne 72-57 Feb. 10, which clinched a playoff spot for the Panthers with two games left in the regular season. To read coverage of the team's crucial win over Whittier, go to [thepantheronline.com](http://thepantheronline.com).



# Women's basketball dominant in 14th straight win

Jacob Hutchinson | Sports Editor

The women's basketball team can't stop winning. With a 99-72 victory over the University of La Verne Feb. 10, Chapman has now won 14 straight games. This is tied for the 10th longest winning streak in Division III, and the Panthers' longest win streak since the 2006-07 season, when they won 17 straight.

Like so many games during this streak, the result never seemed to be doubt. In Chapman's two games against La Verne this season, it has won by a combined margin of 62 points.

Despite La Verne head coach Jason Pruitt's best efforts to motivate his players through persistent admonishment, he seemed to know the prospect of a win was far-fetched.

"We didn't have a game plan," Pruitt said. "We knew what we were going to get. (Head coach Carol Jue) has been doing the same thing for over a decade, so she's not going to change."

Pruitt said that La Verne (5-18, 3-11 in-conference) is suffering from a talent gap, and that the program will need a better recruiting class to accomplish its goal of being the No. 1-scoring team in the nation.

"We're two recruiting classes behind," Pruitt said. "We're just playing with what was left behind."

La Verne's players looked exasperated trying to keep up with the fervent pace of Chapman's full-court defensive pressure and up-tempo, pass-first offense. Chapman constantly clogged passing lanes and hurried ball handlers.

In the third quarter alone, Chapman forced 13 turnovers. In total, Chapman had 10 more assists than La Verne and scored 43 points off of 34 La Verne turnovers.

"Defense is our No. 1 mentality," said senior guard Jaime Hum-Nishikado. "Defense is what coach (Jue) really strives for. That's the work behind every second of every



Junior guard Jaryn Fajardo lays up the ball. Fajardo had eight of the Panthers' 99 points in Chapman's 99-72 win over the University of La Verne Feb. 10.

GRANT SEWELL Staff Photographer

practice. It's always defense."

While both coaches were constantly yelling, they exhibited very different body language. During timeouts, Jue often huddled close to her players and knelt down to coach them at eye level. Pruitt drew a different figure, often coaching down to his players as they were seated on the bench.

As La Verne struggled to find its offensive consistency, the Panthers

got into their offense tactfully.

Players only put the ball on the floor if they were capable ball handlers. They switched on defense quickly and passed the ball on offense even quicker.

"It's a testament to the kids," said Jue. "It's the players buying into what I'm selling, drinking my Kool-Aid. A lot of it is having them be unselfish. We do have some people who score more than others, but the

thing is that they're willing to pass the ball."

That passing resulted in a career-high 23 points for freshman forward Brittany McPherson, who was excited, if not surprised, by her scoring total.

"I really didn't know," McPherson said. "I honestly did not think that I scored that much. Someone came up to me after the game and told me."

Chapman, which has already secured a playoff berth, has two games left in its regular season schedule: a home game Feb. 14 against Occidental College, and an away game against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) Feb. 17. If Chapman and CMS win their next games and Chapman loses its final game at CMS, a coin toss would decide home court advantage.

Pruitt expects Chapman to win the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) championship this season, and said Jue has shown throughout her 14-year tenure at Chapman that size doesn't guarantee success.

"Coach Jue has proven that you don't need a post player to win in this conference," Pruitt said. "It is a fact. She does not have height, but she has talent. And they play hard and they play together. That's why she's a hall of fame coach."

Jue, who graduated from Claremont McKenna College, said she badly wants to avoid a coin flip against CMS, which Chapman beat Jan. 13, but lost to in both regular season games and the SCIAC championship game last season.

"I'm sick of losing to my alma mater," Jue said. "I'm hoping that's not going to happen (this season)."

Chapman has never won a SCIAC title, but Hum-Nishikado, who has played in four SCIAC playoff games, is confident that will change this season.

"I think this is our year," Hum-Nishikado said. "(The SCIAC championship) is going to be ours."



DIANO PACHOTE Staff Photographer

Senior guard Irma Munoz sinks a free throw against the University of Redlands Jan. 31.

## Irma Munoz: taking charge of her future

Rikki Saydman | Staff Writer

After nearly four years, Irma Munoz's time as a Chapman women's basketball player is running out. For her family, friends and coach, that time won't be easily forgotten.

Coming from East Los Angeles to Orange County, Munoz experienced culture shock. In East Los Angeles, the educational and career opportunities were very limited, Munoz said. At Chapman, it was completely different. There were more opportunities, a higher level of academics and a new sense of community.

Munoz said she owes everything to the basketball program at Chapman and head coach Carol Jue.

Jue, who has coached Munoz for four years at Chapman, said they share "a special bond." They are both from East Los Angeles and had a similar experience transitioning to Orange County.

To Jue, Munoz is like family. "I'm hard on (Munoz) because I see her as a daughter and I want what is best for her," Jue said. "(She has the) greatest potential. She is going to do really well because she has

worked really hard. I'm going to miss her."

A strategic and corporate communication major, Munoz already has a job lined up after the season ends, as she graduated early. Munoz finished all her academics in the fall and earned a position as a district manager at Aldi, a grocery chain company, after interning there for 10 weeks.

With two regular season games remaining, Munoz is a key part of a historically good team. Chapman is tied for the 10th longest winning streak in Division III with 14 straight wins, and is first in the Southern California Intercollegiate Conference.

"I have mixed emotions," Munoz said. "One is that I'm ready to move on, because of how the season is going. It's a great way to go out. (The second emotion is) I'm not ready because it's all I've known for the past eight years. I love learning, I love school. I would do it all over again if I could."

But by finishing her education early, Munoz said she has been able to spend time with her family.

"I'm actually adopted," Munoz said. "My parents are more than happy with what I've done here at Chapman. They let me do all the groundwork while I was here, so for them, it was just a proud feeling

because they knew I had it in me."

Munoz said her family is always around.

"(They) make a point to come to all my games and any other special events around campus," Munoz said.

Her siblings, aged 4 and 5, are her biggest fans at every game, she said.

Munoz's teammate and friend, senior shooting guard Jaime Hum-Nishikado, is one of the two other seniors on the roster, along with center Sydney Olivier. Hum-Nishikado and Munoz were roommates during their sophomore and junior years.

"We both like to watch 'Grey's Anatomy' and 'Scandal,' but we didn't have cable at the time, so we planned our Fridays to eat lunch and watch the recordings together," Hum-Nishikado said. "It's been so much fun to play basketball with Irma. Just being freshmen together and going through the ropes with coach (Jue), getting to know our system - knowing that I've always had her to lean on has been great."

As Munoz's final days as a Chapman basketball player draw near, her focus is on the team.

"(I am going) to do absolutely everything that is asked of me for my team," Munoz said. "It really (has been) such a blessing to eat, sleep and play basketball."